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SENATE—Tuesday, December 6, 2016

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by T.F. Tenney, bishop emeritus of the United Pentecostal Church International in Alexandria, LA.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Mr. President, Members of the Senate, may the Lord be with you. Let us bow our heads in reverence to His presence.

God, our help in ages past, be our comfort still. Thank You for this great, great Nation and its foundation of "one Nation under God, indivisible." Thank you, Lord, that we can emphasize "indivisible."

Thank You for the liberty, justice, and freedoms that we enjoy. We pray for all who walk these hallowed Halls where life-changing and world-changing decisions are made.

Bless this austere gathering of men and women chosen by You and the American people to serve us all. Give them wisdom to acknowledge You first in all they do.

Give them grace, as has been extended to them. Guide them, O Holy Spirit. Guide them, O Holy Spirit. Fill them and this Chamber with Your presence and fill these Halls with Your glory.

When they leave today, may they say we have not just been in the presence of men, but we have been in the presence of God.

Now, in the Name of the One I trust, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, fill this place, Holy Spirit. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The Senator from Louisiana.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, may I briefly acknowledge and thank Pastor and Bishop Tenney for being here.

Today is his 83rd birthday. As he told me, he has been pushing 80, but now he pulls it. He has blessed many people. He is an anointed man of God whom many others have looked toward for guidance, as a man who by his life and by his words guides them to a deeper relationship with God.

On behalf of our entire Senate, I extend our thanks to Bishop Tenney for being here today. Thank you.

I yield back.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATION BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate voted overwhelmingly to take the next step in the 21st Century Cures Act, bipartisan legislation to bolster medical innovation.

This legislation promotes critical investments in research and treatment development. It helps cut through unnecessary regulations that would hinder the development of cures while also protecting safety. It builds upon the progress of innovative therapies and regenerative medicine.

This legislation puts patients first, it helps strengthen the kind of research and treatments needed to cure the most devastating diseases, and it includes provisions to help enhance mental health programs and to provide funding to help fight opioid abuse.

I have heard from health professionals across my State who have expressed the impact this legislation can make, from the Kentucky Hospital Association to the University of Kentucky, our State's largest research university.

This bill, the U.K. president says, reflects the "growing support from Con-

gress for increased investment in research that addresses the compelling questions of our day." I will be pleased to welcome U.K. President Capilouto to the Capitol this morning. He says Cures is one example of how the university will be better equipped "to improve the lives of those in our Commonwealth."

We know this bill wouldn't have been possible without Chairman ALEXANDER's ceaseless efforts, alongside Ranking Member MURRAY, to drive it forward.

We thank them both, as well as Members such as Senator CORNYN, Senator HATCH, and Senator CASSIDY, who have all endeavored to make the bill the strongest it could be.

I also recognize my friend Vice President BIDEN—who joined us yesterday—for his efforts to include his Cancer Moonshot issue in the package. This is an issue that hits close to home for the Vice President, as we all know. He has been a leading voice in supporting efforts to strengthen cancer research and to find a cure. I am pleased we will pass this legislation soon so we can begin to put its provisions to work on behalf of American families.

On the other important issues before the Senate, I have spoken with the Speaker on a number of occasions about an issue facing coal miner retirees, such as those I represent in Kentucky, and have insisted that the CR include a provision to address that issue so these retirees don't lose their health care benefits at the end of the year. We hope to have a final bill to share with Members soon, and we look forward to turning to it as soon as possible after House action. I will have more on that later.

We are also working to wrap up a number of conference reports, including for the Defense authorization bill and the Water Resources Development Act.

Last night I took the next step on the Defense conference report so we can pass it this week. This legislation will provide more of the tools service-members need to take on national security challenges, help strengthen our military posture, and support our men

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a member of the Senate on the floor.

and women in uniform with the benefits and pay raises they have earned.

I hope the Senate will also take the next step soon on the Water Resources Development Act conference report. This water resources conference report will invest in our Nation's waterways infrastructure, enhance commerce, and support safe and reliable water sources to prevent future situations, such as the one we saw in Flint, MI. To that point, this bill also includes assistance for families such as those in Flint who have already been impacted by lead poisoning.

TRIBUTE TO DAN COATS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we all remember where we were on September 11, 2001. The man we honor today certainly does. He was in Berlin. He had only just begun his second day as Ambassador to Germany, and then everything changed.

Planes smashed into the World Trade Center. Terrorists attacked the Pentagon, where his son-in-law worked. Thankfully, his family emerged unbroken that day. Others were not so fortunate.

Ambassador COATS found himself thrown into a role he couldn't have foreseen a day earlier, a role in which he would excel but one that would forever change him. Those who know DAN COATS say that day in September affected him profoundly. It shook him as a father, it sharpened him as a policymaker, and it clarified the stakes and his sense of responsibility.

He may not have known it then, but he would feel the tug of that responsibility many years later and answer the call.

Senator COATS had enjoyed a successful congressional career when he decided to retire in 1998. He earned a reputation for working hard, getting things accomplished, becoming an indispensable member of his conference. In fact, after DAN announced his decision not to seek reelection, then-Majority Leader Trent Lott rang him up and said: "You can't leave," Lott recalled saying. "I can't go forward in the Senate without you."

DAN's success was no accident. He learned the legislative ropes working for an up-and-coming Congressman named Dan Quayle. He applied that knowledge as he progressed from Quayle's staffer to Quayle's successor, first in the House, then in the Senate.

This was evident whether DAN was refocused on rebuilding the military after the Cold War, bringing opportunity to low-income families and children, even dissecting the finer points of American garbage policy—yes, garbage policy.

Toward the beginning of DAN's time in the Senate, Hoosier landfills were filling with New Jersey trash, and Hoosiers were fed up. So in came DAN with

a war cry—"Don't dump on us!"—and just the right blend of determination, legislative know-how, and humor to capture the attention of colleagues and the hearts of constituents.

Some were unamused in DC or Trenton, but back in Indiana, Hoosiers were over the Moon. For many, their first introduction to this plucky new Senator came through his famous Senate trash ad, the Coats for Senate commercial, which featured a cigar-chomping garbageman from Jersey, earned DAN a place in the hallowed halls of campaign legend—and perhaps a ticket back to the Senate.

While Senator Lott may not have been able to persuade DAN to run for reelection 8 years later, he did offer this prophetic statement as he bid him farewell:

[Dan Coats] is leaving the Senate, but he is not leaving us.

I have a feeling that he is going to have a real influence in many ways for the rest of his life, and he is going to stay close to all of us.

How right he was.

Fast forward to just over a decade later, former Senator COATS looked out and saw a country in crisis, adrift on the world stage, stagnant at home, and sliding into despair. DAN was deeply unsettled. He shared his concerns with his wife Marsha. He realized he had two choices. He could sit back and watch or he could do something.

DAN COATS chose to do something. His election was hardly a sure thing. He pulled through anyway. When he returned to the Capitol, he put his head down and he got right to work. DAN can be a man of few words. He doesn't always feel the need to speak up, but when he does, people pay attention. It is a true mark of distinction in a body such as this with its big egos and sharp elbows.

People listen to this former Ambassador when he explains the ins and outs of foreign policy. People listen to this veteran of previous health care debates when he dissects the problems of ObamaCare.

When this fiscal expert shares his waste of the week, people pay attention. It is how we learned taxpayer dollars were being spent on Swedish massages for bunny rabbits. It is how we discovered taxpayer money was being wasted to determine whether "hanger," that is "hunger" plus "anger," is a real thing.

Senator COATS knew he wasn't going to solve all of our Nation's problems as one Senator in one term, but he understood the important contributions he could make. He also recognized his responsibility to make them. In the process, he cemented a legacy that will long outlast him in the Senate. It will certainly continue on in my office. My own chief of staff, Sharon Soderstrom, is a Coats alum. Speaker RYAN's chief of staff, Dave Hoppe, is another Coats

alum. The list of Coats staffers who have gone on to achieve great things—from former White House chief speechwriter Michael Gerson to incoming Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb—is as long as it is impressive.

I know DAN is looking forward to spending more time at Wrigley Field after he retires. Here is the tweet DAN sent out last month: "A century in the making, we finally made it. What a great day to be a Cubs fan."

It is hard to overstate the importance of the moment for him. I mean, this is a guy who spent part of his honeymoon—his honeymoon—at Wrigley Field. So I wonder if maybe, just maybe, he was able to see a little of himself in his favorite team—maybe in a guy like fellow Indiana University Hoosier Kyle Schwarber—a standout player who stepped away from the game for a season and then came back and picked right up where he left off without a hitch, knocking it out of the park just when his team needed him most.

DAN promises he is not coming back a third time. We will see. It is obvious DAN never needed the office or the title—not the first time, not the second time, not a third time.

That said, I know DAN isn't going to stop caring. I know he isn't going to stop working. So we are going to keep the DAN COATS "bat signal" plugged in. Should the people call out for a hero yet again, I hope our friend will suit up one more time because, if nothing else, we are really going to miss him.

So let us recognize and congratulate Senator COATS for his many years of service. Let us wish him well in his latest retirement, and let me personally thank him for his wise counsel and trusted friendship.

I will miss you, my friend.

TRIBUTE TO MARK KIRK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Senator MARK KIRK has never been one to be intimidated by a challenge. He is willing to work hard even when the going gets tough. He never shies away from a tough debate, and he always comes prepared. He has been defying the odds for a long time and inspiring others along the way.

Nearly 5 years ago, Senator KIRK suffered a debilitating stroke—one that threatened to end his Senate service nearly as soon as it had begun. In the blink of an eye, KIRK went from juggling constituent meetings and committee hearings to lying in a hospital bed wondering if he would ever walk again or talk again or read again.

If Senator KIRK had decided to just quit the Senate and focus on his recovery, no one would have blamed him. But he didn't do that. He never lost hope. He never gave up. He set his sights on getting back to work for the people of Illinois and the Nation. That is exactly what he did.

We were there to witness his triumph several months later. Cane in hand, a smile on his face, JOE MANCHIN to one side, JOE BIDEN to the other, one foot in front of the other, Senator MARK KIRK climbed and climbed and climbed. He ascended each of those 45 Capitol steps to the top of this Chamber as we all cheered him on.

MARK could rest assured no one was going to let him fall that day. And Senator MANCHIN could rest assured that he wouldn't have to go another day waiting for his buddy to return.

Days after MARK's stroke, Senator MANCHIN hopped on a flight to Chicago to check on his friend in person. He saw firsthand the many challenges KIRK had to overcome in recovery. But he never doubted MARK's will, determination, or desire to get back to work.

KIRK, he said, is like the Energizer Bunny. He just keeps going and going and going.

MANCHIN and KIRK might seem like an unconventional pair. One is a Democrat, the other a Republican. The West Virginian is an outdoorsman, the Illinois Senator is a gamer. Senator MANCHIN is a mountaineer, and Senator KIRK ascends skyscrapers.

But as the senior Senator from West Virginia put it, they "just clicked from day one" and quickly became the best of friends. Now they go boating together. They meet for lunch nearly every Thursday. And they support each other. The support of good friends like Senator MANCHIN has been critical to Senator KIRK's dramatic recovery.

He has found support in other places, too, including the mailbox. A few weeks after his stroke, Jackson, a 9-year-old fellow stroke survivor from Illinois, wrote Senator KIRK to share his own story and some words of encouragement. "Do not give up on yourself," Jackson wrote. "All the hard work is worth it."

"P.S.," he said, "I think kids should get paid to go to school."

The pair quickly became pen pals and even picked up a new joint sport of tower climbing in their rehabilitation.

Senator KIRK calls Jackson his personal hero. Last year, he invited him to visit Washington and be his guest at the State of the Union. To hear KIRK tell it, he may have never made it back for that address at all without Jackson's support and kind words.

I know the support he received from his fellow home State Senator didn't go unnoticed either. After MARK's stroke, Senator DURBIN visited KIRK's staff, offering to help out however he could.

Senator KIRK's story reminds us that the Senate can be more than just a place of work, it can actually be a family. In his own words, "The things that divide us in politics are infinitesimal compared with the dignity of our common humanity." It is a powerful mes-

sage, and I think it is one we can all learn from.

Senator KIRK said that America's men and women in uniform represent "the greatest force for human dignity on Earth." He is right. And the work he has done to help us meet the obligation our Nation has to military families and our veterans will endure beyond his term.

MARK KIRK, a veteran himself, understands the sacrifices our servicemembers and their families make each day on our behalf. He knows they deserve our full support, not only when they are on Active Duty but also after their tours are complete.

That is why he has worked to help guarantee the quality of health care that our heroes are counting on. It is why he has worked to help eliminate corruption within the VA so that our veterans receive timely care as well.

He has proven himself as a leader on national security issues too. He understands the value of our alliances and worked to strengthen them, especially with Israel.

He has a clear-eyed view of our adversaries too and has never been afraid to speak out or take action, from North Korea to Iran. When it comes to Iran specifically, Senator KIRK was the tip of the spear on this issue, bringing attention to the threat of Iran's aggressive behavior and pushing for legislation to help hold Tehran accountable.

He has long been an advocate for critical Iran sanctions like those extended just this past week, even when the administration pushed back and even when Democratic colleagues pushed back too. He doesn't back down, and thanks to efforts like his, we were able to see the legislation through.

So, yes, Senator KIRK may be leaving the Senate, but he has cast a long shadow here. And he is not done yet. We know he will not stop looking out for our country. We know he will not stop advocating for stroke survivors. We know he is not going to stop. He will just keep going and going and going as he always has.

Senator KIRK reminds each of us that it is possible to persevere through even the most difficult of obstacles life presents. So, today, we thank him for the impact he has made on this body, for the inspiration he has been to so many, and for the years he has dedicated to serving the people of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, has the Chair announced the business of the Senate?

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

TSUNAMI WARNING, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 34, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 34, an act to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with McConnell amendment No. 5117, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5118 (to amendment No. 5117), of a perfecting nature.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me say at the outset that I took the floor last week and said a few words in tribute and friendship to my colleague, Senator KIRK. I am glad to hear the majority leader's statement this morning. It was spot-on, and it captured his public spirit, as well as his personal strength, that has brought him to this moment in history. I have been honored to serve with him for the last 6 years.

I would say to my colleague Senator COATS from Indiana: We served together in the House, in the Senate, and I actually visited him when he was an ambassador representing the United States in Germany. It is an amazing public career on his part, and I wish him the very best for whatever the future holds for him.

DACA

Mr. President, I wish to tell a story about an extraordinary young woman whom some of you may know. Her name is Laura Alvarado. When she was 8 years old, Laura was brought to the United States from Mexico. She grew up in Chicago in my home State of Illinois.

In high school, she was an extraordinary student and was involved in extracurricular and volunteer activities. She was a member of the National Honor Society. She played soccer, tennis, basketball, and was a member of student government, the school newspaper, the chess club, the yearbook club, and many more. She decided to go to Northeastern Illinois University. She worked two jobs while she was going to school because she didn't qualify for any Federal assistance to go to college.

In 2006, she graduated with honors from Northeastern. Her major was justice studies. But then she was stuck again. Her ambition in life was to become a lawyer, but she couldn't pursue her dream. It took her 6 years. In 2012, President Obama established DACA, an Executive action which said to Laura and thousands just like her: You are in a special category. You were undocumented in America, but you were brought here as a child. You didn't make the decision to come to this country; your family did. So we are going to give young people like Laura a chance, on a temporary basis, if they will pay a filing fee of almost \$500, submit themselves to a criminal background check to make certain they are no threat to anyone in this country, we will give them a 2-year status where they cannot be deported and they can work in America.

Laura applied. There were people who were cautioning her: Be careful. If you identify yourself as undocumented to this government, somebody might use it against you someday. But Laura, who aspired to be a lawyer, decided to follow the law, register, pay her fee, go through the background check, and try to get the status of DACA. She received it. And because of it, she was allowed to apply and be accepted at Southern Illinois University School of Law at Carbondale.

In law school, she was an outstanding student again. She won the moot court competition. She was selected for the Order of Barristers, a legal honor society.

This spring, 10 years after she graduated from college, Laura received her law degree. Over the summer she passed her bar exam, and just last month she received her Illinois law license, which she is holding here proudly.

Laura never gave up on her dream of becoming a lawyer, but it is a dream that never would have happened were it not for President Obama's Executive action, the Executive action that didn't give her a free pass to law school—just the opposite. It said to her: If you are accepted into law school, the government will not pay you a penny to help with your education. You have to go out and work for it. She did.

Now we face a question with a new President coming in who says he wants to abolish the DACA that made Laura eligible to go to law school. He wants to abolish the status where these young people, brought as babies, toddlers, into this country are not subject to deportation and can work for a living. If that is abolished, then Laura, despite all of her hard work, all of her education, all of her achievements in life, faces deportation from this country.

Laura said she wants to use her law degree to help people who don't have a

fighting chance without lawyers who are more focused on service than on money. We are better if Laura is here as a lawyer practicing in America. We are certainly better in Illinois to have someone with a law license willing to give back to our State.

Now the choice is up to Congress. Are we going to step in and give Laura the chance she asked for to prove herself again as she has so many times in her young life? I am glad to say that LINDSEY GRAHAM, the Senator from South Carolina, and I are joining in an effort to draw up legislation to achieve that goal and at least to give these DACA-eligibles a temporary reprieve so that if there is an elimination of this Executive action, we don't eliminate the protection that keeps them here in the United States and where they cannot be deported and they have a chance to work. That is something we need to do—not just for Laura but for 744,000 other young people as well who grew up in this country and just deserve a chance to make this a better nation.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. President, I join my colleagues in saluting the public life of Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI. Before I do that, I want to thank a woman who is not here. She was a Catholic nun and the debate coach for Senator MIKULSKI when she was in high school at the Institute of Notre Dame, an all-girls Catholic high school in Baltimore, the same school NANCY PELOSI graduated from.

As a young BARBARA MIKULSKI was preparing to debate a particularly tough opponent, this nun, her debate coach, told her: "You can do it, Barb—get out there and roll those Jesuit boys!"

I went to a Jesuit college and law school, and I am proud and relieved to report that I never had to face BARBARA MIKULSKI in that kind of debate. I have rarely found anybody who can stand up to her in a debate. She can still "roll those Jesuit boys," or anyone else who tries to stand in the way of helping women, children, seniors, or advancing fairness.

BARBARA MIKULSKI has been my colleague for 20 years, my friend, the chairwoman of my Appropriations Committee and the ranking member, and so many times an inspiration.

As most of my colleagues know, my first job was working in the Senate as an intern, myself, in the office of Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois. Like BARBARA MIKULSKI, Paul Douglas was a champion for the underdog, and he was a pit bull when it came to protecting the American taxpayers.

Every year, the University of Illinois chooses a leader of uncommon decency and courage to receive the Paul H. Douglas Award for Ethics in Government. This year, I was honored to present that award on behalf of the University of Illinois and in the name

of Paul Douglas to BARBARA MIKULSKI of Maryland. I know Senator Douglas would have been thrilled that she is carrying on that same public service tradition.

Some day—and I hope and trust I will live to see it—the ultimate glass ceiling will break, and there will be a woman elected President of this country. When that historic day comes, we can be sure that Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI will have had a hand in bringing it about.

Many of my colleagues have spoken about the long list of times she has already broken glass ceilings herself: BARBARA MIKULSKI, first woman ever elected statewide in her beloved State of Maryland; BARBARA MIKULSKI, first Democrat elected to both the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate; BARBARA MIKULSKI, first woman to ever serve as head of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee.

But as BARBARA, very self-deprecating, has often said: She has never been interested in simply being the first. She wants to be "the first of many," and she has been.

When Maryland voters sent BARBARA MIKULSKI to this Senate in 1986, there were two women in the entire body: Nancy Landon Kassebaum of Kansas, a Republican, and BARBARA MIKULSKI of Maryland, a Democrat—two women in this Chamber out of 100 Senators. Today, there are 20 women Senators, and after they are sworn in on January 3, there will be 21. That is great progress, but not nearly enough by BARBARA MIKULSKI's standards.

Senator MIKULSKI also had the brainchild of making sure the women in the Senate became an even more powerful force. Her bipartisan, women Senators-only dinners were a rare display of bipartisanship in an institution too often divided. The discoveries of common cause, common trust, and common purpose resulting from those dinners have made a big difference on the floor of the Senate.

BARBARA ANN MIKULSKI is the proud granddaughter of Polish immigrants. Her parents owned a small grocery store in Baltimore. She, her parents, and her two younger sisters lived across the street in one of the famous Baltimore row houses. As a young girl, Barbara thought about becoming a Catholic nun. She changed her mind because, as she put it, "that vow of obedience kind of slowed me down a bit." So she found other ways to practice the social gospel of justice.

She was a driving force behind the first bill signed by President Barack Obama, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. I was there that day. The President signed the bill, and he took the first pen from the first bill he was signing and handed it to BARBARA MIKULSKI because he knew that she had been a champion for equality in the workplace for women throughout her career.

There are two stories that I always think of when I think of Senator MIKULSKI.

In October 2002, the Senate voted on whether to authorize the war in Iraq. Only 23 of the 100 Senators then serving voted against the Iraq war resolution. Of those 23 Senators, only 8 still remain in the Senate today: BARBARA BOXER, who is leaving at the end of this Congress, PATRICK LEAHY, PATTY MURRAY, JACK REED, DEBBIE STABENOW, RON WYDEN, BARBARA MIKULSKI, and myself. This is a woman who has always been willing to risk her career to follow her conscience.

One of her great heroes is Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. The reason, BARBARA MIKULSKI says, is that Dorothy Day was always “trying to find the hopes of people,” rather than preying on people’s fear and anger.

I saw BARBARA MIKULSKI’s instinctive appeal to hope on that infamous sad day—September 11, 2001. As dust was settling on that heart-wrenching, heartbreaking day, most of the Members of the Senate gathered on the steps of the Capitol. The hope was that there would be a demonstration by Members of both parties to the Nation and to the world of solidarity. Suddenly—unplanned, unscripted—BARBARA MIKULSKI started singing “God Bless America.” Everyone joined in. In one of America’s darkest hours, BARBARA MIKULSKI brought us together. That is what a real leader does.

I and so many in the Chamber and so many untold millions of Americans are going to miss her presence in the Senate. We take consolation in knowing that, while she is leaving the Senate, she is not leaving the fight. She will never leave the fight.

Those of us who are returning in the next Congress have learned from Senator MIKULSKI, and we will continue to fight the good fight to invest in life-saving, job-creating medical breakthroughs at the National Institutes of Health—or, as BARBARA MIKULSKI calls it, the “National Institutes of Hope.” We will continue the good fight she has fought with such pithiness and passion to make our Nation safer and make our economy fairer for all Americans. I know that she will continue that fight as well.

BARBARA MIKULSKI may be leaving the Senate, but no one ever has, and I doubt anyone ever will, think of Baltimore’s BARBARA MIKULSKI as “retiring.”

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING NEBRASKA’S SOLDIERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN COMBAT

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today to continue my tribute to this generation of Nebraska heroes. They are the men and women who have given their lives defending our freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each one has a different story, and each Gold Star Family has the same request: that we remember the sacrifice of their loved one. By telling these stories of their service here on the Senate floor, we can honor that family’s request.

SERGEANT GERMAINE DEBRO

Mr. President, today I honor the life and service of Germaine Debro, a man who seemed destined for military service. Germaine’s father, Alvin Debro, was a career Air Force technical sergeant. At a young age, Germaine even picked up a nickname: “G.I. Joe Maine.” Even then, family and friends saw qualities that would make Germaine a great soldier. Because of his military service, Alvin and his wife Priscilla and their three boys moved often.

Germaine attended Benson High School in Omaha, NE, for a year before his family moved to Arkansas. There, Germaine graduated high school in 1991. Later, he and his family returned to Nebraska. For a time, Germaine worked as a manager at the local Burger King.

In 1994, G.I. Joe Maine followed his calling and he enlisted in the Army. In 1997, he joined the Nebraska National Guard. During those years, Germaine became known for his genuine personality and for developing a great camaraderie with his fellow soldiers. According to SPC Shawn O’Neil, Germaine was the “nicest guy you could ever meet.” He would walk into a room and it would light up. To his battle buddies, SPC Germaine Debro was affectionately known as DB. His dedication to his fellow soldiers was obvious. Being single, Germaine volunteered for assignments so that married soldiers might remain at home with their families.

Germaine deployed to Kuwait in 2001 and to Bosnia in 2002. In 2005, he learned that his unit, the 1st of the 167th Cavalry of the Nebraska Army National Guard, would deploy to Iraq. Germaine would be assigned to Troop B. Germaine’s family was anxious about him deploying again, but Germaine would not let his Army brothers go without him. In the end, his family supported his decision.

In explaining how his fellow soldiers felt about Germaine, SGT Josh Graft put it simply: “He was like a Dad to all of us.”

After a year of training, the 1st of the 167th Cavalry arrived in Iraq in early 2006. That is when the Sunni-Shia civil war erupted. In February, the al-Askari mosque was bombed and Iraq was plunging ever deeper into sectarian

violence. American forces had come to enforce peace; they found themselves engaged in intense wartime operations. Germaine’s unit was right in the thick of it. Enemy attacks were frequent. Tensions were high.

On September 4, 2006, a 20-truck convoy headed out from a site 30 miles north of Baghdad. In the United States, Americans were celebrating Labor Day with barbecues, sporting events, and family gatherings. In Iraq, Germaine was driving a humvee, providing advanced security for the convoy. Thirty miles outside of Baghdad, Germaine’s humvee struck an improvised explosive device. The vehicle was spun several times before erupting into flames. SGT Josiah Warren, riding in the right seat, tried unsuccessfully to pull Germaine free. Germaine Debro died on September 4, 2006.

At Iraq’s Camp Anaconda, members of the Nebraska Army National Guard assembled to honor the man who had cared so deeply for them.

On September 18, 2006, the Morning Star Baptist Church near downtown Omaha was filled with people paying a final tribute to Germaine Debro. Outside, 110 patriot riders stood guard.

Germaine’s brother, Maurice, read from a letter Germaine had written to him. In it, his brother offered some advice: “If you don’t take a risk, then you’ll never know what happened.”

“That was my brother,” said Maurice. “He was a loving, caring person.”

Germaine Debro was promoted posthumously to the rank of sergeant. His military decorations included a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. SGT Germaine Debro is survived by his father Alvin, his mother Priscilla, and his brothers, Alvin, Jr., and Maurice. He is a true Nebraska hero. I am honored to tell his story.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today for my 151st “Time to Wake Up” speech on climate change. I have covered many topics during these speeches—from pulling back the veil on the fossil fuel industry’s web of denial to sharing my visits to States from New Hampshire to Florida to Utah to see the effects of climate change there firsthand. But one recurring theme of my speeches and in the scientific literature has been the warning that the effects of climate change will hit home first and hardest along our coasts.

The oceans have soaked up more than 90 percent of the excess heat that has been trapped in the atmosphere by greenhouse gasses. That is a lot of

heat. The Associated Press has compared the ocean heat we have added since 1997 to a, “Hiroshima-style bomb being exploded every second in the ocean for 75 straight years.”

That excess energy is warming our oceans at alarming rates, and by the principle of thermal expansion, we know that when water warms it expands. That, coupled with the melting ice sheets, is driving up sea levels worldwide. For my Ocean State that is a big deal. Warming and rising seas carry real consequences for coastal economies.

New England is being hit particularly hard on this front. The Gulf of Maine is warming faster than almost any other part of the ocean in the world. Narragansett Bay, in my home state of Rhode Island, has already seen a nearly 4-degree Fahrenheit increase in winter water temperatures since the 1960s. Since measurements started in 1930, sea level is up nearly 10 inches at the tide gauge at Naval Station Newport.

Now, 10 inches may not sound like an enormous amount, but if you do a little mathematics and take that 10 inches and you multiply it by the 147 square miles that Narragansett Bay occupies, that adds nearly 100 million cubic meters of water offshore—throw weight for when the next storm comes.

Now, we don’t model storm surge very well yet. But there is a lot of potential harm for Rhode Island. If you look not just at Narragansett Bay but at Rhode Island State waters, it is more than 500 million cubic meters, which is more than 500 million metric tons of potential storm surge.

Earlier this year, researchers published in *Nature* an updated estimate of global sea level rise. With new estimates of how melting Antarctic sea ice will contribute to sea level rise, the scientists were able to paint a more accurate picture of what lies ahead. It is not good news.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had previously estimated sea level rise to reach between 1.7 and 3.2 feet by 2100. The new study doubles that estimate, putting global sea level rise over 6 feet by the end of this century.

To complicate matters more, as Antarctica loses ice and consequently mass, it will actually also affect the gravitational pull of the Antarctic on the oceans. With Antarctica’s gravitational pull reduced, other continents will proportionately carry more gravitational clout, drawing even more ocean water away from the South Pole to their coasts.

Ben Strauss, the director of Climate Central’s sea level rise program, recently told the *Washington Post*:

[T]he 22nd century would be the century of hell. There would really be an unthinkable level of sea rise. It would erase many major cities and some nations from the map.

A study published in the “Proceedings of the National Academy of

Sciences” last month looked at the effects of rising seas on more than 100 coastal cities around the world. The study predicts that we will hit 2 degrees Celsius of average global warming, which scientists say brings catastrophic and irreversible climate effects, sometime between 2040 and 2050.

When that happens, over 90 percent of the world’s coastal areas will experience almost 8 inches of further sea level rise. On the Atlantic coast of the United States, it is estimated to be more than 15 inches. If we continue emissions unabated and hit 5 degrees Celsius warming by 2100, New York City could see over 3½ feet of seawater swamping its streets.

The year 2040 is not that far away. If you buy a house on the coast today, 2040 would fall well within your typical 30-year mortgage. As you might imagine, the real estate business is starting to take notice. Zillow, the online real estate marketplace, has looked at how 6 feet of sea level rise by 2100 would affect over 100 million U.S. homes in its database. Around 1 in 50 homes in the United States, or just under 2 million properties, would find their ground floors underwater by 2100.

Thirty-six U.S. cities would be considered completely lost, and another 300 cities would lose at least half of their homes. Florida fared the worst in the study, losing more than 12 percent of the State’s housing to sea level rise. Hawaii is not far behind, with over 9 percent of its homes expected to go underwater. Though New Jersey’s overall housing situation fares somewhat better, with a loss expected at just over 7 percent, the value of those homes well exceeds any other State. New Jersey alone accounts for over 10 percent of the \$882,000,000,000 worth of potentially underwater properties.

Miami Beach would be the hardest hit city, losing over 37,000 homes, worth over \$33 billion. Those numbers just count residential properties, not expected losses to commercial or public properties. The insurance industry uses the term “100-year flood” to describe a flood that has a 1-percent chance of occurring in a given year. According to a 2013 study commissioned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the area in the United States susceptible to 100-year floods will grow by 45 percent by the end of the century. Our Government Accountability Office says Federal flood insurance premiums are not keeping pace with that growing risk.

From 2002 through 2013 already, taxpayers bailed out insured properties to the tune of \$18 to \$25 billion. Government-backed mortgage giant Freddie Mac is preparing itself for broad losses from climate-driven flooding. “The economic losses and social disruption may happen gradually,” says its Web site, “but they are likely to be greater in total than those experienced in the

housing crisis and the Great Recession.”

Let me say that again: “They are likely to be greater in total than those experienced in the housing crisis and Great Recession.” Some of the effects of climate change, it says, may not even be insurable. Unlike the 2008 housing crash, owners of homes that are subsumed by rising seas would have little expectation of their home’s value ever recovering. Therefore, they would have little incentive to make their mortgage payments, which would add to steep losses for lenders and insurers.

We don’t, of course, have to wait until 2100 to see the effects of sea level rise on coastal cities like Miami, Charleston, Norfolk, or Newport, RI. So-called sunny day flooding is increasing in coastal communities. As sea levels rise, regular high tides can be all that is needed to flood streets, sidewalks and basements. NOAA estimates that non-storm-related nuisance flooding, just from tides and sea level rise, has increased somewhere between 300 to 925 percent along the United States’ three coastlines since the 1960s.

This past October’s King Tides—the year’s highest tides—brought around 2 feet of water to Boston’s waterfront. Last month’s Super Moon pulled water into the streets of Charleston and the parking lots of New Hampshire. This wayward octopus—I don’t know if you can see it clearly, but there is a fairly good-sized octopus here—ended up swimming through a Miami parking garage.

These extreme high tides give a preview of what may be the new normal in this century. Higher seas plus stronger storms forebode real catastrophe for coastal communities. The Great New England Hurricane of 1938 is the worst in Rhode Island’s history. A storm surge of 12 to 15 feet hit Narragansett Bay, engulfing downtown Providence. You can see old photographs of the streetcars with just their roofs showing over the water.

If that storm hit again today, it would have a big head start, riding to shore on 10 more inches of sea with that potentially 500 million metric tons of water available for storm surge. Again, we don’t know how much of it becomes storm surge, but it certainly raises the potential.

This picture is from historic Newport after Superstorm Sandy gave us a glancing blow in Rhode Island in 2012. It brought a storm surge of over 9 feet to Providence, and over 4 feet to the south coast of the State. This is downtown Newport and Seamen’s Church Institute right here, and somebody is kayaking through downtown.

According to the most recent report from the National Ocean Economics Program, more than 134 million people lived in U.S. coastal zone counties in 2014. Those counties accounted for nearly half of the total U.S. GDP and

more than 40 percent of total U.S. employment. In my State of Rhode Island, the coastal economy accounts for \$55 billion of the State's GDP and employed over 400,000 people in 2014.

This productivity is at risk if those communities and their businesses cannot protect themselves from the consequences of our changing environment. A lot of places are taking this threat seriously. Although partisans in the State government make the phrase "climate change" a taboo in Florida, local policymakers, particularly in South Florida, are making climate change adaptation a priority, forming a regional bipartisan compact on climate resiliency, hiring resiliency and sustainability staff, building seawalls, installing pumps, updating building codes, and in Miami Beach's case—just in that one city—making \$400 million in storm water management upgrades.

In New Hampshire, the Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission has advised cities to prepare infrastructure and buildings for rising seas. Louisiana rewrote its Coastal Master Plan to accept the dark predictions of land loss and sea level rise facing that lowland State and to include around 200 projects designed to protect Southern Louisiana's marshes and limit the effects of storm surge.

In Alaska, Native villages are seeking financial support to relocate their traditional coastal homesteads to higher ground. In Rhode Island, under the leadership of Grover Fugate at our Coastal Resources Management Council and in cooperation with the leading experts at the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island Sea Grant, and Rhode Island Geological Survey, we are well aware of what climate change, sea level rise, and storm surge mean for our coastal communities.

STORMTOOLS, a free public online tool developed through this collaboration, is providing our city planners and concerned citizens with a visualization of the effects of various levels of sea level rise and storm surge on their properties. The Coastal Risk Environmental Index, which is shown here, will add even more specificity to the models working in STORMTOOLS. Users can actually navigate Google Earth to see what flood damage from sea level rise and storm surge will look like on a building-by-building basis. The city of Warwick, RI, featured here, is already using its maps in its future planning and emergency planning.

The rising tide calls for increased investment in coastal resiliency around the country. Senators MERKLEY, MENENDEZ, and I asked the Government Accountability Office to review the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's support for coastal States' resilience efforts. Among its findings, the GAO report said that the Regional Coastal Resilience Grants Program "received 132 qualified appli-

cations requesting a total of \$105 million during its first application period in fiscal year 2015." Well, guess how much money was available to meet that \$105 million approved or qualified need. Only \$4.5 million. NOAA was able to support less than 5 percent of the coastal States' demand.

Climate change doesn't care whether you believe the science or the propaganda and nonsense pumped out by the fossil fuel lobby—shoreside homes' basements will flood either way. It is not a matter of belief, it is a matter of physics.

For all the denial and diversion, you will notice that the fossil fuel industry's web of denial groups don't talk much about the effects we are seeing in our oceans and along our coasts. Their business is denial and, through calculated misinformation, creating phony doubt. That is their mission. If that is your mission, it is hard to deny water levels that are measured essentially on a glorified yardstick at tide gauges. It is hard to deny measurements from a Ph test that high schoolers do in their science classes. It is hard to deny readings from thermometers.

Here in the Senate, our choice is clear: We can take action or continue to sleepwalk through history. But we should remember Pope Francis's warning. Pope Francis said: "God always forgives, we men forgive sometimes, but nature never forgives. If you give her a slap, she will give you one." And we have a big slap coming.

If we do nothing, what will we tell the millions of Americans who live by the sea and rely on it for their livelihoods? What should we tell them when they can't get insured for the next hurricane or when their mortgages are underwater in a literal sense? If we refuse to help our own citizens, who then will help the millions of others in developing countries around the world suffering the same fate and looking to our country for leadership? We have a moral obligation to pluck our heads from the sand and get to work. The oceans warn; it is time we woke up and listened.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

JUSTICE FOR ALL REAUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it is my honor to come to the floor with the senior Senator from Vermont, my friend Mr. LEAHY, to talk about bipartisan legislation that will soon help victims of crime restore their lives. The Justice for All Reauthorization Act passed the House last week, and the Senate followed suit with unanimous support. Now it is on its way to the President's desk so it can become the law of the land.

When I served as the attorney general of Texas a few years ago, I felt that one of my most important jobs

was to protect crime victims. I know that all Members of the Senate feel the same way. The Justice for All Reauthorization Act is first and foremost a bill that will help victims. It includes a number of provisions to help them get the justice they deserve. It will improve victims' rights by increasing access to restitution, reauthorize programs that support them in court, and increase resources for forensic labs to reduce the rape kit backlog.

I have spoken about the rape kit backlog before, and it is a big problem. At one point, it was estimated that there were as many as 400,000 untested rape kits in America, and this was due primarily to a lack of resources and lack of focus in making this a priority. This is evidence which has proven to be enormously powerful to help convict the guilty and exonerate the innocent.

This legislation will also give law enforcement more resources to keep violent offenders off the street and fairly prosecute crimes.

I know sometimes people must think Senator LEAHY and I are the odd couple of the Senate. We worked together not only on this legislation but also on reforms of the Freedom of Information Act. We share a passion for that topic as well. I am enormously grateful to him for his partnership on this important legislation. I also wish to thank Senator GRASSLEY for his leadership in helping to shepherd this bipartisan bill through the Judiciary Committee.

I am looking forward to the Justice for All Reauthorization Act becoming law soon so we can help more victims restore their lives.

I yield to the senior Senator from Vermont.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished senior Senator from Texas. Senator CORNYN and I have had the privilege of being prosecutors, he as an attorney general and I served as the State's attorney. I think you get a special view of what is needed. I have enjoyed working with the Senator because we do not have to paint a great picture for each other; we both understand the mistakes that can be made and why we do not want them.

For more than 6 years, I have championed the reauthorization of the Justice for All Act. I want to ensure that our criminal justice system lives up to our national pledge of liberty and justice for all. Having served as a prosecutor—and most former prosecutors—I am committed to ensuring that our criminal justice system has the integrity and confidence of the public it serves. I should not just say former prosecutors; current prosecutors feel that way.

From my time on the frontlines as a State's attorney in Chittenden County, VT, to the more than 15 years I have served as either chairman or ranking

member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, it has become clear to me that our system is deeply flawed. There is not always justice for all. I have met many innocent people wrongly convicted of crimes they did not commit.

I shared the story of Kirk Bloodsworth. He was falsely convicted. He was sentenced to death for the rape and murder of a 9-year-old girl—a horrible crime, but he maintained his innocence. In 1993, he became the first death row inmate to be exonerated by DNA, and they were finally able to charge the man who did commit the horrible crime. The irony there is that some have said: Boy, don't they look alike? That is what happened.

We know our system gets it wrong. We have a responsibility to improve our criminal justice system. That is why I joined with Kirk Bloodsworth years ago to introduce and enact the Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program. It was originally part of the Innocence Protection Act, which was enacted in 2004. It gives defendants like Kirk a chance to prove their innocence.

To ensure our justice system gets it right from the beginning, the bill provides a means to improve the quality of indigent defense. Ensuring good representation for those accused of crimes means fewer innocent people will be behind bars. It is an outrage if an innocent person is wrongly punished, but then that injustice is exacerbated because it means the person who committed the crime is still out there, and oftentimes, as my friend from Texas knows, they will commit the crime again. The American people deserve a system that gets it right the first time.

Many Senators in this Chamber know the story of my friend Debbie Smith, also a friend of the senior Senator from Texas. She has become a champion for victims of sexual assault. She waited 6 years after being attacked before her rape kit was tested and a culprit was caught. Think about that. During those 6 years, she had to live in terror that the person who did this heinous crime might come back and do it again. No one should have to live in fear while an attacker remains free to victimize someone else or them.

This legislation not only provides important resources to improve the quality and efficiency of forensic testing, but it also expands it to underserved populations, such as those in rural areas, which is much of my State. Actually, every one of us has rural areas in our States.

I have worked with Senators on both sides of the aisle to craft solutions to some of the most significant issues of our time. That is why I am proud to partner with Senator CORNYN on this important legislation.

I hope we will continue to work together in the next Congress. We have to continue to protect all victims. We have to create fairness in our criminal

justice system. We have to make sure we get it right the first time.

I call on those who have worked with me on this important legislation to continue to support our efforts. We can correct costly mistakes in our criminal justice system; we will be a better country for it. We will have a lot more respect for our criminal justice system, and we will do what the best of our prosecutors and police want to do—get it right.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I again wish to express my gratitude to the senior Senator from Vermont, Senator LEAHY, for his critical role in making sure this legislation becomes law, and I look forward to continuing to work with him on similar topics in the future.

LEGISLATION BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. President, we are about a week into the lameduck session, and we have already tackled some pretty significant legislation.

Last week, I was proud to see two bills that I introduced pass the Chamber. The first was the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act, a bill that will help staffing, safety, and efficiency at our ports of entry, and it passed the Senate unanimously.

In Texas, as the Presiding Officer knows in Arizona, this is not a new concern. Some of our border communities have seen the infrastructure and the staffing prove to be inadequate at our legitimate ports of entry, with a negative impact not only on the environment, as cars stack up to cross the border, but it also provides an unnecessary drag on legitimate trade and commerce.

Through the use of innovative public-private partnerships, we have seen that we can increase staffing, improve the infrastructure, and basically end up filling the gap left by the Federal Government not doing its job by dealing—as it, of necessity, must—with our international borders and making sure they work as they should. This is a good step in the right direction, and I am hopeful we can get the legislation to the President's desk in the coming days so that more ports of entry throughout the country can take advantage of its benefits.

Senator LEAHY and I just spoke about the Justice for All Reauthorization Act, and then last night this Chamber voted to move the 21st Century Cures bill forward with—incredibly—85 Senators voting in favor of it. It passed the House overwhelmingly last week, and I look forward to getting it through the Chamber and to the President's desk as soon as possible. This legislation will play an important role in supporting our scientists and researchers working to find cures for diseases like cancer, and that includes

resources that will support the Cancer Moonshot Program, which will help those studying and researching to actually find a way to end cancer. That means cancer centers like the MD Anderson hospital will have more support to carry out their mission to make cancer history.

The Cures legislation will support research for Alzheimer's and help fight the opioid addiction that is running rampant through many parts of our country. In other words, this legislation is critically important to the health of our country now and for generations to come.

Significantly, the 21st Century Cures bill includes reforms to our mental health delivery system, in part, based on legislation I introduced in the Senate called the Mental Health and Safe Communities Act. As a result of the deinstitutionalization and treatment of people with mental illness in the 1990s, the safety net that was supposed to be there to catch people so they didn't fall through the cracks never came into being. So many people suffering from mental illness simply live on our streets as homeless individuals or they are frequently fliers, so to speak, in our criminal justice system and in many instances never had their mental illness diagnosed, much less treated, so they can actually have a chance at a better life. The mental health provisions included in the Cures bill is one way to correct that course. It would also help families with a mentally ill loved one find a path to treatment and a way forward, including assisted outpatient treatment programs.

One of the biggest challenges families have when they have a mentally ill family member—particularly when they are an adult—is getting them to comply with their doctor's orders and take their medication. Due to the miracle of modern pharmacology, many people with mental illnesses, if they are compliant with their medication, can lead very productive lives. Often there are additional tools that need to be available to family members when they find their loved one is getting sicker and sicker and not being compliant with their medication, potentially becoming a danger to themselves or to the community at large.

This legislation will equip State and local governments with better tools to assess individual health care needs so those suffering from mental illness in the criminal justice system can begin to recover and get the help they need, instead of getting sicker.

This bill also encourages the creation of crisis intervention teams so our law enforcement officers and first responders can know how to deescalate a dangerous confrontation. If a police officer comes to the scene of a call only to confront a mentally ill person, if they are untrained and don't know how to deescalate the situation, they may find

themselves in danger, both the first responder as well as the individual person with mental illness. This is about finding ways to help the mentally ill individual get help while keeping the community safe at the same time.

Mr. President, the last bit of business we have is to fund the government. I said many times the best way to do that is to take the appropriations bills up one at a time so we can properly vet them, discuss them, and pass them. Our friends across the aisle had a different view this year and blocked the passage of individual appropriations bills. While it is not my preference, it is where we are. Right now, we are looking forward to passing a continuing resolution soon as we fulfill our important responsibilities to the American people.

I am glad to see we are making some progress on other pieces of legislation, including the Water Resources Development Act, a bill that will help us strengthen our waterways to account for growing trade and provide help for drought and flood protection.

Finally, we are working to finish the national defense authorization bill that will make sure Congress provides the resources for our military men and women so they can accomplish their missions and keep America safe.

We have quite a bit of work left to do and not much time left to do it in before the holidays, but with a little cooperation, I am sure we will get it all done.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am here, along with a number of my colleagues, to applaud the 21st Century Cures Act as a major milestone and a long-overdue initial investment in combating the opioid epidemic. In particular, I applaud the inclusion of \$1 billion in funding over 2 years that will address this crisis. For treatment providers on the frontlines of the epidemic, I am pleased to say help is on its way with this bill when it is passed by the Senate—and I believe it will be.

Make no mistake, these resources are badly needed. This remains an uncontrolled epidemic and unfortunately is still gaining strength. A staggering 47,000 Americans died of drug overdoses in 2014—more Americans than died in car accidents. Sadly, in New Hampshire, we are a bull's-eye for the highest percentage of drug overdoses per populace of any State in the country so I am pleased this bill includes language to prioritize the allocation of these new resources to the most heavily affected States, and I intend to work with the current and incoming administration to get this funding out to States as quickly as possible.

More than a year ago, I introduced legislation to help stem the tide of the opioid crisis by providing emergency

funding to States, first responders, and treatment providers. I joined with other Senators in working to include funding in the Cures Act to provide at least an initial infusion of funding to fight the opioid epidemic. I am relieved these efforts have led to the bipartisan agreement we will soon vote on.

Last month, the U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, issued a landmark report and an urgent call to action. He said 21 million Americans have a substance use disorder—far more Americans than have cancer—yet only 1 in 10 is receiving any kind of treatment.

My State of New Hampshire, and New England overall, has been especially hard hit, but make no mistake, this is a nationwide epidemic, and it doesn't discriminate. It is impacting young and old, urban and rural, rich and poor, White and minority, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents.

This fall I met with Susan Messinger of Holderness, NH. Her son Carl experimented with heroin at a party and quickly became addicted. He got treatment, was in recovery, and was doing great, but he came down with a respiratory infection and was prescribed medicine that unknown to him, included an opioid—just simple cherry cough medicine. Carl relapsed, and he died of a fentanyl overdose days before his 25th birthday.

This chart entitled “Drug Overdose Deaths Across America” shows very vividly the extent of the problem. It was compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It shows the inexorable spread of the opioid crisis and the disease it causes from 2003, here where we don't see as much bright red, to 2008, where it is growing, to 2014, where it is almost the entire country. We can see that in the Presiding Officer's section of the country, in the Southwest, it is particularly challenging, as well as in the Appalachian region of the East. According to the CDC, mortality trends in the opioid epidemic are now similar to the trends in the HIV epidemic at its peak in the late 1980s and 1990s.

The second chart shows drug overdose deaths across New Hampshire. It shows a parallel spread of the opioid epidemic in New Hampshire, with especially devastating effects in the northern part of the State—what we call the north country. In 2003, we see no orange and no red. In 2007, we are beginning to see patches of orange. In 2011, they have turned red, and by 2014, it is particularly affecting the entire State, and here—the northern part of New Hampshire—is where it is hardest hit.

In his landmark report last month, the U.S. Surgeon General said: “It is time to change how we view addiction—not as a moral failing but as a chronic illness that must be treated with skill, urgency and compassion.”

Yet what we are seeing in New Hampshire and across the country is that treatment centers are completely overwhelmed.

Certainly, the new funding in the Cures Act will be welcome news to Friendship House in Bethlehem, NH, which is a treatment center I visited on Friday. It is up here in the northern part of the State in New Hampshire's north country, which has one of the highest overdose rates per capita in New Hampshire. Friendship House is the only treatment center within a radius of 65 miles.

Back in April, Kaiser Health News reported on the case of Eddie Sawyer. Eddie overdosed and died while he was waiting for his turn to be admitted to Friendship House. When police found Mr. Sawyer, on the table next to his bed was a list of treatment facilities. There were checkmarks next to the name of each facility. Mr. Sawyer had called every place on the list, and he had not found one that could take him for treatment.

The Surgeon General's new report states that nearly 9 out of 10 people with substance use disorders do not receive treatment. They are being turned away. They are being denied treatment due to a chronic lack of resources. Hopefully, this legislation is going to help that because over the last year, I visited treatment centers in every part of the Granite State. These centers are staffed by skilled, dedicated treatment professionals. They are saving lives every day, but they tell me that for every life they save, others are being lost for lack of treatment capacity, facilities, and funding. When people with substance use disorders are turned away, this means they remain on the streets, desperate, often committing crimes to support their addiction and at constant risk of a lethal overdose.

Last year, a promising young woman named Molly Alice Parks died of a heroin overdose in Manchester, NH—New Hampshire's largest city. Her father wrote her obituary which appeared in the Union Leader newspaper. He wrote openly about Molly's addiction, and the obituary included this plea to readers: “If you have any loved ones who are fighting addiction, Molly's family asks that you do everything possible to be supportive, and guide them to rehabilitation before it is too late.”

I admire the courage of Molly's father, his willingness to warn other families, and talk openly about his daughter's addiction, but what if a family persuades a son or daughter to seek treatment and no treatment is available? Sadly, that is the case in so many communities across America where treatment centers are overwhelmed.

That is why the additional resources in the Cures Act are so important. This new funding will make a real difference for treatment providers in each of our

States. Make no mistake, this legislation will save lives. The funding in the Cures Act is a welcome initial investment in combating the opioid epidemic. President-Elect Trump, during dozens of visits to New Hampshire over the last year, pledged aggressive action to fight the opioid epidemic. When the new Congress convenes in January, we must come together with our new President, on a bipartisan basis, to address the opioid crisis in a comprehensive fashion, including continuing resources for policing, prevention, treatment, and recovery. As Surgeon General Murphy says, "How we respond to this crisis is a test for America." With so many lives at stake, it is a test we must not fail.

With the 21st Century Cures Act, Congress is providing urgent new funding for treatment on the frontlines—professionals who have been doing truly heroic, lifesaving work. Our message in passing this legislation is: Help is on the way. I urge my colleagues to give strong bipartisan support to this important bill.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COAL MINER HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AND PENSIONS

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise to explain what is happening for all of my colleagues and my friends on both sides of the aisle.

I have been here for 6 years as a Senator. I have always fought to make the body work, and for the people of West Virginia and for our country. I have never believed partisan gridlock is a way to accomplish our policy goals, so I haven't come to this decision easily. I have never used the procedure that I am using today, and I will use, to basically stop all UCs, a lot of good pieces of legislation, a lot of good friends who have worked diligently on this. I want to be able to work with them.

My reason for doing this is that over 2 years ago we promised the retired coal miners of America—we promised them—mostly their families, and there are a lot of widows now; we promised them they would have their health care benefits that were guaranteed to them and their pensions. We have been working toward that.

We knew this day would come. As of December 31, the end of this month—less than 4 weeks away—there are going to be 16,500 retired families, retired miners who are losing their health care benefits. There will be another 4,000 the first of next year.

So I am using this procedure, which I do reluctantly and I never thought I

would have to, because we are fighting for those people whom we promised, fighting for those we believe in, to thank them for the power they have provided to this Nation. Now we are turning our backs on them.

We have pay-fors for this. We have a way to move forward. These are the health care benefits for our retired miners. It is something they have worked for, they have earned, they deserve, and we are the country we are because of the hard work they have done.

So I wanted my colleagues to know why this procedure is going to be a little bit more laborious than they would have liked, why we might not be leaving here when they would have liked to go home. If we don't stand for the people who have made our country as great as it is, we stand for nothing.

So with that, I hope my colleagues understand where I am coming from and why I hope they will be with me on this for the sake of all of these families and all of these widows and all of these miners who have given to much to our country.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wish to start by expressing my appreciation to all of my colleagues who have worked so hard on the priorities in the 21st Century Cures bill, including investing in tackling our hardest to treat diseases, confronting the opioid epidemic, strengthening mental health care, and advancing medical innovation.

The legislation that we will be voting on either really late tonight or tomorrow morning takes important steps to improve the care that patients receive.

I am very grateful to every Senator and Member of Congress who worked across the aisle to make this legislation the best it could be for those whom we serve. In particular, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to Vice President JOE BIDEN. Not everyone has the strength to respond to profound personal tragedy by doing even more to protect and help others, but that is exactly what he has done. I know we are all grateful for and inspired by his leadership, and I am confident it has given a lot of families hope, knowing that JOE BIDEN is fighting for them and their loved ones.

Of course, I want to acknowledge and thank the chairman of the HELP Committee, Senator ALEXANDER, for his work and leadership on this bill, as well as the Energy and Commerce Chairman FRED UPTON, Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE, and Congresswoman DIANA DEGETTE.

I am proud of our country's history of lifesaving public health initiatives and world-changing medical innovation. From eradicating smallpox to

mapping the human genome, we have risen to challenges and found ways to combat seemingly unbeatable diseases and public health threats. There is no question we are a strong country for that.

The bill we are talking about today, while far from perfect, gives us the chance to build on that tradition of leadership and respond to some urgent health challenges we face right now. One of those is the opioid epidemic. Like many of my colleagues, I have heard from far too many families and local leaders in my home State about the ways that opioid use disorders are ruining lives and tearing families apart. My constituent Penny LeGate, whose daughter Marah died of an overdose at the age of 19, said that this crisis can happen anywhere and it is everywhere. That is the same thing I have heard from worried parents and sheriffs and community leaders across Washington State.

I was glad that earlier this year, the Senate passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act to strengthen and improve programs that address opioid addiction. But, as Democrats made clear, improving policy wasn't enough. Tackling this crisis head-on requires putting new investments into these efforts as quickly as possible, and that is what this bill will do. It dedicates \$1 billion over 2 years, above and beyond the budget caps, to help States and communities fight back. And critically, we were able to secure changes that ensure this money will go to States based on where it is needed the most.

Many of my colleagues were closely involved with this effort, but in particular I wish to recognize Senators WHITEHOUSE, SHAHEEN, BALDWIN, MARKEY, DONNELLY, and MANCHIN.

I have also heard from people across Washington State and the country about what a broken mental health system means for them and their families. One constituent whose experience has really stuck with me is Jenny. Jenny is from Olympia, WA, and she was pregnant when her husband began having severe psychotic episodes. Jenny told me that she remembered how striking the differences were between the coordinated, thoughtful care she received as an expectant mother and the confusing patchwork that she and her husband had to navigate to try to help him get better. Jenny's husband cycled in and out of the hospital without effective treatment, and tragically he took his own life while Jenny was in the NICU with their newborn baby.

Jenny's story is unfortunately one of many about families struggling to find quality mental health care for loved ones with mental illness. I am confident that everyone here today has heard these stories, and we know we have to do better.

Our legislation will help expand access to quality care for mental illness and substance use disorders by making it easier for patients to get in touch with providers. It will strengthen coordination between local agencies that are engaged in crisis intervention, and it will make sure that resources are available to strengthen the mental health workforce.

While we weren't able to resolve the IMD exclusion, which is a policy that makes it extremely difficult for States to provide inpatient care to those with mental illness and substance abuse disorders, this bill does change policy so that Federal funding will fully support the physical needs of children in psychiatric facilities.

It also puts in place measures to strengthen our mental health parity law to make sure that health insurance will cover mental health and addiction services when it is needed. Chairman ALEXANDER and I worked with Senators MURPHY and CASSIDY to move this legislation through our committee this year, and I wish to recognize their commitment and leadership on this issue in particular.

In addition to investing in and tackling the opioid epidemic and putting in place desperately needed reforms to our mental health care system, this legislation makes real investments in tackling the hardest to treat diseases. According to the National Cancer Institute at NIH, 40 percent of men and women in the United States will be diagnosed with some form of cancer in their lives. Right now, more than 5 million people are living with Alzheimer's. These are truly staggering statistics, and they represent enormous hardship and suffering and loss in nearly every family and community.

Now we have made enormous progress in understanding and treating cancer, and we know more about how the brain works and what diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's and traumatic injuries do to human minds, but we can and must do more, and that is exactly what the investments in NIH in this bill will mean.

While this is not the mandatory funding we had hoped for, I want to be very clear: This is real funding. So \$4.8 billion is paid for within this bill, targeted to specific NIH initiatives, and available to appropriators above and beyond the budget caps. That means, as a result of this legislation—and thanks, in particular, to the leadership and vision of Vice President BIDEN—we will be able to invest billions right away in better understanding, preventing, and treating diseases that have impacted so many families.

This bill also ensures that those investments in research will benefit all Americans, including women and children, LGBT individuals, and racial and ethnic minorities.

This bill also puts \$500 million above and beyond the budget cap toward

helping the FDA meet the same high standards of patient and consumer safety in the face of increasing demands on the agency and new responsibilities under this legislation. As Democrats have made clear throughout this process, upholding the gold standard of FDA approval that patients and families across the country trust is a top priority.

In light of the antibiotic-resistant infections linked to contaminated medical devices called duodenoscopes in Seattle and across the country, it was particularly important to me to make sure that this bill strengthened the FDA's authority to require that medical device manufacturers ensure their products will remain safe after they have gone into repeated uses at our hospitals.

We also fought hard to move many of the other FDA reform policies that are included in this bill in the direction of greater patient and consumer safety. In particular, I was pleased that we were able to take out legislation that would have watered down transparency around drug and device industry payments to doctors, and I appreciate my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who were ultimately willing to work with us to make those changes.

Now, looking ahead to next year, I plan to monitor implementation of this bill extremely closely, with a focus on making sure the incoming administration adheres to the policies laid out in this bill and upholds the FDA's responsibility to patients and families to ensure our medicines and treatments are safe and effective. This standard has been critical to fueling biomedical innovation in America for over half a century. And while I am disappointed that Republicans were unwilling to take action on this legislation to tackle the high cost of prescription drugs, I am very glad we were able to remove expensive provisions that could have driven up costs for consumers even more.

While this bill is not what I would have written on my own, it is certainly not what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would have written on their own, either. It locks in critical advancements ahead of the incoming administration and the partisan approach they are signaling they will take on health care, and it will make a real difference for patients and families across the country now and for years into the future.

Before I wrap up, I want to acknowledge the extraordinary time and effort put in by all of our staffs. There have been a lot of late nights and weekends for our staffs, not just this year but last year as well on this bill, and I want to take just a minute to recognize their extra effort and sacrifice.

On Senator ALEXANDER's staff, I want to particularly acknowledge and thank his staff director, David Cleary, as well

as Mary-Sumpter Lapinski and Grace Stuntz, his health and FDA policy leads, who worked very closely with my staff over many months. I also want to acknowledge and thank Margaret Coulter, Brett Meeks, Laura Pence, Melissa Pfaff, Kara Townshend, and Elizabeth Wroe for their efforts on this bill.

In the House, I want to recognize and thank the staff of Congressman PALONE, including his staff director, Jeff Carroll, along with Tiffany Guarascio, his health policy lead. I thank the staff of Chairman UPTON, particularly his staff director, Gary Andres, and Paul Edattel, his health policy lead.

In addition, I thank the staff of my members on the HELP Committee, who worked so closely with my staff to make this a reality. In particular, I thank David Bonine and Joe Dunn with Senator MURPHY.

I want to acknowledge the assistance of Amy Rosenbaum, Jeanne Lambrew, Kate Mevis, and Dr. Francis Collins, among many others within the administration who helped make today possible.

Finally, I want to close by thanking my staff. I can't say enough about my incredible staff, who have put their time and talents into this bill from the word "go." In particular, I thank my staff director, Evan Schatz, and my health policy director, Nick Bath, for their extraordinary efforts on this legislation. Thank you.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of Remy Brim, Julie Tierney, Andi Fristedt, Colin Goldfinch, Melanie Rainer, Madeleine Pannell, Megan Howard, Elizabeth Wagner, Wade Ackerman, Kalah Auchincloss, Jane Bigham, Helen Hare, Eli Zupnick, John Righter, Nick McLane, and my chief of staff, Mike Spahn. I want you to know that I noticed their long hours and unwavering commitment on this legislation. It means a lot.

I urge my colleagues to join the House when we vote on this, which voted overwhelmingly in support of this bill—392 to 26—and to join us in sending this legislation to President Obama's desk.

Thank you.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, before the distinguished Senator from Washington moves on to her other duties, I want to commend her and Senator ALEXANDER for the outstanding job they have done and for the long hours she and her colleagues on the HELP Committee have put in to making the Cures Act the reality that it will be in a few days.

I know the distinguished Senator is on her way to other meetings. I have a few things to say about it, but I want to express that before she leaves the Chamber.

Truly, as Senator MURRAY said, the 21st Century Cures Act is a world-changing piece of legislation. It seems rather quiet and unremarkable today, but I actually believe we are taking a major step toward disease cure and health care research that rivals the legislation which actually founded the National Institutes of Health some decades ago. So we are about important business here at Christmastime as we near the end of this lameduck session.

Senator BLUNT and I and perhaps other Senators were over in the Chamber of the other body last Wednesday afternoon when the House of Representatives passed the 21st Century Cures Act by an overwhelming bipartisan vote, 392 to 26. I appreciated the work House leaders did from top to bottom and on both sides of the aisle on this important legislation.

Of course, I am always pleased to visit my colleagues over there. A number of our House colleagues were over here last night when the Senate invoked cloture on the Cures Act by an overwhelming vote of 85 to 13. We will get to the vote either this afternoon or early tomorrow, and I have every confidence that there will be a strong vote on final passage.

The 21st Century Cures Act is the product of several years of bipartisan work in both Houses. My friend from Washington State gave a comprehensive overview of the legislation, which is indeed breathtaking. I wish to come behind her and mention what an accomplishment this is in three areas—first, in Alzheimer's research; second, in pediatric research; and finally, in the drug approval process.

I appreciate my friend from Washington and 62 others agreeing to take into this legislation the EUREKA Act, which I was happy to sponsor and which 62 of my colleagues cosponsored. EUREKA would and will initiate prize competitions in the fight against some of our Nation's most terrible diseases, including Alzheimer's. These prizes would pay only for success, and they would complement current funding that is and will be ongoing, according to the legislation. So this will be over and above what we are already doing for Alzheimer's. The Senator from Washington is correct about how costly Alzheimer's is. It will top \$1 trillion in taxpayer cost by the year 2050 unless we get a cure or unless we achieve major goals with regard to stopping Alzheimer's. So it is an expensive disease—the most expensive disease in the history of this country—but it is also terribly expensive in terms of human suffering. I know many Americans, including my family, have been touched in a very terrible and dramatic way by Alzheimer's.

I am pleased that the EUREKA prizes are part of this legislation. I want to thank everyone who helped us in this regard.

I am thankful for the advice we got from the XPRIZE Foundation and from all of the Alzheimer's groups, including the Alzheimer's Association and UsAgainstAlzheimer's.

Thanks should also go to Dr. Francis Collins and the entire team at the National Institutes of Health for making this legislation work and for listening to a different idea—the concept of prizes for health care research—and giving it an attentive ear and being willing to agree that, in addition to the funding, we would attack these diseases with a prize competition.

The NIH funding in Cures includes additional dollars for the BRAIN Initiative, and these EUREKA prizes will ensure that our researchers have the tools they need.

Secondly, another important part of the NIH section of the Cures Act is the National Pediatric Research Network, inspired by the Pediatric Research Improvement Act that I was happy to cosponsor with Senator BROWN earlier this year. Senator BROWN and I have been working together tirelessly to see NIH implement the National Pediatric Research Network, and I am glad to see this provision in the bill. Very simply, the goal is to expand access to clinical trials and treatments for children, especially those with rare diseases. That is a second aspect of this Cures bill that I am so pleased to see the leadership of this committee being attentive to.

Thirdly, this bill makes major breakthroughs in the way we approve drugs in this country. I am pleased that language from another bill I cosponsored, the Patient-Focused Impact Assessment Act, was included in the bill. This section of the Cures bill would ensure that patients understand the way FDA considers the patient experience and the way FDA considers data in the drug approval process. So for patients like those living with Duchenne and their families, for people who are interested in the drug approval process, and for the parents of children, this is a truly bipartisan achievement.

I am happy that Senator MURRAY was here so I could congratulate her in person. Certainly Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, chairman of our HELP Committee, deserves high praise from both sides of the aisle for his leadership in this regard, as well as the bipartisan leadership of the House of Representatives.

As we enter this holiday season, patients, advocates, and providers have an extra reason to rejoice as this bill heads to the President's desk.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess, following the remarks of Senator CASEY, until 2:15 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, in the interest of time, I will limit my remarks.

I rise this afternoon to commend and salute three Senators from the Democratic caucus who are leaving the Senate this year. I will have longer written statements for the RECORD to appropriately pay tribute to their service. In alphabetical order, Senator BOXER of California, Senator MIKULSKI of Maryland, and Senator REID of Nevada.

BARBARA BOXER AND BARBARA MIKULSKI

I will offer some specific remarks about Leader REID, in the interest of time, but I do want to commend and salute Senator BOXER for her service to the people of California and to our Nation, as well Senator MIKULSKI for her great work—two great advocates, two individuals whom we are going to miss terribly here in the Senate. As I said, I will put longer statements in the RECORD.

HARRY REID

With regard to Senator REID, I can't help taking the time to say a few words about him in the remaining minutes we have before we break for the caucus lunches.

Mr. President, as many people know, Senator HARRY REID is a son of Searchlight, a small community in the State of Nevada, and he comes from humble beginnings. It is probably best to read his words about his beginnings rather than trying to describe or encapsulate them. Among many things he said about his background and his family, he said this, in short fashion, about his background:

My dad was a hard rock miner. My mom took in wash. I grew up around people of strong values.

That is a direct quotation from HARRY REID about his background. I think those values have helped him his whole life. Those values, that work ethic, and that strength of character allowed him to go from Searchlight to rise up to become a leader in his home State of Nevada in many positions in State government, to be a Member of the United States House of Representatives, later to be elected to the United States Senate in 1986, and then, of course, to become the Democratic leader—and he remains so until the end of this Congress—but, of course, the pinnacle was his service as majority leader, one of the longest serving majority leaders in our history. That is kind of a summary of his positions in government, important though they are, leading a large and diverse caucus. It is a

difficult job whether you are leading that caucus in the majority or leading it as the minority party. So we salute and commend his service to his home State of Nevada and to the people of the United States.

But maybe more important than just talking about positions he held is to talk for just a minute about who he is—a fighter. No person has fought harder for workers and for their families than HARRY REID. No Senator, no person I know in public life, has made that such a central part of who they are and a central part of their priorities, also, at the same time, being a fighter for those who often don't have a voice here—people who don't have power ever in their lives or often don't have power on a regular basis. They always had a friend in HARRY REID—someone who would go to the end of the Earth fighting on behalf of them.

Over and over in our caucus, he would say: We have to work on this issue, or we have to get this or that done for people who are hurting. There are so many different examples of that, which we don't have time to enumerate them today.

I am recalling today a great line from a great Democratic leader, William Jennings Bryan, who talked about the power of one individual to make a difference and the power of an issue or set of issues to drive that person's success in public life or even beyond public life, as a citizen. William Jennings Bryan once said: "The humblest citizen in all the land, when clad in the armor of a righteous cause, is stronger than all the hosts of error." So said William Jennings Bryan about one citizen clad in the armor of a righteous cause.

HARRY REID is a Senator and he has been a leader, but he is also a very humble man at his core. His righteous cause wasn't just one issue, but if you had to encapsulate it or summarize it, the righteous cause for HARRY REID was fighting on behalf of those workers, fighting on behalf of those people who did not ever have power in their lives.

His ability to not just articulate their concerns and their struggles but literally their hopes and their dreams was one of the reasons why so many of us have such a high regard for him. We commend and salute his service. We appreciate his commitment to strong values, but we especially appreciate his steadfast support for those who needed his voice, who needed his work, who needed his votes, and needed his leadership.

To Senator REID, we say thank you for your service, thank you for what you did for your home State of Nevada, and thank you for what you did for the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:33 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. ROBERTS).

TSUNAMI WARNING, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2015—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Vermont is recognized.

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Presiding Officer, the Senator from Kansas.

An editorial this morning in the New York Times is entitled: "Why Does Donald Trump Lie About Voting Fraud?" This is the editorial of which I speak. That is a question that many of us who have been fighting for the right to vote have been asking for decades. In a bipartisan fashion, this Congress reauthorized the Voting Rights Act 10 years ago. During the course of many, many, many Senate and House Judiciary Committee hearings, we fought against the false narrative that in-person voting fraud was at all common in our country. The evidence clearly and irrefutably shows that it is not, but, of course, the evidence does not stop those who are determined to make it harder for Americans to cast their votes.

Right after five Justices on the Supreme Court gutted the core protection of the bipartisan Voting Rights Act, several States led by Republican majorities enacted voting restrictions that made it harder for many Americans to vote.

It is most troubling that our President-elect has decided to make an unfounded charge of widespread voting fraud. I can imagine that he is disappointed in the fact that he got 2.5 million less votes than his opponent and did not win the support of a majority of Americans who voted last month. We should all hope that when our next President is presented with unfavorable realities, he will not resort to spreading information that has no basis in fact. That cannot and should never be the standard of American leadership.

In an article published in the Valley News of West Lebanon, NH, and reprinted this morning in VTDigger, re-

searchers at Dartmouth explored President-Elect Trump's allegation of widespread voting fraud, and they found nothing to support his claim, noting "voter fraud concerns fomented and espoused by the Trump campaign are not grounded in any observable features of the 2016 Presidential election." Many other analyses have also made this crystal clear.

In a report to Congress, the Government Accountability Office concluded that "no apparent cases of in-person voter impersonation [were] charged by DOJ's Criminal Division or by U.S. Attorney's offices anywhere in the United States from 2004 through July 3, 2014." That is the reality. The President-elect should not continue to peddle lies about voter fraud.

I say that because this year we have seen a dangerous uptick in what some call "fake news." These articles have no basis of reality or factual evidence, but they are broadly circulated because they affirm a particular ideology or because they are a proven way to make a quick buck by drawing the attention of unsuspecting online readers. Fake news stories get attention and clicks. We saw what happened when a man walks into a pizza place in the District of Columbia where children often congregate and fires a rifle because of one of these fake news stories he had read.

Some consider this despicable propaganda to be harmless, but it is certainly not without its victims. We know that the spread of lies through fake news can have real-world consequences, even for the public's faith in the Republic itself. There is no doubt that this is the way Russia sees it.

In conclusion, it should not be too much to ask our elected officials to operate on facts and reality. We will have many debates over policy in the years to come, as we should, but Americans deserve leaders who refuse to peddle in lies for political gain.

I call on leaders from both sides of the political aisle to no longer defend the indefensible.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the New York Times editorial be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Dec. 5, 2016]

WHY DOES DONALD TRUMP LIE ABOUT VOTER FRAUD?

(By the Editorial Board)

The long-running Republican war against the right to vote has now gone national at the instigation of President-elect Donald Trump, who has promoted the lie that millions of illegal votes were cast in the presidential election.

There is not a scintilla of evidence for this claim, and Mr. Trump's own lawyers have admitted as much, stating in a court filing opposing a recount in Michigan that "all available evidence suggests that the 2016 general election was not tainted by fraud or mistake."

Yet one after the next, leading Republicans are spreading this slander of American democracy, smoothing the way to restrict voting rights across the country.

On Sunday, Vice President-elect Mike Pence told ABC's George Stephanopoulos that it was Mr. Trump's "right to express his opinion as president-elect." When pushed to admit that the illegal-voting claim was not true, Mr. Pence shifted the burden of proof away from Mr. Trump, even though Mr. Trump has accused millions of Americans of committing a crime. "Look," Mr. Pence said, "I don't know that that's a false statement, George, and neither do you."

Paul Ryan, speaker of the House, told CBS's "60 Minutes," "I have no knowledge of such things," before defending Mr. Trump's claims as "giving voice to a lot of people who have felt that they were voiceless." (As recently as October, Mr. Ryan's spokeswoman noted that "our democracy relies on confidence in election results" and that Mr. Ryan was "fully confident the states will carry out this election with integrity.")

Reince Priebus, currently the chairman of the Republican National Committee and Mr. Trump's pick for chief of staff, told CBS's John Dickerson that "no one really knows" if millions of people voted illegally. "It's possible." It's equally true that no one really knows for sure that Reince Priebus wasn't snatched away and replaced with a doppelgänger hatched by aliens—it's possible, isn't it?

This is how voter suppression efforts start. First come the unverified tales of fraud; then come the urgent calls to tighten voter registration rules and increase "ballot security," which translate into laws that disenfranchise tens or hundreds of thousands of qualified voters.

That's already happened in Wisconsin and North Carolina, in Ohio and Texas, where Republican lawmakers pushed through bills requiring voter IDs or proof of citizenship; eliminating early-voting days and same-day registration; and imposing other measures. Virtually all these laws aimed at making voting harder for citizens who happen to be members of groups that tend to support Democrats.

While federal courts have struck down some of these laws, more keep popping up. In Michigan, lawmakers are pushing to fast-track a voter-ID requirement even though there was no evidence of voter impersonation there. In New Hampshire, the incoming governor, Chris Sununu, wants to do away with same-day registration, also despite the lack of any evidence that it resulted in fraud.

Reality is beside the point. Dallas Woodhouse, the executive director of the North Carolina Republican Party, recently told *The New Republic*, "Whether there's widespread voter fraud or not, the people believe there is." It doesn't seem to matter to G.O.P. leaders that election officials around the country of both parties have confirmed that there was no fraud on Election Day. What matters to them, as strategists have long known, is that Republicans do better when fewer people vote.

Under a Trump administration, anti-voter efforts could become national in scope—through congressional legislation, a hostile Justice Department or a Supreme Court nominee with little regard for voting rights.

Undermining the integrity of the electoral process and making it harder to vote is threatening to all Americans, regardless of party. The cynical Republicans now in power figure that all they have to do is fool the public long enough to win the next election.

It's outrageous, but it's hard to see why they would stop when lying has gotten them this far.

Mr. LEAHY. I yield the floor and thank my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PORTMAN). The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I have some good news. Today we have before us a legislative package that reflects 2 years of work for the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

When we first embarked on this process, the goal was to find ways to spur innovation and reduce the time it takes for new therapies and treatments to get from the research bench to the bedside for patients. The bill is the 21st Century Cures Act, which includes—I am going to repeat this several times—true bipartisan victories for patients in our health care system.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have been a consistent supporter of funding for the National Institutes of Health, or NIH, to fulfill our commitment to prioritizing biomedical research and innovation. NIH research returns priceless benefits, giving health care providers new tools and drugs to heal and give hope to individuals. The benefits of this research investment to Kansans back home have been direct and personal. Back in 2012, the University of Kansas Cancer Center received a National Cancer Institute designation, or an NCI designation. These centers are major players in research and development for cancer treatment and prevention.

The legislation we will be voting on today or tomorrow—or at the very least next week—does commit an additional \$1.8 billion for Vice President BIDEN's Cancer Moonshot. This will not only help the University of Kansas as they continue to push toward a comprehensive cancer center designation, but it will help all Americans who stand to benefit as we work to end the fight against cancer.

In addition to research funding, this bill includes some provisions I authored along with Senator KLOBUCHAR to improve and increase transparency in the review and approval of processes for medical devices. Specifically, the bill does this. It encourages the FDA, or the Food and Drug Administration, to accept international consensus standards to provide more predictability for innovators. Second, it makes improvements to the advisory committee selection process in an effort to provide more transparency. It provides a technical correction to establish a process by which the Food and Drug Administration may remove certain products from the class I device reserve list if they think a premarket review is no longer necessary to prove reasonable assurances of safety and effectiveness. Senators ISAKSON, CASEY, and ROBERTS' priorities seek to provide

more certainty for FDA review of combination products and therapies that do not fit neatly into simply a drug or device.

The legislation also includes important reforms to our mental health system based largely on a bill the HELP Committee passed earlier this year. With this section of the bill, we seek to clarify and improve our mental health parity laws. We reauthorized the substance abuse and mental health block grants. We promote evidence-based practices to ensure we are utilizing our scarce resources on programs that work and not continuing to fund what doesn't work. We reauthorized the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act for suicide prevention and intervention and the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative.

There is a lot more work to be done, obviously, to address the deficiencies in our current system, but this bipartisan bill is certainly a good step in the right direction toward improving access to mental health services and eliminating the stigma of seeking treatment.

Finally, the 21st Century Cures Act includes numerous priorities that my colleagues on the Finance Committee and I have been working on for several years. One provision I was proud to support in committee extends the Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Program for another 5 years. As our rural hospitals continue to try and make ends meet, this program helps what we call "tweener" hospitals survive. Hospitals that do not qualify as critical access hospitals would not survive under the current Medicare payment system. It is a critical program that benefits Kansans in Junction City, Ulysses, and Fort Scott by keeping their hospital and access care open.

There is more rural relief. Senators THUNE, CRAPO, and I have championed a provision to protect rural access to durable medical equipment under the Competitive Bidding Program. We would have liked to have seen a more permanent solution. However, this bill delays applying competitively bid prices of rural areas and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to take into account stakeholder input as well as average travel distance, volume of items, services furnished, and the number of suppliers in these areas when determining adjustments in setting bid prices.

I have the privilege of being the co-chairman of the Senate Rural Health Caucus. I know how critically important these and other pieces of the package are for our beleaguered rural health care system. There is no question that we have many challenges ahead. While this package may not be a silver bullet to ensure cures for all that ails us, it sets priorities in research, cancer, cancer precision medicine, regenerative medicine, and heart-breaking diseases like Alzheimer's

through the BRAIN Initiative. We all know someone affected by these dreaded diseases. It also makes significant changes in how these new therapies are evaluated, hopefully approved, and delivered to patients, providing more tools in the medicine cabinet that will improve many lives. Advances in medical research benefit us all, and this bill does just that.

I wish to make a comment with regard to previous discussions of this bill on the floor of the Senate. Unfortunately, a very small minority of my colleagues want to criticize and even villainize this legislation and those who worked so hard on it, which is terribly disappointing to me. With the passage of this bill, both Republicans and Democrats can take pride in putting together and working toward a bipartisan bill that lives up to its name—the 21st Century Cures Act. I regret the tone of the debate that took place with regard to this bill and the personal comments that were made.

I will remind my colleagues that there is a rule XIX that the distinguished Presiding Officer can invoke at any time and any Senator can ask that a Senator's words be taken down under rule XIX. I only say it so that we can look upon a bipartisan bill like this and say: Look at what we have done. Let's be proud of it and certainly not get into the mud with regard to any personal comments.

I urge my colleagues to advance research, advance the development treatments, and support this bill. It is a good bill. It is a bipartisan bill that we should all be proud of.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield back.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to support the 21st Century Cures Act, the bill currently before us that, if all goes well, will be approved by the Senate very shortly.

This important legislation represents the hard work of Members from both parties and from both sides of the Capitol. It has support across the economic and ideological spectrum and promises to do quite a bit of good for a number of people.

Put simply—or as simply as one can for a measure of this size—the 21st Century Cures Act represents a significant investment in improving our ability to discover and develop new treatments and medicines and ensure that patients have access to them.

To accomplish this goal, this legislation, among many other things, provides a much-needed expansion of funding for the National Institutes of Health, improvements to the approval process at the Food and Drug Administration, resources to respond to the growing opioid abuse crisis, and an updated government framework for addressing mental health needs.

Thanks to this bill, universities across Utah will be able to access the

funding streams from the Precision Medicine Initiative, the BRAIN Initiative, and the Cancer Moonshot. Utah is known for its ability to leverage significant public-private partnerships to work towards cutting-edge health and innovation. I am proud to represent a State where complex technologies are being utilized to help patients find the best treatments and avoid interventions that would be costly, invasive, and ineffective.

Over the past several months, I have had several meaningful experiences working to improve health care for the people of Utah and for all Americans. For example, I had the pleasure of welcoming Vice President BIDEN to the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Utah as part of his Cancer Research Center tour.

The Vice President and I had an insightful discussion about a number of promising therapies being developed in Utah. This legislation will provide an infusion of funding for these types of projects that will improve lives for individuals and families across our country and around the world.

Among the many noteworthy provisions in this bill are several items advocated by members of the Senate Finance Committee, which I chair. Throughout the 114th Congress, the Finance Committee has worked tirelessly to advance a number of bipartisan legislative efforts and address the concerns of our Members' constituents.

We have reported more bills out of the committee in this Congress than really in any other Congress in modern history, all of them—every single one—with bipartisan support. The long list includes bills in virtually every area of the Finance Committee's jurisdiction, including health care policy.

Some of these priorities—and many others—have been included in the Cures Act.

All told, the current version of the bill includes at least 22 separate provisions that reflect the hard work of Finance Committee members. These include modifications and updates to Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP, along with other important changes to the law.

I want to collectively thank the members of the Finance Committee for the work they have done on these measures and on everything else we have been able to accomplish over the last two years.

A number of measures that I personally worked on as a member of the Senate HELP Committee have also been included in the bill. All told, about 37 provisions in this bill are ones that I either drafted or helped draft at some point during my years in the Senate.

For now, I want to focus on my work to help those in the rare disease community. Millions of Americans suffer from unexplainable illnesses that leave them feeling abandoned and alone.

And, if we do not address the dry pipeline for drugs that end up treating just a few hundred patients, we are making a national decision that these people do not matter.

None of us should accept that.

To address these concerns, I worked to include specific measures in the Cures Act that improve pediatric care and expedite the drug approval process for rare diseases, ensuring that thousands of patients get the treatments they need when they need them.

With this bill, Congress will make significant steps in helping Americans with rare diseases, but our work will be far from over. Families affected by rare diseases have united around the country to speak with a growing voice, and we need to do all we can to make sure their pleas do not fall on deaf ears.

As you can see, there are a number of good things to say about the 21st Century Cures Act. However, I don't want to leave the impression that the bill is perfect from my point of view. While I support the bill and plan to vote in favor of passage, I do want to make note of what are, in my view, some of the bill's shortcomings.

As this legislation was being developed, I noted that I had concerns with some of the pay-fors that were being thrown around. I have always supported the goals of this legislation and believed it was important that we try to move it forward. However, I do not believe we should be setting undesirable precedents when it comes to funding these types of endeavors.

Early on in this process, some publicly expressed their belief that the spending in this bill could be paid for by making alterations to federal health entitlement programs, namely Medicare and Medicaid.

I will spare my colleagues a lecture on the budget process today. Instead, I will just note that, while there are a number of areas where we can responsibly find savings in these programs, we have almost always tried to avoid diverting funds from these programs—which constitute mandatory spending—to pay for discretionary spending programs.

And, put simply, I believe we need to continue following what has generally been a brightline rule in that regard. If we start casually commingling mandatory and discretionary funds, we run the risk of greatly expanding discretionary spending programs while simultaneously weakening our entitlement programs that are already on the brink of fiscal crisis.

Fortunately, the main proponents of the Cures Act have been willing to work with me, and they have scaled back their initial efforts to use the mandatory spending sources to pay for the bill. While those pay-fors haven't been entirely purged from the bill, I do not intend to vote against the legislation on that basis.

That said, I do want to make clear that this shouldn't become a legislative template or be considered a precedent for how Congress will pay for new spending in the future. And, as the chairman of the committee that has jurisdiction over most of the relevant mandatory spending programs, I intend to do all I can to make sure we avoid this practice going forward.

In addition, I want to say that I was disappointed that the bill before us does not include provisions from the Family First Prevention Services Act, which Senator WYDEN and I, along with our counterparts in the House, introduced earlier this year.

This is commonsense legislation that, in my view, would be a good fit for this vehicle. It has broad support from Members of both parties and in both Chambers, and we all worked to get it included in this package. Unfortunately, we weren't able to complete this task. So all of us will have to keep looking for any reasonable vehicle or opportunity to move this important bill in the near future.

Still, even with these concerns I have about this final version of the 21st Century Cures Act, I am strongly supportive of the bill, and I want to commend those who worked so hard to get it this far, including Chairmen BRADY and UPTON and Speaker RYAN over in the House, and Chairman ALEXANDER, Leader MCCONNELL, and his leadership team here in the Senate.

They have all done good work, and I congratulate them on this success.

Now, we just have to pass the bill.

Once again, I intend to vote in favor of the 21st Century Cures Act, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, first, we got a little out of order on the speaking schedule as to how it should have started this afternoon.

I ask unanimous consent that Senator NELSON go immediately after me. He has been courteous enough to allow me to speak, and I ask unanimous consent that he speak after I am done speaking.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate everyone who has worked on the Cures bill. There are many areas that I have concerns about, and there are many positive things. I am looking forward to coming back as well and working with colleagues on how we complete the job on mental health by providing full funding for community mental health care across the country, which is not in the bill. But there are some positive steps forward on health care.

MEDICARE

I think it is very important, as we are coming to the end of this session in

the next week or two, that we talk about the fact that when we come back, there will be incredibly important debates on health care, and one of them is what will happen to Medicare for tens of millions of seniors and people with disabilities going forward in our country. I want to take a moment to speak to that.

First of all, Medicare and Social Security are great American success stories. Those two programs have lifted a generation of seniors out of poverty and created a quality of life for them and a guarantee, after paying in all their lives, that health care and some basic economic security will be there.

I am particularly concerned right now, though, about the comments we are hearing about proposals to fundamentally change Medicare and undermine Medicare. We are hearing every day now that Medicare, as we know it, is in jeopardy of being dismantled, taking away the security and the peace of mind of tens of millions of Americans and their families across the country who are currently on Medicare—the health care guarantee of Medicare—or those who care for others or those who within the next few years will be on Medicare or who are concerned about their children.

Why are we expressing this now? First of all, the Speaker of the House said on Sunday that Medicare is burning through the budget. He has consistently said Medicare is on the verge of bankruptcy, which is not true. It appears the goal is to scare people by telling us Medicare will not be there for our children. It will not be there only if we don't keep our commitments to Medicare and the people of this country.

I think I have heard almost every single day since the 1980s that if we want to save Medicare, we have to destroy it as a guaranteed health care system somehow. Now, we know there was a huge difference of opinion and a partisan split back when Medicare was created between Democrats and Republicans, and I am proud as a Democrat that we created Medicare and have been able to expand prescription drug coverage and other quality measures and other coverage that is so critical, but it seems like we are constantly going back in some way redebating whether Medicare should exist as we know it. So we hear that to save Medicare, we have to destroy it as a guaranteed health care system—which I completely reject, as do my Democratic colleagues.

We are hearing we have to cut Medicare, we have to change it from a guarantee into a "maybe." We also hear all kinds of different names used, whether it is a voucher system, where you get a certain amount of money in a voucher and you go to the private sector and try to buy coverage, and whatever is not covered by the voucher, you have

to make up the difference. I would remind people that Medicare came into being because the private sector was not providing affordable health care for seniors and people with disabilities so we have absolutely no reason to believe that would not be the case today.

We hear about eligibility changes, premium support, means testing, and all kinds of other things that go to the very essence of what Medicare is all about. Again, Medicare is a great American success story that Americans of all ages want to see continue and be expanded upon. Regardless of what kinds of names are used, the end result is still the same. These plans are plans to take away the benefits Americans have worked their entire lives for, a system they pay into that lets them know that as we all get older, we will have the health care we need for ourselves and our families.

What is also not mentioned is the fact that Medicare is solvent through 2028, thanks to the Affordable Care Act which extended the fiscal sovereignty of Medicare. The Affordable Care Act also closed the gap in coverage—what has been called the doughnut hole—for prescription drug coverage. By the way, if the ACA is repealed, there will be another hole in that coverage and seniors' Medicare prescription drug costs are going to go back up. We have seen that Medicare, in fact, is solvent to 2028. It now actually costs less for a prescription drug today than it used to cost, and we are seeing quality efforts going on every day, preventive efforts, to continue to extend sovereignty and bring down costs.

I am all for improving Medicare. I have supported efforts to bring additional accountability and credibility into Medicare. We will continue to do that. We want to make sure it continues to be more and more effective. We want to strengthen Medicare. Cutting it, taking it from a guarantee to a maybe, is not the way to do that. In fact, it is not—despite the Speaker's own hashtag—a better way. It is not a better way.

Why am I concerned at this point? Why do we think Republicans are serious about trying to undermine Medicare as well as Medicaid, of which 80 percent of the spending goes to long-term care for senior citizens? There are two things that are deeply concerning to me. First, in every House Republican budget since 2011, everyone has effectively turned Medicare into a voucher for people eligible after 2023, 6 years from now. It would raise the costs. It would take away the certainty and the guarantee of Medicare. It would reopen the gap in prescription drug coverage. For millions of people across Michigan and across America, you don't need to make health care harder. It needs to be easier.

In addition to comments from the Speaker of the House about changing

Medicare and making it a priority in the budget, creating payoffs in the system, taking away the universal guarantee, we now have the President-elect nominating Dr. TOM PRICE, a current House Member, for Secretary of Health and Human Services, who has supported that budget privatizing Medicare, block granting, and cutting Medicaid and long-term care for seniors in nursing homes and so on. We are told by the nominee that he expects Republicans in Congress to move quickly on this legislation in the new year, even though President-Elect Donald Trump promised throughout his campaign that Medicare would be safe on his watch. He made that promise to the people I represent—the people we all represent—and I can assure you, I am going to be doing everything possible to make sure that promise is kept.

The only thing gutting Medicare is going to do is create chaos for tens of millions of seniors, people with disabilities, and for the health care system in general. Seniors and people with disabilities—all Americans—deserve better than this. As we enter the new year, Democrats will fight tooth and nail to protect Medicare, to make sure Medicaid and long-term care is available for our seniors, to make sure the health care guarantee that has been there for a generation of retirees and people with disabilities is continued. Medicare is a great American success story, and we are ready to do everything possible to protect it and strengthen it as a guarantee for Americans in the future.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

DREAMERS

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I want to speak about DREAMers. These are children who are brought to this country in an illegal status because they are brought by their parents who are undocumented. These children often do not know that in fact they are undocumented.

There are threats in the new administration to completely reverse President Obama's Executive order that allows these children to stay in the United States and continue their education. I want to tell you about one such DREAMer. This is Elisha Dawkins. Elisha came from the Bahamas in an undocumented status with his mother at the age of 6 months. Elisha's mother was deported shortly thereafter, and he was raised by family in Florida.

He always thought he was an American citizen. After high school, he joined the Army. This photo shows when he served a tour in Iraq. He came back and was mustered out of the Army with an honorable discharge after having been awarded the Iraqi Service Medal. He was assigned to a very sensitive position as a photographer.

Promptly after coming back and starting his studies, he decided to join the Navy Reserves and was given a top secret clearance. He performed photography at a very sensitive location, Guantanamo, with all of the detainees.

So Elisha, coming off his Reserve duty, resumed his studies at the University of North Florida. At one point, he had started to fill out a passport application but did not go through with that application and never turned it in. Later on, filling out a passport application, he was asked if he had ever applied for a passport and he checked the box "no" because he hadn't. The U.S. attorney's office came in and arrested him, threw him in the clink, and in the process, found out he was undocumented because of the circumstances I just told you. A veteran of Iraq and Guantanamo—Army in Iraq, Navy in Guantanamo—is in a detention center awaiting trial.

Fortunately, Elisha Dawkins' situation came to my attention and I started raising some Cain about this. As a matter of fact, in a further hearing in front of a Federal judge, the Federal judge, in essence, dressed down in court the assistant U.S. attorney who had pursued this case and, fortunately, the charges were dropped. That enabled Elisha to go on and to continue his studies. In the process, since he had no conviction, he was allowed to apply for U.S. citizenship. His military service justified him to do that. This past week, he is now graduating from the University of North Florida.

Because a child came here in an undocumented status through no fault of their own, it is not right that children, such as Elisha Dawkins, who grow up to be great assets for the United States would be penalized and threatened with deportation.

Obviously, we have to attend to the national security implications, in his case of potential passport fraud, which was not the case, but this was a man who had not committed that fraud and who had served his country honorably.

As this case has resolved itself into a happy ending, just think of all the other stories of DREAMers who are out there and who share Elisha's commitment to and love of country, commitment to the ideals that all these DREAMers share of growing up in the only country they have ever known, and they had always thought they were a member of that country.

I have said it before, and I will say it again. The DREAMers are our neighbors, they are our friends, they are our high school valedictorians, and they are our veterans.

They were brought to this country before they ever even knew of the significance of their trip, and they have benefited our communities greatly. It is clear that America is stronger for a person like Elisha Dawkins.

As this Congress comes to a close, I remind all of us and urge us to remem-

ber—next year, when there is an attempt to turn around that White House Executive order, I want us to remember the faces of people such as Elisha Dawkins. I want us to come together and acknowledge their many contributions to this great country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The Senator from Oregon.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT NOMINATION

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, colleagues, we are now 4 weeks out from a Presidential election in which millions of American voters indicated they wanted a change.

Donald Trump, our President-elect, campaigned and was elected on a platform he called draining the swamp. Getting rid of entrenched special interests sounds good. Fighting on behalf of middle-class Americans sounds good. Taking on Wall Street's powerful special interests sounds good.

In fact, month after month, our President-elect attacked Secretary Clinton, saying she was too close to the Wall Street banks. He said things such as "Hillary will never reform Wall Street." He said, "I know the guys at Goldman Sachs. They have total control" over his opponent.

These are pretty harsh words. With months of hammering Wall Street and hammering his opponent, it came as a big surprise to many last week, when President-Elect Trump announced that he would be naming Steve Mnuchin, a darling of Wall Street, a 17-year veteran of Goldman Sachs, a career in the financial industry, to run the Treasury Department—the single most important post in our economy to be run by Wall Street.

Instead of draining the swamp in Washington, it looks as if our President-elect is turning our government intended to be of, by, and for the people into a government of, by, and for Wall Street. Appointing a 17-year Goldman Sachs executive to oversee financial regulation is the definition of the fox guarding the hen house. It has the potential to undo all the progress and recovery we have made since shutting down the Wall Street casino, which dragged our country into the Great Recession. Furthermore, wouldn't it be great to have someone at the helm of our economy who fought to put people into homes, instead of fighting to kick people out of their homes and onto the street, as he has done.

One of the great things about America is the resiliency of the American people. They come upon a challenge, sometimes a catastrophe, and they work to put the pieces back together again. We have made our way through the Great Depression. We made it through two world wars, we made it through the September 11 terrorist attacks, and we have worked to recover from the Great Recession.

That crisis saw 8.7 million jobs lost, trillions of dollars of lost family

wealth, and more than 2 million businesses shuttered. It was a financial crisis that cost about 4 million Americans their homes. It wiped out the hard-earned retirement savings of millions more families.

The American people are working to rebuild, but they haven't forgotten. They haven't forgotten foreclosed homes. They haven't forgotten the lost jobs. They haven't forgotten the retirement savings. They haven't forgotten the shuttered businesses across our great land, and they definitely haven't forgotten the recklessness of Wall Street that made it all happen.

It seems that perhaps President-Elect Donald Trump has already forgotten not just the driving force behind the Great Recession of 2008 that caused these calamities for millions of American families and businesses, but he has also forgotten his campaign vow to take on Wall Street. Instead, Mr. Trump is planning to put Wall Street in charge of the Treasury Department—again, the most powerful economic position in the United States of America.

Where does Wall Street stand on these issues? Wall Street hates the provisions that Congress adopted to end predatory lending practices in mortgages and consumer laws. They hate those provisions, and they want to get rid of them. They want to get rid of the watchdog that makes sure those provisions don't return. Wall Street hates the provisions that we adopted to shut down the Wall Street casino, where Wall Street firms made huge bets with the deposits of American savers to terrible consequences.

Bloomberg News reported that Trump's nominee, Steve Mnuchin, was front and center during these operations of the Wall Street casino. Have no doubt that he plans to do what he can to restore that casino. While being interviewed right after his nomination, he promised to "strip back parts of Dodd-Frank" and went on to suggest that the Volcker rule, which is the provision that shut down the Wall Street casino, should be weakened or eliminated. It is not speculation; it is straight from his own testimony to the American public, after he was nominated, that he wants to restore the Wall Street casino.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is another target. That protection bureau is a watchdog on the beat against predatory financial practices. It is a pretty good thing when you have an organization that has returned nearly \$12 billion to 27 million American citizens harmed by illegal and predatory practices in the lending business. Furthermore, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has saved far more by preventing these practices in the first place on current lending—\$12 billion returned, but who knows how much they saved consumers on the

front end. Maybe it is \$50 billion, maybe it is \$100 billion, maybe it is more. But the fact is, our citizens are getting a better foundation for our financial success.

If you believe in the success of American families, you want to block predatory practices designed to undermine them. That is what we did in Congress, and that is what is at risk.

We did a lot of powerful things to rectify the excesses that led to the disaster of 2008 under the Bush administration. We created stress tests to ensure the strength and security of our largest banks—that they had sufficient reserves to withstand periods of economic challenge. That makes sense. We put procedures in place to unwind megacorporations when they fail so they can be unwound and not take the rest of the economy, the financial system, down with them. That makes sense.

We established a cop on the beat to make sure people aren't scammed by credit card companies. It makes sense. We made sure we had an organization to which people could appeal when they thought there was a predatory practice, to have it rectified and have the funds returned to them if they were right. That makes sense. All of this makes sense. It makes what type of sense? It makes common sense.

Isn't it just common understanding that when a predator damages a family, our entire community suffers and when a family loses its home, our entire community suffers? Don't we understand that when people are thrown out into the street—as Steve Mnuchin's banks specialized in—the families are hurt, the children are deeply hurt? But now we have a nominee who specialized in Wall Street and specialized in foreclosures. I say again, wouldn't it be great to have a nominee to head our economy who worked to put people into homes, who worked to make families successful, not someone who specialized in throwing them out of their homes and onto the street?

In 2009, in the depths of the financial crisis, Steve Mnuchin purchased the fourth largest failed bank, IndyMac, when it collapsed in July of 2008. After buying IndyMac, he renamed it OneWest and took over as the CEO.

Under Mnuchin's leadership, OneWest became what housing advocates in California called a foreclosure machine. Why did they call it a foreclosure machine? Because in the midst of the Great Recession, it pushed forward 36,000 homeowners into foreclosure, using tactics that were certainly off limits, such as robo-signing, fake signing—let me put it directly, fake signing of documents. His bank was responsible for more than one-third of all reverse mortgage foreclosures, which disproportionately were targeted at America's seniors.

Let me tell you the story of Ossie Lofton. Ossie Lofton, a 90-year-old

woman from Lakeland, FL, took out a reverse mortgage on her home. This is a type of loan that allows an elderly individual to draw up the equity of their home to help them meet their basic monthly expenses. The beauty of this is that once you have that have reverse mortgage, assuming it is not designed with predatory features, it can supply to a senior some steady supply, and they don't have to write a steady mortgage check to anyone. Instead, they get income to help meet those basic expenses, so it is hard to imagine how you would end in default in this situation. But individuals are still responsible for paying property taxes and homeowners insurance.

In Ossie Lofton's case, there was confusion over her homeowners insurance coverage. The bank sent her a bill for \$423.30. Ossie looked at that. She thought she had it right, and so she sent the insurance company a check for \$423, overlooking the 30-cent payment.

Well, they sent her back another bill for 30 cents. Again, she misread it. She thought they were asking for 3 cents, and she mailed them 3 cents—27 cents shy.

What did OneWest do under Steve Mnuchin's leadership? They foreclosed on Ossie for 27 cents.

In my hand I have 30 cents, a dime and four nickels. Why would a bank foreclose on a woman who owed them a few cents? Why would they do that?

Well, if you followed these predatory practices, some banks looked at it this way. They said if we can find a technicality to grab someone's home, we can resell it for far more than we are owed. That is a huge profit.

So for that 27 cents, she lost her home. She and thousands of others lost their homes so this bank could profit rather than work out a mortgage modification. That is really a crime against an American citizen, a specialty of this bank, a specialty through which Steve Mnuchin profited millions and millions of dollars. Millions of dollars of income was accumulated based on the suffering inflicted on thousands and thousands of American homeowners.

We could look at another story. Leslie Parks took out a subprime adjustable rate mortgage to pay for repairs. She faced some hard times and was falling behind, but under very constructive negotiations with One West to stay in the home, you will recall we had this program called the Home Affordable Mortgage Program—the HAMP program—wherein a bank could rework it. They were saying to her that we are reworking it, all is good, but, meanwhile, they were pursuing foreclosure. The result was, thinking she was working out a modification, she came back to her home in the middle of a blizzard and found herself locked out.

This is an example of the widely publicized two-track policy in which banks

would pretend to work out a modification while aggressively pursuing foreclosure. That is not a good practice. It is not fair to the homeowner.

Let's look at another story. Gregg and Diane Horoski. They refinanced in 2004. They paid off their original mortgage with a loan from Deutsche Bank and used the rest of the money to cover health care costs, but it is one of those loans with an exploding interest rate, and the loan interest soared to 12.375 percent. Then Gregg Horoski started having health problems so they were having trouble keeping up with those high interest payments. So they asked the bank to work with them. What bank? One West. They asked One West to work with them to modify the loan, but the bank turned them down, misled them about how much they owed, lied to them about how much was at stake.

The Horoskis felt betrayed by the misrepresentations and they took One West to court and Judge Jeffrey Spinner said the following about the bank's behavior. Which bank? One West, the bank that Steve Mnuchin was heading. He called the bank's behavior "harsh, repugnant, shocking and repulsive." He also added, "unequitable, unconscionable, vexatious and opprobrious." He pretty much summoned every word in the English dictionary to say how wrong the bank's action was as they dealt with this couple.

Now, the bank lost that case, but they were aggressively pursuing everything so they took it to appeal. They spent a lot of money and had a lot of lawyers take on this couple and eventually the bank won. They won no grace period, no compromise, no home for this couple. The bank won and the Horoskis lost, as did thousands and thousands and thousands of individuals and couples who owned homes who lost them to these very aggressive foreclosure strategies.

That is not all. Mr. Mnuchin and his bank didn't just prey on hard-working Americans, they also had an operation that has a record of discriminating against minority home buyers and minority neighborhoods. Fair housing applicants have filed legal complaint after legal complaint against their practices.

Here is an example. According to the California Reinvestment Coalition and Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California, the bank's Southern California branches made a total of only two mortgage loans to African-American home buyers during 2014 and 2015. That is one per year; two loans over 24 months in one of the country's most diverse communities—a community that includes Los Angeles, where African Americans make up more than 9 percent of the population. This practice is known as redlining. It is an egregious practice. What is more, of the 35,877 homes that One West foreclosed on just in California between April 2009 and

April 2015, 68 percent were majority non-White areas.

Looking at this record, it is pretty clear that Mnuchin has not used his skills in life to put people into homes; he has used his skills to kick people out of their homes and into the street.

Instead of fighting for homeowners, he has made a living—the life of a mega-multimillionaire—off the suffering of low-income and middle-income Americans.

Our President-elect bashed his opponent for being too cozy with Wall Street banks. He told Iowans: "I am not going to let Wall Street get away with murder," but then he nominates an individual with this record of predatory practices, of private profit over the suffering of thousands of families, to lead our economy in the years ahead. This is just 4 weeks after his election, just 4 weeks after we heard the cries that he would stand up to Wall Street, and now he is putting Wall Street in charge.

There is more. He is not appointing just one but two former Goldman Sachs executives to key positions of power and influence. One is Steve Bannon, assigned to be his Chief Strategist. That is right—Goldman Sachs—Chief Strategist for our President-Elect. Now we have an economist in chief, the Treasury Secretary, also coming from the same direction. It sounds like instead of "draining the swamp," our President-elect is helping Wall Street restore the predatory practices that destroyed the living and the lives of millions of American homeowners. This is wrong.

I call on President-Elect Trump to reverse course, to fight for government of, by, and for the people—not government of, by, and for Wall Street.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITIES

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, the business of the 114th Congress is drawing to a close to wrap up a few final bills. One of the most important bills that we will be passing this week is the National Defense Authorization Act. In fact, this is one of the most important bills that we pass each year.

The National Defense Authorization Act is one of two bills that ensures that our military men and women have the tools and resources they need to defend our country. It is the bill that authorizes funding for the body armor our troops wear and the weapons they carry into battle. It is the bill that authorizes funding for the advanced technology our military needs to be successful on today's battlefield and the bill that authorizes true pay increases which help us retain an All-Volunteer Force. Making sure our troops have what they need to defend our country is pretty much our most important responsibility as Members of Congress;

first, of course, because the security of our country depends on it and, second, because we owe our men and women in uniform nothing less.

This year's National Defense Authorization Act authorizes the largest troop pay increase in 6 years. It modernizes the military health care system to improve quality of care for our troops and their families. It reduces Pentagon bureaucracy to focus resources on our Nation's warfighters, and it supports our allies amid growing threats.

It also addresses the dangerous underfunding of the military that has occurred under President Obama. It stops troop reductions for the Army and Marine Corps and authorizes additional funds to address readiness shortfalls.

Members of our military should not have to be salvaging spare parts from retired aircraft to keep their planes in the air. Over the next few years, the Republican majorities in Congress will work with President-Elect Trump to rebuild our Nation's military and ensure that we have the strongest fighting force in the world.

This bill is an important start.

As we finish the work of the 114th Congress, we are also looking forward to the 115th. Republicans will move quickly to take up a number of important measures. Two big issues it will tackle right at the beginning are repealing ObamaCare and confirming a Supreme Court nominee.

I don't need to tell anyone that ObamaCare is a failure. A Gallup poll released last week found that 80 percent of Americans want major changes to ObamaCare or want the law repealed and replaced. That shouldn't come as any surprise.

The President promised lower premiums and affordable care, but ObamaCare has meant exactly the opposite. Premium costs have soared and soared again. Deductibles have increased, and health care choices have been sharply reduced.

One constituent contacted me and said:

My ObamaCare premium went up from \$1,080 per month to \$1,775 per month, a 64-percent increase. That is \$21,300 a year for health insurance.

Another constituent wrote to say: "My ObamaCare premium doubles next year." It will double. I don't know too many Americans who can afford to have their health insurance premiums double.

Still another constituent wrote to tell me that "today I received a new premium notice for my ObamaCare insurance. My policy rate for myself, my wife, and my teenage son has increased by 357 percent"—357 percent.

ObamaCare is on the brink of collapse. We know what millions of Americans already know; that is, that the status quo is unsustainable. It is time

to repeal this law and replace it with something that works, and that is precisely what we are going to do.

We are going to get started on repeal as soon as the 115th Congress convenes, and then we are going to work step-by-step to replace ObamaCare with real health care reform—health care reform that focuses on the States rather than having the Federal Government running everything, health care that gives more control to patients and doctors when it comes to health care choices and decisions, health care that provides choices and is patient-centered so there are more options out there, more choices, more competition in the marketplace, and a health care system that allows flexibility for our small businesses on which much of the responsibility for providing health care for their employees falls.

Another thing we are going to get started on right away in January is confirming the President's nominees, including his nominee for the Supreme Court. My Democratic colleagues have spent a lot of time talking about the importance of confirming a ninth Justice to the Supreme Court. I trust they will bring that same eagerness with them in January. I look forward to working with them during the confirmation process.

After Justice Scalia's death, I came to the floor to honor him. Like others who spoke at the time, I mentioned his keen mind, his gift for language and, most of all, his absolute commitment to the law. For Justice Scalia, the Constitution truly was the supreme law of the land. He didn't let anything interfere with that. His politics, his personal opinions, his feelings about a case, none of those things were allowed to play a role in his decisions. That is the key right there.

We all know Justice Scalia had personal opinions, but when it came down to deciding cases, he ignored them. He looked at the law and the Constitution, which is the supreme law, and he judged accordingly.

It is wonderful to have strong opinions. It is wonderful to have sympathy for causes or organizations. It is wonderful to have plans for fixing society's problems, but none of those things have any business influencing your ruling when you sit on the Supreme Court. There only two things that should influence a Supreme Court Justice's ruling: the law and the Constitution. The minute something else comes into play, whether it is a Justice's personal feelings or a political philosophy, you have done away with the rule of law and replaced it with the rule of personal opinion. We have gone through a lot in this country to ensure that we will be governed by the law and not by someone's personal opinions.

Justice Scalia will be a hard Justice to replace, but I am confident that

President-Elect Trump will nominate a Justice with a similar respect for the rule of law, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to get a qualified nominee confirmed.

Repealing ObamaCare and confirming a Supreme Court nominee are two important things we are going to do next year, but they are just the beginning. Republicans are going to spend the 115th Congress fighting for the American people's priorities, from growing our economy and creating better paying jobs to securing our borders and protecting our Nation. We have a chance to do big things for the American people in 2017, and we can't wait to get started.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MINE WORKER HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AND PENSIONS

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, it strikes me as pretty unbelievable that we are in the process of voting—debating a continuing resolution, and yet nobody has read it and nobody understands what is in it. We hear news reports, but nobody who I know here—at least on our side—has been in the negotiations even though we have a Democratic President and the Senate is 45, 46 percent Democrats, even though more people voted for Democratic Senators than Republican Senators in this election and most of the last several elections. Even with all that, that shouldn't matter, but Senator MCCONNELL and the Republican leadership are asking us to vote on something this complicated with this many add-on amendments that we have not even read yet. What kind of way to run the Senate is that? We do know, though, from the reports I can get, what they have told us is that Majority Leader MCCONNELL's response to the mine workers has been pretty pathetic.

Today I met with Senator HATCH in his office. Today I met with Senator WYDEN in his office. One of the things we did in the Finance Committee on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis, joined by my Republican colleague from Ohio, Senator PORTMAN, and other coal State Democrats and Republicans—Senator CAPITO, Senator MANCHIN, Senator WARNER, Senator KAINE, Senator CASEY, Senator TOOMEY—all of us in this committee supported a bipartisan fix for mine worker pensions and health care. Yet the continuing resolution at best—at best, we understand; again, we haven't read it yet because they won't show it to us yet even though they want us to

vote on it—at best, it has some 4 months of health care and nothing for pensions.

This is not a taxpayer bailout; this is moving money—unused money—from the abandoned mine fund in to fund the pensions and health care for mine workers and mine worker widows. Keep in mind—I know the Presiding Officer doesn't represent coal States. She may not know a lot of miners, as I and some of my colleagues do, but she knows about mining. Understand, there are more miner widows than there are likely to be insurance salesmen widows or realtor widowers or whatever. Mine-working is a dangerous job. Mine workers too often get injured and killed on the job. Their lives are shortened from injury. Their lives are shortened from illnesses, black lung and other illnesses. So mine workers who marry at 20 or 25 are likely—their spouses are likely to outlive them by a number of years. That is the other reason we should do this.

The third reason we should do this is that almost 70 years ago, President Truman made a commitment that we have lived up to until now. The reason we aren't living up to it now is because the majority leader of the Senate said no. I don't know exactly why he said no. I know he is not a big fan of the United Mine Workers union. I support the United Mine Workers union. I care about unions. I know unions helped create the middle class in this country. But that is not the point. My caring about this is—there are 12,000 mine workers in my part of the country, more than 1,000 in Ohio, for which this will be a very, very bad Christmas because they have already gotten notice, as Senator MANCHIN said, that their health care is going to be cut off. If we do a 4-month fix, then they will get another notice in January that their health care is going to get cut off. How do you treat people that way? I mean, we dress well. We are all well paid. We have good health care. We have good pensions. We are telling these mine workers: Yeah, you may have earned this under the old rules, but, sorry, we can't take care of you.

My friends over there could bail out the banks—that is OK—and then banker compensation keeps going up and up, but they can't take care of mine workers with a relatively small pension and health care. They can't take care of them.

We passed a bipartisan mine worker pension and health care bill. We passed it out of committee. We did it the way Senator MCCONNELL, the majority leader, wanted us to. We went through the process. Now he is not willing to honor that. It is pretty outrageous. At the same time, they are doing something special in this bill for Wyoming. Nothing against Wyoming. I like Senator ENZI. I like Senator BARRASSO. I want to help them help their State.

But this is a part of the country. It is Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia. These are States that have thousands of mine workers, and this Senate is betraying them. If my colleagues think we should go home for Christmas starting next week without doing this, that is morally reprehensible.

Senator MANCHIN and I were talking today and Senator CASEY and Senator KAINE and Senator WARREN and I were talking today about how we are willing to stay until Christmas, we are willing to stay until December 25—literally, to Christmas—to get this done because it is morally reprehensible and it is outrageous that we would leave here without taking care of these mine workers.

I know some of them. I know Norm Skinner. I know Dave Dilley. I have known Babe Erdos for 35 years. These are people who worked very hard in the mines under dangerous conditions. They are the reason we are able to have so much manufacturing in Ohio. The coal they mine helps to produce the electricity that makes our standard of living so much higher than it would be without it.

I spoke at the rally. Thousands of mine workers were here late this summer—I think in July. I am not sure what month it was; maybe in September they were here. It was a very hot day. I remember the president of the International Mine Workers, Cecil Roberts, asked the question: How many of you are veterans? A huge number of people waved their hands. They were all standing at this rally. How many of you had fathers or mothers who were veterans? It seemed as if it was the whole crowd. These are people who served their country, they make our communities work, and we are going to betray them, we are going to forget them because one Senator, who happens to be the majority leader, for whatever reason doesn't like the United Mine Workers. That is fundamentally what it is. I don't ever want to embarrass anybody, I don't want to call people out, but there are 12,000 mine workers who are going to have a bad Christmas. Their lives will be shortened if we don't take care of them. The stress they are under—they have already gotten one notification. If we do this for another 4 months, they will get another notification in January saying: Sorry, I know we gave you health care again for a while, but we are cutting it off again because Congress can't get its act together.

The President wants to do this. Even the House of Representatives wants to do it—the House of Representatives that took out of a bill this week “Buy American” provisions for steel and aluminum. That is a whole other issue; I don't understand why they would do that. The fact is, the House did it, the President wants to do it, and a strong majority of the Finance Committee

wants to do it. If we brought this to a vote on the Senate floor, there is no question it would pass. It doesn't cost the taxpayer money. It is not a bailout. It is honoring a pledge that Harry Truman made, that we made in the 1950s and 1960s and 1970s and 1980s and 1990s and 2000, and all of a sudden we are not honoring that pledge. It is outrageous. We can fix this. We know how the Senate should do it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, as we send troops into harm's way—and as you personally well know—it is our job to ensure that they have the tools and the resources they need to carry out the mission they are asked to carry out. We never want Americans to be involved in a fair fight. We always want them to be involved in an unfair fight where they have every possible advantage. It doesn't always work out that way, but it should always be our goal. That is what the Defense authorization bill is designed to do.

This will be the 55th consecutive year that the Congress has passed and the Senate has passed the National Defense Authorization Act. The leadership of Chairman MCCAIN and Ranking Member JACK REED makes it possible for us to be here one more time, emphasizing that the No. 1 priority of the Federal Government is to defend the country. It is hard to find a bill that we pass every year for more than half a century, but this critical piece of legislation provides the vision and the authorization necessary for the military to move forward and to do that No. 1 job of defending America.

There has been—and I think today we will see that again in the vote on this bill—the strong, bipartisan support that this bill always receives. Although there is sometimes a discussion about when it should be passed, we have not failed to pass it in a long time. It includes a lot of provisions that I think will make a big difference. One is a pay raise for our troops, which they deserve. It is the largest pay increase in the last 6 years, and it begins to fulfill our commitment to those who currently serve. As well, we need to fulfill our commitment to those who have served.

I am also glad that there is a vital project for the Nation that happens to be located in my State, in St. Louis, MO. The final version of this bill includes authorization for the land acquisition for the National Geospatial movement from the south part of St.

Louis, where it has been for seven decades, to a new location that allows them to build a facility, as it is right now, that is fully backing up the only other facility in the world that does the level of geospatial work that this one does. When something happens in Springfield, VA, where that location isn't monitoring the world as it usually does, all of that work goes to St. Louis, where on every other day they share the responsibility for geospatial.

There is a provision in here, at a fundamental level of safety, to build a fire station at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. Everything from building a fire station to creating a \$1.7 billion facility that allows us to further keep an eye on the world as we do now is a good thing. It also addresses the issue that was raised earlier this year concerning members of the National Guard—men and women who were given a bonus and then wrongfully asked to return that bonus. It was not their error. That money in most families long ago has been spent. It was thought to be appropriately handed over to them, and they shouldn't be penalized because other people made a mistake when that distribution was made. With this bill, they will not be penalized.

I think there is an increase here in end strength. It is in the conference report. I certainly supported Senator MORAN's efforts on this issue and commend him for the hard work he put forward to be sure that we don't lose any more ground on the strength we have and the ability we have to be ready. Making down payments on our readiness issues, stabilizing our force at a time when we really face more challenges around the world—not less—was a minimum thing for us to do, but the bill does that. Senator MORAN's leadership was important in accomplishing that as well.

Once again, this bill puts Congress on record against the President's plan to move terrorist detainees held at Guantanamo Bay to any location on U.S. soil. I, along with a majority of Americans, oppose the idea that we bring these terrorists here. The President made a campaign pledge a decade ago now, and 10 years later, not only has that campaign pledge not been able to be fulfilled but the Congress once again today asserts our view that it should not be fulfilled.

The administration admitted earlier this year that Americans have been killed by terrorists released from Guantanamo, and they made that admission, by the way, days before they approved another dozen inmates to transfer somewhere else in the world, where I don't think they can be kept count of and track of like they need to be. We don't need to close this facility. We don't need to abandon the facility, and I am glad that there are strict prohibitions here that don't allow that to happen.

This bill also makes important steps toward enhancing the quality of life for our servicemembers and their families. GEN Ray Odierno, recently retired, Chief of Staff of the Army, said that the strength of the military is in military families, and we need to do a better job recognizing that. I hope we are able to advance an effort that was in the Senate bill that didn't get into the final bill—the Military Family Stability Act—next year. This is an action that will allow military families to stay longer at a location or to move earlier than the individual in the military does if there is a professional reason or an educational reason for that to happen.

The investment that military families have made in the country and the investment they have made in what the person serving has learned in a very complicated defense world don't need to be unnecessarily complicated by whether someone gets to finish a year in elementary school or gets to stay another 3 months so they can graduate from high school, particularly if the person in the military is willing to go on ahead and bear their own expense until the family, with the family assistance that families get or the living assistance, moves later.

This was determined by everybody that looked at it, except the Pentagon, to have no cost. I asked every senior officer who came before the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee about this concept of making it a little easier for people to stay, for a spouse who needed to go ahead and move a little early to start that teaching year at a new school, to get a job that was available at a hospital, or to do whatever that spouse could do to continue to have their professional career. I asked officer after officer: What do you think about this?

One after another, they all said: This is exactly the kind of investment we need to make. We didn't quite get there in this bill, and I am grateful that Senator McCAIN has pledged to work further to study why the Pentagon itself—or at least the Department of Defense at the highest levels—is the only place that thinks this would cost anything or would be too much trouble. It wouldn't be too much trouble. I hope to see it in the bill next year.

Someone who has really helped in my ability to look at this bill, with the work that I do as a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and with the work that we do with great military facilities in our State, is here on the floor today, MAJ Andy Anderson. He has been a great resource to our office, and we have benefited for some time now of having military fellows come in and spend a year with us. I continue to hear from them that it is also a great benefit to them to see how this part of the process of preparing to do what is necessary to help them defend the country works.

The knowledge and experience that Major Anderson has gained as an Army officer helped in discussions we had both in the State and in the Nation. I have been particularly appreciative of his willingness to go beyond what might be considered the typical duties of a military fellow in a Senate office. For instance, he has taken personal interest and has been instrumental in assisting a Missouri family in getting their father's remains returned home from Laos after having been shot down over Laos during the Vietnam war. He has devoted a lot of time to gathering and analyzing data on legislative history and actions that will continue to be critical to the office moving forward. I want to also thank his family and wish him the best as he and his wife Audra and their sons Reid and Joel go to what military assignment they have next.

This bill renews the Iran Sanctions Act, and the Iran Sanctions Act would have expired at the end of the year. I am hopeful that the administration understands that this act is really a foundational element of the regime that they entered into. It was an agreement that I didn't support. I still don't support it, but extending the Iran Sanctions Act is perfectly consistent with what the Iran nuclear agreement purports to do. If the Iran Sanctions Act is a problem, the Iran nuclear agreement is just as bad as I thought it was.

When that agreement was completed, the administration repeatedly promised that U.S. sanctions on Iran for its support of terrorism would remain in place under the agreement. For example, the day the agreement was announced, President Obama himself said that we will maintain our own sanctions related to Iran's support of terrorism.

The administration continues to recognize the Iranian state as the leading state sponsor of terrorism. This Iran Sanctions Act extension sends another message to Iran that the Congress and the country of the United States are paying attention. It gives the next administration a powerful tool to hold Iran responsible, and I certainly urge the President to sign this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

In conclusion, once again, for 55 years in a row, the Congress of the United States is going to make the point that the No. 1 obligation of the Federal Government is to defend the country, and this bill helps to allow that to happen.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I rise in strong opposition to this legislation, the so-called 21st Century Cures Act. While I appreciate the work Senator MURRAY, Senator ALEXANDER, and others have done on this legislation, I cannot in good conscience vote on it in its current form.

It goes without saying that everybody, whether Republican, Democrat, or Independent, wants to find cures to the terrible diseases that are impacting the lives of millions of people, such as cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes, and the terrible illnesses that strike children. We all want to find cures for those illnesses, but that is not really what this debate is about. The debate we are having on this bill is simple: Do we continue to cave in to the demands of the pharmaceutical industry—an industry that is making recordbreaking profits by charging the American people, by far, the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs—or do we have the courage to stand up to the CEOs of big drug companies whose prices are so high that one out of five Americans who gets a prescription from a doctor is unable to afford to fill that prescription? Let's be clear. If you cannot afford to fill that prescription, you will likely get sicker, and in some cases, you are going to die.

It is incomprehensible to me that we have a major bill dealing with prescription drugs, and yet we are running away from the most important issue that impacts millions of people and that the American people feel very strongly about, and that is the greed of the pharmaceutical industry and the outrageously high prices our people are being forced to pay. That is the issue on which we must focus.

If we were really serious about finding cures for life-threatening illnesses and diseases, maybe—just maybe—we would adequately fund the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration. Over the last 12 years, medical research has been cut by over 20 percent after adjusting for inflation. Even if this bill passes, funding for NIH will still be roughly \$7 billion less this year than what it was in 2004. Meanwhile, over the same time period—just to put this in context—the top 1 percent has received over \$1 trillion in tax breaks. In other words, we cannot fund the agencies that are trying to find cures for diseases, but we can give unbelievably significant tax breaks to the 1 percent.

Let me very briefly give a few major reasons this bill should be defeated.

No. 1, as I said a moment ago, the most important prescription drug-related crisis facing our country right now is the skyrocketing price of prescription drugs. This bill does not even deal with that issue. How can we talk about a bill dealing with the pharmaceutical industry without addressing the elephant in the room, which is the

fact that we pay the highest prices in the world for medicine? And in many cases, those costs are soaring.

In America today, one out of five people between the ages of 19 and 64 cannot afford to fill their prescriptions. Hundreds of thousands of seniors are forced to cut their pills in half because the medicine they need is just too expensive. Let me give just a few examples.

Since 2007, Mylan has raised the price of a package of EpiPens by 461 percent while rewarding its CEO with a 671-percent increase in compensation. Maybe, just maybe, we might want to address that issue.

Last year, Turing Pharmaceuticals increased the price of Daraprim by 5,000 percent overnight. It went from \$13.50 to \$750 for just one pill.

While thousands of children in Flint have been poisoned by lead, Valeant increased the price of the drug to treat this disease 2,700 percent in a single year—from \$7,100 to about \$27,000.

Meanwhile, at a time when 35 million Americans cannot afford the medicine they need, the drug companies are making enormous profits and providing extremely generous compensation packages to their executives. Last year, fellow Americans, while you were paying more and more for prescription drugs you desperately needed, the 5 major drug companies made over \$50 billion in profit—\$50 billion in profit, 5 drug companies—while the top 10 pharmaceutical executives received over \$320 million in compensation. In fact, the prescription drug companies literally have money to burn. This year, the pharmaceutical industry spent \$131 million to defeat Proposition 61, a ballot initiative in California that would have lowered average drug prices by at least 24 percent for millions of people. They spent \$131 million in California to defeat a proposal that would have lowered drug prices.

How does it happen that the pharmaceutical companies can charge any price they want for prescription drugs? The answer is clear: The prescription drug industry, along with Wall Street, is the most powerful political force in America. I have been fighting the greed of the prescription drug industry for decades, and as far as I can tell, the pharmaceutical industry always win. They never lose. They win, but the American people lose.

Since 1998, the pharmaceutical industry has spent more than \$3 billion in lobbying all over this place. There are hundreds and hundreds of lobbyists telling Members of Congress what the pharmaceutical industry wants, and they have made hundreds of millions of dollars in campaign contributions. They currently have over 1,200 lobbyists on their payrolls here in Washington, including former leaders of the Democratic and Republican Parties. That is why the pharmaceutical indus-

try makes huge profits while the American people cannot afford the medicine they need.

It would be one thing if these outrageous price increases were happening in other major countries. Are these price increases taking place all over the world? The answer is, they are not. In 2013, we spent nearly 40 percent more per person on prescription drugs than Canada and five times as much as in Denmark. How is it that the cost of prescription drugs in Denmark, Canada, the UK, and France is significantly lower than it is in the United States? That is an issue, and it is high time we begin discussing it. For example, it costs \$730 for a 90-day supply of Crestor—which is used to treat high cholesterol—in the United States but just \$160 in Canada. Americans with heartburn pay \$736 for a 90-day supply of Nexium, but that same product costs \$214 in Canada. Americans with arthritis are forced to pay \$895 for Celebrex, but it costs just \$280 in Canada.

During this recent campaign, President-Elect Donald Trump promised, among many other things, to lower the prices of prescription drugs. That is what Mr. Trump said. He promised that he would “allow consumers access to imported, safe and dependable drugs from overseas to bring more options to consumers.” He also promised to require Medicare to negotiate with the drug companies for lower prices—something that is banned by law today.

Here is what President-Elect Trump said while on the campaign trail:

We are not allowed to negotiate drug prices. Can you believe it? We pay about \$300 billion more than we are supposed to, than if we negotiated the price. So there's \$300 billion on day one we solve.

Since President-Elect Trump supports requiring Medicare to negotiate with drug companies to lower prices, which is an idea that many people in this body also support, and since Mr. Trump believes we should be able to re-import low-cost medicines from Canada and other countries, I am quite confident that all of my Republican colleagues will support an amendment in my hands that will do exactly what Mr. Trump said he would accomplish as President. Think about what you can do to pave the way for Mr. Trump when he comes into office. You will have already satisfied one of his major campaign pledges.

Therefore, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending motion to concur with an amendment be set aside, and I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of a motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 34 with a further amendment that I send to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, reserving the right to object, one way to

be sure of not getting the work done we are doing today is to add another topic. I think the work we are doing today is important.

My friend from Vermont mentioned some statistics that were right a couple of years ago about the decline in health care research money. We are not where we should be, but we are not where we were 2 years ago, either. When my side took control of the majority, I got a chance to chair the appropriating committee for Health and Human Services, and for the first time in 12 years, we had an almost 7-percent increase. The Senator is absolutely right—at that moment, we were 22 percent behind in research buying dollars from where we were 12 years earlier. But if everything is a priority, nothing is a priority. So we did what the government should do and what people want the government to do: We went through the process of prioritizing. We eliminated 18 programs last year—zeroed them out for either being duplicative or not doing what they were designed to do—so we could prioritize exactly the important health care research this bill talks about and my friend from Vermont mentioned, a 7-percent increase last year and another 6.5-percent increase this year. Another \$2 billion came out of our committee, came out of the full appropriating committee, and has been on the desk ready for the minority to let us take up for months now. That would be an almost 14-percent increase in 2 years. Fourteen percent of the 22 percent would have been eliminated if we could have taken up the bill that I still wish we were voting on today. The bill we are voting on today does some of what that baseline increase would do.

Why do we want to increase health care research? Obviously for individuals and their families who might be able to better deal with or totally avoid a health care crisis they would otherwise have.

From the point of view of taxpayers, on Alzheimer's, which was mentioned here today, we are spending \$250 billion a year right now. The NIH projection for 2050 is that we will be spending \$1.1 trillion that year in today's dollars, which is twice the defense budget. Now, \$1.1 trillion sounds like a lot and \$250 billion sounds like a lot to me. In fact, pretty small numbers sound like a lot to me. But when I think about spending twice the defense budget on Alzheimer's alone—and that is just tax dollars, that is not what families would be spending if we don't invest in research now. It makes a big difference.

So from Alzheimer's—there is an inducement here that I would like to see be even more specific, and when we get back to the regular appropriating process, I will work to do that again. There is a prize inducement, the Beau Biden cancer research fund. There is money that could go to autism. Everything

from Alzheimer's to autism benefits when we focus on health care research.

There is also money in this bill to further enhance the ability to get drugs to the marketplace quicker so that people have an opportunity that they don't currently have to work with their doctor and decide they want to try that new advancement.

This bill matters. I think in some ways it is better to let NIH—the real researchers—prioritize spending and let us prioritize research as a topic.

I think this bill should pass. I think it should pass today. I was on the House floor last week when they overwhelmingly voted for it to pass. The sure way for this bill not to pass in this Congress is to do something now that changes the subject.

I am particularly glad that my longtime friend from both the House and Senate is really interested in President Trump fulfilling his campaign pledges, and I am particularly pleased to see him agree with at least that one pledge, but that won't happen until next year. Today's work is to pass the 21st Century Cures bill. I look forward to the vote that will do that before we leave this week.

Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Objection heard.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, two points. First of all, let me reiterate that is for inflation-adjusted dollars, not nominal dollars. The funding for the National Institutes of Health this year will still be roughly \$7 billion less than what it received in 2004. That is point No. 1.

Point No. 2—and I will yield briefly to my friend from Missouri—did I hear him say that he is supportive of reimportation and having the Federal Government—Medicare—negotiate prescription drug prices with the pharmaceutical industry? That is what I thought I heard him say.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my friend for yielding.

In terms of the money available for research, we have taken that 22 percent of buying power and changed it to about 15 percent. If we doubled our bill this year, we would change it from 15 to about 7 or 8 percent. We need to get back to where we were 12 years ago and then not stop in real buying power. I want to do that.

I think what I said about the overall discussion of reimportation and other things was that I was delighted to hear my friend from Vermont so supportive of the next President's program.

Mr. SANDERS. I am very supportive, he is dead right. But I was wondering if my friend—when he said we are going to get to it next year, what does that mean? Does that mean you will be pushing the ability of Americans and pharmacists and distributors to be able to benefit from unfettered free trade

and buy low-cost medicines and some of the same drugs sold in Canada and the UK? And will you also, as Mr. Trump made the point, allow Medicare to negotiate for lower prices? Is that something on which we can expect our Republican friends to support the President-elect?

Mr. BLUNT. If my friend would yield, I would say we have passed this bill in the Congress—that bill—several times over the last few years. On each occasion, often with Democratic administrations, the only obstacle has been for the administration to certify that reimportation could be safely done.

Mr. SANDERS. Exactly right.

Mr. BLUNT. And none of them have ever been willing to do that.

Mr. SANDERS. My friend is exactly right. Neither a Republican nor a Democratic administration will have the guts to stand up to the pharmaceutical industry.

Today, if you have a salad, it is likely you are going to get your salad with tomatoes and lettuce that are from Mexico or some other country with very poorly inspected farms. That is no problem, but somehow or another, we are led to believe that it is impossible to bring in brand-name medicine from Canada or the United Kingdom or France, that it just cannot be done. It is beyond belief that anybody with a straight face believes that to be true. Clearly, this is what the pharmaceutical industry wants us to believe, but I hope that my friend from Missouri will not accept what the pharmaceutical industry tells us and understands that the next Secretary of HHS should certify that with proper procedures, we can reimport medicine.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my friend for yielding. I would just say that if the Secretary of HHS can certify that, that is a good thing, and I voted for that in the past. But I know what a tomato looks like. I don't know what is inside a capsule, and that has always been the obstacle for the people we have asked to look at this and certify the safety.

If people can figure out how to do that so we know what is inside of that pill—the worst thing you can do health-wise is believe you are taking a pill that isn't the pill you believe you are taking.

Mr. SANDERS. I know what a tomato looks like, too, but you don't know what kind of pesticide was used or how that tomato was grown. The idea that we cannot get a product from across the border safely really doesn't pass the laugh test, frankly. This is one of the things the pharmaceutical industry has been pushing. We have unfettered free trade for fish, for vegetables, for meat from all over the world, but somehow, from Canada or the UK or France—we cannot safely bring medicine into this country at a fraction of the price our pharmacists are now pay-

ing. Frankly, I would say to the Senator from Missouri, that does not pass the laugh test, and I hope we can work together. Clearly, we want the medicine to come in safely, but I think we can do that, and I look forward to doing that.

I yield.

Mr. BLUNT. I would say that the one thing we will accomplish before the week is out is passing this bill, but I hope this bill doesn't become something that we continue to refer back to and say we have already done that. This bill is a step in the right direction, but in health care research, it does not get us to where I would like to be or where we were 12 years ago. We need the kind of research dollars that encourage young researchers to stay in the research business, the kind of research dollars that encourage them to find solutions, the kind of research dollars that ensure that every family who can avoid a crisis or be ready to deal with it in a better way is able to do that. So I look forward to the bill being passed as we finish the week.

I yield back.

Mr. SANDERS. I agree with the last statement the Senator from Missouri made.

Let me give another reason why I am opposed to this bill. Incredibly, this legislation makes it easier for prescription drug companies to get away with fraud. Fraud is something the major drug companies have been perpetuating on the American people for a number of years.

It is not widely known, but it should be known that since 1991, drug companies have paid over \$35 billion in fines or settlements for fraud and misconduct—\$35 billion—but instead of cracking down on pharmaceutical company fraud, this bill actually legalizes the fraudulent behavior of some of the big drug companies.

Specifically, under this bill, pharmaceutical companies would be allowed to promote unapproved uses of drugs to insurance companies—a practice which is currently illegal. Why would we allow the pharmaceutical industry the opportunity to market drugs to insurance companies for uses that haven't been approved by the FDA? This is a major problem. Let me give a few examples.

In 2013, the Justice Department ordered Johnson & Johnson, one of the major pharmaceutical companies in the country, to pay \$2.2 billion in fines for 'recklessly promoting drugs for uses that have not been proven to be safe and effective.' According to the U.S. attorney handling the case, Johnson & Johnson's "promotion of Risperdal for unapproved uses threatened the most vulnerable populations of our society: children, the elderly, and those with developmental disabilities. Congress rightfully determined that this is unacceptable and made it

illegal, but under this bill, it could become legal. That is wrong.

In 2010, AstraZeneca pharmaceuticals paid \$520 million to resolve allegations that it illegally marketed the antipsychotic drug Seroquel for uses not approved as safe and effective by the FDA.

In 2009, Eli Lilly was fined over \$1.4 billion for its off-label promotion of another antipsychotic drug known as Zyprexa. According to Federal investigators, Eli Lilly's illegal activities increased patients' costs, threatened their safety, and negatively affected the delivery of health care services to over 9 million military members, retirees, and their families who rely on health care.

We need to make it harder for the pharmaceutical industry to commit fraud, but instead this bill allows the pharmaceutical industry to, in fact, commit even more fraud. That is unacceptable.

Third, let's be clear: This bill would cut Medicare and Medicaid by a billion dollars. Millions of senior citizens are in desperate need of Medicare and Medicaid.

Thanks to Medicare, today more than 48 million seniors and 9 million people with disabilities have health insurance coverage through Medicare, and over 73 million Americans are enrolled in Medicaid. The last thing we should be doing today is cutting Medicare and Medicaid. We need to make health care more affordable to senior citizens, the disabled, and low-income families with children—not more expensive.

Finally, this bill—and this is quite significant—cuts \$3.5 billion from the Affordable Care Act's prevention fund to prevent Alzheimer's, diabetes, suicide, heart disease, and lead poisoning.

Instead of cutting Medicare and Medicaid, instead of cutting funds for health care programs, we should be demanding that the wealthiest people in this country and the largest corporations start paying their fair share of taxes. We should not be cutting life-and-death programs for the most vulnerable people in this country.

I say to my colleagues, if you want to lower the outrageous cost of prescription drugs, vote against this bill. If you are opposed to legalizing pharmaceutical fraud that can endanger the lives of many Americans, please vote against this bill. If you are opposed to cutting Medicare and Medicaid, vote against this bill. If you want to prevent cuts to programs that would prevent Alzheimer's disease and many other diseases, vote against this bill.

It is time to stand up to the pharmaceutical industry and stand with the American people who are tired of being ripped off by this extremely greedy industry.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak about the fires and tornadoes in Tennessee, but I would observe beforehand that by tomorrow we will be voting on the 21st Century Cures and the mental health bill.

I have a little different view of it than the Senator from Vermont. For example, using the money in the prevention fund, which was a part of the Affordable Care Act, I would say is a pretty good use of it to support the President's Precision Medicine Initiative and to support the Vice President's Cancer Moonshot and to support the BRAIN Initiative at the National Institutes of Health. This is what we do in the bill, with \$1.4 billion for precision medicine, \$1.8 billion for Cancer Moonshot, and \$1.5 billion for the BRAIN Initiative. If we are interested in reducing grief and reducing spending in this country, accelerating the arrival of medicines that will identify Alzheimer's before its symptoms and other medicines that will retard the progression of Alzheimer's would be a magnificent thing to do. It would be a miracle for many families. It is not just a miracle; it is something that Dr. Francis Collins, a renowned scientist who is head of the National Institutes of Health—the "National Institutes of Hope" is what he calls it—predicts will happen in the next 10 years, along with a vaccine for Zika, a vaccine for HIV-AIDS, a vaccine for universal flu, which killed 30,000 people last year, and advances in regenerative medicine that would put a physician like our former majority leader, Dr. Bill Frist of Nashville, out of business.

Bill Frist was at one time a heart transplant surgeon. I think he transplanted more hearts than anybody in the world—or nearly anybody. But Dr. Collins believes that with advances in using our own adult cells, we will restore hearts. We will not have to transplant them. We may be able to restore eyesight. These are the kinds of miracles this legislation will encourage that could affect nearly every American family.

The other part of the legislation, equally important to money, is that it would make reforms in the Food and Drug Administration and in the National Institutes of Health that will move research for those treatments and cures through the regulatory and investment process more rapidly, at lower costs, into the medicine cabinets, and into the doctors' offices, where they can help virtually every family in this country.

That is why 85 Senators yesterday voted to end debate on this floor, and I suspect more will vote tomorrow to send it to the President. That is why, in the House of Representatives, 392 of them voted for this bill. Only six Democratic Members of the House of Representatives voted against it. They

are not persuaded that there is some evil force in there. They like what they see, and not only them. The President of the United States says that this is "an opportunity we just can't miss."

The Vice President of the United States, talking about his Cancer Moonshot, says that this is a big and important step forward.

The Republican Speaker of the House, PAUL RYAN, turned a couple of somersaults trying to figure out the way to do the funding on this because it is an important part of his own agenda for our Nation's health care future.

I have heard the majority leader of the Senate, Senator MCCONNELL, say in private meetings and in public that this is the most important piece of legislation we will pass this year.

Add to it the mental health legislation that Senator CASSIDY, Senator MURPHY, and Senator CORNYN worked so hard on over here, and you can get something we can be very proud of, which is why it received such a big vote yesterday.

I want the American people to know that is what we are doing. I think that is what they want us to do. We could do something in a partisan way, we could do something by Executive order, or we could take 2 years, as we literally did in this bill, with multiple hearings, multiple consultations, many differences of opinion, all of them resolved though in a bipartisan way, and produce a lasting result.

It will not be like ObamaCare, where the next day one party is trying to repeal it and the next party is defending it. It will not be like some other partisan legislation. This will last. Nobody is going to be trying to repeal it because almost everybody voted for it. The money will come just as the legislation says, year after year.

I am proud of the Senate, and I am happy for the American people, and I look forward to tomorrow.

SEVIER COUNTY FIRE

Mr. President, on a more somber note, a week ago last Wednesday, on a mountaintop called the Chimney Tops in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, someone spotted a fire and called the National Park Service about 5:20 pm in the afternoon. I have been up on Chimney Tops many times—more times when I was younger than when I have been older—but it is a peak with rocks at the top. We are not like the West where they have a lot of rocky mountains. We don't have many of those. We have an average of 83 inches of rainfall a year, unlike Southern California or Phoenix, places like that, where they only get a few inches of rain a year. We almost have rain forests. When the fall comes, there are lots of leaves on the ground.

But the fire started up on the Chimney Tops. I can tell you there wouldn't have been anyone within 100 miles who would have imagined that somehow the

next Monday, wind would have swept that fire into Gatlinburg, TN, killing 14 people, injuring another 134, causing an evacuation of 14,000 people, wrecking lives and wrecking homes.

There have been some people wondering a little bit: Well, how could this have happened? Look, we have had fires all over East Tennessee this year. We are not used to that. It is because we have had a drought for a long time.

I have an article by Bob Hodge about Greg Ward of Sevier County. This is the county where Gatlinburg is. Greg Ward spent his 53 years roaming around the woods and waters of Sevier County, according to Bob Hodge, a writer for the Knoxville News Sentinel.

The long and short of it is, those who know the woods and the waters in East Tennessee know that this drought has been with us for a while. Trout stocking programs wouldn't work because the water was so low that the streams wouldn't handle the trout, and the water was too warm for them to survive.

In some places the creeks were flowing at 10 percent of normal. We may have seen that once before in someone's memory back in the 1970s, but for the last 3 months, there has been very little rain. According to Bob Hodge's article, we have had a drought since 2015.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD this article by Bob Hodge of the Knoxville News Sentinel following my remarks.

On Friday, Governor Haslam of Tennessee, Senator CORKER, and I went to Gatlinburg. The only thing I could think to say to the people assembled there were two things. One was that your character is measured not so much by how you handle things when things are going well, but how you handle adversity. If that is the measure of character, the character of the people of Gatlinburg in Sevier County are through the roof because they are not complaining.

The mayor of Gatlinburg, Mike Werner, had his home burn down in 15 minutes. He was at the press conference worried about other people, not himself.

Cindy Ogle, the city manager of Gatlinburg for a long time, had her home burn down. She was there, not complaining, and worrying about the other people of Gatlinburg and Sevier County.

Mike Werner's business was also burned down. He is staying in the apartment of a friend nearby.

That story is happening over and over and over in Sevier County. There have been extraordinary gestures by people to help.

At one point, shortly after the fire started, there were 140 fire trucks from all over Tennessee and more than 400 volunteers. The fires kept going and going because this wind came up on

Monday night after the fire had already started 10 miles away on the top of this rocky mountain, and a 90-mile-an-hour wind blew the fire all the way into Gatlinburg. The wind knocked down transformers and started other fires, and people were racing for their lives.

On the floor, I mentioned stories of firefighters having to get back in their trucks to get away from the bears that were running toward them escaping the fire, of people driving through fire to escape, of windshield wipers melting as they drove down the mountain. It was a terrifying experience. In the West they may be used to this. Nobody ever gets used to it, I guess, but we don't see that where we are from, typically with 83 inches of rain in a year.

I salute the people of Sevier County and Gatlinburg for their courage, their character, and their compassion for one another. I know it is going to take a long time for many to get back on their feet. We are doing what we can to help.

I salute the Governor of Tennessee. He was there the next day. So were many of their agencies, working seamlessly together. As I have said, last Friday we went there together with him. Through the State, we have arranged for Federal assistance, which will pay for 75 percent of the cost of fighting the fires.

Then that same day we went to some other counties in Tennessee that had experienced tornadoes about the same time. We went into McMinn County. No one was killed there, but several were hurt.

We went to Polk County where we talked with a lady named Mrs. Stoker, who wasn't hurt, but a trailer next to where she lived had been blown across the road, and her daughter and her daughter's husband had been killed. We talked to her for a while, and the Governor and Senator CORKER and I were very impressed with her. We doubted that we would have the strength she does.

As we left, she said to us: You fellows go back on up there, do your job, and we will take care of it here.

I am sure she will, but I am awfully impressed with Mrs. Stoker.

I have told the people of Sevier County that many Senators had said something to me about the fire. For example, Senator FEINSTEIN called because of her experience in California.

I am here only to say those two things, first that the people of Sevier County, in Gatlinburg, the area of Polk County and McMinn County, if their character is measured by how they handled adversity, their character is over the top.

Secondly, I thank all of those who have tried to help.

One last example: In McMinn County, a young woman had a baby during the tornado. Her home was damaged. She

went to the hospital. When she came back the next day, the neighbors had found another home for her. They had clean sheets and everything that she needed.

There are wonderful stories that came out of a terrifying series of instances. I wanted to come to the floor and say that we are proud of the people of East Tennessee.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, Dec. 3, 2016]

GATLINBURG FIRE WAS SET IN MOTION
MONTHS AGO

(Op-ed by: Bob Hodge)

Greg Ward has spent his entire 53 years roaming around the woods and waters of Sevier County, many of them as one of the best known hunting and fishing guides in the state. When a lot of those woods starting burning he knew things could get bad.

Then again, he had suspected things were going to get bad for months.

The fire that has destroyed over 17,000 acres inside and outside the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, destroyed hundreds of buildings and cost at least 13 people their lives has left Ward wondering what, if anything, could have been done. He's lived his life and earned his living listening to what the mountains tell him.

"Everybody talks about the drought we've had this year, but the drought started in 2015," said Ward, owner of Rocky Top Outfitters in Pigeon Forge. "This year it just got a whole, whole lot worse."

Back in the summer, the drought which would lead to the out of control fires that would destroy so much was already wreaking havoc on the mountain fisheries. Trout stocking programs were curtailed in June because there was too little water in the creeks and rivers and what was there was too warm for stocked trout to survive. In July, Ward said he and his guides started noticing species harder than trout, like stonerollers, were beginning to die off.

Water flows and volume are measured in cubic feet per second or CFS. During the summer Ward said the CFS numbers in many of the rivers and streams in the mountains in and out of the park were about 10% of normal. That was bad for his fishing business, but he thought it was just bad business, period.

"You would hear numbers about us being 8 or 10 inches below normal when it came to rainfall, but it was a lot worse than that in the French Broad Watershed," Ward said. "Whatever number they were saying it was probably double that."

"It's happened before back in the 1970s. We were in a drought cycle then and this was just like that."

It was so bad he had even thought that, maybe, it would be a good idea to delay the opening of hunting season in Sevier and other counties in the mountains. Fewer people in the woods would mean fewer opportunities for an accident to happen.

"There's a lot of hindsight people can have right now," Ward said.

Fast forward to Monday night and about 8 p.m. a knock came on the door at his home in Pigeon Forge near the base of Iron Mountain. It was the authorities telling Ward and his wife Diane to evacuate. They were ahead of the game, having already packed up papers and pictures and things that couldn't be replaced if lost.

After getting his wife to safety, Ward—this isn't too surprising to the people that know him—then drove up Pine Mountain to see what he could see.

It was devastating.

"There's nobody that knew anything like this was going to happen . . . but because of the drought you knew it could happen," he said. "From up on top (of Pine Mountain) you could see fire just about everywhere and you could see it moving because of the wind."

The stay wasn't a long one because even though the area where Ward was at was safely out of harm's way, he could see that what was not being threatened by the fire one minute was ablaze the next. He and a friend had packed chainsaws to cut through any trees that were blown down by the wind, and it turned out they needed them.

"I wasn't going to die on that mountain," he said. "We've had fires before. I've seen a lot of fires before, but there was so much fuel and so much wind . . ."

Eventually the fire would come within a few hundred yards of his house. But when he and his wife went back the next day it was no worse for wear.

"I have a house today because they made a stand at Dollywood."

Perseverance is the standard for the people that have been impacted by the fire.

Ward said he doesn't know what if anything, could have been done differently. All he knows is the fires that burned so much on Monday were set in motion months and months ago.

"It's been so god awful dry . . . it was that way two months ago," he said. "You had the drought and then this summer all the heat that just made it worse. We were just in an awful situation."

Mr. ALEXANDER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. AYOTTE). The Senator from Indiana.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. COATS. Madam President, today I rise for the second time on the Senate floor to deliver a farewell speech. It doesn't seem like that long ago, back in 1998, that I delivered my first Senate farewell speech. I spoke then about making the transition from Senator to citizen, and I reflected on the end of 24 years of public service.

Standing here today in 2016, 24 years has now become 34 years, as the call for additional public service has brought me back to the U.S. Senate. Now, as I begin today, I want to assure my family, some of whom are in the Gallery; my colleagues, some of whom I am pleased to see have come to hear me speak; my campaign contributors, and even the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee that I will not be back for a third farewell address.

Through it all—the ups and the downs, the highs and the lows, the successes and the failures—I have felt nothing but gratitude for the incredible privilege of serving. Serving in the military, working as a congressional staffer to then-Congressman Dan Quayle, serving in the House of Representatives, representing my home State, and as a U.S. Senator, and representing our country overseas as U.S. Ambassador to Germany—all of this

together has been the adventure of a lifetime, and I am so very grateful for the opportunities I have been afforded. Participating in the process of governing, being in the arena fighting for the principles and values in which I believe—these experiences have all been a privilege almost beyond description.

It is time to express a few thanks. My good friend and fellow Senator from Tennessee, LAMAR ALEXANDER, who is sitting here today, who has a good habit of speaking words of wisdom, has said: When you are driving down a country road and see a turtle on the top of a fence post, chances are that turtle didn't get there on its own. I didn't get here on my own. Throughout my career, I have been blessed to have the support of so many talented and wonderful people who provided invaluable help along the way. First and foremost, though, I want to thank God for His providence, guiding my steps along the way. I want to thank my family, including my wife Marsha for her unwavering support and wise counsel, our three wonderful children, and our 10 grandchildren, for their love, their support, and their patience that allowed me to engage in the consuming job of an elected official.

I thank my former Senator and Vice President Dan Quayle, a mentor, friend, and the person who first encouraged me to consider public service. I want to express gratitude to former Indiana Governor Robert Orr, who chose me to fill the Senate seat vacated by then-Vice President Quayle.

I thank President George W. Bush, who gave me the opportunity to serve as our Nation's Ambassador to Germany, and Colin Powell, who led the Department of State during my time as Ambassador.

I thank the exceptional staff I have been blessed to have support me over the years—some who are here today and many who have served through the years and gone on to achieve great success in their own careers. I specifically want to thank the five chiefs of staff I have had as a Senator who have put the team together to support me in such exceptional ways: David Hoppe; Dave Gribbin, now deceased; Sharon Soderstrom; Dean Hingson; and Viraj Mirani. All have led our team with exceptional leadership.

I thank my colleagues for their friendship and encouragement over the past 6 years. This is a demanding job, and we all work hard, but it is also a job that allows each of us the opportunity to spend a lot of time interacting together. The friendships I have had and now have with the talented men and women who serve in this distinguished body is what I will miss most in leaving the Senate.

Last, but certainly not least, I thank the citizens of Indiana. Hoosiers have given me the honor of representing them in the world's greatest delibera-

tive body. Hoosiers, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Now, I am not here today to offer deep reflections about the health of this institution or to advise my fellow Senators on how to govern in the years ahead. It is clear that at this time in our history, in our great Nation, we are a divided country with two very different visions for America's future. The Senate is not immune to those divisions, but I firmly believe that all of us, Republicans and Democrats, are trying to do what we think is in the best interests of our country and its posterity. We are all united in the common cause of making our country a better place, a safer place, and a more prosperous place, even if our means of getting there differ.

With that spirit in mind, I know there are many topics of significant importance that the Senate will consider when I am gone, but I want to briefly discuss two transcendent issues that I believe jeopardize America's continued existence as the world's leading Nation. These are issues I have repeatedly expressed deep concern about on this Senate floor.

From a practical standpoint, our country simply cannot keep borrowing money we don't have. Today our national debt exceeds \$19.5 trillion and continues to grow by the second. Meanwhile, programs that millions of Americans depend on—Social Security and Medicare are two—are creeping ever closer to insolvency. America's looming fiscal storm is bearing down upon us, and the alarms are sounding louder each day. One day, if not addressed, this debt bomb will explode and have a devastating effect on our country's economy and on our children's future.

My second great concern is what I call the terrorist bomb—the threat posed by terrorists or rogue state actors who can successfully conduct an attack with weapons of mass destruction. We must ensure that the world's most dangerous weapons stay out of the hands of its most dangerous people, and we must also adapt to the new threats we face, such as a cyber attack, that could shut down our financial systems or electric grid. These challenges require all those who have governed to rise above the political consequences that may occur in making the hard decisions needed to make our country stronger and more secure for future generations.

In conclusion, I would like to say this. My congressional career began during the Reagan administration. I would like to conclude my comments with a reflection on remarks President Ronald Reagan made during a memorial service in 1987 for the fallen sailors of the USS *Stark*. Allow me to quote a few of the words President Reagan shared that day:

Yes, they were ordinary men who did extraordinary things. Yes, they were heroes.

And because they were heroes, let us not forget this: That for all the lovely spring and summer days we will never share with them again, for every Thanksgiving and Christmas that will seem empty without them, there will be moments when we see the light of discovery in young eyes, eyes that see for the first time the world around them and wonder, "Why is there such a place as America, and how is it that such a precious gift is mine?"

As citizens of this great country, we have been given a precious gift—the gift of freedom. America has been a beacon of freedom that has burned brightly before a world that cries out for liberty, but we should never forget that we have been able to preserve this precious gift throughout our history because men and women have heard the call and then said: "I will stand in defense of freedom and I will sacrifice for future generations."

In looking back on my life of public service, I have experienced moments when I also have seen that light of discovery of this precious gift of America and asked myself: How is it this precious gift is mine? I have seen the light of discovery at Veterans Day ceremonies as we remind ourselves that this gift has been earned and preserved by those who have fought in defense of our freedoms and especially those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. I have seen it in the eyes of wives and young children who rush into the arms of dads arriving home from the frontlines of battle. I have seen it in the tears of joy as our Olympic athletes stand while the "Star-Spangled Banner" is played before the eyes and ears of the world. I have seen it in the naturalization ceremonies, where immigrants like my mom expressed pure joy in becoming an American citizen.

Do we not then—those of us who have been given this privilege and the challenge of serving in this body as U.S. Senators—do we not then have an obligation and a solemn duty to carry on the task of ensuring that the young eyes of future generations can see this light of discovery and continue to wonder how it is that such a precious gift is theirs?

So, my colleagues and friends, with gratitude to the Almighty, love in my heart for each of you, and bright hopes for the future of our beloved country, I bid farewell.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

TRIBUTES TO DAN COATS

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I rise as we bid farewell to my good friend, my colleague, my captain, the senior Senator from Indiana, DAN COATS, who has served his State of Indiana and our country so well and with such honor and such dedication for more than 35 years.

I also note how grateful I am to be serving with the Presiding Officer, for what an extraordinary Senator you

have been, what a good friend. Someday I hope to come see the White Mountains of New Hampshire and visit and see your family. We have been very lucky to have been touched and blessed by you.

As many of us know, my friend DAN's service to his country started long before he was elected to this body. After graduating from Wheaton College in Illinois—and he has not often told folks he was a soccer star there—he joined the U.S. Army, where he served from 1966 until 1968 and earned the rank of staff sergeant.

After coming to Indiana to earn a law degree at Indiana University's McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis, DAN moved to Fort Wayne, where he continued his public service as a staff member for then-U.S. Congressman Dan Quayle.

In 1980, DAN COATS was elected to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Indiana—a wonderful area which he served so well—and it was an office he held for 8 years. Then, in 1988, as Senator Quayle was elected to serve as Vice President, Senator COATS was appointed to the U.S. Senate, and he successfully won reelection in 1990 and in 1992. For 10 years, DAN continued his legacy of service to our beloved State.

As I mentioned, DAN is the senior Senator, and I am the junior Senator, so whenever we have football discussions, DAN wins every time.

Through his work on the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Intelligence Committee, he ensured our country was more secure and more prosperous for the future.

In 1999, DAN retired from the Senate. He was soon called back, though, when President Bush asked him to serve our country again—this time, as U.S. Ambassador to Germany.

Then-Ambassador COATS arrived in Germany ready for his duties on September 8, 2001. We know how much our world changed 3 days later and how important his job became in ensuring the United States continued its constructive relationship with our German allies and in keeping all of us safe back here at home. He not only forged a strong relationship with then-German Chancellor Gerhard Schroder and Angela Merkel, but he also played a key role in the establishment of a new U.S. embassy in the heart of Berlin. It is hard to stress how critical DAN COATS' leadership was for our country at that time, as he used American diplomacy to help maintain American security.

In 2011, DAN made his return to the Senate, eager once again to serve the people of Indiana. Over the last 6 years, he has produced steadfast leadership on the Finance Committee, the Intelligence Committee, and the Joint Economic Committee.

On a more personal note, I have always been able to count on him as a partner and a thoughtful friend, willing

to work together to address the many issues impacting Hoosiers and our whole country—because, when it comes down to it, we are Americans, and we are all in this together.

DAN always has been ready to roll up his sleeves and work in a bipartisan manner, whether it was on an issue impacting our veterans, protecting our national security, advocating for fiscal responsibility, or even the finer issues of government, such as making sure the Government Printing Office could change their style guide. As the rest of us all know, DAN was able to make it clear that we are not Indianians; we are Hoosiers, and it should be appropriately discussed as such.

DAN, it has been an honor to serve with you.

He has been a true gentleman and a great teammate in our work to improve the lives of the hardworking Hoosier families we represent. I am proud of the work we have done together.

As DAN leaves the Senate, I wish my friend and partner—my senior Senator—the best. He will be remembered for his extraordinary service, his love of country, his love of our State, and his love of his family. I hope he will be able to spend a lot of time with his wonderful wife Marsha, their 3 children, and their 10 grandchildren. DAN has been blessed to have a wonderful family, and we have been blessed that we could be a part of his life.

May God bless Senator COATS and his family, may God bless Indiana, and may God bless America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, as I have listened to the eloquent farewell remarks of my friend and colleague, Senator DAN COATS of Indiana, I could not help but think that he sounded happy, contented, serene, and at peace with the decision he has made. But he leaves the rest of us feeling bereft and sad and knowing that we will miss him as a friend and as an esteemed colleague.

As the 114th Congress draws to a close, many words of affection and gratitude will be offered in tribute to our friend and colleague DAN COATS as he leaves this Chamber. But there is no word that better defines this outstanding leader than the one word that has guided his entire life, and that word is "service."

As we have heard from his colleague from Indiana, the junior Senator, in 1966, at the height of the Vietnam war, DAN COATS enlisted in the U.S. Army, achieving the rank of staff sergeant. In 1980, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Indiana's Fourth Congressional District, and he joined the Senate 8 years later. He quickly became widely known and deeply respected as a strong voice for

fiscal discipline and national security and as an expert in our intelligence agencies and foreign affairs.

DAN COATS left the Senate in 1999 and was named as U.S. Ambassador to Germany 2 years later. He arrived at his post in Berlin just 3 days before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. I cannot help but think how fortunate our country was to have him in that key position at a time of such turmoil, anxiety, and fear for our country and all the world. He played a central role in strengthening the relationship between our Nation and Germany during that critical time.

After his tenure as Ambassador had ended, Senator COATS continued his service. He became the president of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America and offered his talents to many other civic and volunteer organizations, including the Center for Jewish and Christian Values, which he chaired with another dear friend of mine, Senator Joe Lieberman. With his wife Marsha, he founded the Foundation for American Renewal to advance faith-based solutions and initiatives to help resolve our Nation's many social problems.

When DAN COATS returned to the Senate in 2012, he pledged to the people of Indiana and to our Nation that he would focus his tremendous energy and extraordinary intellect on cutting wasteful spending, reducing our national debt, promoting pro-growth, job-creating policies, and strengthening our national security in an era where we face numerous threats from every possible place. He has kept those promises. As a father and a grandfather—two roles that I know he cherishes—Senator COATS has taken to heart our obligation to ensure a sound economic future for the next generation.

It has been a particular honor to work side by side with DAN COATS on the Intelligence Committee. His public service through that committee will never be fully known to the public, but I can share with you that Senator COATS has almost an instinctual ability to get to the heart of an issue, no matter how complex or difficult the topic. That, of course, is also a tribute to the fact that he has thought so deeply about the issues that confront our country and the threats posed by rogue states and terrorist groups. He was one of the first Members of the Senate to recognize the crisis that would emerge due to this administration's failed policy and incoherent strategy toward Syria.

His strong and effective advocacy for improved cyber security, a passion that we share, is another example of his deep commitment to the safety and security of our Nation and its people. For years, Senator COATS has worked to protect our Nation's most critical infrastructure from devastating cyber attacks. Senator COATS has warned us

that it is not a matter of if but of when such attacks occur right here in our country. He did so—he led the way—knowing of the political pressure that would be brought to bear to accept the status quo of cyber insecurity that exists within our country's most important infrastructure.

Senator DAN COATS is an inspiring role model to all of us who seek to serve. He epitomizes dedication, effective service, and an untiring commitment to making America—already the greatest country in the world—an even better place to live. Our Nation is truly grateful to this great man, and I am so grateful for his friendship.

I wish Senator COATS and his family all the best in the years to come.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I speak today as a neighbor of DAN COATS. I am his neighbor here on the Senate floor, and I am his neighbor back home. I represent the State of Ohio, and he represents Indiana. I also was involved in DAN COATS' early political career because I was asked to interview him when I was a young lawyer for his potential move from the House to the Senate. There was no way to be involved in that process without acquiring great respect and admiration for this man.

I got to know about his family and his background. He is literally and figuratively a Boy Scout in every way. He is also a guy who we will miss here greatly. He has become the voice of reason, the voice of wisdom, and the voice of knowledge here in the Senate. In our conference meetings, he is the person who, when he stands up to speak, others stop their conversations and actually listen, which is a rare trait for people in public office sometimes. But that is because DAN is always sincere, he is to the point, and, again, he has the experience and knowledge to be able to speak intelligently on a whole range of issues—some which we heard about today on the national security front. But also, he is an advocate for economic growth. He is the leader here on tax reform proposals. He is the guy who continually reminds us of our solemn duty here to represent all the people.

So, DAN, we will miss you greatly. I know Marsha is happy to have you around a little more. You are going to have a great time with your grandkids, as we have talked about. But we know that there will be a great loss here when you move on. I have to find a new neighbor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I have one story I want to tell about Senator COATS.

We have been able to serve together on the Intel Committee. We sit near each other on that committee. We work together on other things.

I came to the Senate when Senator COATS came back to the Senate. It has already been established here that he served and then served in another capacity as Ambassador. Then in 2010, when the Presiding Officer and I came to the Senate, he came with us. In almost everything in the Senate, there is some element of seniority in how everything is done.

As the only person in our class with prior Senate service, DAN COATS is the ranking member of our class. He was 88th in seniority in the Senate the day he started his second term of the Senate. For circumstances, I turned out to be 89th.

In the process of going through and selecting offices, when they got to 88, DAN COATS called me, standing in the hallway of the Russell Senate Office Building, and he said: I am standing here in front of an office that says it was Harry Truman's office when he was in the Senate. You choose after me; don't you?

I said: Yes, I choose after you.

He said: If I don't take this office, will you take it?

It was the best of the 12 offices still left. That wouldn't have been the reason I would take it, but I said: Yes, I will take that office. It would be great for me to be in an office in which Harry Truman had spent 10 years while in the Senate, and I later found out he also spent 82 days as Vice President in that office.

I said: I will stay there if I take that office.

I am actually the only Member who—every year when the question comes around “Do you want to look at another office?” I check the “no” box and send it right back. Almost everybody else checks the “yes” box because they want to see the real estate in the building that is available.

I said: I will stay there if I take it.

He said: Well, I am going to find an office somewhere else.

I have chaired the Rules Committee in the last couple of years. I deal with lots of Members about lots of requests. I don't actually know of very many similar circumstances. In fact, I don't know of any exactly like that one where Senator COATS said: I want you to have the office.

I mentioned it to him again the other day, and he said: You know, the reason for that was, it was the right thing to do.

If there is any part of DAN COATS' character that comes through time

after time, it is that part. It is that part of who he is that always wants to do the right thing. He is a man of great conscience, of great courage, of great willingness to serve. He is a good friend, and it has been one of the honors of my life in elected office that I have gotten to spend 6 years working in the Senate with him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, first, I notice that Senator COATS is still on the floor. I want to add my personal congratulations to Senator COATS for an incredible career of public service, not only here in the Senate but serving our country in a very important diplomatic role.

Senator COATS has added such dignity to this body. He is a person of incredible integrity and a person who always listens and tries to do what is right not only for the people of his State but for our Nation. It has been a real honor to serve with Senator COATS in the U.S. Senate, and I wish him only the best going forward. I know he will continue to find ways to help our country.

Madam President, I rise today to comment on a provision in the 21st Century Cures Act that I have strong concerns about that would affect thousands of patients receiving home infusion therapy. As many of my colleagues know, home infusion therapy is important because it provides patients with a higher quality of life. Patients are able to receive this treatment in the comfort of their own home, surrounded by their family. Furthermore, home infusion therapy eliminates unnecessary emergency room visits and travel to and from hospitals.

A provision in the Cures Act reduces the payment for infusion drugs without including a payment for home infusion services until January 1, 2021. As a result, home infusion suppliers will not be paid to administer infusion therapy until 4 years after the change in reimbursement. Without a service payment, it will be economically difficult for home infusion suppliers to provide patients with home infusion therapy. Many patients will be unable to receive care in the comfort of their home and will have to go to hospitals and long-term care facilities to receive treatment. This provision in 21st Century Cures Act could affect over 20,000 people with congestive heart failure, neurological disorders, and immune deficiency problems who receive home infusion therapy.

Patients' lives are at stake. That is why I prepared an amendment to the 21st Century Cures Act that delays the reimbursement change for infusion drugs by 1 year. I hope that this amendment could be included in the 21st Century Cures Act or the end of session continuing resolution. Instead of going into effect on January 1, 2017,

the overpayment reduction would go into effect on January 1, 2018, under my amendment. This is only a 1-year delay, but it would allow 20,000 patients to continue receiving infusion therapy at home. I think this is reasonable and fair and I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

The 21st Century Cures Act includes many very important provisions that should be enacted, so I hope this issue can be corrected.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA A. MIKULSKI

Madam President, this is a bitter-sweet moment as I rise to pay tribute to my esteemed colleague, dear friend, and fellow Senator, BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, the longest serving woman in the history of the United States Congress.

Senator BARB has been more than a dedicated champion for the State of Maryland; she has fought tirelessly for the welfare of all Americans across the country but especially the disadvantaged—equal pay for equal work, funding for childcare for working families, quality health care for all Americans, an ambitious space exploration program, robust homeland security programs, and fire protection grants. These are but a few of the causes Senator BARB has worked on for more than four decades as an outstanding public servant and legislator.

She is rooted in the city we both call home, Baltimore, where her father ran a grocery store in Highlandtown. She earned her bachelor of science degree in sociology from Mount Saint Agnes College and a master of social work degree from the University of Maryland School of Social Work. She became a social worker and then demonstrated her formidable organizational skills and resolve when she led the successful opposition to a 16-lane highway that was going to cut through the Fells Point neighborhood in Baltimore. Throughout her 40 years of congressional service, she has returned to Baltimore almost every night.

She ran for the city council in 1971, where she served for 5 years before she was elected to the House of Representatives to represent Maryland's Third District—a seat she held for 10 years. I was proud to succeed her in the House when she was elected to the Senate in 1986 and became the first female Democratic Senator elected in her own right. Here in the Halls of the Senate, she opened doors that had previously been closed to women. She refused to accept second-class treatment because of her gender and fought to be recognized as an equal. Generations of young women who chose to participate in public life or who dreamed of joining the U.S. Senate have benefited from Senator BARB's trailblazing legacy.

From affordable housing and education to childcare, health benefits, and pensions, she has left an indelible imprint on the Nation's social policies as a senior member of the Committee

on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. It is fitting that she authored the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009—the first major bill to be signed into law by the first African-American President. I know one of her proudest accomplishments is strengthening the social safety net for seniors by passing the Spousal Anti-Impoverishment Act, which helps keep seniors from going into bankruptcy while paying for a spouse's nursing home care.

Senator BARB said, "We work on macro issues and macaroni and cheese issues. . . . Our national debate reflects the needs and dreams of American families."

In 2012, she became the first woman and the first Marylander to chair the Senate Appropriations Committee. She has worked well with Senator COCHRAN and other Republicans on the committee to produce annual appropriations bills under difficult budget constraints. I think she has shown how the Senate can work in a productive, bipartisan fashion.

Senator MIKULSKI has served as the dean of the women Senators from both parties, promoting collegiality, civility, and consensus-building. In this capacity, again, she has been one of the leaders of this institution with respect to making it work better.

Senator BARB has always had her feet planted firmly on the ground, but she has reached for the stars. No one has been a stronger advocate for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA; the National Science Foundation, NSF; and for researching and understanding the universe to make life better here on Earth than Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI.

Not only has she reached for the stars, she is a star. NASA named a supernova after her in 2012—Supernova Mikulski—discovered, fittingly, by the Hubble Space Telescope on January 25, 2012. The supernova is 7.5 billion light-years away and the remnants of a star more than eight times as massive as our own Sun.

Senator MIKULSKI has so much political energy per square inch of height that she has reached her own orbit in space. Even though her realm includes the entire universe, Senator BARB always kept the needs of Marylanders close to her heart during her tenure. Whether it is fighting for funding to restore the Chesapeake Bay, supporting mass transit improvements in Baltimore, standing up for Federal employees and retirees who work and live in our State, or posting the world's best recipe for crabcakes on her Web site, I know I speak on behalf of each and every Marylander when I say how much we will miss her outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment to our State.

I am privileged to have worked with Senator BARB for 10 years in the Senate and for 20 years before that when I was in the House of Representatives. I am proud to have stood alongside her as two members of Team Maryland.

On a personal basis, I have a very close friend and my service in the Senate is much more productive, much more enjoyable, and much more rewarding because of Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI.

The United States Congress, the State of Maryland, the United States, and, indeed, the world are better places because of Senator MIKULSKI's public service. She may not be the tallest Senator, but she certainly leaves the biggest shoes to fill. I will miss her, but I will remain internally inspired by her shining example of public service at its best.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Madam President, for the 10 years I have been in the Senate, I have been privileged and have had the pleasure to serve alongside the Senator from California, BARBARA BOXER, on the Committee on Environment and Public Works and on the Committee on Foreign Relations. She is the ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee and previously chaired the committee, the first woman to do so.

Senator BOXER has spent the last 40 years in elective office—24 years here in the Senate, 10 years before in the U.S. House of Representatives, and 6 years on the Marin County Board of Supervisors. She was the board's first woman president. Earlier, she worked as a stockbroker while her husband Stewart, whom she met at Brooklyn College, attended law school. Senator BOXER has been a journalist and is the author of two books.

The first time Senator BOXER ran for the Sixth Congressional District seat, in 1982, her campaign slogan was "BARBARA BOXER gives a damn." Her constituents have agreed. She ran for reelection four times and never received less than 67 percent of the vote. In 2004, when she was running for a third term in the Senate, she received 6.96 million votes—the most votes any candidate has ever received in the history of the U.S. Senate.

Oscar Madison and Felix Unger may have been the original odd couple, but Senator BOXER and the Senator from Oklahoma, Senator INHOFE, have been the Senate's odd couple. An unabashed liberal and unabashed conservative working together to pass some of the most important legislation of the last quarter century—our periodic surface transportation bills and the Water Resources Development Act reauthorizations. These bills have put millions of Americans to work and made our economy more efficient.

Senator BOXER understands the importance of building, and she also un-

derstands the importance of preserving. She has helped to set aside more than 1 million acres of Federal land in California as wilderness. The omnibus public lands package, which became law in 2009, includes three Boxer bills to protect 57,000 acres in Big Sur and the Los Padres Forest and another 273,000 acres of California coast as wilderness. She wrote the Senate bill that elevated Pinnacles National Monument into America's 59th national park. She helped champion the creation of the Fort Ord National Monument and Cesar Chavez National Monument and was instrumental in expanding the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries. She also authored the California Missions Preservation Act to protect and restore California's 21 historic missions and led the effort in the Senate to create the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Senator BOXER's concern for the environment hasn't been just a parochial interest; no one has fought harder to defend and improve our Nation's landmark environmental laws, such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. She fought to remove arsenic from drinking water. The air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat are better because of Senator BOXER.

Senator BOXER's environmental bonafides are well known, but she has been a superbly effective legislator on so many other issues. She is a champion for women. In 1991, she led a group of women Members to the Judiciary Committee to demand that the committee, which was all-male and all-White at the time, take Anita Hill's charges seriously. Senator BOXER has defended women's reproductive health choices and privacy. She was involved in passing the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act and the Violence Against Women's Act. She is a senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee, where she chairs the first committee to focus on global women's issues.

In a business meeting earlier today, the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously passed a resolution honoring Senator BOXER's work on that committee and her work in the U.S. Senate. At that time, we noted that she was the ranking member on the subcommittee that provided help for women and girls globally, and her work in Afghanistan was most notable. She has made a difference around the world for young women.

Senator BOXER authored the first ever specific authorization for afterschool programs, a bipartisan bill that then-President George W. Bush signed into law in 2002. Today's afterschool programs are funded at \$1.15 billion, allowing them to serve 1.6 million children. She was the author of another bipartisan bill to accelerate America's contribution to combat global HIV-AIDS and tuberculosis.

Senator BOXER wrote two laws to enhance economic and security cooperation with Israel. In 2012, she worked with the Senator from Georgia, Mr. ISAKSON, on the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act, which extended loan guarantees to Israel, increased the U.S. military stockpile in Israel, and encouraged NATO-Israel cooperation. In 2014, she worked with the Senator from Missouri, Mr. BLUNT, on the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014, further strengthening economic and security cooperation between the two countries.

Senator BOXER has strong principles. She can be outspoken when the need arises, but she is also a consummate legislator, able to work across the aisle and across the Hill to get important things done. We are going to miss her skills and her leadership. I know we will continue to hear from her because she is not the retiring type, but she certainly has earned the right to spend more time with her husband Stewart, their children Doug and Nicole, and four grandchildren.

We wish her well, and we will miss her in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

FREE SPEECH RIGHTS

Mr. LEE. Madam President, over the weekend, syndicated columnist George Will wrote about a disturbing ruling in a French court. The court ruled that a video called "Dear Future Mom," produced by the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, must be banned from television. It cannot be viewed on television anywhere in France. What, you might ask, triggered this draconian act of censorship? Was it speech inciting violence? No. Was it a hate speech? No. Was it discrimination? In fact, it is the opposite, as it turns out. I will let Mr. Will tell the story as I read the words from his column.

The column is entitled "The 'right' to be spared from guilt."

The word "inappropriate" is increasingly used inappropriately. It is useful to describe departures from good manners and other social norms, such as wearing white after Labor Day and using the salad fork with the entree.

But the adjective has become a splatter of verbal fudge, a weasel word falsely suggesting measured seriousness. Its misty imprecision does not disguise, but advertises the user's moral obtuseness.

A French court has demonstrated how "inappropriate" can be an all-purpose device of intellectual evasion and moral cowardice. The court said it is inappropriate to do something that might disturb people who killed their unborn babies for reasons that were, shall we say, inappropriate.

Prenatal genetic testing enables pregnant women to be apprised of a variety of problems with their unborn babies, including Down syndrome. It is a congenital condition resulting from a chromosomal defect that causes varying degrees of mental disability

and some physical abnormalities, such as low muscle tone, small stature, flatness of the back of the head, and an upward slant to the eyes. Within living memory, Down syndrome people were called Mongoloids. Now they are included in the category called "special needs" people. What they most need is nothing special. It is for people to understand their aptitudes, and to therefore quit killing them in utero.

Down syndrome, although not common, is among the most common anomalies at 49.7 percent per 100,000 births. In approximately 90 percent of instances when prenatal genetic testing reveals Down syndrome, the baby is aborted. Cleft lips or palates, which occur in 72.6 percent per 100,000 births, also can be diagnosed in utero and sometimes are the reason a baby is aborted.

In 2014, in conjunction with World Down Syndrome Day (March 21), the Global Down Syndrome Foundation prepared a two-minute video titled "Dear Future Mom" to assuage the anxieties of pregnant women who have learned that they are carrying a Down syndrome baby.

More than 7 million people have seen the video online in which one such woman says, "I'm scared: What kind of life will my child have?" Down syndrome children from many nations tell the woman that her child will hug, speak, go to school, tell you he loves you and "can be happy, just like I am—and you'll be happy too."

The French state is not happy about this. The court has ruled that the video is—wait for it—"inappropriate" for French television. The court upheld the ruling in which the French Broadcasting Council had banned the video as a commercial.

The court said the video's depiction of happy Down syndrome children was "likely to disturb the conscience of women who had lawfully made different choices."

So, what happens on campuses does not stay on campuses. There, in many nations, sensitivity bureaucracies have been enforcing the relatively new entitlement to be shielded from what might disturb, even inappropriate jokes.

And now this rapidly metastasizing right has come to this:

A video that accurately communicates a truthful proposition—that Down syndrome people can be happy and give happiness—should be suppressed because some people might become ambivalent, or morally queasy about having chosen to extinguish such lives because . . .

This is why the video giving facts about Down syndrome people is so subversive of the flaccid consensus among those who say aborting a baby is of no moral significance than removing a tumor from a stomach. Pictures persuade.

Today's improved prenatal sonograms make graphic the fact that the moving fingers and beating heart are not mere "fetal material." They are a baby. Toy maker Fisher-Price, children's apparel manufacturer OshKosh, McDonald's and Target have featured Down syndrome children in ads that the French court would probably ban from television.

The court has said, in effect, that the lives of Down syndrome people—and by inescapable implication, the lives of many other disabled people—matter less than the serenity of people who have acted on one or more of three vicious principles:

That the lives of the disabled are not worth living. Or the lives of the disabled are of negligible value next to the desire of parents to have a child who has no special,

meaning inconvenient, needs. Or that government should suppress the voices of Down syndrome children in order to guarantee other people's right not to be disturbed by reminders that they have made lethal choices on the basis of one or both of the first two inappropriate principles.

That is the end of Mr. Will's column, which I just read in its entirety.

As Americans enter yet another era of change in our politics, it is my sincere hope, and indeed my prayer, that it can also be a season of change in our hearts. Here in the United States, the free speech rights of groups like the Global Down Syndrome Foundation to produce videos like "Dear Future Mom," which I highly recommend, are protected by the First Amendment, but the rights of actual Americans with Down syndrome, both born and unborn, can only be protected by their fellow citizens, not just in our laws but in our communities, our families, and our culture.

This time of year, we would all do well to remember the life-changing joy that can come from a single, unexpected, and special child, and also remember the courage of their mothers and fathers who chose life—the heroes who chose to make room at the inn.

I know I speak for all of my colleagues when I wish all of them a very merry Christmas.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MINERS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I rise to join my colleague who spoke earlier today, the Senator from Ohio, and here shortly, the Senator from Pennsylvania. I wish to also thank my friend, the Senator from West Virginia. Without his tireless efforts, this cause we are fighting for might not still have a chance, and I want to commend him for the countless hours and the amazing amount of work he has done on an issue we have been here time and again on; that is, begging this body to take meaningful action on the Miners Protection Act before the end of this year.

For over a year and a half, we have been coming to the floor to tell our colleagues that if we do nothing, retired coal miners and their families—for the most part we are talking about widows because most of the miners have passed away—will lose their health care at the end of this year. Well, the end of the year is upon us. It is literally days away, and we have taken every procedural step to ensure a vote on the Miners Protection Act.

Under the leadership of the Senator from West Virginia, we were asked to go through regular order. We were asked to have a hearing. Those of us on the Finance Committee—the Senator from Pennsylvania and I—were asked to have a committee markup. We had the committee markup. We reported the bill out with strong bipartisan support. Yet here we are, days away from the supposed end of the session, and we still have not had that vote. We have a long-term bipartisan solution, but instead we are being told the CR that might simply fund the government for a few months may have some kind of stop-gap effort—a stop-gap effort that would barely provide enough time, for those who were already threatened with losing their health care at the end of the year—barely have enough time to even reschedule a doctor's appointment.

These miners—many of them have faced devastating illnesses as a result of their time in the mines—will be given absolutely no certainty that they will receive the medical care they need if we simply were to extend this bill to the time of the CR. And what would happen after May 1? And that has nothing to say to the more than 100,000 miners across the country—thousands of them in my State of Virginia—who lose not only health care but also future pension benefits that are threatened by the approaching insolvency of the United Mine Workers 1974 pension fund.

Madam President, you may not know this—as a matter of fact, even my colleague from West Virginia didn't realize this—but today, December 6, is actually National Miners Day. Each year on December 6, we set aside a day to honor the mine workers of today and yesterday and reflect on their contributions to our Nation and rededicate ourselves to doing everything we can to protect their lives and health. Think about that. Today is actually National Miners Day. What better day to take the long awaited action to make sure that for those miners—and particularly, more often than not, for their widows—we honor the commitment that was made back in 1947 to make sure that their health care and pension benefits—at least their health care benefits—are guaranteed. The reality is that even with stronger safety standards, coal mining remains a dangerous and difficult profession. The truth is that nobody can really understand what it is like to be in a mine unless you have been underground. I have had that opportunity a number of times in my career. So many of the miners I worked with and supported when I was Governor and now as I am a Senator have seen all the changes that have come about by the changing nature of the industry, by globalization and by technology. Now many of those communities are on hard times. If we

produce one more hit to these communities—a hit whereby the Federal Government doesn't honor the commitment they made to those miners in terms of protecting the health care of the miners and their families—then, quite honestly, we are not doing our job.

We have come together and worked in a bipartisan fashion. We have a solution. We have a solution that wouldn't add to the debt or the deficit. I hope that those who are holding up this long-term solution—and it is not simply one side. We have complete support on this side of the aisle and from a number of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Again, we ask: Let's make sure these miners, their widows, and their families don't lose their health care come the end of this year. We can ensure that happens, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to make sure that promise becomes a reality.

With that, I yield the floor to my colleague from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MANCHIN. We are close. It is West Virginia.

I yield the floor to my dear friend and colleague, the Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, it was my understanding that I was going to follow the Senator from Connecticut on the VA bill, and I am happy to accommodate the Senator from West Virginia or the Senator from Pennsylvania or the Senator from Connecticut, whomever knows what order we should be in.

Mr. MANCHIN. Sir, that is so kind of you. If we could do that, since the Senator is not here, then we can be very brief on ours, if you don't mind.

Mr. ISAKSON. Will I yield to the Senator from West Virginia?

Mr. MANCHIN. Yes.

Mr. ISAKSON. And then would you yield to the Senator from Connecticut?

Mr. MANCHIN. Let's let you do yours now. Go ahead. The Senator from Connecticut can go ahead.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to recognize the Senator from Connecticut, the Senator from Georgia, and then the Senator from Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleagues who are very gracious for yielding to me, and I thank the Presiding Officer for recognizing me.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS
LEGISLATION

Mr. President, there is welcome news today, which is that the Senate has re-

ceived from the House H.R. 6416, a bipartisan comprehensive measure that keeps faith with our veterans and makes sure that we continue our progress toward leaving no veteran behind.

I want to emphasize at the very start that this measure is a down payment. It is far from a final or even fully acceptable solution to many of the problems that it addresses. It has more than 70 provisions. It is broad and comprehensive in scope and scale. More vets, many at risk and homeless, will receive the care and benefits they need and deserve. VA hospitals will have better management and more mental health caregivers and emergency room doctors. Families of veterans will be helped by extending critical education benefits to surviving members of those families. Work will finally begin to help descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances. But again, on those issues and so many more, we are only taking another step in what must be a journey toward helping our veterans with services that they need, deserve, and have earned.

One example that is long awaited is a landmark move that will commence research on descendants of veterans who have been exposed to toxic substances and address the painful residual wounds. It is all the more important today because we know the modern field of combat is ridden with nerve gas and other toxic and poisonous substances that all too often may endanger not only the brave men and women engaged on the battlefield but also their descendants. This measure expands the definition of homeless veterans to include individuals—perhaps women fleeing domestic violence—and it broadens the eligibility for critical homeless prevention programs. Many of those women fleeing brutality and violence deserve this kind of help.

Under this legislation, the Veterans Health Administration will be given the flexibility it needs in scheduling physician workloads to bring them in line with the common practice that prevails in most medical centers. It is past time that we adjust the 1950s schedules, practices, and policies to work regulations within the VA hospitals and the need of today's veterans.

One extraordinarily important provision relates to mental health, long a priority for me. We will make it easier to hire mental health counselors and access mental health treatment, significantly overhauling VA construction practices and authorize major medical construction projects in Reno, NV, and Long Beach, CA.

On the issue of accountability that is so critically important and needs so much work, a provision in this measure would limit the ability of the VA to place an employee who is under investigation for misconduct on paid administrative leave for more than 14 days.

This limitation would end the current practice of placing problematic employees on long periods of paid administrative leave and the provision would force the VA leaders to address issues when they arise to impose accountability.

I want to thank my colleague Senator ISAKSON for his leadership, his dedication, his attention to detail, and his flexibility in the best traditions of this body. He clearly has put veterans first by sharing their ideas. They have come to us from many of the veterans service organizations, and I want to acknowledge all of them as well because they have been such a positive force.

I want to thank my staff on the Veterans' Affairs Committee for their work on this bill and others that we passed, such as the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, which I did in partnership with Senator KAINE and Senator ISAKSON.

We need to do more to help veterans cope with opioid addiction, combat homelessness, protect veterans against identity theft, and make sure that our health care system for veterans continues to improve. It is still clearly a work in progress and still fails to meet the demands of access for thousands and tens of thousands of our veterans, even as it provides quality health care to many others.

Many of the current challenges faced by veterans are directly attributable to management failures, and that is why accountability needs to improve. I want to thank Senators BURR and TESTER for their bipartisan agreement to move forward on these challenges, and, hopefully, we will continue their work in the next session. Likewise, I have worked with Senator MORAN and Chairman ISAKSON on numerous accountability reforms in the Veterans First Act, which was before this Chamber, again, providing goals and measures that we must achieve in the next Congress.

Our bipartisan efforts to pass, hopefully within the next few days, H.R. 6416 is a crucial test of whether there is the necessary will and determination in this body to move ahead on the enormous challenges yet unmet and the enormous obligations that we have.

Just as critical as the health care challenges, so too are the chronic problems in providing veterans the benefits they have earned—benefits that are denied them in decisions they appeal. Today, over 450,000 veterans' appeals await a decision. That is why I introduced the Department of Veterans Affairs Appeals Modernization Act of 2016. The present veterans' appeals process is a travesty. It is a mockery of justice. It must be reformed. It must be given the resources to make it effective. Even when veterans earn benefits, there are too many examples of unequal application. I joined Senator MURRAY in her efforts to ensure that

all caregivers for severely wounded and disabled veterans, regardless of when the veterans have served, have access to caregiver support services. These caregivers are moms and dads, spouses, and children who provide care day after day after day at great expense and burden to them with very little support from the Nation that should be as grateful to them as to the veterans themselves.

Simply put, veterans deserve better, and they deserve more. Even when they have grievances, often they are denied a day in court. They are forced into arbitration agreements concerning their reemployment rights and workplace protections. That is why I introduced the Justice for Servicemembers Act in June—to clarify that servicemembers cannot be denied access to the courthouse and forced into arbitration and that servicemembers cannot be forced to sacrifice those rights as a condition of future or continued employment. It is about basic American justice. Who deserves that justice more than our veterans who fought for it and died for it and should never be denied it?

I want to thank again all of my colleagues who have worked with me over these past 2 years. We owe every veteran—regardless of the war or the conflict, regardless of the era—the basic guarantee that they will never be left behind, that this Nation will keep faith with them. This body owes them the obligation to summon the political will to cross partisan lines to make sure that we keep faith with them.

As I yield the floor today, I want to express my gratitude again to Chairman ISAKSON and say that I yield the floor today but none of us should ever yield in the fight to help our veterans.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Connecticut for his recognition. I want to take this moment on the floor to praise him for the contribution he has made to the committee over the last 2 years.

I want to tell you a story. RICHARD became ranking member in the same year and at the same time that I became chairman. We met, we made a commitment to one another that we were going to move forward as a united Veterans' Affairs Committee, address the problems of our veterans, and do it in a bipartisan fashion. To set the tone for that, we introduced the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, which RICHARD BLUMENTHAL introduced, and passed it unanimously in the committee and 99 to zero on the floor of the Senate in the first weeks of this Congress. We did so to set the table that whatever the problems are, we should never let our pettiness, our politics, and our partisanship stop us from helping a veteran. Because of RICHARD BLUMENTHAL on suicide pre-

vention and our commitment to make it bipartisan, we passed that unanimously early on in the session and since that time have addressed other issues as well.

The bill we discussed today, which is named in part for RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, is, as he said a minute ago, a down payment on the continuing debt we owe to our veterans who have served us well. On the first day in the committee when I took over as chairman, I said: You know, there are no Republican veterans and no Democratic veterans; there are only American veterans. They are the Americans who fought for our flag, fought for our Constitution, fought for our liberty, and fought for each of us.

I am proud to have fought with RICHARD for our veterans in the foxhole of the Senate.

There is much left to be done. With the passage of this act today, which is named after Senator BLUMENTHAL and Congressman JEFF MILLER, who is retiring from the House, we are making another down payment on what we owe our veterans.

There are other payments soon to come. I met earlier today with JOHN MCCAIN. We have made a commitment to make sure Veterans Choice is made permanent for our veterans and work to see that veterans have the best choice they can have, not to privatize the VA but to optimize the exposure of veterans to health care services wherever they need them.

Last night I met with JON TESTER, our colleague from Montana, who will replace Richard as the new ranking member of the committee. He is equally committed with us to see to it that we move beyond the current sunset of the Veterans Choice Program, to solve the Veterans Choice Program as well as the other problems that confront our veterans.

We are a team of Americans, not Republican Americans or Democratic Americans but Americans committed to see our veterans get what they were promised.

As Senator BLUMENTHAL said, this bill addresses homelessness, it addresses women's health care issues, it addresses the possible passage of exposure to toxic waste in a hereditary fashion to the surviving children and grandchildren of our veterans, an obligation we owe to see to it that if there is any transfer of the exposure of those toxic substances, the VA benefits that go to the veteran also can be passed down to the child who is a victim of heredity through no fault of their own.

We do a lot on the court and the appeals. As Senator BLUMENTHAL said, we have a backlog of 450,000 appeals. We are adding two judges in the appeals process. We need to do more to expedite the appeals process.

This year I was personally disappointed that as close as we got to

dealing with the administration and finding a solution, we still failed to say to our veterans: We are going to solve your problem of waiting in line.

Two weeks ago, I had the sad duty of breaking into tears in the living room of a home of a veteran in Marietta, GA. This is a veteran who has been trying for 3 years to get an appeal responded to and can't get it. He is a veteran whose life is about to end without ever getting an answer as to whether his appeal is justified. That is just not right.

We can find a way in this country to get the manpower and womanpower necessary, make the moral commitment that is imperative, and see that our veterans who have an appeal get an expeditious answer. Our veterans need to cooperate in that process by giving us all the backup data as fast as possible for every appeal they ask for. But it is not right for an appeal to last as long as the one that is before us in the U.S. Veterans Administration today, which is 25 years old. That's right, the oldest appeal in the Veterans Administration is 25 years old.

I am committed—and I make the commitment on the floor of the Senate today—to work with RICHARD, JON TESTER, the members of our committee, and everybody in this body to see to it that we say to the 450,000 veterans who are waiting on an appeal: We are going to get you an answer, and we are going to get it faster.

To those sons and daughters today who are signing up for the U.S. military, if you have a need for an appeal, we will see you get an expeditious answer. They deserve the very best. They deserve no less than a thorough answer in response to the appeal they have made.

The last 2 years, it has been a privilege and a pleasure for me for to work as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. It has been a pleasure to work with RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, and I commend him on the contributions he has made. It has been equally great to work with his staff, who have worked closely with us to see that we brought the best legislation possible to the floor of the Senate.

I particularly thank Tom Bowman, my chief of staff, who has made a lot of magic things happen during these last 2 years. But things have just begun in the Veterans' Committee of the Senate. We are going to work together to reach the dreams we all have to see to it that our veterans have seamless services and that we pay back to them what we owe them, equally what they have sacrificed and pledged for us—their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

I thank Senator BLUMENTHAL for his support and ask each of our Members in the Senate today to help us pass this downpayment on the promise and the debt we owe to the veterans of the United States of America.

I yield to the Senator from Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MINERS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak tonight about the Miners Protection Act.

First, I commend and salute the work that has been done in this Chamber. I especially highlight the Senators on the Democratic side who have been working. I know this will not cover everyone, but I thank Senator MANCHIN, the senior Senator from West Virginia, Senator BROWN of Ohio, Senator WARNER of Virginia, and others, including the Democratic leadership, for working on this. I know we have bipartisan support on this issue. I thank our Republican colleagues who have worked on this.

Unfortunately, just today we are told that in the negotiations, in the back-and-forth on the continuing resolution, which we should be voting on this week—we are told that Majority Leader MCCONNELL is not going to include the Miners Protection Act in the continuing resolution. That is very bad news, especially when we consider how we arrived at this point in terms of bipartisan support. I will get to that in a moment.

Instead, apparently the proposal—or I guess at this point it might be beyond a proposal because it might be in a draft of the continuing resolution. Be that as it may, what has been proposed is 4 months of health care for miners and their families instead of a lifetime guarantee. In a word, that is unacceptable. I will not dwell on that because I want to get to the rest of our arguments on why this is a proposal we cannot accept.

A long time ago, before the turn of the last century, Stephen Crane, known mostly for the “Red Badge of Courage,” a great novel, died at the age of 28 or 29. But prior to his death, in addition to all that he wrote in a great novel, he wrote for McClure’s magazine an essay about a coal mine near my hometown of Scranton in Lackawanna County. I come from a county that had of what they used to call hard coal, anthracite coal. It heated homes across the Nation and across the world, for not just years but generations.

Stephen Crane described how dangerous it was to work in a coal mine. He did it with such beauty and such skill, but there were so many horrible images. I, of course, will not read the entire essay, but at one place he described the coal mine as a place of “inscrutable darkness, a soundless place of tangible loneliness.”

Then he described all the ways a miner could die in the mines. That was in the 1890s. Of course, coal mining today is safer, but still very dangerous. But no matter what the danger level, no matter what the circumstances of today, we owe these miners their health care, their pensions, and we owe their families.

What they don’t want to hear, what we should not engage in, is the usual horse trading and kind of back-and-forth of Washington. They deserve the Miners Protection Act. It is not some theory, and it is not some idea; it is legislation that was introduced, debated, and then voted on by the Finance Committee, 18 to 8, a bipartisan vote in a place that sometimes cannot agree on the time of day, let alone something as substantive and as important as health care and pension benefits for those who earned them. This isn’t some extra thing we are giving, not some gift we are giving; they earned it, in many cases not just for years but for decades they earned this. OK. We owe them this. This country owes them this. This Chamber owes this to these miners.

It was a promise a long time ago, in the late 1940s. These miners kept their promise. They went to work every day, year after year and decade after decade, and their families depended upon that promise. Some of them served in wars, including Vietnam, as just one example. They served in Vietnam and then worked in the mines again and worked and worked. So they kept their promise. They kept their promise to their family, they kept their promise to their country, and they kept their promise to their company.

Yet here we are once again, and the only ones left out are the miners. The companies will figure out a way to do OK. The country will move forward, the Senate will be just fine, but once again we stand at the precipice or at the threshold of a new time period. People are wanting to get out of here for the holidays, yet coal miners are not asking us to do anything other than keep a promise.

We should keep our promise, and the Republican majority leader should keep that promise. It is outrageous that anyone would think it is appropriate to propose temporarily saving benefits when, in practice, these recipients would be notified almost simultaneously that they are both eligible for benefits—temporarily—and that their benefits will terminate. That is not just wrong; that is an insult. It is an insult to them and to their families.

Just imagine the stress of this. We cannot imagine it. I will answer my own question: We cannot imagine it. Probably no one in this building could imagine the stress on these individuals and their families. It is completely unnecessary.

I know we are limited on time tonight, but I wish to highlight portions

of letters that I have received. I know the Senator from West Virginia has received even more because of his great advocacy, his work, and the substantial impact that the mining industry has had on his great State and the work that is done by great miners to this day.

To protect people in case we haven’t received their permission, I will not use full names. This letter is from Waynesburg, PA, Southwestern Pennsylvania. I will limit it to a son talking about his mom. He said: “I am writing to you for my mother.” He is asking us to vote on this bill. In the letter he says his mom is a widow. “She now lives on a fixed income. Her life depends on this passing,” meaning, the bill passing. “She has cancer and will need surgery.”

Her life depends on this bill passing. OK. This isn’t just another bill about some far-off issue. That is a son writing to us from Waynesburg, PA, about his mom.

This is another letter from a son writing about both his parents, and I will provide just an excerpt. He writes that it would be “very comforting” to know his parents could “continue their current UMWA benefits until they can turn 65.” He is worried about the fact that two parents are going to turn 65 in 2017, and he wants to make sure that they are protected.

The third and last letter I will read an excerpt from is from a miner himself from Johnstown, PA. It is a town I know pretty well in Cambria County. There has been a lot of mining there over many years. He is talking about working the mines for 21 years. He said: “When you make a promise it should be kept.”

That is what a miner from Johnstown, who worked in the mines for 21 years, reminds us. It is just what I said: “A promise should be kept.” It continues, “This insurance has gotten me and my wife through many health concerns including breast cancer in which my wife still fights today.”

Then he talks about how this would dramatically change their access to doctors and medical care.

So we are not talking about some budget number here; we are talking about a family telling us the life of their mother depends upon it; another family member whose mom has breast cancer, her life—or at least her health care at this point—depends upon it. So this isn’t theory.

This legislation, which passed the Finance Committee, as I said, 18 to 8—all we have to do is have the majority leader stand up and say that we are going to attach this to the continuing resolution and have the House Speaker say the same because they have control. That is all they have to do—attach it to the continuing resolution—and we will finally have kept our promise.

Temporary relief is not only insufficient, it is an insult. It is not just insufficient, it is dead wrong.

No one here should be playing games with people's ability to pay for medication, pay for their oxygen. That shouldn't be the subject of games or horse trading.

We delivered in both parties. We delivered to Majority Leader McCONNELL everything he asked for—committee consideration, debate and vote in the committee—and now it has come to the floor of the U.S. Senate. It is time for all of us to keep our promise to coal miners and to make the Miners Protection Act permanent law and to keep our promise to those miners and their families.

I again commend and salute the Senator from West Virginia, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish to thank my dear friend from Pennsylvania, my neighbor State, for his commitment to the hard-working people who made this country what it is today.

There are a lot of people who don't know the history of how we are the superpower of the world, how we won two world wars, how we energized the whole industrial age, and how we built the middle class. It came because of the domestic energy that we basically extracted right here in America and it was done by mine workers. My grandfather came to this country as a young child in the early 1900s, and his family came here to find a better life. On both sides—I had one set of grandparents who came from Czechoslovakia and the other set came from Italy, and both sides ended up in the coal mines, as well as all of my uncles and cousins. We had these little coal camps all over the area where I grew up in Farmington, WV.

I was so proud of my heritage. I will never forget my Boy Scout leader was Pat Keener. He was a coal miner. When the coal mines automated in 1959, he had to go and find a job in Ohio in the auto industry. My Little League coach was a coal miner—everybody I knew. The hunting and fishing clubs were all coal miners who took all of us and showed us how to do things and enjoy the outdoors.

It is just an unbelievable network of people, and most all of them were military. Most all of them were veterans. They continued to serve their country when they left the mines and went to the military and came back to the mines.

So I rise with a heavy heart because I thought we had this fixed. I thought this was something we had done—and Senator CASEY laid it out so well. We have done everything we can. This day has been coming for quite some time. I warned everybody 2 years ago that this

finite time would come December 31 of this year. We started working in earnest quite a while ago. We were told to go through the regular order, as Senator CASEY said, to do the things we were supposed to do. It got its full purview, if you will, and it passed bipartisanly. Everyone is sympathetic. Everyone knows the hard work that is done and how dangerous it is.

My uncle on my mom's side got killed in the 1968 mine explosion in Farmington. I lost a lot of kids I went to school with, classmates, so it has been very near and dear to me.

As Governor of West Virginia, the Sago Mine disaster, I lost 12 miners there. We had the Logan Mine disaster, and I lost two people there, and then we had the UBB, and we lost 29 people. So I have been through it. I know how dangerous and tough this business is, but I know the country depends on them. We can't run without them.

I want to make sure everyone understands that this was never intended for the government or the taxpayers to pay. It never was. It wasn't set up that way. In 1946, John L. Lewis basically said we are going to go on strike. We are pulling everybody out. This was after World War II. The economy had been ramped up because it was 100 percent employment. We were producing and consuming because of the war effort. When that happened, the economy started heading down. He said: Oh, no. We have to keep this economy going. We can't let this tail off. They said: Listen, from the beginning of the 20th century until 1946—46 years—these miners have done back-breaking work. We have heard the old adage "I owe my soul to the company store." My grandfather told me that when he worked in the mines in the early 1920s, he had four children and was expecting his fifth child, and he said at the end of the day, he had no money. All the script was at the company store. He had to borrow everything there, and at the end of the month, he owed them for working, trying to make it. He had no health care. There was a doctor who helped them a little bit. They had no pension or retirement. They worked until they died, and that was the way it was.

In 1946, they said: Enough is enough. You shouldn't work this hard and so many people benefit. You helped build a country and you get nothing. So they said from that day forward—and that was the Krug amendment that was signed—and by the blessings of the U.S. President, Harry S. Truman. Then they said, from that day forward: All the coal that we mine, a percentage of that coal or the money on that percentage of coal, would go into a black lung fund and then it would go into the AML fund and then it would go into basically the miners health care and retirement—a portion of that.

So it wasn't coming from taxpayers; it was coming from the work they were

producing. That is where this came from.

So everything is going fine. Then, basically, Congress passed bankruptcy laws that allowed companies to go and declare bankruptcy and basically divest themselves of all of their responsibilities to the people who worked for them. This was done to them. We had the 74 plant and the 92 plant.

So we dealt with something that was not their making. These people negotiated contracts in good faith by bargaining, and they would give away salary or money that could have been in their pocket because they knew they were going to get guaranteed health care, and now here we stand basically saying: I am sorry. That is not going to happen. You are going to lose your pension and health care.

We have over 16,000 who will lose their health care benefits by the end of this year, less than 4 weeks away—16,000. Senator CASEY read some letters, and I am going to read some letters as well.

What we are doing here is we are holding up—and I know it affects everybody's hard work. This is something that is not easy for me. I have never done this. I have been here 6 years. I have never used this procedure, but I have never felt so committed and so beholden to people who have given so much. We are talking 60-, 70-, and 80-year-old women. Most of the husbands have died; they are still depending on this. The little clinics we have in the coal communities around West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania, those coal communities and coal camps and basically those little clinics will not survive. This has a ripple effect.

Now, I understand they are going to give us a 4-month extension—4 months. Let me tell my colleagues what these people are going through. They were told the 1st of October they will lose their benefits of health care; 16,000 were sent letters telling them they will lose them by the end of this year. Now, what we are about to do—which I believe is totally inhumane—we are about to now send them another letter, if passed the way it is going to be presented to us in the CR, that says: I am sorry, Mrs. Smith. I know we told you that you are going to lose your health care on December 1, but now we are going to tell you that in January we will send you another letter and tell you, you are going to lose it in April.

Now, you tell me if there is anything fair about that. You tell me how you face people who have given everything, and now we are just going to extend it for another 4 months with no certainty that anything will continue from there.

We are asking for a permanent fix. We have a pay-for for that permanent fix. It is the excess we have, surplus in the AML money, but everybody has other plans for that. Well, guess what.

The people who need it have plans also, to try to keep themselves alive. That is the plan they have, and that is what they are asking for.

I haven't ever used this tactic before, but I feel so compelled that I said we are going to do whatever we can to keep this promise. We have asked for the health care—this had a health care and pension provision. It has only the health care provision right now because we understand that we worked and we negotiated and we said this is something we felt we needed now because they had a finite time—at the end of this month. We will work on the pensions next year, too, to make sure they are going to be preserved.

That being said, I have gotten letters, the same as everybody else in coal country where we come from. Here is one: Dear Senator MANCHIN, without action I, along with thousands of other coal miners and widows of coal miners, will lose our health care on December 31. My husband died in 2012 of pancreatic cancer. He also had black lung. He loved his job even though it was so dangerous. He worked to ensure that we had good health benefits not just for me but for him and our family. I am asking Congress to please do the right thing and don't let us lose our health care benefits.

I have another letter. This is from Carol Turek. Carol writes: My husband worked in the mines with blockages in his brain until he had enough time. He worked even though he was that ill so that I would have insurance if something happened to him, knowing that he was very ill. He retired in 2009 and he passed away in 2011. He was a good worker. He stayed over and worked days off when needed and this is how they thank him in return. How is an older person supposed to live when they take away your retirement, take away your insurance, and never give you raises in Social Security? Everything raises and medical is outrageous. I guess when you are old, they expect you to crawl into a corner and die. Well, I pray every day that God gives me another day, and I am praying that they pass this health care provision so that others and myself can live just a little bit longer.

I have another one. She says: Dear Senator MANCHIN and all of you who are trying to help us. My husband Charles passed away on October 12 from cancer. Patriot Coal filed bankruptcy before Charles passed away. He told me that if they took his medical coverage, that he would not go to the doctor because he didn't want to leave me in debt if he didn't get medical coverage, so he didn't want to go to the doctor. My income was cut almost 75 percent when Charles passed away. Charles was promised these benefits for us both. He worked all of those years in coal dust to help supply this country with the energy that it needed. I pray

that our government will pass this bill to help the thousands that will be affected by not having health care. Some people will choose to buy medicine instead of food. This is so sad and coal miners worked in the mines and risked their lives for so long. Some people that have never worked can get help under the new health care law, so why not help the ones who have worked and paid for it? Why can't they get what they are supposed to get? I am proud to be an American and daughter, sister, wife, and mother of coal miners.

I have one here that explains it very well. She says: Dear Senator. I have dedicated my life to a career in nursing in Boone County, WV. My husband developed kidney disease and heart disease at an early age. He did not smoke, drink, nor do drugs. Doing his work he developed an autoimmune. He worked very sick for 30 years underground in the coal industry as an electrician in the mines and maintenance worker. He was an educated man but he loved working with his hands. After coming out of the U.S. Air Force when he worked in the World Communication Agency as a cryptographic specialist in the White House, he chose to go into the mines as a career because of the reliable future, retirement, and health benefits that it assured for his family. Rick worked hard every day and during the last 15 years that he worked he would sometimes travel over 45 minutes away and take chemotherapy treatments to treat his kidney disease while he was still working. He had heart disease as a result of those treatments. So many heart studies, the stent, and the bypass surgery followed along with the continued renal disease. All of those years he worked in the mines to provide electricity to so many who worked other jobs, were comfortable in their homes, sitting at their desks, not risking life or limb for the luxuries afforded them by the coal miners who had been promised health and retirement benefits if they took less pay, did not strike for same, and continued providing the valuable coal resources this country needed.

Continuing: After educating me to beyond my Master's level; putting a girl through medical school, and another daughter to Master's level in teacher education—we depleted many of our financial resources to do this, knowing we had "secure retirement and health" planned for through his union. During the last 1½ years of his life, after retirement, Rick died of leukemia that developed from many years of chemical treatments for his autoimmune kidney disease. Meanwhile, I worked 26 years as a school nurse plus additional years as a registered nurse, planning to utilize my husband's percentage of retirement and health benefits to secure my own retirement.

Continuing: When the courts of this land allowed bankrupting companies to

fold on their commitments to our miners, that has become a frightening and impossible situation for myself, a widow, and many more in my same situation. Devastation is the only word that can be used to describe the trickle down effect it will have on so many other businesses and health agencies, if this congressional action does not carry through to secure our union miners, retirees, and widows. You are not only destroying the 12,000 plus miners and widows involved, you are destroying huge infrastructures and businesses that depend upon the income and health benefits where these individuals are served. Please note, only the "union" miners contributed to these funds, not the nonunion miners who chose much higher wages opposed to the union wages and structure. Please consider this so we can go into Christmas knowing we have the security of the fund being stabilized. Some will have no way out; some individuals will literally not survive without the needed health care and pensions they worked and sacrificed their health to obtain. Thank you, Sue Peros, Wife of Bert Ricky Peros, South Charleston, WV.

We have many more.

The thing I want to emphasize is that these are real people. This is not just something we are fabricating. These are people who work every day. These are people still living, still contributing, still taking care of their families, still depending on health care. The ripple effect is unbelievable. To sit here and say we are going to pass a CR because we want to go home for Christmas or to say we have the comfort of being home and we have 16,000 miners, retired—we have their widows and families depending on health care, and they have been told they are going to lose it December 31, but we are in a hurry to leave. We just can't wait to leave. We have got to get out of here. Well, I am sorry, that is not the way we do it back home. That is not how we treat our friends and neighbors and especially not how we treat our miners.

I am asking all of you to work with us to make sure we get a permanent fix. That is all I am asking for. We have a way to do this with the surplus AML funds to pay for that, money that was made for mining the coal to be used for this. That is what we are asking for. That is what we promised them. That is what we owe them.

I thank all of my colleagues, each and every one, for being so considerate. We have bipartisan support.

I will say this: If this were a stand-alone bill on this floor, it would pass. This bill on this floor would pass, with Democrats and Republicans working together. It would also pass in the House. But that is not the case. We can't get a standalone bill. We have what we have. We are asking for the compassion of our leaders on both sides

of the aisle here to give us a clean, long-term fix for health care for the retired miners as promised.

Mr. President, I yield the floor to my dear friend from Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I thank Senator MANCHIN for driving this issue. It was done better with him than without him. I thank him for making a world of difference and Senator CASEY for his impassioned pleas and reading the letters from mine workers, retired mine workers, widows, retired mine workers in Western Pennsylvania and all over West Virginia and Southeast Ohio. We are all getting letters in our offices that are heartfelt and just make me wonder, why aren't we doing something?

I want to share a letter from a lady in Gallipolis, OH, a village. I was just there in the community of Rio Grande earlier this week. She wrote a letter to MITCH MCCONNELL, who is, frankly, the single person standing in the way of doing this.

Dear Leader Mitch McConnell:

Just to inform you as a member of UMWA that it is vitally important that we keep our insurance.

My Husband (Larry) worked 35 years as a miner. He has had bypass surgery this last Aug 8, 2016, also has black lung—COPD—chronic idiopathic gout, acute bronchitis . . .

And other things.

I have history of cardiomyopathy and congestive heart failure. . . . We need members of all Congress to consider all that the Coal Miners has contribution to the welfare of this country. Now we ask that they remember commitments made to the Coal Miners. Please keep that promise made to the Coal Miners.

Over and over: Please keep that promise made to the coal miners. But instead we hear all kinds of excuses. Again, one man—the majority leader of the Senate, the Republican Senator from Kentucky—one man standing in the way.

Senator MANCHIN just said that if this came to a vote right now on the Senate floor, it would easily have enough votes to pass, but one man has blocked this in the continuing resolution. He has kind of distributed—dropped a few crumbs to a few miners for a few weeks on health care but not pensions. But it is one man standing in the way.

When I look at the other Senators—the two Senators from Pennsylvania, one Democrat, one Republican; two Senators from West Virginia, one Democrat, one Republican; two Senators from Ohio, one Democrat, one Republican; two Senators from Virginia, both Democrats—all of them want to move on this, but we keep hearing excuses from one man, the majority leader of the Senate, from Kentucky.

We were told by the majority leader we need bipartisan support. Well, we

got it, the bill cosponsored by Republicans and Democrats. As Senator MANCHIN said, if it were brought up to a vote, we could pass it tonight.

Then we were told the bill needs to go through regular order, which is a way, in Washington-speak, of simply saying: Send it to a committee, examine it, debate it, bring a couple witnesses in, bring in experts, talk about it. We did that.

Senators WARNER and CASEY and I also, on the Finance Committee, helped get this bill through with a bipartisan vote of 18 to 8—not even close. Again, the Republican Senators from Pennsylvania and Ohio joined the Democratic Senators from those two States. Eighteen to eight.

Then we were told by the majority leader—the one man who is stopping this—find a pay-for. Find a way to pay for it. We did. The bill is fully offset. As Senator MANCHIN said, as Senator CASEY said, as a number have said, this does not cost taxpayers a dime. This isn't a bank bailout that cost real dollars. This isn't even the auto rescue, which was so important to my State. That cost real dollars, although the money was paid back. This won't cost taxpayers anything. The Congressional Budget Office estimates it would reduce the Federal deficit by \$67 million over 10 years because they would get the right kind of health care rather than having to rely on other kinds of government programs.

These miners—again, we keep saying this over and over. They have done everything we have asked them to do.

Almost seven decades ago, President Truman made this commitment. We have lived up to this commitment through Presidents of both parties, including this President, Barack Obama, but one person—again, one person—has stood in the way. The miners in my State can't afford to have this reduced to political gamesmanship. They are hard-working people. They spent their careers doing dignified work.

I remember when we spoke at the rally on a really hot day earlier this year. There were thousands of miners there. I remember Cecil Roberts, the president of the United Mine Workers, stood up and said: Put your hand up if you are a veteran.

Hundreds of hands went up.

He said: Put your hand up if your father or mother was a veteran.

Again, hundreds more hands went up.

These are people who served their country. And those who weren't off to war were producing the coal to produce the electricity to power the war machine, whether it was World War II or Korea or Vietnam or anything since.

Not taking up the mine workers protection act is violating the promise made by President Truman, violating the promise we all made. The bill should ride on the continuing resolution. The majority party has the ability to make that happen right now.

I was talking a moment ago quietly, privately, with Senator CASEY. We were talking about—unlike the spouses of insurance agents or realtors or teachers or Senators or bankers, mine workers are much more likely to die at a younger age. When you talk about so many, by any cross section, by any analysis of who is most in need of this kind of help, mine workers—there are a lot more mine worker widows than there are in other professions because of the danger of the work. There is a much greater likelihood of dying on the job, much greater likelihood of getting hurt on the job, much greater likelihood in later years of developing brown lung and developing various kinds of heart ailments and bronchial ailments because they worked in the mines. That makes it an even more fundamental moral question, that we do something about this.

How many mine workers are sick and need health care? How many need these pensions? How many mine workers die and their widows need this help? And we sit here doing nothing.

I just say again to Leader MCCONNELL: Get out of the way. Just let this come to an up-or-down—however you want to do this, however you want to schedule this, however you want to move this through the Senate, we should be doing it now. We shouldn't go home for our Christmas break until we take care of these miners. It is the right, moral thing to do. It is the right thing for our country. It is a promise we made, a pledge we made. We should honor it, starting this evening.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MONTENEGRO MEMBERSHIP IN NATO

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the resolution to allow Montenegro to become a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. I am here this afternoon to urge that the full Senate take up this issue and give a prompt vote to the accession before we bring the 114th Congress to a close.

A top priority of the historic NATO summit that happened in Warsaw in July was bolstering the alliance's resolve and capacity to deter Russian aggression against the Baltic States and the rest of NATO's eastern flank. Also at the Warsaw summit, NATO formally invited Montenegro to become its 29th member nation. All 28 member states must now ratify the accession protocol according to our own procedures. In

the United States, that means the Senate must ratify the protocol.

In the decades since the end of the Cold War, NATO has been a tremendous force for stability, democratization, and freedom in Europe. That is exactly why more countries, including those created by the breakup of Yugoslavia, are eager to join.

Montenegro has worked hard to prove its commitment to NATO, including by strengthening its democracy, making significant progress in fighting corruption, and improving its defense capabilities. Montenegro's membership in NATO would have significant impact, including completing the alliance's unbroken control of the Adriatic coast. It will serve to further anchor the Balkan region in the security framework of NATO.

It speaks volumes that Vladimir Putin has fiercely opposed Montenegro's accession to NATO. During Montenegro's general election in October, authorities arrested 20 people suspected of plotting, with support from Russia, to overthrow the Cabinet and assassinate Montenegro's Prime Minister, Milo Djukanovic. While NATO is purely a defensive alliance, Russia has warned Montenegro of retaliation if the country continues to pursue NATO membership. By quickly approving the resolution on accession, the Senate can demonstrate that it stands firmly with Montenegro and that we will not allow Putin to bully European states with impunity.

Montenegro's membership would reaffirm that NATO's door remains open to aspirant nations that share the values of all NATO members and stand ready to contribute to NATO operations. NATO must stand firm on the principle that the decision to seek membership in the alliance cannot be blocked by a third party.

NATO is the most ambitious and successful alliance in history. Across nearly seven decades, it has risen to every challenge: deterring the Soviet Union during the Cold War; integrating former Soviet bloc countries into a Europe whole and free; restoring peace in the Balkans after Yugoslavia's breakup; invoking article 5 in defense of the United States after September 11; and most recently, taking the fight to the Islamic State terrorist group in Syria and Iraq.

Montenegro is a small nation with big strategic importance. Its accession to NATO would strengthen the alliance. In turn, membership in NATO would bolster Montenegro's democracy and independence.

As I said, today the Foreign Relations Committee approved the resolution of accession. I hope the full Senate will bring the resolution to the floor for a prompt, favorable vote. The United States has always stood strong for freedom and democracy in Europe, and it is time to stand strong for freedom and democracy in Montenegro.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3084

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I am pleased to come to the floor tonight to talk about a bill, S. 3084, the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act. This is a piece of legislation that has taken several years of patience, perseverance, a lot of hard work, and testimony from both sides of the aisle.

I am pleased that Senator PETERS from Michigan and I have finally been able to come up with a product that has the strongest bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House. This is an effort that builds on the America COMPETES legislation. America COMPETES was first passed over a decade ago as an effort to make the United States more competitive economically, an effort to make sure we had the skills and our workers, the STEM force education to compete with nations around the world as global competition increases, as other nations try to gain an advantage over the United States in their manufacturing processes and in their innovation processes.

The America COMPETES legislation arose from a report that was put together by a group of individuals—very smart business leaders, scientists—known as the “Rising Above the Gathering Storm” report, the “RAGS” report, the idea being, how are we going to make sure the United States remains competitive and how do we make sure we have the education programs we need in this country to gear the next-generation workforce for a more competitive environment? So we put together this bill, a bipartisan bill, passing it out of the Commerce Committee for the first time in a decade—the America COMPETES legislation—to renew this policy effort.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 695, S. 3084. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; the Gardner substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, this legislation sounds pretty good. It is bipartisan, but I also know that in my State there are more than 1,000 retired mine work-

ers and their widows. We know that people who have worked in the mines for 30, 35, or 40 years are more likely to be sick and die younger. These 1,000-plus mine workers have been denied their pensions. Their pensions and health care have been threatened. Many of them are widows of mine workers. Yet, we have bipartisan support. It passed out of the Finance Committee 16 to 8, and Senator MCCONNELL—one person in this body—has blocked the mine workers pension and health care legislation for weeks and weeks and months and months.

I would be very happy to support and help Senator GARDNER in this legislation, the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act. I hope he will speak to the Republican leader and ask him to do the right thing to help these pensioners, widows, and mine workers whose pensions are threatened and whose health care is about to be cut off.

Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, again, I want to reiterate that this legislation, the America COMPETES bill, is a bipartisan product. We have spent countless hours working with people from around the country to come up with a bill that focuses on giving workers and employees the skills they need to succeed.

I understand the objection of the Senator from Ohio, which is based on the need to move forward with the legislation they are talking about, but it is my understanding that there is at least an effort to work on that legislation, which would provide some time to come up with a longer term solution providing an extension of the health care coverage they have been seeking for some time, although not the entire benefit package they were hoping would be extended under the legislation they were also talking about.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I can't exactly speak for my colleagues, but I know a number of Senators on this side of the aisle will be pleased to work with the Senator on this legislation, and I am hopeful we can do both in the days ahead.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Ohio.

One of the challenges we have, of course, is the calendar, as this reaches toward the end. Again, I am committed to stay here as long as we can to fix this and make this work. I do worry about our colleagues across the hallway and their calendar and making sure that they are finding the time to process this legislation, along with the legislation that the Senator from Ohio is concerned about.

Again, I think this is something that we ought to be able to move on as we address the concerns of the Senator from Ohio—and the concerns that I think, at least to some degree, will be addressed in the continuing resolution—and to continue to work on legislation that is truly bipartisan and beneficial from a standpoint of providing more resources for manufacturing partnerships, more resources for commercialization efforts, additional resources for STEM education, and having more underrepresented minority community members involved in STEM education fields. These are things I think we can work on, and this place has to have the ability to work together on efforts that the Senator from Ohio is so concerned about and also the efforts that we have through the America COMPETES legislation. I believe we can do both.

I understand the objection, and I appreciate the offer and willingness to work together. But I know when you have a House and a Senate that work under two different calendars, one of which is under our control—again, let's stay here until we get this done. There is one calendar that is out of our control, and I just hope we can move forward on this because all 50 States do benefit from the bipartisan work we have been able to put forward on the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I appreciate those words. I also recognize that we have not seen a continuing resolution yet. There is a rumor that it has 4 months of health care but it doesn't have any pension assistance, and there is nothing about fully funding their pension and continuing with their health care. They have already gotten a notice saying their health care will be terminated. If we continue this for 4 months, they will get another notice in January. That is all hearsay because we still have not seen the bill.

I know we are working on separate calendars. I understand that, and maybe the House is going to take the ball and go home, showing a real maturity in its leadership. The fact is we need to stay here. I don't know why we need to get out and go home for Christmas tomorrow or even Friday. I think we should stay here until we finish. We have been here until December 24 before. I am fine with that. I want to be home. I have a wife whom I love and kids and grandchildren, and I want to see them all, but I want to take care of these miners.

Show us a bill. Let's talk about it, negotiate this, and follow regular order. I believe we had an 18-to-8 vote on taking care of this health care for miners. We can honor what Senator GARDNER, the Senator from Colorado, wants to do. I am fine with doing that, but we are not going to do any of those

things until we take care of the miners. We have an obligation to them that President Truman had begun with a pledge. It is morally reprehensible to betray that commitment to 12,000 retired miners and their widows in the country.

I want to do all of that, and I know Senator GARDNER does too. It is up to my colleagues to push the majority leader, who, for whatever reason, is blocking this and is continuing to block our ability to do this. We should stay here until it is finished.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES R. CLAPPER, JR.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a true leader in every sense of the word. James R. Clapper, Jr., has had a defining impact on the U.S. Intelligence Community over his past half-century of service. As of today, he has served 2,190 days as the Director of National Intelligence, DNI, which makes him the longest serving DNI, surpassing the combined time of all the Directors who served before him. Director Clapper has dedicated his life to the field of intelligence, and his contributions to the Nation are significant.

Jim Clapper began his distinguished career as a rifleman in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, before becoming a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force in 1963. For 31 years, he served this Nation in various intelligence capacities, commanding signals intelligence operations both inside the United States and overseas. From 1991–1995, he served as the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, retiring with the rank of lieutenant general. After 6 years in the private sector, he took over the reins of the National Imagery and Mapping Agency in 2001 and spearheaded its transformation into today's National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

In 2007, President George W. Bush nominated General Clapper to serve as the Department of Defense's chief intelligence officer as the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, where he served in both the Bush and Obama administrations. President Obama nominated Jim Clapper to serve as the Director of National Intelligence in 2010, only the fourth person to serve in that position since its creation in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

As the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I was ini-

tially concerned that General Clapper's military background would be inappropriate to lead a mostly civilian intelligence enterprise. He made clear his intent to lead objectively and in the best interest of intelligence, and he did. He brought important stability to this position. During the next 6 years, he and I talked frequently and discussed many topics of critical importance to this Nation. We also discussed changes he sought to implement to improve the operations of the intelligence community. These changes had, and will continue to have, a positive and lasting impact on the intelligence community.

During his tenure as DNI, Director Clapper focused relentlessly on intelligence integration, with a definitive focus on mission. He made important changes in how the Office of the Director of National Intelligence operated, including creating National Intelligence Managers, who oversaw the integration efforts across the intelligence community for specific mission areas. He put in place a planning, programming, budgeting, and evaluation system that set priorities, managed resources, and evaluated effectiveness of each taxpayer dollar being spent. He also began the ambitious goal of creating a common information technology infrastructure, known as the Intelligence Community Information Technology Enterprise, IC ITE, that will dramatically serve to improve intelligence integration. In addition, Director Clapper brought increased transparency to the intelligence community so that the public can have greater confidence in our intelligence capabilities and their appropriate use. His accomplishments are too many to enumerate here, but suffice it to say that his positive legacy within the intelligence community will continue for years to come.

Part of Director Clapper's strength as the Director of National Intelligence has been his deep understanding of this Nation's intelligence activities and his extensive network of colleagues with whom he worked across the intelligence enterprise to help serve the users of intelligence, be they policymakers, warfighters, law enforcement, or national security officials. His commitment to advancing women and minorities in the field of intelligence is particularly noteworthy. He selected the first woman to lead a major intelligence agency, naming Betty Sapp to be Director of the National Reconnaissance Office. He also named Tricia Long to be Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and recruited Stephanie O'Sullivan to be Principal Deputy Director for National Intelligence as his partner in creating and instituting change in the intelligence community.

While Jim Clapper portrays a somewhat gruff exterior, his concern for his

employees and quiet sensitivities are well known to the countless staff who have received hand-written notes from him extolling exemplary work, congratulations on births and weddings, or heartfelt condolences for the loss of a loved one.

Today I want to congratulate him on his remarkable career and offer my gratitude for his decades of commitment and sacrifices to this Nation. I also thank his wife, Susan, who herself was an NSA employee, for her unflinching support over their 51-year marriage that allowed for the successes that Jim has achieved. The Nation owes this patriot a debt of gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I would like to honor the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, JWV, as they celebrate their 120th anniversary. Their service has not only benefited the Jewish and veterans communities, but this Nation as a whole.

Since 1896, the JWV has been the Nation's leading organization representing those of Jewish faith who have served overseas in the military. The Jewish community has served in every war and conflict that this great country has fought, beginning with the Revolutionary War, including the Civil War, and with our current military engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 1933, the JWV protested against Nazi Germany's policies towards Jews. JWV continued its legacy in advocacy in 1963, as the only veterans organization that joined Martin Luther King, Jr.'s March on Washington for civil rights.

The JWV continues its mission to preserve the Jewish American military legacy, protect veterans rights, and promote community with 250 posts across the Nation and in Israel. The JWV provides numerous contributions to society, including partnering with Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the USA; working with JROTC, ROTC, and other military college programs; providing disaster relief services to victims of natural disasters; and speaking out against anti-Semitism. The JWV has proven that Jews have been and continue to be a vital element in the preservation of American doctrine and the defense and maintenance of American security.

I congratulate and commend the JWV for their hard work and dedication in defending our free institutions, fighting against bigotry and prejudice, and honoring Jewish servicemembers, veterans and their families who have made great sacrifices for our country.

HONORING OFFICER COLLIN ROSE

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Officer Collin Rose

who tragically lost his life while serving as an officer for the Wayne State University Police Department in Detroit, MI.

Officer Rose was born on April 1, 1987, to parents Randy and Karen Rose in Pittsburgh, PA. Moving to Michigan, he attended Gull Lake High School in Richland, where he excelled in baseball and was a standout football player.

Always interested in law enforcement, Officer Rose continued his education at Ferris State University's Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Academy. He was an active member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, eventually becoming president of his chapter and modeling the fraternity's principles of virtue, diligence, and brotherly love. He graduated from Ferris State University in 2010 and continued to live by the principles set forth by Sigma Phi Epsilon as he embarked upon his law enforcement career.

After graduating from Ferris, Officer Rose interned for the Springfield Police Department. He served as a cadet at the New Baltimore Police Department and held his first position as a police officer for the Village of Richland, home of his high school alma mater.

Officer Rose began working for the Wayne State University Police Department in 2011, where he was dually sworn in as a Detroit police officer. As a 5-year veteran of the department, he patrolled Wayne State University's campus, as well as a greater portion of the downtown Detroit area. He was also working to complete his master's degree at Wayne State University.

His greatest passion was working with canines; he was a proud member of the Metro Detroit Schutzhund Club. He also served as the K9 unit trainer for the Wayne State University Police Department. Officer Rose and his trained canines were often called upon by other law enforcement agencies, such as the FBI, ATF, Secret Service, the Detroit police, and Detroit public schools, to assist in searches for suspects, narcotics, and explosives.

Officer Rose was very much engaged with the community he served. He would go to nearby schools to give demonstrations and speak to students. Since 2013, he has been a memorial bicyclist for the Police Unity Tour to raise funds and honor fallen officers.

The tragedy that took his life occurred on November 22, 2016, while Officer Rose was responding to reports of burglaries in the area. While investigating, he questioned a person on a bicycle who opened fire on Officer Rose, leaving him critically wounded. On November 23, 2016, Officer Rose succumbed to his injuries and passed away at Detroit Receiving Hospital. He is the first fallen officer of the Wayne State University Police Department.

Again, today I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to a cou-

rageous young man, who undauntedly served his community, as well as the State of Michigan. Officer Rose and his family are owed a debt of gratitude for his tremendous sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO BOB PROUD

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Clermont County commissioner Bob Proud on a distinguished career serving the residents of Clermont County and southern Ohio.

A seven-term Clermont County, OH, commissioner, Bob is a lifelong Clermont County resident. He grew up on a small farm in Batavia Township and graduated from Amelia High School. After Bob graduated from Cumberland College, he began his career in public service working for Clermont Senior Services.

Bob is a champion of the community and a committed public servant to Clermont County, serving in a number of capacities, from the construction of a new Clermont County animal shelter in 2002, the reclamation of the former Ford transmission plant on State Route 32, to his service for senior citizens as a Meals on Wheels volunteer and his work on the Coalition for a Drug-Free Clermont County. For the last 25 years, Bob has served as chairman of the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, OVRDC, a public regional planning commission that serves 12 southern Ohio counties. Bob has and continues to serve Clermont County with integrity and distinction.

Bob is also a champion for our troops, veterans, and their families. He has been nationally recognized for his work on behalf of our military, as he founded the "Whole In My Heart" military family support group. As he prepares to retire from this position, I commend him for his hard work and leadership to make southern Ohio a better place to live and work.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL" A. BAXTER

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize an Arkansan who has made a profound impact on the agriculture industry in my home State of Arkansas and the Nation.

William "Bill" A. Baxter earned his bachelor of science degree from the University of Arkansas in 1949. Since then, Bill has been a leader on agricultural issues and has served in various roles to advance the interests of the farming community.

As president of both Baxter Land Company and Camp Nine Company, Bill is the head of two family corporations that own 20,000 acres of land in southeast Arkansas and produce cotton, rice, soybeans, corn, wheat, grain,

sorghum, timber, and catfish. He was also an organizer and partner in several cotton production organizations and is a past president of the Agricultural Council of Arkansas. He has been a director and chairman of the Cotton Board, a member and delegate of the National Cotton Council, and a board member of Cotton Council International.

Baxter has also received the "Arkansas Cotton Achievement Award," which recognized his many accomplishments within the agricultural community. He was inducted into the Arkansas Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1999.

In addition to being a promoter and political voice for cotton and agriculture in Arkansas and the United States, over the course of his life, Baxter has been an avid outdoorsman and conservationist. Bill's advocacy on behalf of Arkansas agriculture has made a significant impact on an industry that plays a vitally important role in our State's economy and culture.

This December, Bill is being inducted into the Cotton Research and Promotion Hall of Fame. This program recognizes U.S. cotton industry leaders who have made substantial contributions to the cotton industry.

I congratulate Bill on receiving yet another award acknowledging his support for and contribution to agriculture in Arkansas and throughout the country. This is a well-deserved honor, and I appreciate Bill's years of dedication to this industry.●

TRIBUTE TO LARRY K. JAMES

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize University of Central Arkansas Police Chief Larry K. James for more than 40 years of service in law enforcement. Chief James began his service at the University of Central Arkansas in 1993 and is retiring in January 2017.

Prior to taking his position at the head of UCA's police department, James served as deputy chief of police at San Jose State University, as well director of public safety for the Portland Community College District. He has committed his career to strengthening public safety on college campuses by cultivating professional law enforcement practices that have made campus communities safer.

Chief James has also represented Arkansas and the law enforcement community incredibly well. He is past president of the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police, which represents more than 200 chief law enforcement executives throughout the State. Additionally, he has served as governmental affairs representative and consultant-evaluator with the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

James has implemented community-oriented policing programs by bringing

together various groups and organizations to resolve crime-related problems and enhance safety on the campuses he has been apart of. He is a proven and steadfast leader.

When a shooting occurred on the campus of UCA on October 26, 2008, James's work in preparing his department and the university community to respond to a threatening event was put to the test. Training to respond to this type of incident, directed by Chief James, resulted in the suspects being quickly apprehended before further loss of life could occur.

Chief Larry James has dedicated his entire career to public safety and protecting his community. I want to thank Chief James for his tireless dedication and wish him well in his retirement. I hope others in the law enforcement community will look to his record as an example of how rewarding and meaningful a career in public service can be.●

TRIBUTE TO MOREY AND SONDRAMYERS

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today it gives me great pleasure to congratulate Morey and Sondra Myers of Scranton, PA, on their 60th wedding anniversary. Morey and Sondra have dedicated their lives to each other and their family, inspiring all of us through six decades of devotion to one another and have established themselves as true citizens dedicated to philanthropy. I congratulate Morey and Sondra on this anniversary of their lives together. I have had the honor to know both of them for 40 years, and I have benefited greatly from their loyal friendship. Sondra and Morey have come to embody the spirit of public service, and I have no doubt that Pennsylvania and the Nation are better places due to their hard work, dedication, and passion.

Sondra and Morey served the people of Pennsylvania during my father's time as Governor of Pennsylvania. Sondra was cultural adviser to the Governor and Morey served as general counsel. The Commonwealth benefited greatly from their hard work and exemplary service.

Sondra Myers is currently a senior fellow for international, civic, and cultural projects at the University of Scranton and the director of the Schemel Forum. She has made it her life's work to bring about the integration of culture into public policy and to strengthen the culture of democracy worldwide. She has served as the chair of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and was the founding president of Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania and the State Arts Advocacy League of America. Her work ethic and passion were called upon in 1980 when President Jimmy

Carter appointed her to serve on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and again in 2011 when President Barack Obama appointed her to serve on the Commission on Presidential Scholars. A frequent contributor to the Scranton Times-Tribune's opinion page and the author and editor of several books, Sondra has worked hard to eloquently spread her message of the central role that citizens play in a successful democracy and the crucial role of higher education in preparing an engaged citizenry. Sondra has traveled throughout the world to present programs on democracy and civil society, and through her numerous published works, symposia, lectures, and personal relationships, she has spread her influence to a wide array of countries, cultures, and people.

Morey Myers is one of the most respected lawyers in Pennsylvania, with decades of legal experience which began with his graduation from the Yale University School of Law. His career continued to grow through his time as general counsel and remains active today as a partner in the Scranton law firm of Myers, Brier & Kelly LLP, which he helped to found. He has served as adviser and counsel to businesses and governments, leaving his indelible mark on countless lives and causes. His dedication to the rule of law and social justice were forged in the 1960s when, during the Civil Rights movement, he travelled to the South to provide legal services for those taking on the forces of segregation and racism. He has served as consultant to the President's Commission on Campus Unrest, Pennsylvania assistant attorney general, chief counsel to Pennsylvania's Milk Control Commission, and he currently serves as a fellow for the American Bar Association. He has remained active in academia as a visiting lecturer at Yale University, Rutgers University, the University of Scranton, Haverford College, Hamilton College, the University of Wyoming, Lafayette College, and Temple University.

This brief overview of the lives of Sondra and Morey Myers cannot fully encompass all they have accomplished, nor adequately describe the depth of their compassion, dedication, and love of community. As a Scrantonian who represents the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am proud to call them neighbors and friends. I would like to once again extend my congratulations to Sondra and Morey on 60 years of marriage and to commend them for their decades of public service. I wish them continued happiness in the years ahead.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2577. An act to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner officers, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 2:44 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 795. An act to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees.

S. 3395. An act to require limitations on prescribed burns.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2726. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

H.R. 5015. An act to restore amounts improperly withheld for tax purposes from severance payments to individuals who retired or separated from service in the Armed Forces for combat-related injuries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6415. An act to provide for the appointment of members of the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance to replace members whose terms expire during 2017, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6427. An act to improve the operation of United States capital markets, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con Res. 179. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make certain corrections in the enrollment of S. 2943.

The message also announced that the House passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1635. An act to authorize the Department of State for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 40. Concurrent resolution encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2997. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to commence proceedings related to the resiliency of critical telecommunications networks during times of emergency, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-392).

S. 3097. A bill to establish the SelectUSA program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-393).

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 2763, a bill to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis (Rept. No. 114-394).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 421. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes.

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1685. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to extend to private land use restrictions its rule relating to reasonable accommodation of amateur service communications.

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2283. A bill to ensure that small business providers of broadband Internet access service can devote resources to broadband deployment rather than compliance with cumbersome regulatory requirements.

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 2508. A bill to reduce sports-related concussions in youth, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

* Kamala Shirin Lakhdir, of Connecticut, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Malaysia.

Nominee: Kamala Shirin Lakhdir.

Post: Ambassador to Malaysia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: N/A.

3. Children and Spouses Names: N/A.

4. Parents: Ann Hallan Lakhdir (Mother): \$60.00, March 2015, Democratic National Committee (DNC); \$50.00, March 2015, Democratic Congressional Campaign; \$38.00, January 2015, Emily's List; \$40.00, January 2015, Democratic National Committee (DNC); \$40.00, March 2014, Democratic National Committee (DNC); \$38.00, January 2014, Emily's List; \$25.00, June 2013, Democratic National Committee (DNC); \$50.00, January 2013, Democratic Congressional Campaign; \$25.00, January 2012, Democratic Congressional Campaign.

5. Grandparents: Deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: David K. Lakhdir (Brother): \$1,000, March 2016, Katie McGinty for Senate; \$300, November 2015, Tim Kaine via Kaine for Virginia; \$1,600, November 2015, Common Ground PAC; \$1,000, October 2015, Charles Schumer via Friends of Schumer; \$2,000, October 2015, Kaine for Common Ground; \$1,037.95, October 2015, Democratic Hope Fund; \$1,037.95, October 2015, Democratic Hope Fund; \$1,037.95, October 2015, Democratic Hope Fund; \$2,700, June 2015, Hillary Clinton via Hillary for America; \$1,000, May 2015, Charles Schumer via Friends of Schumer; \$1,000, April 2015, Kamala Harris via Kamala Harris for Senate; \$1,000, July 2014, Mark Begich via Alaskans for Begich 2014; \$1,500, April 2014, Ready PAC; \$2,400, February 2014, Timothy Kaine via Kaine for Virginia; \$2,600, February 2014, Timothy Kaine via Kaine for Virginia; \$2,600, July 2013, Cory Booker via Cory Booker for Senate; \$1,750, October 2012, Democratic Party of Virginia; \$2,916.73, September 2012, Democratic Executive Committee of Florida; \$20,000, September 2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$2,500, September 2012, Elizabeth Warren via Elizabeth for MA INC; \$2,500, September 2012, Elizabeth Esty via Friends of Elizabeth Esty; \$1,361.15, September 2012, Colorado Democratic Party; \$2,333, September 2012, Democratic Party of Wisconsin; \$1,944.42, September 2012, Iowa Democratic Party; \$1,944.42, September 2012, Nevada State Democratic Party; \$583.31, September 2012, New Hampshire Democratic Party; \$2,500, September 2012, Obama/Biden via Obama for America; \$4,666.72, September 2012, Ohio Democratic Party; \$1,000, June 2012, Shelley Adler via Shelley Adler for Congress; \$1,000, June 2012, Elizabeth Esty via Friends of Elizabeth; \$2,500, March 2012, Esty Elizabeth Esty via Friends of Elizabeth Esty. Linda B. Lakhdir (Sister-in-law): \$2,700, June 2015, Hillary Clinton via Hillary for America; \$2,600, July 2013, Cory Booker via Cory Booker for Senate; \$500, April 2013, Americans for Responsible Solutions-PAC; \$5,000, January 2013, Off the Sidelines PAC; \$2,500, October 2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$2,500, October 2012, Obama/Biden via Obama for America; \$1,000, July 2012, Carolyn Maloney via Maloney for Congress;

\$1,000, June 2012, Timothy Kaine via Kaine for Virginia; \$2,000, February 2012, Democratic Party Committee Abroad; \$2,500, February 2012, Shelley Adler via Shelley Adler for Congress; \$2,500, February 2012, Shelley Adler via Shelley Adler for Congress; \$373, January 2012, Obama Victory Fund 2012;

7. Sisters and Spouses: N/A.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Marva Michelle Butler and ending with Adonis Mariano Matos de Mello, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 15, 2016.

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Stephen Donald Mull and ending with Victoria Jane Nuland, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 29, 2016.

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Robert L. Adams and ending with Laura Ann Griesmer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 29, 2016.

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Robert Stephen Beecroft and ending with Marie L. Yovanovitch, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 29, 2016.

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Tristan J. Allen and ending with William F. Zeman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 29, 2016.

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Anthony Abba and ending with Michael David Zgoda, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 29, 2016.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 3503. A bill to decrease the cost of hiring, and increase the take-home pay of, Puerto Rican workers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3504. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to implement Medicare payment policies designed to improve management of chronic disease, streamline care coordination, and improve quality outcomes

without adding to the deficit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3505. A bill to require analysis of various bankruptcy proposals in order to determine whether those proposals would reduce systemic risk and moral hazard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3506. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3507. A bill to extend the waiver of limitations with respect to excluding from gross income amounts received by wrongfully incarcerated individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. 3508. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from considering the social cost of carbon, the social cost of methane, the social cost of nitrous oxide, or the social cost of any other greenhouse gas in taking any action, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 3509. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the People's Republic of China in relation to activities in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. FLAKE:

S. 3510. A bill to facilitate the creation of American jobs by immigrant entrepreneurs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 631. A resolution celebrating the history of the Detroit River with the 15-year commemoration of the International Underground Railroad Memorial Monument, comprised of the Gateway to Freedom Monument in Detroit, Michigan, and the Tower of Freedom Monument in Windsor, Ontario, Canada; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 440

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 440, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness.

S. 1473

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1473, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention.

S. 1605

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1605, a bill to amend the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 to authorize concurrent compacts for purposes of regional economic integration and cross-border collaborations, and for other purposes.

S. 1831

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1831, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 1911

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1911, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to clarify that nonprofit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity may accept donated mortgage appraisals, and for other purposes.

S. 2268

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2268, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dust Off crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2628

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2628, a bill to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 2649

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2649, a bill to modify the treatment of the costs of health care furnished under section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of

2014 to veterans covered by health-plan contracts.

S. 2763

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2763, a bill to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.

S. 2858

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2858, a bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower prices for Medicare prescription drugs.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2957, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

S. 2989

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 2989, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 3065

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3065, a bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to invest in funding prevention and family services to help keep children safe and supported at home, to ensure that children in foster care are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like, and appropriate settings, and for other purposes.

S. 3142

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3142, a bill to require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues.

S. 3237

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3237, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 3256

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3256, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the goal of all children in school and learning as an objective of the United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes.

S. 3328

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3328, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform the rights and processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3353

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3353, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from carrying out seizures relating to a structuring transaction unless the property to be seized derived from an illegal source or the funds were structured for the purpose of concealing the violation of another criminal law or regulation, to require notice and a post-seizure hearing for such seizures, and for other purposes.

S. 3447

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Michigan

(Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3447, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring the helicopter pilots and crew members of the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 3486

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3486, a bill to amend chapter 31 of title 5, United States Code, to establish in statute the Presidential Innovation Fellows Program.

S.J. RES. 40

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 40, a joint resolution approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

S. RES. 615

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 615, a resolution expressing support for the designation of November 16, 2016, as "American Special Hockey Day".

AMENDMENT NO. 5130

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5130 intended to be proposed to H.R. 34, a bill to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3505. A bill to require analysis of various bankruptcy proposals in order to determine whether those proposals would reduce systemic risk and moral hazard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Bankruptcy Fairness Act, with the goals of bolstering financial stability in the United States and requiring the necessary analysis to assess the consequences of potential changes we might make in the future to the Bankruptcy Code.

One of the many lessons that we learned from the financial crisis is that reckless Wall Street behavior can have devastating consequences on middle

class Americans, too many of whom lost their jobs, their nest eggs, and their homes. Statistics bear this out. Nationally, over 750,000 jobs per month were lost between January and April 2009. In Rhode Island, over 1,800 jobs per month were lost during this same period. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped from an average of 13,677.89 in July 2007 to an average of 7,235.47 in March 2009, resulting in a 47.1 percent loss for many families who for years had set aside hard earned paychecks for emergencies, college tuitions, and retirements. Nationwide, there were nearly 7.5 million home foreclosures and short sales between July 2007 and November 2014. Unfortunately, the impacts remain to this day for some of our neighbors in Rhode Island and throughout the country as they continue to look for a decent paying job or are faced with gut-wrenching financial decisions like whether to turn the heat off or to skip feeding the family another day just to make ends meet.

That lesson of how many of our neighbors suffered due to the sins of the rich and powerful seems to be fading for some of my colleagues. Indeed, there appears to be an effort to further rig the system in favor of elites, this time through the Bankruptcy code. We must stop this effort cold in its tracks. Before we make changes to the Bankruptcy code, we should ensure that a thorough analysis is conducted so we have facts at hand. If anything, we should be seeking to restore fairness and balance to the Bankruptcy code, and this is what my legislation strives for.

Specifically, my bill directs the Financial Stability Oversight Council and the Office of Financial Research to do two things: work hand in hand with the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and the Executive Office for United States Trustees to ensure that bankruptcy judges have, on an ongoing basis, the necessary financial expertise to oversee the orderly resolution of a failed mega bank; and update the Administrative Office of the United States Courts' post-crisis review of the Bankruptcy Code's ability to resolve complex financial institutions and make recommendations to Congress regarding changes that would strengthen financial stability in the United States.

Second, my legislation permits the federal agencies that supervise large complex financial institutions to offer their advice and expertise to the bankruptcy court whenever a mega bank files for bankruptcy. This is important because these Federal agencies can assist the court in deciphering complex financial products while also providing the court with an independent assessment of how the court's decisions could affect financial stability in the United States.

Lastly, my legislation directs our financial regulators and experts to do

the necessary homework to justify proposed changes to the Bankruptcy Code. Some proposed changes have drawn praise, and others have drawn concern. For example, should Wall Street banks still be able to cut to the front of the line and take more than their fair share, while ordinary creditors, such as employees and customers, have to wait in the back of the line? When a jumbo bank gets in trouble, why should those customers who place the riskiest bets, such as large Wall Street hedge funds, get paid back in full while ordinary customers may not get paid back at all? Should shareholders be prevented from holding the mega bank's board of directors accountable for most actions, when a mega bank files for bankruptcy? Is it really possible for a trillion-dollar jumbo bank to be processed through bankruptcy safely in just 48 hours without hurting our economy? Is it fair that ordinary creditors, such as small businesses, who are owed their hard earned dollars, would be given virtually no notice of a mega bank's bankruptcy, making it nearly impossible for them to fight for their rights?

These are important, incredibly complex, questions that need thorough answers. Many of my colleagues have called for greater deliberation and analysis before enacting legislation. My legislation heeds this call. Let's take a moment to ensure that we've really done our homework so that we can all be confident that we're really accomplishing what we're aiming to do: making our financial system safer and restoring fairness and balance to the Bankruptcy Code, especially for hardworking ordinary Americans.

I thank Senator BROWN, Senator MERKLEY, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and Senator BLUMENTHAL for joining me in introducing the Bankruptcy Fairness Act. I also thank the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Americans for Financial Reform, Harvard Law School Professor Mark Roe, Delaware Law School Professor Bruce Grohsgal, and MIT Professor Simon Johnson for their support. I urge our colleagues to join us in pressing for action on this legislation.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3506. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, the Tax Technical Corrections Act of 2016 makes tax technical corrections and other corrections including clerical and deadwood-related corrections. The bill revises and updates S. 2775, the Technical Corrections Act of 2016, which was introduced on April 11, 2016. Ranking Member WYDEN and I have asked the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation to make available to the public a technical explanation of the bill, JCX-91-16. The technical ex-

planation expresses the Committee's understanding and legislative intent behind this important legislation. It is available on the Joint Committee's website at www.jct.gov.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3507. A bill to extend the waiver of limitations with respect to excluding from gross income amounts received by wrongfully incarcerated individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3507

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF WAIVER OF LIMITATIONS WITH RESPECT TO EXCLUDING FROM GROSS INCOME AMOUNTS RECEIVED BY WRONGFULLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 304(d) of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 is amended by striking “1-year” and inserting “2-year”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 304(d) of such Act is amended by striking “application of this Act” and inserting “application of this section”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in section 304 of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 631—CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF THE DETROIT RIVER WITH THE 15-YEAR COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MEMORIAL MONUMENT, COMPRISED OF THE GATEWAY TO FREEDOM MONUMENT IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN, AND THE TOWER OF FREEDOM MONUMENT IN WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 631

Whereas millions of Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and the American colonies from 1619 through 1865;

Whereas Africans forced into slavery were torn from their families and loved ones and stripped of their names and heritage;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves are an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas tens of thousands of people of African descent bravely and silently escaped their chains to follow the perilous Underground Railroad northward towards freedom in Canada;

Whereas the Detroit River played a central role for these passengers of the Underground Railroad on their way to freedom;

Whereas in October 2001, the City of Detroit, Michigan, joined with Windsor and Essex Counties in Ontario, Canada, to memorialize the courage of these freedom seekers with an international memorial to the Underground Railroad, comprised of the Tower of Freedom Monument in Windsor, Ontario, and the Gateway to Freedom Monument in Detroit, Michigan;

Whereas the deep roots that slaves, refugees, and immigrants who reached Canada from the United States created in Canadian society are a tribute to the determination of the descendants of those slaves, refugees, and immigrants to safeguard the history of the struggles and endurance of their forebears;

Whereas the observance of the 15-year commemoration of the International Underground Railroad Memorial Monument was celebrated during the month of October 2016;

Whereas the International Underground Railroad Memorial Monument represents a cooperative international partnership dedicated to education and research with the goal of promoting cross-border understanding, economic development, and cultural heritage tourism;

Whereas over the course of history, the United States has become a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world; and

Whereas the legacy of African-Americans and their fight for freedom is interwoven with the fabric of democracy and freedom in the United States; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the history of the Detroit River with a 15-year commemoration of the International Underground Railroad Memorial Monument, comprised of the Gateway to Freedom Monument in Detroit, Michigan, and the Tower of Freedom Monument in Windsor, Ontario, Canada; and

(2) supports the official recognition, by national and international entities, of the Detroit River as an area of historic importance to the history of the Underground Railroad and the fight for freedom in North America.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5138. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 34, to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5138. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 34, to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . NEGOTIATION OF LOWER COVERED PART D DRUG PRICES ON BEHALF OF MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES.

(a) NEGOTIATION BY SECRETARY.—Section 1860D–11 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–111) is amended by striking subsection (i) (relating to noninterference) and inserting the following:

“(1) NEGOTIATION OF LOWER DRUG PRICES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall negotiate with pharmaceutical manufacturers the prices (including discounts, rebates, and other price concessions) that may be charged to PDP sponsors and MA organizations for covered part D drugs for part D eligible individuals who are enrolled under a prescription drug plan or under an MA–PD plan.

“(2) NO CHANGE IN RULES FOR FORMULARIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to authorize the Secretary to establish or require a particular formulary.

“(B) CONSTRUCTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not be construed as affecting the Secretary’s authority to ensure appropriate and adequate access to covered part D drugs under prescription drug plans and under MA–PD plans, including compliance of such plans with formulary requirements under section 1860D–4(b)(3).

“(3) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as preventing the sponsor of a prescription drug plan, or an organization offering an MA–PD plan, from obtaining a discount or reduction of the price for a covered part D drug below the price negotiated under paragraph (1).”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall first apply to negotiations and prices for plan years beginning on January 1, 2017.

SEC. ____ . PRESCRIPTION DRUG IMPORTATION.

(a) IMPORTATION BY PHARMACISTS AND WHOLESALERS.—Section 804(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 384(b)) is amended by striking “The Secretary,” and inserting “The Secretary, not later than January 1, 2017.”

(b) IMPORTATION BY INDIVIDUALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 804 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 384) is amended—

(A) in subsection (f), by striking “within Canada”;

(B) in subsection (j)—

(i) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “from countries other than Canada” after “devices”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) in the heading, by striking “FROM CANADA” and inserting “FROM COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CANADA”; and

(II) in subparagraph (C), by striking “from Canada,”; and

(C) by striking subsection (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FROM CANADA.—Individuals may import from Canada any prescription drug that meets the requirements of subparagraphs (A) through (F) of subsection (j)(3).”

(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than January 1, 2017, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall promulgate regulations with respect to subsection (1) of section 804 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 384) (as amended by paragraph (1)(B)).

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on

the effective date of the final regulations promulgated in accordance with paragraph (2).

(c) FDASIA AMENDMENT.—Subsection (c) of section 708 of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (Public Law 112–144; 126 Stat. 1068) is amended by striking “The amendment made by” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “The amendment made by subsection (a) and the regulations promulgated under subsection (b) shall apply beginning on the effective date of the regulations promulgated under section 804(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 384(b)) and the amendments made by section 201(b) of the 21st Century Cures Act.”

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 6, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 6, 2016, at 2:30 p.m.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 6, 2016, at 2:30 p.m. in room SH–219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND TERRORISM

The Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 6, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Ensuring Independence: Are Additional Firewalls Needed to Protect Congressional Oversight Staff from Retaliatory Criminal Referrals?”

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Megan Howard, a fellow with Senator MURRAY’s HELP Committee staff, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 114th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Emma Peterson, be granted privileges of the floor for the balance of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the military fellow from our office, MAJ Andy Anderson, be given floor privileges for the consideration of H.R. 34.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, and in consultation with the chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Robin Cleveland of Virginia, for a term beginning January 1, 2017, and expiring December 31, 2018.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114-224, the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission: the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI of Alaska and the Honorable MARCO RUBIO of Florida.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, postcloture time with respect to the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 34 expire at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7; further, I ask that if cloture is invoked on the conference report to accompany S. 2943, that the postcloture time be counted as if cloture had been invoked at 1 a.m. on Wednesday, December 7.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 7; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed

expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 34 postcloture; finally, that the time from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. tomorrow be reserved for tributes to the President of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, Senators should expect votes in relation to the 21st Century Cures legislation as well as the conference report to accompany the National Defense Authorization Act beginning at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:54 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

RICHARD A. KENNEDY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 30, 2022. (REAPPOINTMENT)

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

REBECCA EMILY RAPP, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2019. VICE SHARON L. BROWNE, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

THOMAS J. MURPHY, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR BENEFITS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS. VICE ALLISON A. HICKEY, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. JEFFERY D. AEBISCHER
COL. NATHAN B. ALHOLINNA
COL. BORIS R. ARMSTRONG
COL. KIMBERLY A. BAUMANN
COL. ROBERT L. BELL
COL. DONALD R. BEVIS, JR.
COL. SHAWN N. BRATTON

COL. JEFFREY L. BUTLER
COL. MICHAEL E. CALLAHAN
COL. KEVIN J. CAMPBELL
COL. THOMAS S. CAUTHEN
COL. LAWRENCE L. CHRISTENSEN
COL. SHAWN A. CLOUTHIER
COL. GERALD K. COLMER, JR.
COL. DARWIN L. CRAIG
COL. ROBERT C. DESKO
COL. JOHN R. DIDONNA, JR.
COL. KEVIN M. DONOVAN
COL. BOBBI J. DOORENBOS
COL. DAVID M. DZIORKOWSKI
COL. RANDAL K. EFFERSON
COL. HOWARD L. EISSLER III
COL. SHAWN D. FORD
COL. JED J. FRENCH
COL. DANIEL E. GABRIELLI
COL. MARK P. GAUL
COL. RAINER G. GOMEZ
COL. PATRICK M. GUINEE
COL. PENNY C. HODGES-GOETZ
COL. JEREMY C. HORN
COL. CASSANDRA D. HOWARD
COL. PAUL D. JOHNSON
COL. EDWARD S. JONES
COL. GARY W. KIRK
COL. HEIDI L. KJOS
COL. MEAGHAN Q. LECLERC
COL. GREGOR J. LEIST
COL. SUZANNE B. LIPCAMAN
COL. PAUL S. LYMAN
COL. KEITH G. MACDONALD
COL. ROLF E. MAMMEN
COL. GERALD E. MCDONALD
COL. CHRISTOPHER G. MCGRAW
COL. MICHAEL R. MORGAN
COL. REBECCA L. O'CONNOR
COL. JEFFREY L. RYAN
COL. JON S. SAFSTROM
COL. WILLIAM L. SPARROW
COL. JAMES R. STEVENSON, JR.
COL. JEFFREY D. STOREY
COL. BRYAN J. TEFF
COL. EDWARD L. VAUGHAN IV
COL. APRIL D. VOGEL
COL. CHARLES M. WALKER
COL. CHRISTOPHER S. WALKER
COL. DAVID B. WALKER
COL. DAVID A. WEISHAAR
COL. WENDY B. WENKE
COL. GREGORY T. WHITE
COL. JEFFREY J. WIEGAND
COL. BRENT W. WRIGHT
COL. WILLIAM T. YATES
COL. DANIEL S. YENCHESKY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

CHRISTOPHER K. BERTHOLD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

SETH C. LYDEM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JAMES ROBINSON, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER C. OSTBY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

CALVIN E. FISH

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, December 6, 2016

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 6, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID G. VALADAO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HARDY MYERS: AN EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVANT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Oregon lost an extraordinary statesman last week with the passing of Hardy Myers. He was the epitome of a public servant.

Hardy's public service career had an auspicious beginning as president of the Portland City Planning Commission in 1973, where he guided the development and approval of the downtown plan that didn't just win awards, it set Portland on a path to a revitalized central city.

He was elected to the State legislature in 1974, where I was privileged to work with him for two sessions. We served on the revenue committee together, and I was on the judiciary committee which he chaired with remarkable precision and productivity. The same skill and civility that was his hallmark led to his being elected for two terms as speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives, providing steady, thoughtful leadership during

trying times for our State. Leaving the legislature, Hardy was not content to merely continue his legal practice at Stool Rives, where he was for over 30 years.

The list of his volunteer boards and commissions that he combined with his work and elected service is too extensive to mention in full. His contributions, usually in a leadership role, included criminal justice, sentencing guidelines, transportation, and government reform.

Hardy capped off his career by serving 12 years as Oregon's attorney general, with a side trip as elected member of Portland's metropolitan, popularly elected regional government. As attorney general, he held the office with distinction, serving with great skill and commanding the respect and admiration of the State's lawyers. He gained national recognition from his fellow attorneys general for distinguished leadership.

I had the pleasure to hear Hardy argue and win a case before the United States Supreme Court. During his tenure as attorney general, Oregon won all six cases it brought to our Nation's highest court. He was a superb legislator and legal scholar who successfully ran for office and won nine tough campaigns.

Hardy never really got the attention his work warranted due to his thoughtful, understated service and personality, but all who served and worked with him were profoundly impressed with his professionalism, intellect, temperament, and quality of service.

This, of course, was just the public side of Hardy. He was gracious, warm, funny, and deeply and passionately committed to his family, his church, and his community. I only wish that I could be there in person Wednesday morning as friends, family, and admirers gather at All Saints Church—a place that played a central role in the Myers family—to pay tribute to this remarkable man.

Our hearts and sympathy go out to Mary Ann; his three sons, Hardy III, Chris, and Jon; his 10 grandchildren; and his great grandchild. We thank them for sharing this remarkable citizen with all Oregonians.

Our State is better as a result of his extraordinary service as were all of us who were privileged to know him as friend.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF RUTH JOHNSON COLVIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous legacy of Ruth Johnson Colvin, a pioneer in the adult literacy movement from my district who is celebrating her 100th birthday this month.

Known as the mother of the adult literacy movement, Ruth Colvin has had an immeasurable impact on our community and our Nation.

In the 1960s, upon discovering that 11,000 people in her hometown of Syracuse, New York, could not read, Ruth Colvin launched Literacy Volunteers of America. That organization, now known as ProLiteracy, is still based in Syracuse, New York.

Ruth Colvin has dedicated her entire life to teaching, assisting, and empowering adult learners. She has taught thousands of people to read, trained literacy tutors in 26 countries, and developed and published effective programs to teach basic literacy and English as a second language.

Because of her efforts, hundreds of thousands of adults have learned to read both locally in central New York and around the globe. Over more than four decades, Ruth Colvin has published nine books, visited or worked in more than 60 countries, and received nine honorary doctorate degrees. She was awarded the President's Volunteer Action Award from President Ronald Reagan, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush, and was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Ruth Colvin has given so many the gift of literacy. On December 16 of this year, she will turn 100 years old.

Please join me in honoring her tremendous life's work and her legacy as we celebrate this milestone. Happy birthday, Ruth, and many, many more.

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about what is going on in Israel, and I think it has implications both for U.S. foreign policy, for domestic policy, and for our own ally, Israel.

As the rightwing government of Netanyahu consolidates power and becomes, in many ways, the one-party

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

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

rulers of Israel, a number of things are changing that should be of concern to all Americans. Specifically, the increasing dominance of the Likud Party as the one-party in Israel jeopardizes the two-state solution that I and many others in the United States and Israel feel is the only way to achieve long-term peace in the Middle East.

There is a retrenchment of hardline policies—aimed at solidifying alliances with smaller religious and hardline parties that keep Likud in power—that will make it harder for Israelis, their allies in America, and anyone who seeks a lasting peace to maintain progress towards a two-state solution.

Right now, the Knesset is considering legislation to legalize all Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory on the West Bank, even those constructed on private Palestinian land. Boom—400,000 people in settlements across the West Bank. It is all legal because they say it is legal, but it is not.

Israel is destroying Palestinian homes at a pace faster than we have ever seen before. It is provocative, sweeping, and designed to make it harder to ever reach an agreement with the Palestinians. The plan to restrict the Muslim call to prayer in Jerusalem has been revived, again to placate hardline religious constituents by Prime Minister Netanyahu. There is no statement clearer to people of the Islamic faith that they do not matter, that they do not belong, and that they will not be tolerated than to restrict the Muslim call to prayer in Jerusalem—a city that has heard the Muslim call to prayer for thousands of years.

I think what is going on in Israel with Prime Minister Netanyahu presents a cautionary tale about the consequences of following a political strongman. The strongman has to keep proving that he is a strongman over and over. Like other strongmen who ride fear into leadership—when you base your political career on injecting fear and resentment into political affairs, when you use the backdrop of terrorism and the understandable fear of the Israeli people as a political tool for years and decades—this is the kind of policy that results.

There is an appetite for constant escalation of what you are doing to stand up to the enemy you have constructed—an enemy based on but not the same as the enemies that fight against the State of Israel, tolerance, and peace in real life. Strongmen construct a foil—in this case based on the Palestinians, but sometimes exaggerated beyond recognition—and they need to feed the thirst for more and more action to attack the caricature that they have constructed.

But strongman politics in Israel has the impact of making a long-lasting solution that brings peace to the Middle East even harder to achieve. The fun-

damental rights of Palestinians to have their own state—a state alongside the Israeli state where they have the same basic rights and dignity to govern themselves and raise their families in peace—that is what most Israelis, Palestinians, and people around the world have been fighting for.

If we are ever going to achieve the permanent peace that allows Israel to exist without fear and Palestine to exist without occupation then we must continue to fight for the two-state solution.

When I was just a freshman, almost 25 years ago, we celebrated the accomplishments of Rabin, Arafat, and President Clinton to build towards a peace that recognizes the rights and dignity of the Israelis and the rights and dignity of the Palestinian people. For decades, the United States—under different leaders in different parties from Carter to Reagan to Bush to Obama—has recognized that peace will only come with mutual respect and tolerance. That is what we have based our foreign policy on and should continue to base our foreign policy on. Having talked with average people and with leaders on both sides of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, I am convinced that is the only way forward toward peace.

America has been a catalyst—a constructive influence from outside, a nation based on religious freedom and democracy that has served as a model for both Palestinians and Israelis—and we have worked towards helping parties continue to move in the direction of two separate but mutually respectful countries, two nations that are not at war with each other or subservient to one another.

I fear, Mr. Speaker, that Israel herself is moving away from the two-state solution as a goal and that we, as her closest ally, must remind her, and ourselves, of what is at stake if we lose sight of this important goal.

PROTECTING PENSIONS OF COAL MINERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge swift passage of H.R. 2403, the Coal Healthcare and Pensions Protection Act. This important legislation protects the pensions of coal workers who have spent their lives producing affordable, reliable energy for our country.

These miners were promised a pension when they signed up for the job, and, ever since the Truman administration, Congress has made sure that the commitment is honored. It is our duty to continue to uphold this promise made to our miners.

Without help from Congress this year, the United Mine Workers of

America pension fund will be insolvent in 2017, resulting in massive cuts to benefits for 22,000 West Virginia mine workers and their families. The Coal Healthcare and Pensions Protection Act provides relief funding for these pensions without increasing spending of taxpayer dollars. Our country's hardworking coal miners are responsible for fueling and shaping our economy over the last 250 years. Retired coal miners and their widows deserve our respect, appreciation, and, above all else, the benefits that they were promised.

With 47 Republican and 40 Democrat cosponsors in the House, this bill is strongly supported by Members on both sides of the aisle. Again, I urge our leadership to bring H.R. 2403, the Coal Healthcare and Pensions Protection Act, to a vote immediately.

CONGRATULATING DR. TOM PRICE

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my colleague and Budget Committee chairman, Dr. TOM PRICE, on President-elect Trump's recent appointment as the new Secretary for the Department of Health and Human Services. Chairman PRICE has become a friend to me over the past 2 years and will continue to do great things in his new job in the Trump administration.

When I was first elected to serve West Virginia's Second Congressional District in 2014, I promised my constituents that I would fight to repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as ObamaCare. My first month in office on February 3, 2015, House Republicans successfully voted to repeal ObamaCare. In December of that same year, the Senate passed our legislation to repeal ObamaCare. President Obama vetoed it at that time. But we will have a new President next year.

Healthcare costs are on the rise because of ObamaCare. ObamaCare adds burdensome taxes, regulations, and mandates onto American consumers. The limited choice in health insurance plans is harming families and their budgets.

ObamaCare has killed 2.9 million jobs a year, has continued to raise health insurance costs, and has also placed the Federal Government in between patients and their doctors. Who are these 2.9 million Americans? They are disproportionately low-wage workers earning well below the average annual wage for all workers, which is less than \$46,000 a year, according to the Congressional Budget Office. The people who are hurt the most by ObamaCare are the ones that ObamaCare is supposed to help the most.

Research done by the National Center for Policy Analysis found that the average monthly premium costs in every demographic rose substantially after ObamaCare was implemented.

□ 1015

West Virginians who get their health insurance through employer-sponsored programs are paying some of the highest rates in the United States. In West Virginia, premiums through employer-sponsored health insurance programs have climbed at a steady rate of about 6.4 percent annually since 2010, and it keeps getting worse. The 33,421 West Virginians who are currently enrolled in the Affordable Care Act do not need to see their rates hiked up again.

As a Republican in Congress, I want to ensure that everyone has access to health care, but it will be quality health care that people choose for themselves. That is why House Republicans have come up with a plan we call A Better Way. Our plan recognizes that people deserve more patient-centered care, not more bureaucracy. That means more choices, not more mandates.

A Better Way plan offers many improvements that will help West Virginia's Second Congressional District, including commonsense reforms to allow health insurance sales across State lines. You should have the freedom and flexibility to choose the care that is best for you. Insurers should compete for your business and treat you fair. You and your family should have access to the best lifesaving treatment in the world.

Under Chairman TOM PRICE's leadership, I believe that our healthcare system in America will thrive. Again, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my friend, Dr. TOM PRICE.

HONORING VIRGINIA STRATTON

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to honor one of my longtime district staffers, Virginia Stratton, who retired recently.

Virginia had been with my office, serving the people of Iowa, since I first came into office in January 2007. Since then, she has handled more than 3,300 cases for Iowans having issues with the Department of Defense, the Department of Labor, and the Postal Service; but, by far, the largest portion of her cases involved the Veterans Administration.

As I travel across my district, all 24 counties, meeting with veterans, it never fails that one of the first things I hear is about how hard Virginia fought on their behalf or on behalf of their loved ones to cut through the red-tape at the VA.

Whether it was securing medals for veterans who served but didn't receive their proper recognition, or helping expedite a disability appeal, there was nothing—and I say nothing—Virginia would not do to ensure our veterans received the assistance that they needed.

I always knew that if Virginia was on the case, there would be no stone left unturned and no question left unasked. She worked every day for the past 10 years to ensure our veterans received the care they earned and rightly deserved.

As a military parent myself, I believe we have no greater responsibility as a nation than to ensure our veterans are treated with the same dignity and honor with which they served our country. There is no one—no one, folks—who epitomizes that sentiment more than Virginia. She has been one of the greatest champions for veterans, and there was no issue that was too small or too great for her to take on.

In the nearly 10 years that Virginia worked for my office, she literally personally affected the lives of thousands of Iowans. Virginia's retirement is a loss for the people of Iowa, but the efforts and hours she invested in working on behalf of our veterans will never be forgotten. On behalf of the people of Iowa and all of the veterans of America, my wife Terry and I wish Virginia the best in the next chapter of her life.

TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN HAL ROGERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear colleague, mentor, and friend as he is concluding his 6 years as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

I have had the honor and pleasure of serving with Chairman HAL ROGERS for the last 2 years. Since day one of his chairmanship, he has been the driving force to revive the appropriations process. Anyone who knows Chairman ROGERS, knows his top priority is regular order.

During his chairmanship, he has managed 140 appropriations bills on the floor, and managed more than 600 important oversight and budget hearings and markups. He has worked every day to ensure that the taxpayers' dollars are being used wisely and responsibly.

He has stopped wasteful spending, saving the country billions of dollars. He has also invested in higher priority programs, those that help keep our Nation on the right track, keep us safe, keep us secure, fight against drug abuse, and promote critical rural infrastructure needs. He has never lost sight of his home in Kentucky and the people he represents in Congress. Their priorities are his priorities.

I know this well because my district is right next door. We are only separated by the Tug Fork River, a small, narrow body of water that goes through the hills of Appalachia. Chairman ROGERS and I share the good peo-

ple of Appalachia. We know the greatness of our people. We know how hard-working they are. It is the coal miners, it is the farmers, it is the factory workers, it is the teachers, it is the backbone of America we both have the honor of representing.

I have been able to see firsthand Chairman ROGERS' commitment to the people of Kentucky, his fight for the coal miners and retirees, his fight of the opioid crisis that is devastating communities throughout our region and this country, his support for education, and his leadership in creating the SOAR program, shaping our Appalachian region.

Chairman ROGERS has left an indelible mark as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. We thank him for his leadership in that role over these past 6 years. We have a better Appropriations Committee because of it and a better institution here in the House of Representatives, thanks to the leadership of Chairman HAL ROGERS.

I ask my fellow Members to join me in thanking him for his service as chairman. I am honored to look forward to working with him in his continuing capacity here in the House of Representatives.

Thank you, Chairman ROGERS.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF LEONARD ROTHSTEIN

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

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of my constituent Leonard Rothstein, who passed away on September 16, 2016.

Mr. Rothstein bravely served in the Korean war as a private first class, contributing to the war effort as a radioman. Mr. Rothstein was honorably discharged from the Army on October 23, 1953. He received a National Defense Service Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Korean Service Medal, with two Bronze Stars for his service. Mr. Rothstein took great pride in his service to our country and requested to be buried with his military medals. He received a military funeral at the Sinai Chapel in Fresh Meadows, Queens.

After being discharged from the war, Mr. Rothstein brought his work ethic to Local Union 3 IBEW and the New York Hotel Trades Council as an electrician. Anyone would be proud to know someone as dedicated to their community as Leonard.

Mr. Rothstein has been described as an unassuming, kindhearted person who rarely had a bad thing to say about anyone. He traveled with his wife, Gus, to every State in the Nation by bus, train, or plane since they didn't drive. Mr. Rothstein was beloved by his family, and is survived by his wife, his

sister, his two sons, his five grandchildren, and great grandson.

I am happy to stand here today as Mr. Rothstein's representative to express my gratitude for his bravery in service and his hard work as a union member. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing one of our Nation's veterans, and offering condolences to his family during this time.

CONGRATULATING GENERAL JIM MATTIS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that President-elect Donald Trump has made another excellent appointment in selecting General Jim Mattis to serve as Secretary of Defense to rebuild our military.

A recent article in The Wall Street Journal notes, "General Mattis has seen the cost of wars enough to want to deter them, but he also knows that if you fight them you need to do so with the force and will to win."

President-elect Trump stated that General Jim Mattis is "the closest thing to General George Patton that we have."

The recent service of General Mattis in the Middle East makes him uniquely qualified to address threats to servicemembers overseas and American families here at home. With General Mattis serving as Secretary of Defense, our military will continue to be the best fighting force in the world, our men and women in uniform will be supported, and our military families will be protected. As a 31-year veteran and the grateful dad of four sons who have served overseas in the global war on terrorism, I am confident that our goal of peace through strength will be achieved under the leadership of General Jim Mattis.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS STILL BARACK OBAMA

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I just got a call from a reporter about a tweet, which the President-elect has made, canceling the contract with The Boeing Company and the Federal Government to build Air Force One. Now, the last time I looked, I think that the President of the United States is still Barack Obama. He will be President of this country until the 20th of January.

What we have right now is a President-elect running around the world

with his tweet bar making statements that are disruptive and distractive for the American public. He calls Taiwan and raises questions about our relationship with China as though he were the Secretary of State, but he has not even found anyone to do that job. He should be in the transition office figuring out how he makes a smooth transition of the American Government from the efficiently run government of Mr. Obama to his administration, not making the decisions himself and going out and announcing them through his tweet at 3 a.m. because he can't sleep.

This kind of operation is the operation of somebody who is used to running a big business. When he is president of Trump casino or Trump Tower, he can act like that. He can come in and say: Do this, do that, do this, do that.

I don't know if he understands, Mr. Speaker, that you and the House of Representatives are the ones who made the contract and appropriated the money for that plane. That is the democratic process of this country. It is not done by the President getting up in the morning and tweeting out 147 characters and ending a contract with hundreds of jobs at risk of people in my district, good hardworking Americans.

He will go down to Indianapolis, Indiana, and walk around and say: I have saved 1,000 jobs.

We still haven't seen the contract. We don't know what the deal is, how long the jobs have to last, or how many of them have to last. We don't know anything. We just know that a tweet went out that: We have. And then he went and did a big rally down there and did a victory lap, but there is no piece of paper.

Mr. Speaker, if I were to make a recommendation to the people in Indianapolis, it would be: Talk to the Indians, to the Native Americans, about the treaties that have been made with the United States of America and how good they are and how hard you have to fight to make those treaties work.

□ 1030

He made a treaty with Carrier, which will get \$7 million from Indiana. Vice President Pence will give \$7 million from Indiana to Carrier, and then maybe there will be some kind of—no one knows what is going on, but the President-elect should spend his time in the transition office and decide who is going to hold the jobs that will make this country run. This is not going to be run by one man in the White House who makes pronouncements and thinks that all the world is going to throw itself down on the ground and worship him.

We have a democratic process, and the burden on the House of Representatives, as I leave it—I mean, in some ways, I am sorry to be leaving because I think it is going to be a very tough

session—is to help the new President understand how a democracy actually works. It is not a big business; it is a business of the people. The 435 Members of this House take the money that comes in in taxes, and they appropriate it out as they see fit for the country. The President doesn't do that. When the Congress is done, it passes the bill to him, and then he spends the money as the Congress has decided it should be spent.

If you look at the Constitution—I am sure the President-elect has looked at the Constitution—the first Article is the Congress. We are the preeminent body in this government because we are elected by the people, and we have the power.

Stop tweeting, Mr. President-elect.

21ST CENTURY CURES

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

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the 21st Century Cures Act, a bill that recently passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support.

I am proud that the package includes provisions for robust medical research, funding to combat opioid abuse, and support for individuals who struggle with mental illness and who are trapped in the criminal justice system. Reforming and modernizing our Nation's mental health system has been one of my top priorities. It is imperative that we help those who are struggling with mental illness get the help they need. Many tragedies can be prevented if the proper support structure is in place.

As part of the reform efforts, I was proud that legislation authored by Representative TIM MURPHY, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, which I strongly supported, was incorporated into 21st Century Cures. I had the opportunity to host a roundtable earlier this year in south Florida, with my friend from Pennsylvania and local stakeholders, to discuss mental health and the benefits of this important legislation.

The passage of 21st Century Cures also represents an important step toward the discovery and development of new treatments for many diseases, like cancer and Alzheimer's, in addition to empowering individuals, families, and employers across the country with more healthcare options.

I was proud to have supported this pioneering legislation, and I look forward to its swiftly being signed into law.

WIIN AND CEPP

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, or the WIIN Act. Included in this package, which is expected to be

considered in the House later in the week, is the Central Everglades Planning Project, which is of critical importance to the ecological health of the State of Florida. This project will significantly increase freshwater flows from Lake Okeechobee through the Everglades and down into Florida Bay, providing critical relief to our water reservoirs and to a stressed ecosystem in the bay.

The health of Florida Bay is a moral and an environmental cause. It is also vital to south Florida's multibillion-dollar tourism industry, making Everglades restoration an important local issue as well as a major national priority. Long-term restoration will be achieved primarily by constructing projects for the conveyance, treatment, and storage of water and, ultimately, the restoration of freshwater flow from north to south. CEPP contributes to all of these goals.

I thank Chairman SHUSTER for working with me to include \$1.9 billion for the Everglades Restoration Program in the WIIN Act. I am proud that, through bipartisan efforts, we were able to include this much-needed funding for Everglades restoration, and I look forward to getting this bill signed into law.

FY 2017 NDAA AND SPOC ACT

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the House's passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2017.

This bipartisan legislation strongly supports our servicemembers by providing a much-deserved 2.1 percent pay raise and improves access to health care for them and for their families. It prohibits the administration from transferring our naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the Castro dictatorship. It also protects victims who report sexual assault from personal and professional retaliation by making "retaliation" a separate offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

In addition, I am grateful that my bill, the Service Provider Opportunity Clarification Act, was included in the final package. Any large business that receives a contract for more than \$650,000 must show the Federal Government how it will use small businesses as subcontractors.

Subcontracting is an important entry point for new Federal contractors. Without a robust and wide base of subcontractors, we will have fewer prime contractors tomorrow—meaning fewer suppliers, manufacturers, and innovators—and this will all result in increased costs to American taxpayers.

I thank Chairman THORBERRY and Chairman CHABOT for including my bill and for their hard work in moving the NDAA forward. Their efforts serve as an excellent example of Congress' working together on behalf of the brave men and women who are tasked with keeping our country safe. I look

forward to the legislation being signed into law.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHRIDGE SPARTANS FOOTBALL

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Southridge Spartans football team on their first trip to the State finals since 1999.

After a 2-2 start to the season, the Spartans' defense stepped up and shut out all future opponents from scoring a touchdown. The Spartans outscored their final five opponents by a whopping 151-0, finishing the season with a 7-2 record and earning a spot in the Florida State playoffs.

After defeating Coral Gables in the quarterfinals, Southridge faced off against Deerfield Beach in the semifinals. The Spartans overcame six turnovers, five of which came in their own territory, to defeat Deerfield Beach 26-7 and to clinch their rightful place in the championship game this Saturday in Orlando v. Dr. Phillips High School.

I congratulate head coach Billy Rolle and principal Miret, along with the players, students, faculty, and alumni of Miami Southridge High School, for their amazing season thus far.

Good luck. Bring the championship home.

VIETNAM VETERANS

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Veterans Day last month, I introduce Louisiana House Concurrent Resolution 43 into the United States CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

This resolution recognizes November 13, 2013, through November 11, 2025, as the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. It is important that we recognize our Nation's heroes who served with valor and honor through this long war, which in many ways defined an entire generation of Americans. By the end of the Vietnam war, nearly 3 million American servicemen and servicewomen had served within the borders of Vietnam in some capacity in that conflict. We would like to take this time to honor all Vietnam veterans and, especially, the more than 58,000 patriots who paid the ultimate sacrifice during this difficult and painful period of war.

Of the millions of Vietnam veterans who served our country, over 106,000 reside in my home State of Louisiana. Though we remain thankful for all of those who served our great Nation, we would like to take this time to remember the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. It is important that we honor our veterans while they are still alive so that they can take honor for the sacrifices and know that they do not go unnoticed.

HELP AND HOPE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today is a day of joy, and it was, indeed, a long time in coming, but here we are.

My time in Congress was redefined 4 years ago, on December 14, 2012, when 26 innocent lives were taken at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Now, it is neither my district nor my State, but when it comes to children, all of us represent all children. Afterwards, when I met with the families, they gave me pictures of their children and spouses whom they lost that day, and I made a promise—the promise that we would not continue to watch passively or just offer moments of silence as these tragedies continue, that we should deliver, instead, treatment before tragedy.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I say thanks to the Members of Congress who changed the course with me—who teamed up to finally change the way the United States treats the mentally ill. We set our eyes on one goal: to fix our Nation's broken mental health system. Since then, we have come together to work towards protecting millions of Americans who suffer from mental illness. We traveled to every corner of this Nation and listened to doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists, experts and advocates—most importantly, to patients, consumers, and their families.

Through congressional hearings and investigations, we have discovered the abhorrent and sometimes fatal disconnect between the 112 Federal agencies that were assigned to treat the mentally ill. We exposed \$130 billion spending in a system that has done little but to watch the rates of homelessness, incarceration, suicide, and drug overdose deaths soar. We came together across party lines and went to work. We passed legislation that will save lives.

I thank FRED UPTON for his leadership on our Committee on Energy and Commerce with regard to H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, and for his tremendous medical innovation bill, the 21st Century Cures Act.

I thank EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas for her conviction and determination and for applying her experience as a psychiatric nurse to champion the cause that someone in crisis should be able to get treatment in a hospital and not just be locked up in a jail cell.

I thank Speaker RYAN, who, in his very first days as Speaker of the House, pledged his support and determination to ensure that we would take action in the way that we treat the mentally ill in this Nation.

To all of my colleagues in the House who spoke up, stepped up, and teamed up in our efforts to end the mental health crisis in America, thank you.

I thank our colleagues in the Senate as well—Senator CHRIS MURPHY, Dr. BILL CASSIDY, and Senators CORNYN and ALEXANDER—for their leadership in bringing this bill to a vote before the Senate. As the Senate takes up the bill today, I ask them all to cast their votes while being mindful of the millions of American lives it will save.

Most importantly, I close by thanking the millions who had the courage to come forward and share their stories of pain and suffering under this broken system—those who have lost a loved one, those who have a loved one who is sitting in a jail cell or who is homeless in the streets.

To those who have been the last, the least, the lost, and the lonely, know that we will continue to listen. In the final version of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, we did not get everything we needed, but we needed everything we got, and we will continue to work together.

When we began this journey 4 years ago, I challenged us all to realize the sad reality of, where there is no help, there is no hope. Know now that, as we pass and enact this bill, we will finally be able to say there is help and, most assuredly, there is hope.

RECESS

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

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

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Throughout history, You have been ever present to all believers. In times of darkness, we readily turn on lights. Millions of Americans in this season have variously turned to the celebration of the Christmas season, with its trees and lights, and Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights.

Even so, in our political world, there remains the reality of considerable disagreement and contention. Where there is darkness here, send forth a spark of inspiration and grace to enlighten minds and warm hearts to respond to Your love for Your people.

Eternal Father of us all, fill Your children with the delight that comes from light. May we walk no longer in the darkness of distrust, but join together in mutual understanding and peace toward the common well-being of our Nation.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KUSTER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

NICARAGUA

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, days leading up to the November 30 and December 1 protest in Nicaragua against the Ortega regime's proposed interoceanic canal and a corrupt election, the National Police, instructed by Daniel Ortega, sent heavy machinery, created checkpoints, and used barricades to block farmers and indigenous communities from attending the protests. Nicaraguans were severely beaten. Some were even shot. But Ortega's repression did not stop the Nicaraguan people who yearn for freedom and prosperity from participating in the protest.

Mr. Speaker, in September of this year, this legislative body passed the NICA Act—legislation I authored, along with my colleague, ALBIO SIRES, from New Jersey, which calls for free elections, respect for the rule of law, and freedom of expression. The Ortega regime seems eager to neglect these basic important conditions and is doubling down on its tyrannical tactics. We must hold Ortega accountable with the NICA Act and tell him we will not ignore his terrible tactics.

REBUILD AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, how does America, the strongest economy in the history of the world, accept a world ranking of 23rd behind Spain and Chile in the quality of our roads and bridges—American infrastructure? Let's look at the facts.

In 2005, Congress passed a roads bill that was 35 percent smaller than what was needed just to bring our roads and bridges to a state of good repair. In 2009, Congress passed an economic stimulus bill, directed just 7 percent to our transportation and infrastructure, and, last year, we passed a transportation bill that provided less than half of what was needed to reverse the decline of our roads and bridges. This is not only weak, it is pathetically weak.

Standard & Poor's reports that for every \$1.3 billion invested in roads and bridges, it creates 29,000 jobs—American jobs—produces \$2 billion in economic growth, and reduces the Federal deficit by \$200 million.

Both Presidential candidates talked about a large investment in American infrastructure, but I am concerned that the President-elect's program may be comprised of tax cuts for already-planned projects. This would be selling the American people and the American economy short. You just spent \$105 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Afghanistan. You just spent \$76 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Iraq. It is time the Nation built here at home and in America.

CONGRATULATING COACH JAMES FRANKLIN

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach James Franklin and his football team from my alma mater, Penn State, on winning the Big Ten Championship on Saturday over the Wisconsin Badgers.

Many counted out the Nittany Lions in the second quarter after Wisconsin took a commanding 28-7 lead. As expected, Penn State turned things around quickly with their lethal passing attack and always formidable defense.

Quarterback Trace McSorley set a Big Ten Championship game record with 384 passing yards and 4 touchdowns, as number 7 Penn State clinched one of the most impressive Big Ten titles of all time, with a 38-31 victory over number 6 Wisconsin.

Pennsylvania and the Nittany nation are very proud of you. We are.

PASS LEGISLATION TO FIND
CURES

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge the Senate to pass and President Obama to sign into law the 21st Century Cures Act.

This bipartisan legislation represents a comprehensive strategy to improve medical innovation, access lifesaving medicine, and improve mental health services. The bill includes funding for President Obama's Precision Medicine Initiative, for Vice President BIDEN's Cancer Moonshot, and a new program to improve our understanding for brain diseases, like Alzheimer's disease.

But most importantly, Congress has decided to address one of the worst public health crises of the 21st century. Sadly, last year, in my home State of New Hampshire, we had the third highest opioid overdose rate per capita in the entire country. But this crisis is not unique to my State. Across America, communities and families are shaken from the deaths of loved ones due to overdose. Opioid addiction is truly a national public health crisis.

As founder and co-chair of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic, I urge the Senate to promptly pass this important bill.

HONORING OHIO STATE
REPRESENTATIVE JIM BUCHY

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and pay tribute to Ohio State Representative Jim Buchy.

Representative Jim Buchy will retire from the State House at the end of the year. In fact, this week will likely mark the last time on the floor for Jim Buchy as a representative, having served for more than 20 years in that role.

I am thankful to know Jim. I respect him tremendously because he has been characterized more by his deeds than by his words. He is a strong Christian, a solid conservative, and an articulate Republican. He has championed the cause of freedom with great ideals, but a genuine passion to represent the people in his district and their common values in public service. He is a good man.

Jim lives in Greenville, Ohio. He has raised a beautiful family, built and exited a very successful business, served the community—in his church, on the board of education, with 4-H, economic development, and in many ways. He has been a genuine leader in the Ohio pro-life movement.

He is passionate about improving education with local control. He has spent his career promoting traditional,

value-based education and important programs like FFA and 4-H.

Jim Buchy's role in the legislature will be missed, but he will live on through his reputation and the great example he set.

Thank you for your service, Jim, and thanks for living your faith boldly, for loving your community dearly, and for giving so much of yourself in service to make sure the next generation is better off than they would have been without your leadership and service. God bless you.

SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT ON
ADDICTION

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Surgeon General's new report titled "Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health."

In 2015, over 27 million Americans reported current use of illicit drugs or misuse of prescription drugs. That means that more people use prescription opioids than use tobacco, and there are more people struggling with substance abuse disorders than people with cancer.

Substance abuse, misuse, and substance use disorders cost the U.S. more than \$442 billion annually in crime, health care, and lost productivity—almost twice as high as the costs associated with diabetes. We in Congress have a responsibility to utilize this report and mobilize around its deeply scientific and evidence-based findings to find the best policy solutions that affect all of our constituents in districts across the country.

Addiction does not discriminate. It affects Americans from every walk of life, regardless of race, class, gender, religion, or geographic location. Now is the time to face the addiction crisis head on.

HONORING LEO DAUGHTRY

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, North Carolina Representative Leo Daughtry, as his tenure in the State House officially comes to a close.

Leo has served as a strong voice for the fine citizens of Johnston County and commonsense conservative principles since first being elected to the State Senate in 1988. During his tenure in the State legislature, Leo has stood tall and fought tirelessly for the taxpayer and common sense in government. His guardianship of the judicial branch is well known, and I am hon-

ored to have had the privilege to work alongside him during my two terms in the State legislature.

Leo has served our great State of North Carolina for nearly 3 decades in Raleigh, and he will be sorely missed. He leaves a great and distinguished legacy—one that every North Carolinian can be especially proud.

On behalf of the countless citizens whose lives Leo has touched, I wish him and his wonderful wife, Helen, much happiness as they enter their next chapter in life.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
IMPROVEMENTS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, later this week, the House will vote on the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, also known as the WIIN Act.

This legislation includes a number of great provisions for Florida and my district, including promoting public-private partnerships for dredging projects. Allowing these partnerships will help clear the backlog of Army Corps projects, at or below cost, all while adhering to Federal maintenance standards.

This means that there will be more opportunities for projects to be completed in a reasonable timeframe, such as the federally authorized Anclote River dredging project in my district. Dredging the Anclote River would promote relief for local residents from chronic flooding and bring commerce back to the Tarpon Springs area.

CONGRATULATING ROCHESTER
HIGH SCHOOL ROCKETS

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Rochester High School Rockets on winning the Illinois class 4A State football championship.

The Rochester Rockets, who finished the season with a 13-1 record, defeated Johnsbury 38-14 on November 25 to secure the sixth State championship in football in the school's history. That is 6 out of the last 7 years.

On their way to the State title, the Rockets exceeded the national average in receiving yards, total touchdowns, tackles, sacks, and interceptions. The Rockets are setting a standard for athletic excellence in Illinois. Both girls' and boys' sports in Rochester have been thriving, including the girls' soccer team winning its second straight title in 2016.

Congratulations to this group of student athletes and their coach, and my

friend, Derek Leonard, on another championship season.

□ 1215

21ST CENTURY CURES

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank my colleagues for passing the 21st Century Cures Act.

This legislation speaks for itself. It will bring healthcare research and infrastructure into the 21st century.

During my time here in Congress, I have met with countless groups across Georgia 12, like the Alzheimer's Association, who have told me how this legislation can and will change lives. In fact, more than 5 million Americans currently live with this disease. In a recent op-ed, the association noted that, if nothing is done to change the trajectory of Alzheimer's, as many as 16 million Americans will have the disease by 2050, which will drain every dollar from our healthcare system.

These staggering statistics go to show that the Cures Act will touch everyone's life. By equipping researchers, the 21st Century Cures Act is the answer to unleashing the barriers so the medical community can develop and deliver lifesaving treatments to Americans who are battling diseases like Alzheimer's.

I was proud to vote in favor of this historic 21st Century Cures and see it pass with overwhelming bipartisan support, and I am excited to see this legislation bring hope to Americans and their loved ones.

MEDIA SHOULD REPORT THE FACTS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans are frustrated because they know that many of the news stories they read are actually opinion pieces. If the facts do not fit the liberal world view, dissent is silenced, and the result is one-sided and often misleading.

The Pew Research Center found that a majority of Americans—59 percent—reject the idea that reporters should add their own opinions to their news stories. Americans believe that the media's responsibility is to present the facts, not ignore them. The media has work to do to repair the self-inflicted damage to its credibility over the last few months. Distrust of the national media will continue until the media provides the American people with the facts instead of telling them what to think.

GVSU WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Grand Valley State University women's cross country team for yet another NCAA Division II national championship.

With their victory last month, the Lakers have won their fourth national title in 5 years and their fifth in school history—further cementing their status as a running dynasty. In addition to the national titles, four Lakers claimed All-American honors. Among them, senior Kendra Foley won her second national championship in 3 years and her fourth straight All-American honor.

Let us commend these runners, their parents, and their coaches for the years of dedicated training and the countless sacrifices that were necessary to accomplish such a feat. These athletes demonstrated just how competitive west Michigan is on the national stage.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating these talented women, their coaches, and the rest of Grand Valley State University.

Anchor up, and go Lakers.

SHERIFF FRANK DENNING

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of the most dedicated public servants to Johnson County, Sheriff Frank Denning. Frank dedicated his more than 42-year career to helping keep Kansas communities safe.

That career began back in 1969 as a reserve police officer for the Great Bend Police Department, and for the past 33 years, he has proudly served the citizens of Johnson County. Frank served with the Great Bend, Larned, and Garden City Police Departments before joining the Johnson County Sheriff's Office in 1978.

Over the years, I have gotten to know Frank well, and I consider him to be a great friend and an even better public servant. His leadership in the sheriff's office has made Johnson County a leader in reducing recidivism rates through the Second Chance and Reentry Programs. We have worked hand in hand on several Federal issues that are important to the Third District of Kansas, most notably the Kelsey Smith Act.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Frank on his retirement and in wishing him and his wife, Robin, all the best in the years to come.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 6, 2016, at 11:29 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H. Con. Res. 174.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

STREAMLINING ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR SCHOOLS ACT OF 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 756) to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide for the dissemination of information regarding available Federal programs relating to energy efficiency projects for schools, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 756

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF ENERGY RETROFITTING ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS.

Section 392 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6371a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) COORDINATION OF ENERGY RETROFITTING ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS.—

"(1) DEFINITION OF SCHOOL.—Notwithstanding section 391(6), for the purposes of this subsection, the term 'school' means—

"(A) an elementary school or secondary school (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

"(B) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)));

"(C) a school of the defense dependents' education system under the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 921 et

seq.) or established under section 2164 of title 10, United States Code;

“(D) a school operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

“(E) a tribally controlled school (as defined in section 5212 of the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2511)); and

“(F) a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))).

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF CLEARINGHOUSE.—The Secretary, acting through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, shall establish a clearinghouse to disseminate information regarding available Federal programs and financing mechanisms that may be used to help initiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, distributed generation, and energy retrofitting projects for schools.

“(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

“(A) consult with appropriate Federal agencies to develop a list of Federal programs and financing mechanisms that are, or may be, used for the purposes described in paragraph (2); and

“(B) coordinate with appropriate Federal agencies to develop a collaborative education and outreach effort to streamline communications and promote available Federal programs and financing mechanisms described in subparagraph (A), which may include the development and maintenance of a single online resource that includes contact information for relevant technical assistance in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy that States, local education agencies, and schools may use to effectively access and use such Federal programs and financing mechanisms.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 756, the Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act, is an important bill that would help the Nation's schools make use of existing Federal programs to reduce their energy use.

There are currently a number of such programs that help schools undertake projects that improve energy efficiency. Unfortunately, school districts don't always have the know-how to navigate the complexities of the Federal system and take full advantage of these programs. This bill creates a simple, one-stop shop to get all the needed information and help the school districts participate more fully in these programs. The bottom line is that the

Nation's schools will reduce their energy costs.

As it is, energy use in American K–12 schools totals \$6 billion a year, and reducing this figure can save taxpayer dollars or free up funds that schools can use on things other than on energy bills. H.R. 756 has no cost since it merely sets up a system under which existing school energy efficiency programs can work better.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 756.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I thank my colleague from Texas.

This bill is important. I am here with my colleague Mr. CARTWRIGHT, who will be speaking on this in a few minutes and who played a major role in the passage of this legislation. Even though he is not a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, he is very much concerned about the opportunities that occur when we make our energy use more efficient.

Across the country, K–12 school districts spend literally billions of dollars on their energy bills each year while an estimated 14 million American children attend deteriorating public schools. According to a Department of Education survey, 43 percent of schools indicated that the poor condition of their facilities interferes with the delivery of instruction, and those are probably schools in my district and in all of our colleagues'. By upgrading these systems, we can increase efficiency and get better educational outcomes.

It is not good for kids to be cold or too hot when they are trying to study and learn. There are numbers of Federal initiatives already available to schools to help them become more energy efficient, but the problem is these programs are spread across the entire Federal Government, making it difficult for a small school, particularly in a rural district, to know where to look and how to take full advantage of these programs.

That is where this legislation comes in. As I mentioned, introduced by Congressman CARTWRIGHT and with my strong support, this Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act will provide a coordinating structure for schools to help them better navigate available Federal programs and financing options.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. I thank the gentleman from Vermont.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leadership for taking this bill up under suspension today.

I remain hopeful that a compromise energy package can still be agreed upon this Congress, and I am glad this bill was included in both the House and

Senate versions of that energy package. Nonetheless, I am pleased that commonsense ideas, such as this one, may still become law even if the larger package proves too large a lift in the last days of this Congress.

I thank Congressman PETER WELCH for his leadership on this bill. It is no secret that he is one of the great champions in the House of Representatives on the issue of energy efficiency, and it has been my pleasure to work with him on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, so many schools across the country are in need of upgrades and improvements to their facilities. In its last Report Card for America's Infrastructure, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the condition of our Nation's schools a grade of D. As school administrators undertake badly needed improvements, they have an opportunity here to substantially increase their facilities' energy efficiency, producing benefits for both the environment and the economy. In reducing their energy bills, schools can put the savings to use in other educational priorities.

K–12 school districts currently spend billions on their energy bills every year—in fact, according to ENERGY STAR, approximately \$6 billion every year—second only to personnel costs and way ahead of the costs of textbooks and supplies and things like that. Energy expenses are one of the few costs that can be reduced while, at the same time, improving classroom instruction. In fact, high-performance schools can lower a school district's operating costs by up to 30 percent.

There are numerous Federal initiatives already available to schools to help them become more energy efficient. As the gentleman from Vermont just mentioned, the problem is that these programs are spread across the Federal Government, making it challenging, time consuming, and costly for schools to identify and take full advantage of these programs.

Introduced in the Senate as S. 523, by Senator SUSAN COLLINS, this bipartisan Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act aims to provide a coordinating structure for schools to help them better navigate available Federal programs and financing options.

This legislation does not spend an additional dime of taxpayer money, and it keeps decisionmaking authority with the States, the school boards, and local officials.

It is a bill that establishes a clearinghouse through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, which will disseminate information on Federal programs and financing mechanisms that may be used to develop energy efficiency, distributed generation, and energy retrofitting projects for schools.

□ 1230

This bill also directs the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

to coordinate with Federal agencies and develop an outreach effort to streamline communications and promote available Federal programs. This kind of outreach may include a single Web site that school officials can go to for one-stop shopping and learn about relevant energy efficiency programs.

Overburdened school administrators shouldn't have to spend hours and hours wading through the Federal bureaucracy as they look for ways to make energy efficiency improvements. This commonsense legislation will ensure that schools can more easily take advantage of already existing energy efficiency programs. It is a strategic and cost-saving investment to relieve the fiscal pressure felt by school districts across the Nation while bringing us closer to American energy security.

So for all of these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia, the Peach State (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 756, the Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2015.

Efficient use of energy can help reduce consumption, lower energy bills, and may also help the environment as well. The benefits of energy efficiency can extend to our homes, businesses, and public institutions, including schools. There is a multitude of programs and finance mechanisms available for schools to use to further their energy efficiency goals. However, information on these resources is hard to find; and, as a result, schools may be missing out on opportunities to make their facilities more energy efficient.

H.R. 756 would direct the Department of Energy to create a clearinghouse in order to disseminate information on energy efficiency programs and grants for schools. This bill would also help facilitate coordination between Federal agencies so that they may develop a collaborative effort to help schools meet their energy efficiency needs.

I urge my colleagues to support our schools in their efforts to become more energy efficient by supporting H.R. 756.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, everything that needs to be said has been said.

I appreciate the work of my colleague from Texas (Mr. OLSON), and I really do appreciate as well the leadership of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT), who has been very, very active on anything related to making better use of our energy.

I urge passage of this legislation.

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense bill that helps schools all across America. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 756.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 756.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

POWER AND SECURITY SYSTEMS (PASS) ACT

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6375) to provide for consideration of the extension under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of non-application of No-Load Mode energy efficiency standards to certain security or life safety alarms or surveillance systems.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6375

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Power And Security Systems (PASS) Act".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF NONAPPLICATION OF NO-LOAD MODE ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARD TO CERTAIN SECURITY OR LIFE SAFETY ALARM OR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS.

(a) Section 325(u)(3)(D)(ii) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(u)(3)(D)(ii)) is amended—

(1) by striking "2015" and inserting "2021"; and

(2) by striking "2017" and inserting "2023".

(b) Section 325(u)(3)(E) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(u)(3)(E)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking "July 1, 2017," and inserting "the effective date of the amendment under subparagraph (D)(ii)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) TREATMENT IN RULE.—In the rule under subparagraph (D)(ii) and subsequent amendments the Secretary may treat some or all external power supplies designed to be connected to a security or life safety alarm or surveillance system as a separate product class or may extend the nonapplication under clause (ii)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. OLSON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6375, the Power and Security Systems (PASS) Act, ex-

tends an important exemption from current regulations for devices such as security systems and medical devices. Specifically, many electronic devices use external power supplies that are subject to strict limits on the amount of electricity they can consume when not in use. However, these provisions are not feasible for products that have to be on 24/7, such as home security alarms and heart monitors.

This bill extends the existing exemption for external power supplies for these kinds of products. H.R. 6375 would ensure the continued availability of these important and potentially lifesaving devices, and I urge everyone to support it.

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6375, the Power and Security Systems Act, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleague has stated, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires electronic devices to meet certain efficiency standards while in no-load mode or standby mode, and that obviously makes a lot of sense. You don't want to be consuming unnecessary energy when, in fact, you don't need to use energy; but the whole law was written in a way that it included some devices that are always on active mode. Security and life safety systems, such as video surveillance, intrusion detection, and access control systems, have to be active all of the time.

So this law is now to extend something that was an exemption, and that is going to expire unless we pass this legislation and then allow manufacturers to avoid having to go through very costly steps in order to bring it into compliance with the law that would actually make their products ineffective when it came to surveillance.

This law was originally introduced by Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE and his colleague, ROY BLUNT, who is now in the Senate, to provide that temporary exemption. This is really going to extend it.

I joined with the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO), and it is fitting that we are working with Mr. POMPEO because he is about to start a new job that has just a little bit to do with security and intelligence. We congratulate him, by the way, on that appointment by President-elect Trump.

This bill, which has the support of industry and efficiency advocates, addresses the unique needs of critical life safety and security systems to remain on at all times while meeting DOE energy efficiency standards. It is a practical bill and a straightforward bill.

By the way, it is something that we should be trying together to do more often: when we pass a bill, it is a good bill, but we find out it has got a bit of a problem; instead of arguing about it,

let's fix it. We managed to accomplish that in this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Having no further speakers on this side, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia, the Peanut State (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6375, the Power and Security Systems Act. This bill directs the Department of Energy to decide by 2021 whether to amend standards for certain external power supply products, and directs that these standards would not apply to products manufactured before 2023.

External power supplies convert power from an outlet to a lower voltage for use in everyday items like cell phones, laptops, power tools, and other electronics. The average home has 5 to 10 external power supplies, and that number continues to grow with more than 300 million shipped in the United States annually.

The PASS Act would also allow for the Department of Energy to classify external power supplies connected to security or safety systems differently than other types. By design, external power supplies associated with a safety or security device are always in an active mode and simply do not have a no-load or inactive mode, which is why the distinction is needed.

This bill provides necessary regulatory relief while the Department of Energy develops standards for these products.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I will close by saying that H.R. 6375 ensures that these important and potentially life-saving devices work when needed. This is a great bill. I urge all my colleagues to vote for this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6375, the Power and Security Systems, or PASS Act. This bill will provide an important technical exemption to certain security and life safety products from energy efficiency standards set forth in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. A provision in the law increased the energy efficiency requirements for battery chargers and external power supplies—and I strongly supported that change. However, the provision also mistakenly included security and life safety products, and required that they be manufactured with a standby mode, despite being products that are inherently always on.

Without providing this correction, the security industry will need to spend millions of dollars to comply with an energy standard that will yield no energy savings and could cost jobs, which was never the initial intent of the law.

Six years ago, I stood on the House floor in support of legislation I authored that provided this exemption through July 2017. I'm pleased

that Representative Welch, along with Representative Pompeo, has taken up this important issue and introduced this bill to extend the exemption I originally authored through 2023. And, the language in the bill before us today will also allow the Department of Energy to extend this exemption or reclassify these products into a separate class if they deem it appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense and consensus fix to a simple problem: the language was developed by both industry and efficiency advocates, with technical assistance from the Department of Energy. So it should come as no surprise that this bill enjoys broad support from the security industry and energy efficiency advocates. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6375.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVORSHIP, TREATMENT, ACCESS, AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3381) to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3381

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research Act of 2016” or the “Childhood Cancer STAR Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

TITLE I—MAXIMIZING RESEARCH THROUGH DISCOVERY

Subtitle A—Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Reauthorization Act

Sec. 101. Children’s cancer biorepositories and biospecimen research.

Sec. 102. Improving Childhood Cancer Surveillance.

Subtitle B—Pediatric Expertise at NIH

Sec. 111. Inclusion of at least one pediatric oncologist on the National Cancer Advisory Board.

Sec. 112. Sense of Congress regarding pediatric expertise at the National Cancer Institute.

Subtitle C—NIH Report on Childhood Cancer Activities

Sec. 121. Reporting on childhood cancer research projects.

TITLE II—MAXIMIZING DELIVERY: CARE, QUALITY OF LIFE, SURVIVORSHIP, AND CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Subtitle A—Childhood Cancer Survivors’ Quality of Life Act

Sec. 201. Cancer survivorship programs.

Sec. 202. Grants to improve care for pediatric cancer survivors.

Sec. 203. Comprehensive long-term follow-up services for pediatric cancer survivors.

Sec. 204. Survivorship demonstration project.

Subtitle B—Coverage and Payment of High Quality Care

Sec. 211. Report by the Comptroller General.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Each year in the United States there are an estimated 15,780 children between birth and the age of 19 diagnosed with cancer. Approximately 1 in 285 children in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer before their 20th birthday.

(2) In 1960, only 4 percent of children with cancer survived more than 5 years, but today, cure rates have increased to over 80 percent for children and adolescents under age 20.

(3) While the cure rates for some childhood cancers are now over 80 percent, the survival rates for many types of cancers in children remain extremely low.

(4) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cancer continues to be the leading cause of death by disease in children and adolescents under the age of 14.

(5) By 2020, the population of childhood cancers survivors is expected to be 500,000 individuals.

(6) As many as two-thirds of childhood cancer survivors are likely to experience at least one late effect of treatment, with as many as one-fourth experiencing a late effect that is serious or life-threatening. Common late effects of childhood cancer are neurocognitive, psychological, cardiopulmonary, endocrine, and musculoskeletal effects, secondary malignancies, and early death.

(7) As a result of disparities in the delivery of cancer care, minority, low-income, and other medically underserved children are more likely to be diagnosed with late stage disease, experience poorer treatment outcomes, have shorter survival time with less quality of life, and experience a substantially greater likelihood of cancer death.

(8) Collection of biospecimens, along with clinical and outcome data, on children and adolescents with cancer in the United States is necessary to improve childhood and adolescent cancer treatments and cures. Currently biospecimens, and clinical and outcome data, are collected for less than half of children in the United States with cancer.

(9) The late effects of cancer treatment may change as therapies evolve, which means that the monitoring and care of cancer survivors may need to be modified on a routine basis.

(10) Despite the intense stress caused by childhood cancer, there is a lack of standardized and coordinated psychosocial care for the children and their families, from the date of diagnosis through treatment and survivorship.

(11) The Institute of Medicine, in its report on cancer survivorship entitled “Childhood Cancer Survivorship: Improving Care and Quality of Life”, states that an organized system of care and a method of care for pediatric cancer survivors is needed.

(12) Focused and well-designed research and pilot health delivery programs can answer questions about the optimal ways to provide health care, follow-up monitoring services, and survivorship care to those diagnosed with childhood cancer and contribute to improvements in the quality of care and quality of life of those individuals through adulthood.

(13) The National Institutes of Health, including the National Cancer Institute, invest approximately half of their annual appropriations to support basic research that serves as the foundation for translational and clinical research for all diseases and conditions, with the potential to lead to breakthroughs for children with cancer. Virtually all progress against cancer—in both children and adults—has been founded in basic research, often in areas not directly related to the disease.

(14) The National Cancer Institute supports a number of key research programs specifically to advance childhood cancer care, including precision medicine clinical trials for children with cancer, the Children's Oncology Group (part of the National Clinical Trials Network of the National Cancer Institute), the Pediatric Preclinical Testing Consortium, the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium, the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study, the Therapeutically Applicable Research to Generate Effective Treatments program and related pediatric cancer genomics research (including the Pediatric MATCH Precision Medicine trial), and the Pediatric Oncology Branch (part of the intramural program of the National Cancer Institute, whose mission is to develop new treatments for pediatric cancer).

TITLE I—MAXIMIZING RESEARCH THROUGH DISCOVERY

Subtitle A—Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Reauthorization Act

SEC. 101. CHILDREN'S CANCER BIOREPOSITORIES AND BIOSPECIMEN RESEARCH.

Section 417E of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285a-11) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) CHILDREN'S CANCER BIOREPOSITORIES.—

“(1) AWARD.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of NIH, may make awards to an entity or entities described in paragraph (4) to build upon existing initiatives to collect biospecimens and clinical and demographic information with a goal of collection for the vast majority of all children, adolescents, and young adults with selected cancer subtypes (and their recurrences) for which current treatments are least effective, through one or more biospecimen research efforts designed to achieve a better understanding of the cause of such cancers (and their recurrences) and the effects of treatments for such cancers.

“(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received under an award under paragraph (1) may be used to carry out the following:

“(A) Acquire, preserve, and store high-quality, donated biospecimens and associated clinical and demographic information on children, adolescents, and young adults diagnosed with cancer in the United States, focusing on children and adolescents enrolled in clinical trials for whom current treatments are least effective. Activities under this subparagraph may include storage of biospecimens and associated clinical and demographic data at biorepositories supported by the National Cancer Institute, such as the Children's Oncology Group Biorepository and the Pediatric Cooperative

Human Tissue Network as well as through biorepositories established as appropriate to support the scientific needs of future research efforts.

“(B) Make such information publicly available, including the repositories described in subparagraph (A).

“(C) Maintain a secure searchable database on stored biospecimens and associated clinical and demographic data from children, adolescents, and young adults with cancer for the conduct of research by scientists and qualified health care professionals.

“(D) Establish procedures for evaluating applications for access to such biospecimens and clinical and demographic data from researchers and other qualified health care professionals.

“(E) Make available and distribute biospecimens and clinical and demographic data from children, adolescents, and young adults with cancer to researchers and qualified health care professionals for peer-reviewed research at a minimal cost.

“(3) NO REQUIREMENT.—No child, adolescent, or young adult with cancer shall be required under this subsection to contribute a specimen to a biorepository or share clinical or demographic data.

“(4) APPLICATION; CONSIDERATIONS.—

“(A) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive an award under paragraph (1) an entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such a time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In evaluating the applications in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider the existing infrastructure of the entity that would allow for the timely capture of biospecimens and related clinical and demographic information for children, adolescents, and young adults with cancer.

“(5) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS; CONSENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not make an award under paragraph (1) to an entity unless the Secretary ensures that such entity—

“(i) collects biospecimens and associated clinical and demographic information from children and adolescents with appropriate permission from parents or legal guardians in accordance with Federal and State law; and

“(ii) adheres to strict confidentiality to protect the identity and privacy of patients in accordance with Federal and State law.

“(B) CONSENT.—The Secretary shall establish an appropriate process for achieving consent from the patient, parent, or legal guardian.

“(6) SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS; STANDARD DATA; GUIDELINES AND OVERSIGHT.—

“(A) SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS.—The Secretary shall ensure that each biorepository supported under paragraph (1) has electronically searchable data for use by researchers and other qualified health care professionals in the manner and to the extent defined by the Secretary.

“(B) STANDARD DATA.—The Secretary shall require all recipients of an award under this section to make available a standard dataset for the purposes of subparagraph (A) in a standard electronic format that enables researchers and qualified health care professionals to search.

“(C) GUIDELINES AND OVERSIGHT.—The Secretary shall develop and disseminate appropriate guidelines for the development and maintenance of the biorepositories supported under this section, including appropriate oversight.

“(7) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that clinical and demographic information collected in accordance with this section is collected in coordination with the information collected under section 399E-1.

“(8) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available to carry out this subsection shall not be used to acquire, preserve, or maintain a biospecimen collected from a patient if such activity is already covered by funds available from the National Cancer Institute for such purpose.

“(9) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research Act of 2016, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on—

“(A) the number of biospecimens and corresponding clinical demographic data collected through the biospecimen research efforts supported under paragraph (1);

“(B) the number of biospecimens and corresponding clinical demographic data requested for use by researchers;

“(C) any barriers to the collection of biospecimens and corresponding clinical demographic data;

“(D) any barriers experienced by researchers or health care professionals in accessing the biospecimens and corresponding clinical demographic data necessary for use in research; and

“(E) any recommendations with respect to improving the biospecimen and biorepository research efforts under this subsection.

“(10) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

“(A) AWARD.—The term ‘award’ includes a grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or other transaction determined by the Secretary.

“(B) BIOSPECIMEN.—The term ‘biospecimen’ includes—

“(i) solid tumor tissue or bone marrow;

“(ii) normal or control tissue;

“(iii) blood and plasma;

“(iv) DNA and RNA extractions;

“(v) familial DNA; and

“(vi) any other sample required by the Secretary.

“(C) CLINICAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.—The term ‘clinical and demographic information’ includes—

“(i) date of diagnosis;

“(ii) age at diagnosis;

“(iii) the patient's gender, race, ethnicity, and environmental exposures;

“(iv) extent of disease at enrollment;

“(v) site of metastases;

“(vi) location of primary tumor coded;

“(vii) histologic diagnosis;

“(viii) tumor marker data when available;

“(ix) treatment and outcome data;

“(x) information related to specimen quality; and

“(xi) any other information required by the Secretary.”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking “and section 399E-1” and inserting “and sections 317U, 399E-1, 417H, and 417H-1”;

(B) by striking “2009 through 2013” and inserting “2017 through 2021”;

(C) by striking “such purpose” and inserting “such purposes”.

SEC. 102. IMPROVING CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVEILLANCE.

Section 399E-1 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280e-3a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (d); and

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, may make awards to State cancer registries to enhance and expand infrastructure to track the epidemiology of cancer in children, adolescents, and young adults. Such registries may be updated to include each occurrence of such cancers within a period of time designated by the Secretary.

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—The grants described in subsection (a) may be used for—

“(1) identifying, recruiting, and training all potential sources for reporting childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancer cases;

“(2) developing procedures to implement early inclusion of childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancer cases on State cancer registries through the use of electronic reporting;

“(3) purchasing infrastructure to support the early inclusion of childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancer cases on such registries;

“(4) submitting deidentified data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for inclusion in a national database of childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancers; and

“(5) tracking the late effects of childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancers.

“(c) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that information collected through State cancer registries under this section is collected in coordination with clinical and demographic information collected under section 417E(a) as appropriate.”.

Subtitle B—Pediatric Expertise at NIH

SEC. 111. INCLUSION OF AT LEAST ONE PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGIST ON THE NATIONAL CANCER ADVISORY BOARD.

Clause (iii) of section 406(h)(2)(A) of the Public Health and Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284a(h)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(iii) of the members appointed to the Board—

“(I) not less than 5 members shall be individuals knowledgeable in environmental carcinogenesis (including carcinogenesis involving occupational and dietary factors); and

“(II) not less than one member shall be an individual knowledgeable in pediatric oncology.”.

SEC. 112. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PEDIATRIC EXPERTISE AT THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE.

It is the sense of Congress that the Director of the National Cancer Institute should ensure that all applicable study sections, committees, advisory groups, and panels at the National Cancer Institute include one or more qualified pediatric oncologists, as appropriate.

Subtitle C—NIH Report on Childhood Cancer Activities

SEC. 121. REPORTING ON CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH PROJECTS.

Section 409D(c)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284h(c)(3)) is amended by—

(1) striking “public on” and inserting “public on—

“(A)”;

(2) striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(3) inserting at the end the following: “(B) childhood cancer research projects conducted or supported by the National Institutes of Health.”.

TITLE II—MAXIMIZING DELIVERY: CARE, QUALITY OF LIFE, SURVIVORSHIP, AND CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Subtitle A—Childhood Cancer Survivors’ Quality of Life Act

SEC. 201. CANCER SURVIVORSHIP PROGRAMS.

(a) CANCER SURVIVORSHIP PROGRAMS.—The Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after section 399N of such Act (42 U.S.C. 280g–2) the following:

“SEC. 399N–1. PILOT PROGRAMS TO EXPLORE MODEL SYSTEMS OF CARE FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER SURVIVORS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary may make awards to eligible entities to establish pilot programs to develop, study, or evaluate model systems for monitoring and caring for childhood cancer survivors throughout their lifespan, including evaluation of shared care and medical home and clinic based models for transition to adult care.

“(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(1) a medical school;

“(2) a children’s hospital;

“(3) a cancer center;

“(4) a community-based medical facility;

or

“(5) any other entity with significant experience and expertise in treating survivors of childhood cancers.

“(c) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may make an award under this section to an eligible entity only if the entity agrees—

“(1) to use the award to establish a pilot program to develop, study, or evaluate one or more model systems for monitoring and caring for cancer survivors; and

“(2) in developing, studying, and evaluating such systems, to give special emphasis to the following:

“(A) Design of protocols for different models of follow-up care, monitoring, and other survivorship programs (including peer support and mentoring programs).

“(B) Development of various models for providing multidisciplinary care.

“(C) Dissemination of information and the provision of training to health care providers about how to provide linguistically and culturally competent follow-up care and monitoring to cancer survivors and their families.

“(D) Development of psychosocial interventions and support programs to improve the quality of life of cancer survivors and their families.

“(E) Design of systems for the effective transfer of treatment information and care summaries from cancer care providers to other health care providers (including risk factors and a plan for recommended follow-up care).

“(F) Dissemination of the information and programs described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) to other health care providers (including primary care physicians and internists) and to cancer survivors and their families, where appropriate.

“(G) Development of initiatives that promote the coordination and effective transition of care between cancer care providers, primary care physicians, and mental health professionals.

“SEC. 399N–2. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE ON MEDICAL AND PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVORS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, convene a Workforce Development Collaborative on Medical and Psychosocial Care for Pediatric Cancer Survivors

(referred to in this paragraph as the ‘Collaborative’). The Collaborative shall be a cross-specialty, multidisciplinary group composed of educators, consumer and family advocates, and providers of psychosocial and biomedical health services.

“(b) GOALS AND REPORTS.—The Collaborative shall submit to the Secretary a report establishing a plan to meet the following objectives for medical and psychosocial care workforce development:

“(1) Identifying, refining, and broadly disseminating to health care educators information about workforce competencies, models, and curricula relevant to providing medical and psychosocial services to persons surviving pediatric cancers.

“(2) Adapting curricula for continuing education of the existing workforce using efficient workplace-based learning approaches.

“(3) Developing the skills of faculty and other trainers in teaching psychosocial health care using evidence-based teaching strategies.

“(4) Strengthening the emphasis on psychosocial health care in educational accreditation standards and professional licensing and certification exams by recommending revisions to the relevant oversight organizations.

“(5) Evaluating the effectiveness of patient navigators in pediatric cancer survivorship care.

“(6) Evaluating the effectiveness of peer support programs in the psychosocial care of pediatric cancer patients and survivors.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Hematological Cancer Research Investment and Education Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–172; 116 Stat. 541) is amended by striking “section 419C” and inserting “section 417C”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if included in section 3 of the Hematological Cancer Research Investment and Education Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–172; 116 Stat. 541).

SEC. 202. GRANTS TO IMPROVE CARE FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER SURVIVORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 417E of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285a–11), as amended by section 101, is further amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “RESEARCH AND AWARENESS” and inserting “RESEARCH, AWARENESS, AND SURVIVORSHIP”; and

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) IMPROVING CARE FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER SURVIVORS.—

“(1) RESEARCH ON CAUSES OF HEALTH DISPARITIES IN PEDIATRIC CANCER SURVIVORSHIP.—

“(A) RESEARCH AWARDS.—The Director of NIH, in coordination with ongoing research activities, may conduct or support pediatric cancer survivorship research including any of the following areas:

“(i) Needs and outcomes of pediatric cancer survivors within minority or other medically underserved populations.

“(ii) Health disparities in pediatric cancer survivorship outcomes within minority or other medically underserved populations.

“(iii) Barriers that pediatric cancer survivors within minority or other medically underserved populations face in receiving follow-up care.

“(iv) Familial, socioeconomic, and other environmental factors and the impact of such factors on treatment outcomes and survivorship.

“(B) BALANCED APPROACH.—In supporting research under subparagraph (A)(i) on pediatric cancer survivors within minority or

other medically underserved populations, the Director of NIH shall ensure that such research addresses both the physical and the psychological needs of such survivors, as appropriate.

“(2) RESEARCH ON LATE EFFECTS AND FOLLOW-UP CARE FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER SURVIVORS.—The Director of NIH, in coordination with ongoing research activities, may conduct or support research on follow-up care for pediatric cancer survivors, including any of the following areas:

“(A) The development of indicators used for long-term patient tracking and analysis of the late effects of cancer treatment for pediatric cancer survivors.

“(B) The identification of risk factors associated with the late effects of cancer treatment.

“(C) The identification of predictors of adverse neurocognitive and psychosocial outcomes.

“(D) The identification of the molecular underpinnings of long-term complications.

“(E) The development of risk prediction models to identify those at highest risk of long-term complications.

“(F) Initiatives to protect cancer survivors from the late effects of cancer treatment, by developing targeted interventions to reduce the burden of morbidity borne by cancer survivors.

“(G) Transitions in care for pediatric cancer survivors.

“(H) Training of professionals to provide linguistically and culturally competent follow-up care to pediatric cancer survivors.

“(I) Different models of follow-up care.

“(J) Examining the cost-effectiveness of the different models of follow-up care.”

SEC. 203. COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM FOLLOW-UP SERVICES FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER SURVIVORS.

Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 243 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 317T the following:

“SEC. 317U. STANDARDS FOR COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM CARE FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER SURVIVORS THROUGH THE LIFESPAN.

“The Secretary may establish a task force to develop and test standards, outcomes, and metrics for high-quality childhood cancer survivorship care in consultation with a full spectrum of representation of experts in late effects of disease and treatment of childhood cancers, including—

“(1) oncologists who treat children and adolescents;

“(2) oncologists who treat adults;

“(3) primary care providers engaged in survivorship care;

“(4) survivors of childhood cancer;

“(5) parents of children who have been diagnosed with and treated for cancer and parents of long-term survivors;

“(6) professionals who are engaged in the development of clinical practice guidelines;

“(7) nurses and social workers;

“(8) mental health professionals;

“(9) allied health professionals, including physical therapists and occupational therapists;

“(10) experts in health care quality measurement and improvement; and

“(11) others, as the Secretary determines appropriate.”

SEC. 204. SURVIVORSHIP DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) may carry out a demonstration

project over a 3-year period, designed to improve the quality and efficiency of care provided to childhood cancer survivors throughout their lifespan, through improved care coordination as survivors transition to adult care.

(b) SELECTION OF DEMONSTRATION SITES.—

(1) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SITES.—The maximum number of sites at which the demonstration project under subsection (a) is carried out may not exceed 10.

(2) DIVERSITY OF SITES.—In selecting entities to participate in the demonstration project, the Secretary may, to the extent practicable, include in such selection—

(A) small-, medium-, and large-sized sites; and

(B) sites located in different geographic areas.

(c) ACTIVITIES UNDER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The activities conducted under the demonstration project under subsection (a) may, in addition to any other activity specified by the Secretary, include activities that seek to develop different models of care coordination, including transitions of care, follow-up care, monitoring, and other survivorship related programs that utilize a multidisciplinary, team based approach to care, including any of the following activities:

(1) Coordination of care and transitions of care between cancer care providers, primary care physicians, mental health professionals and any other relevant providers.

(2) Dissemination of information to, and training of, health care providers about linguistically and culturally competent follow-up care specific to cancer survivors.

(3) Development of monitoring programs for cancer survivors and their families.

(4) Incorporation of peer support and mentoring programs to improve the quality of life of cancer survivors.

(5) Designing systems and models for the effective transfer of treatment information and care summaries from cancer care providers to other health care providers (including risk factors and a care plan).

(6) Evaluation of functional status and incorporation of specific functional needs into the care planning process.

(7) Dissemination of the information on activities and programs conducted under this section to other health care providers (including primary care physicians) and to cancer survivors and their families, where appropriate.

(8) Other items determined by the Secretary.

(d) MEASURES.—The Secretary may use the following measures to assess the performance of each site:

(1) Patient care and patient/family satisfaction measures.

(2) Resource utilization measures.

(3) Adult survivorship measures, as appropriate.

(e) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress evaluating the success of the demonstration project. Such report shall include an assessment of the impact of the project upon the quality and cost-efficiency of services furnished to individuals under this title, including an assessment of the satisfaction of such individuals with respect to such services that were furnished under such project. Such report shall include recommendations regarding the possible expansion of the demonstration project.

Subtitle B—Coverage and Payment of High Quality Care

SEC. 211. REPORT BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review and submit recommendations to Congress on existing barriers to obtaining and paying for adequate medical care for survivors of childhood cancer.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the review and formulating recommendations under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) identify existing barriers to the availability of complete and coordinated survivorship care for survivors of childhood cancer and to the availability of expert pediatric palliative care, including consideration of—

(A) understanding and education among patients, health care providers, regulators, and third-party payors;

(B) adequacy of payment codes to cover necessary survivorship services;

(C) access to necessary medical and other services for such survivors, including the services described in subsection (c); and

(D) lack of pediatric palliative care across all stages of illness and hospice services for patients approaching the end of life; and

(2) make recommendations to provide improved access and payment plans for childhood cancer survivorship programs and palliative care, including psychosocial services and coverage of such services.

(c) SERVICES DESCRIBED.—The services described in this subsection are the following:

(1) Coordinated multidisciplinary long-term follow-up care with access to appropriate pediatric subspecialists and adult subspecialists with specific expertise in survivorship, including subspecialists with expertise in oncology, radiation oncology, surgery, cardiology, psychiatry or psychology, endocrinology, pulmonology, nephrology, dermatology, gynecology, and urology.

(2) Appropriate organ function testing (particularly screening for potential problems at much younger ages than usually indicated in the general population) and treatment, including—

(A) neuropsychological testing and mental health services;

(B) fertility testing and treatment;

(C) evaluation and treatment for endocrine disorders including growth hormone and testosterone replacement;

(D) diagnostic imaging to screen for late effects of treatment (including subsequent cancers), such as mammograms and magnetic resonance imaging testing to screen for possible breast cancer;

(E) screening for cardiac problems, such as echocardiograms;

(F) screening for osteoporosis with bone densitometry, including dual x-ray absorptiometry and monitoring 25 hydroxyvitamin D levels;

(G) dental coverage and necessary dental implants;

(H) hearing aids and other prosthetic devices; and

(I) screening for lung problems, such as pulmonary function testing.

(3) Appropriate organ function testing (particularly screening for potential problems at much younger ages than usually indicated in the general population) and treatment, including—

(A) neuropsychological testing and mental health services;

(B) fertility testing and treatment;

(C) evaluation and treatment for endocrine disorders including growth hormone and testosterone replacement;

(D) diagnostic imaging to screen for late effects of treatment (including subsequent cancers), such as mammograms and magnetic resonance imaging testing to screen for possible breast cancer;

(E) screening for cardiac problems, such as echocardiograms;

(F) screening for osteoporosis with bone densitometry, including dual x-ray absorptiometry and monitoring 25 hydroxyvitamin D levels;

(G) dental coverage and necessary dental implants;

(H) hearing aids and other prosthetic devices; and

(I) screening for lung problems, such as pulmonary function testing.

(4) Appropriate organ function testing (particularly screening for potential problems at much younger ages than usually indicated in the general population) and treatment, including—

(A) neuropsychological testing and mental health services;

(B) fertility testing and treatment;

(C) evaluation and treatment for endocrine disorders including growth hormone and testosterone replacement;

(D) diagnostic imaging to screen for late effects of treatment (including subsequent cancers), such as mammograms and magnetic resonance imaging testing to screen for possible breast cancer;

(E) screening for cardiac problems, such as echocardiograms;

(F) screening for osteoporosis with bone densitometry, including dual x-ray absorptiometry and monitoring 25 hydroxyvitamin D levels;

(G) dental coverage and necessary dental implants;

(H) hearing aids and other prosthetic devices; and

(I) screening for lung problems, such as pulmonary function testing.

(5) Appropriate organ function testing (particularly screening for potential problems at much younger ages than usually indicated in the general population) and treatment, including—

(A) neuropsychological testing and mental health services;

(B) fertility testing and treatment;

(C) evaluation and treatment for endocrine disorders including growth hormone and testosterone replacement;

(D) diagnostic imaging to screen for late effects of treatment (including subsequent cancers), such as mammograms and magnetic resonance imaging testing to screen for possible breast cancer;

(E) screening for cardiac problems, such as echocardiograms;

(F) screening for osteoporosis with bone densitometry, including dual x-ray absorptiometry and monitoring 25 hydroxyvitamin D levels;

(G) dental coverage and necessary dental implants;

(H) hearing aids and other prosthetic devices; and

(I) screening for lung problems, such as pulmonary function testing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 3381, the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research Act of 2016, also known as the Childhood Cancer STAR Act. This bill was introduced by my Texas colleague, Representative MIKE MCCAUL; Representative CHRIS VAN HOLLEN; and Representative JACKIE SPEIER.

The legislation we are considering today is important for many young Americans, as it is intended to help the most vulnerable among us: children who have been diagnosed with cancer.

We have made progress in combating childhood cancer. In 1960, only 4 percent of children with cancer survived more than 5 years. Today, 80 percent of children with cancer survive, but there is work left to do.

H.R. 3381 will expand the opportunities for childhood cancer research, improve childhood cancer surveillance, help improve the quality of life for childhood cancer survivors, and help ensure that there is proper pediatric cancer research within the National Institutes of Health.

This legislation enjoys broad bipartisan support. It has 270 cosponsors, representing over 60 percent of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3381.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 3381, the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research Act.

Nearly 16,000 children are diagnosed with cancer in the United States each year. These children bravely battle disease and carry burdens that no one their age should. The Childhood Cancer STAR Act gives those children and their families hope by encouraging improved research, development of treatments, and survivorship programs for children with cancer.

This legislation urges the National Institutes of Health to find new opportunities to expand research into pediatric cancer and survivorship, including research on the causes of health disparities in pediatric cancer survivors.

This legislation would also allow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to award funding to help States better track pediatric cancer. Improved information about childhood

cancer will help guide public health decisions and strategies as well as research.

Expanding research that leads to treatments and cures is only part of the solution for children diagnosed with cancer. This bill recognizes that these children often require different care for the remainder of their lives.

As many as two-thirds of pediatric cancer survivors suffer from the effects of their disease and treatments long term, including secondary cancers and organ damage.

To help children after they have beat pediatric cancer, this bill would create a pilot program to explore model systems of care for pediatric cancer survivors and to study barriers to adequate medical care for survivors of childhood cancer.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

□ 1245

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, a true champion for all things pediatric.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I want to also thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for his work on this effort as well. I chair the Committee on Homeland Security, but I also chair the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus. It is one of the biggest threats to our children. It is the number one killer of our children.

Therefore, I rise in support of H.R. 3381, the Childhood Cancer STAR Act, because it will address four major concerns facing the pediatric cancer community: survivorship, treatment, access, and research. I introduced this bill with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of Maryland and Ms. JACKIE SPEIER of California, to be the most comprehensive childhood cancer bill ever considered before this House.

I cofounded, as I said, the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus 7 years ago as a platform to give children a voice, children who don't have lobbyists, children who are dying, who have been impacted by this life-altering diagnosis.

To better fight childhood cancer, we must know more about it, and that is what the STAR Act does. It authorizes NIH to expand their efforts to collect data on childhood cancer so we can better understand its causes and the effects of treatment. It also builds on previous work from cancer research groups to provide doctors with the resources necessary to identify children who may be at risk for developing cancer, preventing the worst outcomes from becoming a reality.

Finally, we must address the needs of two-thirds of childhood cancer sur-

vivors facing serious lifelong medical conditions. Our bill will improve collaboration among providers so doctors are better able to care for survivors as they age.

I am pleased this bill has the strong support of the patient advocacy community. I especially want to thank the St. Baldrick's Foundation for their continued support and help and work on this important bill. Their CEO, Kathleen Ruddy, as well as Kevin Mathis and Danielle Leach, have been relentless advocates of this bill to make a difference in kids' lives. I look forward to working with them in the future as we look to further address the needs of the childhood cancer community.

Mr. Speaker, I close by stating that we are also very excited that the Cures Act bill passed the House of Representatives, a very important bill about curing not just childhood cancer, but all diseases. We urge the Senate to pass that legislation as well. In that bill was the Advancing Hope Act, which will make a difference in the number of drugs that can be developed to cure childhood cancer.

In fact, it reauthorizes a bill that I introduced to the year 2020, a bill that has already produced a childhood cancer drug, the first since the 1980s, to cure neuroblastoma in children. When I went to meet with Rex Ryan at Dell Children's Medical Center in Austin, Texas, in this clinical trial, the idea, Mr. Speaker, that you can actually pass a bill in this Congress and see that tangible result, a bill passed in this great body that transforms into saving the life of a child, is truly a tremendous and extraordinary experience.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER).

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, let me first say what a joy it has been to work with my colleague MIKE MCCAUL on this issue, and with CHRIS VAN HOLLEN as well. Their passion, compassion, and commitment to this issue is one that I have not seen replicated many times.

Let me comment by talking about the letter I received from Sylvia DeCoursey in my district. Her son Tyler has been battling stage 4 neuroblastoma for about a year. She had written to me the following: "As a parent of a pediatric cancer patient, I wanted to say thank you for introducing the Childhood Cancer STAR Act. This has the potential to make a huge difference for my son Tyler and his fellow warriors. In August we lost two little buddies to the neuroblastoma monster. To think that if this act was already in place, that may not have happened, and the heartaches of their families and friends could be prevented. I hope and pray that my son will beat this. Thank you again for sponsoring the STAR Act. . . ."

On Friday I received a follow-up email from Sylvia, and it still sends

chills up and down my spine. Tyler has officially been in remission for 2 weeks. It is only fitting that today we are taking up the STAR Act.

The STAR Act would not have been possible without the perseverance of families like Sylvia and Tyler and of the young people who are living with the cancers. There have been more than 50 organizations that have worked on this issue. Together they have managed to push even a gridlocked Congress into action.

I would like to take a moment to highlight the personal importance of the survivorship provisions of the STAR Act, which I have been working on since 2011. Fifty years ago, only 4 percent of children with cancer survived more than 5 years beyond their diagnosis. Today the cure rate has increased to over 80 percent. It is a remarkable accomplishment. Now we have some 500,000 young people who have survived childhood cancer.

But, as many families know, the fight against childhood cancer doesn't end with remission. As many as two-thirds of childhood cancer survivors experience secondary cancers, and that is why this particular provision of the bill is so important. It is imperative that the STAR Act has a strategy to improve their care and quality of life, and it would not have happened without the guidance of Susan Weiner and Sue Emmer of Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy. I would also like to thank the staff of all of our offices who worked so hard on this measure: Thomas Rice, Jessica Nalepa, Austin Carson, Kelly Cotner, and Andy Taylor with Congressman MCCAUL; Ziky Ababiya and Erika Appel with Congressman VAN HOLLEN; Jill Brimmer with Senator REED; Dana Richter with Senator MOORE CAPITO; Adrianna Simonelli with Chairman UPTON; Waverly Gordon with Ranking Member PALLONE; Kelly Dixon with Majority Leader MCCARTHY; Charlene MacDonald with Democratic Whip HOYER; Holly Gibbons and her team at the NIH; and Molly Fishman on my staff as well.

I want to thank my colleagues for the time, the leadership, and for giving us an opportunity to do something to improve the lives of these children living with cancer and their parents who are advocating for them.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3381, the Childhood Cancer STAR Act, which would allow the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Health and Human Services to expand their efforts to research treatments and care for childhood cancer patients.

Each year, thousands of children are diagnosed with cancer, and far too many children are lost to this horrible disease. Childhood cancer survivors and

their families still face an uphill battle after remission, as the chances for recurrence can be higher for children.

Advances in treatment have greatly improved outcomes, but more must be done to support patients, survivors, and their families. The bill would help expand efforts to improve the lives of childhood cancer survivors, develop new treatments, increase access to care, and accelerate lifesaving research for those impacted by childhood cancer.

Childhood cancer patients and survivors have unique needs, and this bill will ensure that those needs are addressed through continued child-focused research. We must continue the fight until no child is lost to cancer. I urge my colleagues to support childhood cancer patients, survivors, and families by supporting the Childhood Cancer STAR Act.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Childhood Cancer STAR Act.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote in favor of H.R. 3381.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act. As the most comprehensive way to address childhood cancer, the bill advances research, treatment, and quality of life for pediatric cancer survivors here in Maryland and across the nation.

Each year, nearly 16,000 children in the United States are diagnosed with cancer. While there have been advances made in childhood cancer research, too many young people and their families continue to suffer. And for the kids who survive, the battle is not over. Ninety-five percent of survivors will suffer serious health complications as they age.

To give pediatric cancer patients and their families hope, I spearheaded the STAR Act with Congressman MIKE MCCAUL and Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER. By the bill's several provisions, including improving efforts to identify and track childhood cancer incidence and establishing a pilot program to explore innovative models of care to enhance the quality of life for survivors, the STAR Act will provide our researchers with the necessary resources to work towards cures and less toxic treatments that will help our children live longer, healthier lives.

With the majority of this chamber as co-sponsors, this bill shows that Congress can come together to make progress for the most vulnerable in our society—the thousands of children and families impacted by cancer. It is also a testament of passionate advocacy—those who fight hard so another child's life is not robbed too early from cancer or so survivors do not have to live with physical and psychological effects of harmful treatments. I want to thank all the advocates who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes and who have helped us get this vital bill to the House floor today.

Lastly, it has been an honor serving as the Co-Chair of the Childhood Cancer Caucus

with Congressman MIKE MCCAUL and want to welcome the new Co-Chairs for next Congress: Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congressman G. K. BUTTERFIELD, and Congressman MIKE KELLY.

I strongly support passage of the STAR Act and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3381, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPANDING CAPACITY FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2873) to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2873

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Expanding Capacity for Health Outcomes Act" or the "ECHO Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA.**—The term "health professional shortage area" means a health professional shortage area designated under section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e).

(2) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term "Indian tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(3) **MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA.**—The term "medically underserved area" has the meaning given the term "medically underserved community" in section 799B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p).

(4) **MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATION.**—The term "medically underserved population" has the meaning given the term in section 330(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(b)).

(5) **NATIVE AMERICANS.**—The term "Native Americans" has the meaning given the term in section 736 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293) and includes Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(7) **TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING MODEL.**—The term "technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building model" means a distance health education model that connects specialists with multiple other health care professionals through simultaneous interactive videoconferencing for the

purpose of facilitating case-based learning, disseminating best practices, and evaluating outcomes.

(8) **TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term “tribal organization” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

SEC. 3. EXAMINATION AND REPORT ON TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING MODELS.

(a) **EXAMINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall examine technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models and their impact on—

(A) addressing mental and substance use disorders, chronic diseases and conditions, prenatal and maternal health, pediatric care, pain management, and palliative care;

(B) addressing health care workforce issues, such as specialty care shortages and primary care workforce recruitment, retention, and support for lifelong learning;

(C) the implementation of public health programs, including those related to disease prevention, infectious disease outbreaks, and public health surveillance;

(D) the delivery of health care services in rural areas, frontier areas, health professional shortage areas, and medically underserved areas, and to medically underserved populations and Native Americans; and

(E) addressing other issues the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In the examination required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult public and private stakeholders with expertise in using technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models in health care settings.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and post on the appropriate website of the Department of Health and Human Services, a report based on the examination under subsection (a).

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include findings from the examination under subsection (a) and each of the following:

(A) An analysis of—

(i) the use and integration of technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models by health care providers;

(ii) the impact of such models on health care provider retention, including in health professional shortage areas in the States and communities in which such models have been adopted;

(iii) the impact of such models on the quality of, and access to, care for patients in the States and communities in which such models have been adopted;

(iv) the barriers faced by health care providers, States, and communities in adopting such models;

(v) the impact of such models on the ability of local health care providers and specialists to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and licensure, including the effects on patient wait times for specialty care; and

(vi) efficient and effective practices used by States and communities that have adopted such models, including potential cost-effectiveness of such models.

(B) A list of such models that have been funded by the Secretary in the 5 years imme-

diately preceding such report, including the Federal programs that have provided funding for such models.

(C) Recommendations to reduce barriers for using and integrating such models, and opportunities to improve adoption of, and support for, such models as appropriate.

(D) Opportunities for increased adoption of such models into programs of the Department of Health and Human Services that are in existence as of the report.

(E) Recommendations regarding the role of such models in continuing medical education and lifelong learning, including the role of academic medical centers, provider organizations, and community providers in such education and lifelong learning.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. **BURGESS**) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. **MATSUI**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **BURGESS**. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the **RECORD** on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2873, the Expanding Capacity for Health Outcomes Act, also known as the **ECHO** Act. This bipartisan legislation by Senators **HATCH** and **SCHATZ** passed the Senate 97-0 on November 29. House companion legislation has been introduced and championed by Representative **MATSUI** and me.

This legislation requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to examine technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models and their impact on the healthcare workforce, the implementation of public health programs, and the delivery of health services in rural and underserved areas to underserved populations. The bill would require the Secretary to consult with public and private stakeholders with expertise in these delivery models to evaluate their potential and larger adoption in States and within the Federal Government.

Within 2 years, the Secretary then would submit to Congress and publicly post a report that includes an analysis of these programs which utilize technology in a novel manner. One such method these programs may employ is using a hub-and-spoke approach to connecting specialty and primary care workers for health surveillance and proper intervention. This holds particular promise for rural and underserved areas where it can be difficult to recruit and retain health professionals but could offer opportunities for continuing provider education and engagement.

This legislation enjoys broad bipartisan support. It has been endorsed by a number of health professional organizations, including America's Essential Hospitals, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, and the National Association of Community Health Centers, to name but a few.

This legislation does not impact direct spending or revenues. It offers a means by which to evaluate successful models in the private sector and opportunities to build upon them and adopt them if successful.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on S. 2873.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2873, the **ECHO** Act, that I co-lead with my colleague Representative **BURGESS** in the House and Senators **HATCH** and **SCHATZ** in the Senate.

The **ECHO** Act elevates the successful Project **ECHO** model, which uses technology to remotely connect healthcare providers to one another so they can communicate best practices and new techniques.

UC Davis Medical Center, in my district of Sacramento, has some of the best and brightest doctors, and they are working hard to share their expertise across our region and the country. We are also fortunate in Sacramento to have a strong safety net of top-notch community health centers that work to provide the primary care needs of underserved populations. However, primary care is a big job, and often these providers have not received the education or training they need in specialty areas such as pain management.

□ 1300

UC Davis is successfully partnering with over 125 community health centers in California, to provide that collaborative education on responsible and safe pain management, resulting in increased use of evidence-based tools and reduced prescriptions for high-dose opioids. Better understanding of pain and effective pain management will contribute toward combating our Nation's devastating opioid abuse and heroin epidemic.

This Project **ECHO** bill is a first step in scaling approaches like this nationwide to ensure that every provider has access to the best information on a variety of topics, from pain to addiction, dermatology, infectious diseases, neurology, and much more.

We need to build on this progress to ensure that we are harnessing the power of technology to improve patient care and save lives. I urge my colleagues to support S. 2873.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman **BURGESS** for his work on this, and I urge my colleagues to send S.

2873 to the President's desk for signature.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, only 10 percent of physicians practice in rural areas in this country, but those areas contain 25 percent of the population. Obviously, there is a mismatch.

Access to care in underserved areas is especially challenging for patients with chronic or complex conditions. Overburdened primary care providers often will have to refer complex patients to hospitals or specialists for care that actually could just as well be delivered at home. These unnecessary referrals delay care and increase costs for patients in the system. The Project Extension for Community Health Outcomes, or Project ECHO, is one example of an innovative model that is being used to address this challenge.

Project ECHO uses interactive videoconferencing to link specialist teams with primary care providers in medical education clinics that include didactic teaching and case-based learning.

Project ECHO has equipped local providers across the country with the extraordinary skills necessary to take on healthcare challenges threatening our communities. Project ECHO has been used to increase the number of docs able to prescribe for opioid abuse, to rapidly educate providers on public health crises, such as a novel flu outbreak, and to train providers to address complex mental health disorders.

This bipartisan, bicameral bill has broad support from healthcare providers and systems. It passed the Senate 97-0 last week. Again, I want to thank Congresswoman MATSUI of California for her partnership on the bill. I encourage my colleagues to support its passage.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2873, Expanding Capacity for Health Outcomes Act, which would increase access to health care services in rural areas.

This bill authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to study the Project ECHO model, which launched a revolutionary long distance health care model that uses videoconferencing for collaboration and case-learning.

The Project ECHO model has proven to be successful in bringing much needed health care to some of our nation's most remote regions.

By taking study of this model to the national level, we have the opportunity to fully harness emerging technologies to transform the way health care is practiced.

As a life long health care professional from a district with rural and underserved areas, I know firsthand how challenging it can be to provide access to high quality health care to these areas.

Connecting primary care providers with specialists through video streaming helps bridge the gap in both distance and access, reducing travel and costs for both patient and provider alike.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so that we can continue working to provide specialty care to all Americans across the nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2873.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMPROVING BROADBAND ACCESS FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2016

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6394) to require the Federal Communications Commission to submit to Congress a report on promoting broadband Internet access service for veterans.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6394

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Improving Broadband Access for Veterans Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. REPORT ON PROMOTING BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE FOR VETERANS.

(a) VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term "veteran" has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall submit to Congress a report on promoting broadband Internet access service for veterans, in particular low-income veterans and veterans residing in rural areas. In such report, the Commission shall—

(1) examine such access and how to promote such access; and

(2) provide findings and recommendations for Congress with respect to such access and how to promote such access.

(c) PUBLIC NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT.—In preparing the report required by subsection (b), the Commission shall provide the public with notice and an opportunity to comment on broadband Internet access service for veterans, in particular low-income veterans and veterans residing in rural areas, and how to promote such access.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6394, the Improving Broadband Access for Veterans Act of 2016.

Our veterans face unique and difficult challenges upon their return home from service, but access to broadband Internet service should not be one. Broadband access can help equip our veterans with the tools necessary to be successful in today's 21st century economy, and that is why I urge all of my colleagues to support this commonsense, nonpartisan bill.

H.R. 6394 simply requires the Federal Communications Commission to submit a report to Congress on ways to better improve access to broadband for our Nation's veterans; in particular, low-income veterans and veterans living in rural areas.

We as legislators will be able to make better informed policy decisions based upon the recommendations made in the report and, thereby, help ensure our veterans have access to such a fundamental tool in today's economy. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 6394.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6394, the Improving Broadband Access for Veterans Act of 2016.

I thank my colleagues, Mr. MCNERNEY, who will be speaking very shortly, and Mr. KINZINGER, both colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee with myself and Mr. LATTA. Both of them have had a focus on how the Internet will be helpful to veterans. Obviously, Internet is really helpful to all of us, but veterans have some special challenges, and we have a special obligation to veterans.

This legislation is absolutely focused on the obligation that we have to try to help our veterans have access to the Internet. That is especially important in rural areas, something very close to the heart of Mr. LATTA and me.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY), the cosponsor of this bill with Mr. KINZINGER, and a wonderful colleague on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Vermont for his work on this, and my colleague from Ohio, and also Mr. KINZINGER from Illinois for his work.

My bill, H.R. 6394, sets us on a path of working to close the digital divide for

veterans. Access to broadband Internet service provides an important resource for the more than 20 million veterans across our Nation, with the highest population residing in my State of California.

Having a broadband Internet connection helps veterans apply for jobs more easily, obtain necessary vocational training, and communicate with friends and family. It lets them keep up with current events. It gives them access to healthcare services. And they can get important information about their benefits and military records. Without broadband Internet access, it is difficult to fully participate in today's society.

Veterans face many challenges when they return home. Not having Internet access makes what is already an incredibly tough transition process even harder. This is particularly likely to be the case for low-income veterans and veterans living in rural areas.

Although we lack data on the number of veterans with broadband Internet access, the U.S. Census Bureau and the Pew Research Center both report that broadband adoption rates are significantly lower among Americans who live at or below the Federal poverty level.

An analysis by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce further finds that broadband adoption rates in rural areas of the country are lower than they are in urban areas.

We must find ways to ensure that veterans, especially the more than 1.4 million living below the Federal poverty level and the 5.3 million residing in rural areas, are not left behind. This is why my bill directs the Federal Communications Commission to examine the current state of broadband access for veterans and what can be done to increase access, with a focus on low-income veterans and veterans residing in rural areas. The findings and recommendations from the report will be important for paving the way to get more veterans connected.

Again, I want to thank my cosponsor, Mr. KINZINGER, for his support, and I urge my colleagues to vote for the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, there are more than 20 million veterans across the Nation, and every single one of them deserves access to broadband Internet. This bill can help give Congress the information it needs to help improve the lives of our veterans, and I urge all of my colleagues for their support of the gentleman's legislation.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6394, the Improving Broadband Access for Veterans Act of 2016.

The First District of Georgia is blessed to be home to four of our military's fantastic installations and more importantly, to the great men and women who choose to serve our country.

Our military's greatest strength is found in those individuals who have chosen to defend our freedoms and our values.

Those veterans bring a wealth of information and experience to the civilian sector that benefits innovation and those who are exposed to it.

This bill requires the FCC to submit to Congress a report on the promotion of broadband access for veterans with a focus on low-income veterans and those living in rural areas.

By ensuring those veterans have access to high-speed broadband, that determination and hard-working spirit found in so many veterans that I've met can be fostered and grown.

I want to thank Congressman MCNERNEY, Congressman KINZINGER and the rest of the Energy and Commerce Committee for their hard work on such an important issue for the growth of our veteran community.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6394.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT ACCESS TO DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS AND CONNECTIVITY IS NECESSARY TO PREPARE YOUTH

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 939) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that access to digital communications tools and connectivity is necessary to prepare youth in the United States to compete in the 21st century economy.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 939

Whereas the United States should lead the world in providing high-quality education and opportunities to its citizens;

Whereas digital skills are essential for education and preparing citizens for the economy of the future;

Whereas, on a daily basis, teachers across the country assign homework that requires Internet access to be completed;

Whereas there are 5,000,000 households with school-age children in the United States that do not have high-speed Internet access at home and fall into what is known as the "homework gap";

Whereas a disproportionate number of students without high-speed Internet access at home reside in low-income and minority households;

Whereas students and families in rural areas face additional challenges when homework requires Internet access that is out of reach;

Whereas every student deserves an opportunity at 21st century success;

Whereas participation in the classroom can be improved when all students are equipped with the tools to complete their homework;

Whereas educators can increase the use of cutting-edge education technology and digital learning resources when those resources remain accessible during out-of-school hours;

Whereas data show that students have received lower grades and been unable to complete their assignments because of their lack of Internet access at home;

Whereas improved student access to postsecondary education and workforce opportunities can be made possible by increasing the ability of students to apply for employment, postsecondary education, and financial aid opportunities;

Whereas leaders in the public and private sectors have recognized that the homework gap is an issue of national importance and partnered to find cooperative solutions to address it; and

Whereas instilling digital skills and the knowledge to succeed in the 21st century economy in the Nation's students is vital to the Nation's global competitiveness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that access to digital communications tools and connectivity is necessary to prepare youth in the United States to compete in the 21st century economy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I am pleased to support another resolution from our colleagues from across the aisle.

Broadband and the Internet have become nearly indispensable parts of our 21st century economy. Whether it is bringing the world's information to your fingertips or connecting you to people around the world, it is increasingly clear that improved access to the Internet is a vital part of our digital future, and particularly so for our Nation's children.

This resolution affirms the commitment of the House of Representatives to ensuring all Americans, particularly

students, have the tools they need to succeed. As members of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, Democrats and Republicans alike firmly espouse the goal of bringing broadband access to all children of the United States.

I thank the gentleman from Vermont for shining a light on this important issue, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H. Res. 939.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, here is the situation: our kids are going to school, they are getting homework, and 70 percent of the teachers assign homework that presumes access to the Internet, but many of our kids don't have access to the Internet.

About 5 million, or one-third of households with school age children in the U.S., lack a high-speed connection at home. That is the "homework gap." It creates a lot of anxiety, as well as some inability to get the homework done. And the anxiety for these kids is that they go home, they have got an assignment, they want to do it, and they don't have the tools. It puts enormous pressure on the parents.

We have seen some reports where, in order to address this outside of the school, they will park buses that have high-speed Internet access, and the parents will bring the kids back to school and sit outside while the kids sit on the bus where they have the homework connection.

That is asking a lot of our parents, it is asking a lot of our kids, and this resolution is just acknowledging what I think we all know is the obvious. That is, if kids are going to have a shot at getting ahead, if they are going to be able to do their homework, we have got to get that Internet access out in the area so we don't have 5 million kids without it.

□ 1315

It is such a real problem when you get into the rural areas, and that is where Mr. LATTA and I know that, and the reason is because extending the broadband out into the rural areas is economically more of a challenge for some of our companies.

We believe that, ultimately, we have got to have Internet access, much like we did with electricity, where we make a policy that says we are getting that broadband to the last mile. This resolution demonstrates an ongoing bipartisan commitment to achieve that goal. I know, Mr. Speaker, you have a lot of rural areas in your district as well.

I urge my colleagues to support this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the gentleman from Vermont. I

know we have worked for well over a year now on rural issues on the committee, and I appreciate his leadership on that. I also thank the gentleman for working across the aisle with us to highlight this important need.

American students must have every tool to prepare themselves for an increasingly competitive future, and I hope that my colleagues will join me in support of this resolution.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution, which would express the sense of the House of Representatives that students everywhere should have access to digital tools that will help to further their education in the 21st century economy.

This resolution expresses the sense of the House that the United States should be leading the world in proving the digital tools necessary to succeed and create new opportunities.

Nearly 5 million households in the United States do not have high-speed internet, meaning those households don't have access to an increasingly important aspect of a modern education.

By increasing access to millions of children around the country, we take a step forward in promoting a 21st century education.

This would also improve the global competitiveness of the United States as countries around the world increasingly promote broadband access in their educational systems.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to expand possibilities for children and to create an environment in which we can incentivize growth and new opportunities.

I thank the Energy and Commerce Committee and Congressman WELCH for their hard work and diligence on this issue.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 939.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE WITH RESPECT TO THIRD-PARTY CHARGES ON CONSUMER TELEPHONE BILLS

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 932) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to third-party charges on consumer telephone bills.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 932

Whereas telephone companies are required to permit third parties to bill for services on a consumer's monthly telephone bill in certain circumstances;

Whereas "cramming" is the act of placing unauthorized charges on a wireline, wireless, or bundled services telephone bill of a consumer;

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission estimates that cramming has harmed tens of millions of people in the United States; and

Whereas existing protections against cramming have not prevented harm to consumers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that protections against cramming should be improved and consumers should be empowered to stop unwanted third-party charges on their telephone bills.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of H. Res. 932, a sense of Congress offered by our colleague, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

The use of third-party billing on consumer telephone bills can provide consumers with convenience. Unfortunately, this has also been an area that has resulted in consumer fraud.

I agree with the gentlewoman that we should support efforts to provide consumers with tools to protect themselves from experiencing unauthorized charges on their phone bills. Though there are existing protections in place that prohibit so-called cramming, it is clear that more needs to be done to ensure that America's consumers aren't footing the bills for these unauthorized and illegal charges from third-party vendors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H. Res. 932, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Consumer fraud continues, and often times it is individuals figuring out how to use the Internet to get access to

your bills and cram charges. Sometimes it is even companies with respected reputations that somehow go awry and then end up ripping off their customers.

It is bad in two respects. One is that it costs money that consumers don't have. I mean, most folks are trying to make ends meet and it is pretty tough.

The second is that it really undercuts the confidence that I think a consumer wants to have and is entitled to have, that when they are putting their money out, they are being treated right, they are being treated fairly.

This resolution has been sponsored by Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY, and I have got to say that we are lucky in this Congress to have her for all these years leading the charge on consumer issues. She is vigilant, she is tough, and she is fair. Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY brought this to the attention of this body, and I urge that all of us support this resolution. I want to acknowledge my gratitude for her work over the years as an untiring consumer advocate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, both for yielding and for his kind words. I appreciate that.

I also thank my colleague across the aisle for his support for this resolution.

H. Res. 932 calls for action on unauthorized phone charges slipped onto consumer phone bills. As my colleague pointed out, that is called cramming.

Charges listed on your phone bill don't necessarily come from your phone company. Phone companies allow third parties to place charges on phone bills. Sometimes that can be a convenience. If you are texting a donation, that charge may also be indicated on your phone bill. However, consumers may end up paying charges that they never authorized in the first place, and scammers can cram the bill with small fees that can add up to significant sums over time.

The Federal Communications Commission estimates that the placement of unauthorized charges, known as cramming, has harmed tens of millions of Americans. Most of those phony charges go unnoticed. If you look at your phone bill, they may be listed as something vague like "monthly fee" or "service charge."

My resolution calls for action to stop this fraud. Consumer watchdogs have already taken some important steps. In 2014 and 2015, the Federal Communications Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Federal Trade Commission, and State attorneys general reached settlements with major wireless carriers on cramming. Under those settlements, wireless carriers must disclose and obtain consumer consent for third-party charges on their customers' wireless bills.

While those settlements were an important step, we still have gaps in our consumer protections. The cramming settlement only covers wireless customers, and those protections are time-limited. Landline customers are only protected if their phone company takes action voluntarily.

So consumers really do need strong, ongoing protections against cramming, regardless of which phone company they use and whether they purchase wireless, landline, or bundled phone services. That is why we offer this resolution expressing the sentiment of the House that protections against cramming should be improved and consumers should be empowered to stop unwanted charges.

Again, this resolution is only a first step. I urge every phone company to ensure that their customers understand and consent to any extra charges placed on their phone bills.

In the next Congress, I am hopeful that the Energy and Commerce Committee push for stronger cramming protections through hearings and, when necessary, legislation.

As we take this important first step, I do want to thank my cosponsors on this resolution: Congressman GENE GREEN, a member of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee; Congressman GRIJALVA; Congressman HONDA; and Congresswoman BUSTOS.

I also thank Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALLONE on the full Committee, and Chairman WALDEN and Ranking Member ESHOO on the Communications and Technology Subcommittee for working with us to bring this resolution to the floor.

Today I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I look forward to working with all of you to realize this resolution's goal: No more phony charges.

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

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 932, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to third-party charges on consumer telephone bills.

This legislation resolves that it is the sense of the House that protections against cramming, which is the act of placing unauthorized charges on a telephone bill, should be improved. It is an effort to bring to light the form of fraud called cramming and its effect on consumers' bills.

Many of our Nation's major telecommunications providers have recognized this issue and have made strides in increasing protections for consumers. By passing this resolution, we are taking one step closer to protecting consumers from fraudulent activities and ensuring that those who are vul-

nerable in our society are no longer susceptible to scammers.

We must continue to address these cases of fraud head on, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue and others.

I applaud the Energy and Commerce Committee for their work on this important legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

This is another area where I am proud to join my colleagues in showing the bipartisan work that has been the hallmark of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois for her leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 932.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4680) to prepare the National Park Service for its Centennial in 2016 and for a second century of promoting and protecting the natural, historic, and cultural resources of our National Parks for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4680

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "National Park Service Centennial Act".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE FUND

Sec. 101. National Park Centennial Challenge Fund.

Sec. 102. Comparable pass cost for seniors.

TITLE II—NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Second Century Endowment for the National Park Service.

TITLE III—NATIONAL PARK NEXT GENERATION STEWARDS

Sec. 301. National Park Service interpretation and education.

Sec. 302. Public Land Corps amendments.
Sec. 303. Volunteers in the parks.

**TITLE IV—NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION
AUTHORITIES**

Sec. 401. Board of directors.
Sec. 402. Authorization of appropriations;
use of funds.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 501. National Historic Preservation Act.
Sec. 502. Award of concession contracts.

**TITLE VI—TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO
NATIONAL PARK AND PROGRAM LAWS**

Sec. 601. Technical corrections to national
park and program laws.

**TITLE VII—VISITOR EXPERIENCE
IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORITY**

Sec. 701. Visitor experience improvements
authority.

**TITLE VIII—NATIONAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION AMENDMENTS ACT**

Sec. 801. Short title.
Sec. 802. Reauthorization of the Historic
Preservation Fund.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **CHALLENGE FUND.**—The term “Challenge Fund” means the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund established in title I.

(2) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the National Park Service.

(3) **ENDOWMENT.**—The term “Endowment” means the Second Century Endowment for the National Park Service established by title II.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) **SIGNATURE PROJECT OR PROGRAM.**—The term “signature project or program” means any project or program identified by the Secretary as one that will help prepare the national parks for another century of conservation, preservation, and visitor enjoyment.

**TITLE I—NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL
CHALLENGE FUND**

SEC. 101. NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE FUND.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 1033 the following:

**“CHAPTER 1035—NATIONAL PARK
CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE FUND**

“103501. Establishment.

“103502. Signature projects and programs.

“103503. Summary to Congress.

“§ 103501. Establishment

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established in the Treasury an account to be known as the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund.

“(b) **DEPOSITS.**—All amounts received by the United States each fiscal year from sales by the National Park Service of National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes under section 805(b)(1) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act that are in excess of \$10,000,000 shall be deposited into the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund as offsetting collections and shall remain available to the Secretary until expended.

“(c) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Funds collected and deposited into the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund—

“(1) shall be used for projects or programs approved by the Secretary to further the mission of the Service and to enhance the visitor experience in System units;

“(2) may not be used to acquire lands or interest in lands; and

“(3) may only be used if matched, on at least a 1-to-1 basis, by non-Federal donations

(including funds and fairly valued durable goods and materials) to the Service for signature projects or programs.

“(d) **LIMITATION ON SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR MATCHING.**—Amounts derived from the Second Century Endowment for the National Park Service shall not be treated as non-Federal donations for purposes of subsection (c)(3).

“§ 103502. Signature projects and programs

“(a) **LIST.**—The Secretary shall—

“(1) develop a list of signature projects and programs eligible for funding from the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund;

“(2) submit the list developed pursuant to paragraph (1) to the Committees on Appropriations and Energy and Natural Resources in the United States Senate, and to the Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources in the House of Representatives; and

“(3) prioritize deferred maintenance projects, physical improvements to visitor services facilities and trail maintenance.

“(b) **UPDATES.**—The Secretary may, from time to time, as the Secretary finds appropriate, add any signature project or program to the list and provide notice of such addition as required by subsection (a).

“§ 103503. Summary to Congress

“The Secretary shall provide with the submission of the President’s annual budget a summary of the status and funding of signature projects and programs.”

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 1033 the following:

**“1035. National Park Centennial
Challenge Fund**
103501”.

SEC. 102. COMPARABLE PASS COST FOR SENIORS.

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801, Public Law 108-447, division J, title VIII) is amended in section 805(b)(1)—

(1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting:

“(A) The Secretary”;

(2) by striking “, at a cost of \$10.00.”;

(3) by striking “shall be valid for the lifetime of the pass holder.” and inserting the following: “shall be available—

“(i) for a period of 12 months from the date of the issuance, at a cost of \$20; and

“(ii) for the lifetime of the passholder, at a cost equal to the cost of the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass purchased under subsection (a).”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) The Secretary shall issue a pass under subparagraph (A)(ii), for no additional cost, to any individual who provides evidence, under policies and guidelines determined by the Secretary, that the individual has purchased a pass under subparagraph (A)(i) for each of the 4 years prior to being issued a pass under this subparagraph.”

**TITLE II—NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION
ENDOWMENT**

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “National Park Foundation Endowment Act”.

**SEC. 202. SECOND CENTURY ENDOWMENT FOR
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.**

(a) **SECOND CENTURY ENDOWMENT.**—Chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

**“§ 101121. Second Century Endowment for
the National Park Service**

“(a) **SECOND CENTURY ENDOWMENT.**—To further the mission of the Service, the National Park Foundation shall establish a special ac-

count to be known as the “Second Century Endowment for the National Park Service”.

“(1) **FUNDS FOR THE ENDOWMENT.**—The following shall apply to the Endowment:

“(A) From amounts received by the United States each fiscal year from sales by the National Park Service of Federal Recreational Lands Passes under section 805(b)(1) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, \$10,000,000 shall be deposited into the Endowment.

“(B) In addition to deposits otherwise authorized, the Endowment shall consist of any gifts, devises, or bequests that are provided to the National Park Foundation for such purpose.

“(C) The National Park Foundation shall deposit any funds received for the Endowment in a federally insured interest-bearing account or may invest funds in appropriate security obligations, as directed by the Board of Directors.

“(D) Any accrued interest or dividends earned on funds received for the Endowment shall be added to the principal and form a part of the Endowment.

“(2) **USE OF FUNDS.**—

“(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), funds in the Endowment shall be available to the National Park Foundation as offsetting collections for projects and activities approved by the Secretary that further the mission and purposes of the Service.

“(B) Gifts, devises, or bequests in the endowment under paragraph (1)(A), and any accrued interest or dividends earned thereon, shall be available to the National Park Foundation for projects and activities approved by the Secretary that further the mission and purposes of the Service.

“(C) In administering the Endowment each fiscal year, the National Park Foundation shall be guided by the District of Columbia Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act of 2007 (D.C. Code § 44-1631 et seq.), including section 44-1633 on expenditures.

“(D) No Federal funds received for the Endowment may be used by the National Park Foundation for administrative expenses of the Foundation, including for salaries, travel and transportation expenses, and other overhead expenses.

“(b) **SUMMARY.**—Beginning 2 years after the date of the enactment of this section, the National Park Foundation shall include with its annual report a summary of the status of the Endowment. The summary shall include—

“(1) a statement of the amounts deposited in the Endowment during the fiscal year;

“(2) the amount of the balance remaining in the Endowment at the end of the fiscal year; and

“(3) a description of the sums and purposes of the expenditures made from the Endowment for the fiscal year.”

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“101121. Second Century Endowment for the National Park Service.”

**TITLE III—NATIONAL PARK NEXT
GENERATION STEWARDS**

SEC. 301. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 1007 the following:

**“CHAPTER 1008—EDUCATION AND
INTERPRETATION**

“100801. Definitions.

“100802. Interpretation and education authority.

“100803. Interpretation and education evaluation and quality improvement.

“100804. Improved use of partners and volunteers in interpretation and education.

§ 100801. Definitions

“As used in this chapter:

“(1) INTERPRETATION.—The term ‘interpretation’—

“(A) means providing opportunities for people to form intellectual and emotional connections to gain awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the resources of the System; and

“(B) may refer to the professional career field of Service employees, volunteers, and partners who interpret the resources of the System.

“(2) EDUCATION.—The term ‘education’ means enhancing public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the resources of the System through learner-centered, place-based materials, programs, and activities that achieve specific learning objectives as identified in a curriculum.

“(3) RELATED AREAS.—The term ‘related areas’ means—

“(A) national wild and scenic rivers and national trails;

“(B) national heritage areas; and

“(C) affiliated areas administered in connection with the System.

§ 100802. Interpretation and education authority

“The Secretary shall ensure that management of System units and related areas is enhanced by the availability and use of a broad program of the highest quality interpretation and education.

§ 100803. Interpretation and education evaluation and quality improvement

“The Secretary may undertake a program of regular evaluation of interpretation and education programs to ensure that they—

“(1) adjust to how people learn and engage with the natural world and shared heritage as embodied in the System;

“(2) reflect different cultural backgrounds, ages, education, gender, abilities, ethnicity, and needs;

“(3) demonstrate innovative approaches to management and appropriately incorporate emerging learning and communications technology; and

“(4) reflect current scientific and academic research, content, methods, and audience analysis.

§ 100804. Improved use of partners and volunteers in interpretation and education

“The Secretary may—

“(1) coordinate with park partners and volunteers in the delivery of quality programs and services to supplement those provided by the Service as part of a park’s Long Range Interpretive Plan;

“(2) support interpretive partners by providing opportunities to participate in interpretive training; and

“(3) collaborate with other Federal and non-Federal public or private agencies, organizations, or institutions for the purposes of developing, promoting, and making available educational opportunities related to resources of the System and programs.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters at the beginning of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 1007 the following new item:

“1008. Education and Interpretation 100801”.

SEC. 302. PUBLIC LAND CORPS AMENDMENTS.

The Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (Public Law 91-378, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 203(10)(A) (16 U.S.C. 1722(10)(A)), by striking “25” and inserting “30”;

(2) in section 204(b) (16 U.S.C. 1723(b)), by striking “25” and inserting “30”; and

(3) in section 207(c)(2) (16 U.S.C. 1726(c)(2)), by striking “120 days” and inserting “2 years”.

SEC. 303. VOLUNTEERS IN THE PARKS.

Subject to the availability of appropriations, section 102301(d) of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking “not more than \$7,000,000” and inserting “not more than \$9,000,000”.

TITLE IV—NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION AUTHORITIES

SEC. 401. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 101112—

(A) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) MEMBERSHIP.—The National Park Foundation shall consist of a Board having as members no fewer than 6 private citizens of the United States appointed by the Secretary. The Secretary and the Director shall be non-voting members of the Board, ex officio.”; and

(B) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) CHAIRMAN.—The Chairman shall be elected by the Board from its members for a two-year term.”; and

(2) in section 101113(a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) COORDINATION WITH SERVICE.—Activities of the National Park Foundation under paragraph (1) shall be undertaken after consultation with the Director to ensure that those activities are consistent with the programs and policies of the Service.”.

SEC. 402. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; USE OF FUNDS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; USE OF FUNDS.—Chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code, is further amended by adding after section 101121 the following:

“§ 101122. Authorization of appropriations; use of funds

“(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subchapter \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2023.

“(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available under subsection (a)—

“(1) may be advanced each fiscal year to the National Park Foundation in a lump sum without regard to when expenses are incurred;

“(2) shall be provided to the National Park Foundation for use to match contributions (whether in currency, services, or property) made to the Foundation;

“(3) may not be used by the National Park Foundation for administrative expenses of the Foundation, including for salaries, travel and transportation expenses, and other overhead expenses; and

“(4) may not be deposited by the National Park Foundation into any fund that will be invested or earn interest in any way.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“101122. Authorization of appropriations; use of funds.”.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 501. NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT.

(a) ADDITIONAL MEMBER.—Section 304101(a) of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (8), (9), (10), and (11) as paragraphs (9), (10), (11), and (12), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

“(8) The General Chairman of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.”.

(b) FULL-TIME CHAIRMAN.—Section 304101 of title 54, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) CHAIRMAN.—(1) After January 20, 2017, the Chairman shall—

“(A) be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

“(B) serve at the will of the President;

“(C) serve full time; and

“(D) be compensated at the rate provided for Level V of the Executive Schedule Pay Rates under section 5316 of title 5.

“(2) The Chairman shall serve for a term of 4 years and may be reappointed once, for a total of not more than 8 years of service as Chairman, except that a Chairman whose appointment has expired under this paragraph shall serve until his or her successor has been appointed. The term of a Chairman shall start (regardless of actual appointment date) on January 20 after each general Presidential election. The first Chairman appointed after the date of enactment of this paragraph shall have a first term commencing on January 20, 2017, and ending on January 19, 2021.

“(3) The Chairmen before the first appointment of a Chairman in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection shall receive \$100 per diem when engaged in the performance of the duties of the Council, and shall receive reimbursement for necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred by them in the performance of the duties of the Council.”; and

(3) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated), by striking “may act in place” and inserting “shall perform the functions”.

(c) CONFORMING CHANGES.—

(1) Section 304101 of title 54, United States Code, is further amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking “, (7), and (8)” and inserting “and (7) through (9)”;

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking “under paragraphs (1) and (9) to (11)” and inserting “under paragraphs (10) through (12)”;

(ii) by striking “An appointed member may not serve more than 2 terms.” and inserting “An appointed member, other than the Chairman of the Council, may not serve more than 2 terms.”;

(C) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated), by striking “paragraph (5), (6), (9), or (10)” and inserting “paragraph (5), (6), (10), or (11)”;

(D) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated), by striking “Twelve members” and inserting “Thirteen members”.

(2) Section 304104 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: “The Chairman of the Council shall be compensated as provided in subsection (e) of section 304101.”.

(3) Section 304105(a) of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “report directly to the Council” and inserting “report directly to the Chairman”; and

(B) by striking “duties as the Council may prescribe” and inserting “duties as the Chairman may prescribe”.

(4) Section 5316 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.”.

(d) CLARIFICATION.—Subsection (b) and subsection (d) of section 311103 of title 54, United States Code, are amended by striking “Council” each place it appears and inserting “Chairman of the Council”.

SEC. 502. AWARD OF CONCESSION CONTRACTS.

Section 101913(9) of title 54, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(9) NEW OR ADDITIONAL SERVICES.—The Secretary may propose to amend the applicable terms of an existing concessions contract to provide new and additional services where the Secretary determines the services are necessary and appropriate for public use and enjoyment of the unit of the National Park System in which they are located and are consistent to the highest practicable degree with the preservation and conservation of the resources and values of the unit. Such new and additional services shall not represent a material change to the required and authorized services as set forth in the applicable prospectus or contract.”.

TITLE VI—TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO NATIONAL PARK AND PROGRAM LAWS

SEC. 601. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO NATIONAL PARK AND PROGRAM LAWS.

(a) APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKE-SHORE.—Section 3030 of title XXX of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3766) is amended in the section heading by striking “NATIONAL SEASHORE.” and inserting “NATIONAL LAKESHORE.”.

(b) BALTIMORE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.—Title VIII of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11, 16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended—

(1) in sections 8005(b)(3) and 8005(b)(4) by striking “Baltimore Heritage Area Association” and inserting “Baltimore City Heritage Area Association”; and

(2) in section 8005(4) by striking “EFFECTIVENESS” and inserting “FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE”.

(c) CUMBERLAND ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE.—Section 6(b) of the Act entitled “An Act to establish the Cumberland Island National Seashore in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes” (Public Law 92-536; 16 U.S.C. 4591-5) is amended by striking “physiographic conditions not prevailing” and inserting “physiographic conditions now prevailing”.

(d) HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, NEW YORK.—Section 3036(d)(4)(B) of title XXX of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3780) is amended by striking “section 2(b)(1)” and inserting “section 3035”.

(e) HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, MARYLAND.—Section 3035(d)(4)(B) of title XXX of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3778) is amended by striking “section 3(b)(1)(A)” and inserting “section 3036”.

(f) HISTORIC PRESERVATION STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.—Section 306131(a)(3) of title 54,

United States Code, is amended by striking “Office of Management and Budget” and inserting “Office of Personnel Management”.

(g) LAVA BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The first section of the Act of October 13, 1972 (Public Law 92-493; 86 Stat. 811) is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking “That, in” and inserting “Section 1. In”; and

(2) by striking “ten thousand acres” and all that follows through the remainder of the sentence and inserting “10,431 acres, as depicted within the proposed wilderness boundary on the map entitled ‘Lava Beds National Monument, Proposed Wilderness Boundary Adjustment’, numbered 147/80,015, and dated September 2005, and those lands within the area generally known as the Schonchin Lava Flow comprising about 18,029 acres, as depicted within the proposed wilderness boundary on the map, are designated as wilderness.”.

(h) MUSCLE SHOALS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.—Section 8009(j) of title VIII of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11, 16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended by striking “EFFECTIVENESS” and inserting “FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE”.

(i) PATERSON GREAT FALLS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.—Section 3037(a)(1)(c) of title XXX of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3780) is amended by striking “numbered T03/120,155, and dated April 2014” and insert “numbered T03/120,155A, and dated August 2015”.

(j) SNAKE RIVER HEADWATERS.—Section 5002(c)(1) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11, 123 Stat. 1148, 1149) is amended by striking “paragraph (205) of section 3(a)” each place it appears and inserting “paragraph (206) of section 3(a)”.

(k) TAUNTON RIVER.—Section 5003(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11, 123 Stat. 1152, 1153) is amended by striking “section 3(a)(206)” each place it appears and inserting “section 3(a)(207)”.

(l) WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT.—Section 4(e)(3)(c) of the World War I Centennial Commission Act (Public Law 112-272; 126 Stat. 2449) is amended by striking “National Parks Service.” and inserting “National Park Service.”.

TITLE VII—VISITOR EXPERIENCE IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORITY

SEC. 701. VISITOR EXPERIENCE IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORITY.

Chapter 1019 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER III—COMMERCIAL SERVICES AUTHORIZATION

“101931. Contract authority.

“101932. Award of commercial services contracts.

“101933. Term of commercial services contracts.

“101934. Capital improvements.

“101935. Financial management.

“101936. Regulations.

“101937. Savings provision.

“101938. Sunset.

“§ 101931. Contract authority

“(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding subchapter II, the Secretary may award and administer commercial services contracts (and related professional services contracts) for the operation and expansion of commercial visitor facilities and visitor services programs in System units. The com-

mercial services contracts that may be awarded shall be limited to those that are necessary and appropriate for public use and enjoyment of the unit of the System in which they are located, and, that are consistent with the preservation and conservation of the resources and values of the unit.

“(b) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—Contracts may be awarded under subsection (a) without regard to Federal laws and regulations governing procurement by Federal agencies, with the exception of laws and regulations related to Federal government contracts governing working conditions and wage rates, including the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), sections 3141-3144, 3146, and 3147 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Davis-Bacon Act’), and any civil rights provisions otherwise applicable thereto.

“(c) USE OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES CONTRACTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may issue a commercial services contract under this subchapter when the Secretary determines that the contract meets the objectives of expanding, modernizing, and improving the condition of commercial visitor facilities and the services provided to visitors.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—No contracts may be awarded under this subchapter—

“(A) for the provision of outfitter and guide services described in section 101913(8); or

“(B) to authorize the provision of facilities or services for which the Secretary has granted to an existing concessioner a preferential right of renewal as defined in sections 101911 and 101913.

“§ 101932. Award of commercial services contracts

“(a) COMPETITIVE SELECTION PROCESS.—Except as provided in subsection (c), commercial services contracts shall be awarded by the Secretary through a competitive selection process.

“(b) SOLICITATION OF PROPOSALS.—Before awarding a new commercial services contract, the Secretary shall publicly solicit proposals for the contract, except as provided in subsection (c). In connection with such solicitation, the Secretary shall prepare a request for proposals and shall publish notice of its availability.

“§ 101933. Term of commercial services contracts

“A commercial services contract entered into pursuant to this title shall be awarded for a term not to exceed 10 years.

“§ 101934. Capital improvements

“A person or entity awarded a contract under this subchapter shall receive no leasehold surrender interest, as defined in section 101915, in capital improvements constructed under the terms of the contract.

“§ 101935. Financial management

“(a) REVOLVING FUND.—There is established a revolving fund that shall be available to the Secretary without fiscal year limitation for—

“(1) expenses necessary for the management, improvement, enhancement, operation, construction, and maintenance of commercial visitor services and facilities, and

“(2) payment of possessory interest and leasehold surrender interest.

“(b) COLLECTION OF FUNDS.—

“(1) Funds collected by the Secretary pursuant to the contracts awarded under this subchapter shall be credited to the revolving fund.

“(2) The Secretary is authorized to transfer to the revolving fund, without reimbursement, any additional funds or revenue in connection with the functions to be carried out under this subchapter.

“(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the revolving fund shall be used by the Secretary in furtherance of the purposes of this title. No funds from this account may be used to decrease the availability of services and programs to the public.

“§ 101936. Regulations

“As soon as practicable after the effective date of this subchapter, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations appropriate for its implementation.

“§ 101937. Savings provision

“Nothing in this subchapter shall modify the terms or conditions of any concessions contracts awarded under subchapter II or the ability of the National Park Service to enter into concessions contracts under the National Park Service Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998 (title IV of Public Law 105-391) including the use of leaseholder surrender interest.

“§ 101938. Sunset

“The authority given to the Secretary under this subchapter shall expire 7 years after the date of the enactment of this subchapter.”

TITLE VIII—NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION AMENDMENTS ACT
SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “National Historic Preservation Amendments Act”.

SEC. 802. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303102 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2023”.

(b) FEDERAL NOMINATIONS.—Section 302104 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsections (a) and (b), by striking “subsection (c)” and inserting “subsection (d)”;

(2) by inserting after subsection (b), the following new subsection:

“(c) NOMINATION BY FEDERAL AGENCY.—Subject to the requirements of section 302107 of this title, the regulations promulgated under section 302103 of this title, and appeal under subsection (d) of this section, the Secretary may accept a nomination directly by a Federal agency for inclusion of property on the National Register only if—

“(1) completed nominations are sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review and comment regarding the adequacy of the nomination, the significance of the property and its eligibility for the National Register;

“(2) within 45 days of receiving the completed nomination, the State Historic Preservation Officer has made a recommendation regarding the nomination to the Federal Preservation Officer, except that failure to meet this deadline shall constitute a recommendation to not support the nomination;

“(3) the chief elected officials of the county (or equivalent governmental unit) and municipal political jurisdiction in which the property is located are notified and given 45 days in which to comment;

“(4) the Federal Preservation Officer forwards it to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places after determining that all procedural requirements have been met, including those in paragraphs (1) through (3) above; the nomination is adequately documented; the nomination is tech-

nically and professionally correct and sufficient; and may include an opinion as to whether the property meets the National Register criteria for evaluation;

“(5) notice is provided in the Federal Register that the nominated property is being considered for listing on the National Register that includes any comments and the recommendation of the State Historic Preservation Officer and a declaration whether the State Historic Preservation Officer has responded within the 45 day-period of review provided in paragraph (2); and

“(6) the Secretary addresses in the Federal Register any comments from the State Historic Preservation Officer that do not support the nomination of the property on the National Register before the property is included in the National Register.”; and

(3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d).

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 303102 of such title is amended by striking “CONTENTS” in the heading thereof and inserting “FUNDING”.

(2) The table of sections for chapter 3031 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 303102 and inserting the following new item:

“303102. Funding.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

August 25, 2016, marked the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service; still making it newer than the Antiquities Act, but it was their 100th anniversary.

Today, the Park Service has 400 units covering 84 million acres, but they do have some significant problems; namely, a \$12 billion backlog in their maintenance issues. We seem to add new parks all the time, and that makes the Park Service fall further behind in this effort.

It is fun to create a new national park. It is not sexy to talk about fixing a sewer system. So that requires us to be a little bit more creative than we have been in the past, and to provide new tools so that the Park Service can meet this challenge that they have.

This bill before us has been crafted in consultation with the Park Service, the Park Foundation, and other interested parties. It establishes two significant things. One, a new Centennial Challenge Fund at the Treasury to help the Park Service maintain and im-

prove visitor service facilities. This fund will raise money on a one-to-one match between the Federal Government and a private match. Last year in appropriations, \$15 million was put into this concept and it was matched by \$33 million in private donations, which is a number that I think we will be able to improve on in the future.

H.R. 4680 also establishes a Second Century Endowment at the National Park Foundation, which will allow the private sector to truly work with the Park Service in a true public-private partnership.

It also raises the spending authorization for volunteers in the parks. This does not fix all of the National Park Service problems, but it is a good start. For their centennial, this is an excellent way to move forward into the challenges that they face.

I will include in the RECORD exchanges of letters with Chairman KLINE of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, as well as Chairman CONAWAY of the Committee on Agriculture. We appreciate their cooperation in scheduling this bill and any of the others, either by unanimous consent or by general leave.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure. It is a good measure. I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,

Washington, DC, April 11, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to review H.R. 4680, the National Park Service Centennial Act. As you are aware, the bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, while the Agriculture Committee received an additional referral.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I agree to discharge H.R. 4680 from further consideration by the Committee on Agriculture. I do so with the understanding that by discharging the bill, the Committee on Agriculture does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar matters. Further, the Committee on Agriculture reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees, if it should become necessary.

I ask that you insert a copy of our exchange of letters into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, May 6, 2016.

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On March 16, 2016, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported as I amended H.R. 4680, the National Park Service Centennial Act, by

voice vote. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with additional referrals to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Agriculture to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Agriculture represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources to memorialize our understanding as well as in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for your continued strong cooperation between our committees.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, May 11, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,

*Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to H.R. 4680, the National Park Service Centennial Act. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Education and the Workforce with respect to H.R. 4680 on those matters within the Committee's jurisdiction.

In the interest of expediting the House's consideration of H.R. 4680, the Committee on Education and the Workforce will forgo further consideration of this bill. However, I do so only with the understanding this procedural route will not be construed to prejudice my Committee's jurisdictional interest and prerogatives on this bill or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to my Committee in the future.

I respectfully request your support for the appointment of outside conferees from the Committee on Education and the Workforce should this bill or a similar bill be considered in a conference with the Senate. I also request you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Committee Report on H.R. 4680 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE,

Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, May 11, 2016.

Hon. JOHN KLINE,

*Chairman, Committee on Education and the
Workforce, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On March 16, 2016, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported as amended H.R. 4680, the National Park Service Centennial Act, by voice vote. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with additional referrals to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and Agriculture.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Education and the Workforce to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Education and the Workforce represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources to memorialize our understanding as well as in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for your continued strong cooperation between our committees.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS).

□ 1330

Ms. TSONGAS. Throughout this centennial year of the National Park Service, I have been reminded of something that Stephen Mather, that agency's very first Director, once said. Reflecting on the new agency, he remarked: "The parks do not belong to one State or to one section . . . The Yosemite, the Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon are national properties in which every citizen has a vested interest; they belong as much to the man"—and, I would add, woman—"of Massachusetts, of Michigan, of Florida as they do to the people of California, of Wyoming, and of Arizona."

Those words are a powerful reminder in this era of political division and disagreement: national parks are national. They cut across party lines and geographic boundaries. They enjoy broad support, and they bring people together—something we seem to need now more than ever.

For 100 years, generation after generation of Americans have made the commitment that our most significant historical, cultural, and natural sites should be preserved in perpetuity for future generations. Our national parks have been famously called "America's best idea" and have become engrained in our national identity—places like the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, and Ellis Island, and in my own district, Minute Man National Historical Park, which commemorates the shot heard 'round the world, and Lowell National Historical Park, which recognizes the people, places, and radical innovation that spawned our Nation's industrial revolution.

These parks protect, they celebrate, and give access to the many places that have shaped and defined who we are as a people and a country, and it is important to remember that these places would not have been protected absent support from the Federal Government.

Investments in our parks make economic sense. Nationally, the parks generate nearly \$30 billion in economic activity and support 250,000 private sector jobs. When people visit our national parks, they also support nearby restaurants, hotels, and local outfitters and guides. According to a recent economic study conducted by the National Park Service, every Federal dollar invested in our parks contributes \$10 in economic activity.

The legislation before us today includes several helpful provisions as the National Park Service begins its second century. The legislation makes a commitment to the Centennial Challenge, a matching grant program that leverages Federal dollars to encourage private investments to support signature centennial projects that are identified by the National Park Service. It also establishes an endowment at the National Park Foundation to support the missions and goals of the Park Service, makes improvements to the Volunteers-In-Parks program, and helps the National Park Service recruit and hire more young and diverse Americans.

This legislation also includes my amendment to ensure that low-income seniors retain access to the Senior Pass, a lifetime pass that provides entrance to all of our Nation's public lands for people age 62 and above. As I am sure my colleagues can attest, seniors in our districts living on a very constrained fixed income may struggle to assemble the \$80 to make a one-time payment to purchase a lifetime Senior Pass. This legislation creates a new \$20 annual Senior Pass and allows seniors who have purchased four of those passes to trade them in and receive a lifetime Senior Pass. This amendment ensures that we can appropriately balance the need for new revenue for the Centennial Challenge with fundamental fairness for all of our Nation's seniors.

I want to thank Chairman BISHOP, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, and the National Park Service for working with me on this provision of the bill.

Despite these successes, no Member of this body should ignore the stark reality that this legislation is a missed opportunity. On the Natural Resources Committee where I am proud to serve as ranking member of the Federal Lands Subcommittee, there is deep frustration and dissatisfaction with the \$12 million deferred maintenance backlog at the National Park Service. Democrats put a centennial bill on the table that starts to address this issue, but it never received serious consideration by our counterparts in the majority.

New revenue generated by fees, especially at the expense of our Nation's seniors, will not solve the issue of deferred maintenance. In the short term, the legislation before us today is a

good first step, and I support the bill. But Congress must find a way to appropriate new funds to our national parks in order to preserve and protect them for future generations of Americans.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK), who is the chairman of the Federal Lands Subcommittee and who has jurisdiction over this.

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

Mr. Speaker, this year marked the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service and of that uniquely American notion that the most beautiful and historic lands should be set aside for the “use, resort, and recreation” of the American people, as the original Yosemite Grant Act put it, or, in the words of the Organic Act of 1916 that established the national parks, “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same.”

Yet, a century into this endeavor, the Park Service faces considerable challenges to achieving its objectives. The Park Service’s original charge was to manage just 35 national parks and monuments. Today it is responsible for more than 400 units across 84 million acres. This exponential growth has left many locations in disrepair, facing a growing backlog of deferred maintenance now exceeding \$12 billion.

In addition to desperately needed maintenance, the Park Service also faces challenges with fee collection, technological upgrades, management of concessions contracts for visitor services, and, most disturbingly, a substantial decrease in overnight visitation. The decline has been particularly high among young people. Recent reports indicate that visits to parks by those 15 years of age and younger has fallen by half over the last decade.

The National Park Service Centennial Act provides the Park Service with new tools and authorities that it can use to maintain and improve the system. Provisions in this bill help reduce the Service’s maintenance backlog by generating new revenue to pay for needed capital improvements and leveraging private philanthropic donations to amplify this effort. In turn, these funds will be used to enhance visitor services, provide WiFi and cellular access that young people demand, and expand the Volunteers-In-Parks and Public Lands Corps programs that are so important in welcoming the public to the public lands.

I believe the three greatest challenges to Federal lands management are to restore public access to the public lands, to restore sound management to the public lands, and to restore the Federal Government as a good neighbor to those communities directly affected by the public lands.

This bill does all three. It promotes public access and enjoyment of the parks by promoting the expansion, modernization, and improvement of visitor services and amenities. It promotes good management by placing priority and generating funds necessary to address the growing maintenance backlog. It repairs the relationship between the Federal and local governments by giving local officials a say in future historic designations.

I can’t think of a better way to celebrate the last century and to begin the next century of our National Park Service than to restore the vision of its founders. Mr. Speaker, this bill does so, and I urge its adoption.

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

This month marks the end of a year of celebration. Over the past 12 months, hundreds of millions of people from our country and from around the world have joined together to celebrate one of the most valued and uniquely American ideas: our national park system. In our democratic society, the park system is uniquely one of the most democratic public institutions because, after all, all Americans own the park system and it is for all Americans, regardless.

For many, this year was a time to reflect on what began 100 years ago with a single mission: to protect our unique American heritage for the enjoyment of future generations. Last year, national parks across this Nation saw a record 307 million visitors. People came to the parks to explore, to learn and reflect on the grand natural beauty and the diverse history of our Nation.

Fifty years ago, Members of Congress understood the need to recognize these types of milestone accomplishments by passing legislation to reinvigorate not only the agency, but the American public. A decade before the 50th anniversary of the National Park Service, the House began pulling together a bill that demonstrated to the American people that they were willing to put their money where their mouth was.

In honor of the National Park Service’s 50th anniversary, Congress funded the Mission 66 program at over \$900 million, the equivalent of \$8 billion in 2016 dollars. The National Park Service expected 80 million visitors to celebrate that anniversary. Unsurprisingly, the American public beat expectations. The parks saw almost 130 million visitors in 1966 alone.

This Congress, which has the benefit of knowing how much Americans value their national parks, should be authorizing at least an equal amount. Instead, we have before us a bill that is but a shadow of what it could have been, a far cry from what my Democratic colleagues and I in the committee introduced back in September 2015. Instead of passing a bill that gives a standing ovation to the accomplish-

ments of the Park Service and sets the bar high for the next 100 years, today we are passing legislation that is the equivalent of a golf clap—very quietly.

Even previous Republican administrations have better understood the value of our national parks. In the last Republican administration, President Bush and Secretary Kempthorne were prepared to provide \$2.5 billion in additional operating funds, an additional \$1 billion in centennial commitment funds, and \$1 billion in centennial challenge funds to encourage private charitable investment in our country’s parks. In comparison, this legislation provides a tiny amount of funding compounded by years of budget reductions. Further, this bill asks that the mandatory spending come from only one source: mandatory increases to the price of the Parks’ Senior Pass.

What we are seeing today is a shell of a bill. Only a few provisions remain, which, although marginally helpful to ensure the vitality of the national parks for the future, fall far short of what is necessary and needed. What we are seeing today is a missed opportunity to do what is right. This bill, while optimistically named, is a year late and a couple of billion dollars short. Maybe we will get it right in the next 100 years.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here. This is a good bill. I appreciate those who have spoken so far for their willingness to take “yes” as an answer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4680, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ARBUCKLE PROJECT MAINTENANCE COMPLEX AND DISTRICT OFFICE CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1219) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and appurtenances of the Ar buckle Project, Oklahoma, to the Ar buckle Master Conservancy District, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1219

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Arbuckle Project Maintenance Complex and District Office Conveyance Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF MAINTENANCE COMPLEX AND DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE ARBUCKLE PROJECT, OKLAHOMA.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of the Interior shall, as soon as practicable, convey to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District, located in Murray County, Oklahoma, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Maintenance Complex and District Office, Arbuckle Project, Oklahoma, consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement between the United States and the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District.

(b) DEFINITIONS.

(1) *AGREEMENT.*—The term “Agreement” means the Agreement between the United States and the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District for Transferring Title to the Federally Owned Maintenance Complex and District Office to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District (Agreement No. 14AG640141).

(2) *DISTRICT OFFICE.*—The term “District Office” means the headquarters building located at 2440 East Main, Davis, Oklahoma, and the approximately 0.83 acres described in the Agreement.

(3) *MAINTENANCE COMPLEX.*—The term “Maintenance Complex” means the caretakers residence, shop buildings, and any appurtenances located on the lands described in the Agreement, to include approximately 2.00 acres, more or less.

(c) *LIABILITY.*—Effective upon the date of conveyance of the Maintenance Complex and District Office under this section, the United States shall not be held liable by any court for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to the Maintenance Complex and District Office, except for damages caused by acts of negligence committed by the United States or by its employees or agents prior to the date of conveyance. Nothing in this section increases the liability of the United States beyond that provided in chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (popularly known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”) on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) *BENEFITS.*—After conveyance of the Maintenance Complex and District Office to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District—

(1) the Maintenance Complex and District Office shall not be considered to be a part of a Federal reclamation project; and

(2) such water district shall not be eligible to receive any benefits with respect to any facility comprising that Maintenance Complex and District Office, except benefits that would be available to a similarly situated person with respect to such a facility that is not part of a Federal reclamation project.

(e) *COMMUNICATION.*—If the Secretary of the Interior has not completed the conveyance required under subsection (a) within 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a letter with sufficient detail that explains the reasons the conveyance has not been completed and stating the date by which the conveyance will be completed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to re-

vising and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill, H.R. 1219, sponsored by the great Congressman from Oklahoma, allows a water district in Oklahoma to take ownership of two buildings and 2 acres of land that they have paid for, they have operated, and they have maintained for the last several decades. Unfortunately, they still remain in Federal ownership, and they need this legislation to actually transfer it to relieve the district of burdensome paperwork and also relieve the Federal Government of some liability.

This bill has been done 27 other times over the last two decades, which simply means there needs to be some kind of reform in the process to remove the slow pace of the Bureau of Reclamation so we don't have to go through such a complicated effort for such a worthy cause.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1219 is a straightforward, reasonable piece of legislation worthy of passage. The bill would allow a title transfer of two Federal buildings to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District in south central Oklahoma.

□ 1345

These buildings are part of the Arbuckle Project, which is a water project, authorized by Congress in 1962, to provide flood control, recreational opportunities, and municipal water supply.

Nearly all of the facilities within the Arbuckle Project were already transferred to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District in 2012 after the district finished repaying what it owed the Federal Government for construction. However, due to some overly narrow language in the legislation authorizing the Arbuckle Project, two buildings within the project have yet to be transferred.

Transferring the two remaining buildings will save taxpayer money that would otherwise be needed to operate and maintain the buildings and will also relieve the Federal Government of any potential future liability associated with the buildings. This is straightforward legislation that should be quickly passed.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend for yielding, and I certainly want to thank him for moving this expeditiously through his committee and onto the floor. I want to associate myself with his remarks about the need for reform because this is a fairly routine matter.

I rise in support of H.R. 1219, the Arbuckle Project Maintenance Complex and District Office Conveyance Act. This bill is a straightforward land conveyance, which has both Federal and local support.

H.R. 1219 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain lands and buildings of the Arbuckle Project, in Murray County, Oklahoma, to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District.

In 1962, Congress authorized the payment of reimbursable costs for construction, operation, and maintenance of the Bureau of Reclamation's Arbuckle Master Conservancy District in south-central Oklahoma. The district completed repayment of the capital costs of the project in September of 2012.

In accordance with the Bureau of Reclamation's policy framework for title transfer, in December 2014, the Bureau of Reclamation and the district executed an agreement to transfer, in fee title, certain facilities that could be more efficiently and effectively managed at the local level.

The title transfer involves approximately 2.83 acres of land. On this land is a small house, associated structures, and the conservancy district's headquarters office building. The House and property are used to accommodate a district employee who maintains and inspects the dam and the pumping facilities. The headquarters office building is the base of operation for the district.

This bill also divests the Federal Government of its responsibility and liability associated with the district's facilities. Reclamation and the district have worked cooperatively and successfully to address all of the elements necessary to bring this legislation forward and make this transfer proceed as smoothly as possible.

I am pleased that this bill is an agreement with which both the Federal and local interests are satisfied.

I want to urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation. Again, I want to thank the chairman for his help in this matter.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, again, like I said, this is straightforward legislation that should be quickly passed. We urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill, and I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1219, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ECONOMIC EXPANSION ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6401) to amend Public Law 94-241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6401

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act".

SEC. 2. COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS: TRANSITIONAL WORKERS.

Section 6 of Public Law 94-241 (48 U.S.C. 1806) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(6), by striking "\$150" and inserting "\$200"; and

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) by striking the period at the end of the first sentence and inserting ", except a permit for construction occupations (as that term is defined by the Department of Labor as Standard Occupational Classification Group 47-0000 or any successor provision) shall only be issued to extend a permit first issued before October 1, 2015."; and

(B) by striking the period at the end of the third sentence and inserting ", except that for fiscal year 2017 the number of permits issued shall not exceed 15,000.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support this excellent piece of legislation. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

is experiencing an economic resurgence, and they have for the last several years. However, there is a challenge on maintaining a capable workforce to sustain that growth on the island, especially as they are phasing out the use of foreign workers.

To do that, the phasing out, which is occurring at a rate that actually is detrimental to sustaining economic growth, we need to provide some kind of flexibility to the Northern Mariana Islands to meet this challenge. This bill does it in three specific ways, each of which is a commonsense solution to a very, very complex issue. It is a great bill, and I urge its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman BISHOP for allowing this bill to come to the floor. I appreciate it very much.

The economy of the Northern Mariana Islands grew at a rate of 3.5 percent last year, the fourth straight year of growth for my district. The Bureau of Economic Analysis announced the new data a week ago.

This strong economic expansion is good news for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. We desperately want this growth to continue because our economy is still only three-quarters of what it was in 2000. But there is a problem with keeping that growth going—our limited population.

For that reason, I have introduced, with Congressman RADEWAGEN, bipartisan legislation, H.R. 6401, the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for H.R. 6401 from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Governor, Ralph DLG. Torres; the CNMI Strategic Economic Development Council; the Office of the Senate President, Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation; the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands; and from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, SAIPAN,
MP, DECEMBER 4, 2016.

Hon. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SABLAN: I write to support H.R. 6401, critical legislation that will provide short-term relief from the labor shortage facing the Commonwealth that threatens our growing economy and public health.

The latest report from Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates the Commonwealth economy grew for the fourth consecutive year. A growing economy needs a qualified workforce. And while there are now more U.S. workers than foreign workers in the Northern Marianas for the first time in decades, there are still not enough to meet the labor demand. The temporary increase in the number of Commonwealth-Only Transitional

(CW) workers provided in your bill will particularly help small businesses retain the workers needed to maintain operations.

Most importantly, the Commonwealth's only hospital, stand to lose critical staff including 34 staff nurses, two infection control nurses, a clinical laboratory scientist and specialists in mammography, ultrasonography without the relief provided in H.R. 6401.

Building a qualified U.S. workforce in the Northern Marianas is a priority for my administration. The CW worker fee increase in the legislation will provide additional funding for efforts to recruit, educate, and train these workers and establish a permanent pool of workers to fill local jobs.

H.R. 6401 is critical to continued economic growth in the Northern Marianas. The bill has my full support.

Sincerely,

RALPH DLG TORRES,
Governor.

CNMI STRATEGIC ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,
December 1, 2016.

Hon. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SABLAN: The CNMI Strategic Economic Development Committee is in strong support of H.R. 6401, critical legislation that will provide short-term relief from the labor shortage threatening the growth of the Northern Marianas economy.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates the Commonwealth economy grew for the fourth consecutive year, a recent high of 3.5 percent. This is attributable to increased private investment and tourism now threatened by the lack of available qualified workers on the island.

The modest one-year increase in Commonwealth-Only Transitional Workers (CW) proposed under H.R. 6401, will provide the business community with the necessary human resources to continue to operate and propel an expanding economy.

It is imperative that we do not stymie our plan for future economic growth, now beginning to come to fruition, with a labor shortage in critical areas.

The bill also provides additional funds for the job training/education programs proven effective at expanding the pool of qualified and skilled U.S. workers in the CNMI.

The CNMI Strategic Economic Development Council fully supports H.R. 6401 and appreciates all of your efforts in addressing the labor crisis in the Northern Marianas.

Very truly yours,

ALEXANDER A. SABLAN,
Sub Committee Chair-
man, Labor & CW
Task Force, CNMI
Strategic Economic
Development Com-
mittee.

OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT,
NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE,
Saipan, MP, December 6, 2016.

Hon. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SABLAN: As President of the Senate of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, I am in strong support of H.R. 6401, critical legislation that increases the FY 2017 cap on Commonwealth-only Transitional Workers (CW) to ensure continued economic growth and protect public health.

After more than a decade of decline, our Commonwealth economy is in resurgence. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports our economy grew for the fourth straight year, at a rate of 3.5 percent in 2015. A qualified workforce is necessary to sustain our businesses and attract new investment. While our investment in job training and education has been successful with the number of U.S. workers now outnumbering foreign workers, there are still more jobs than U.S. workers. The temporary increase in CW workers provided in the bill will help meet the demand and ensure that our business community has access to needed labor.

The CW cap also affects our ability to deliver health care services as the Commonwealth's only hospital is facing the loss of many nurses and those in specialized health care positions.

We are also in support of the increase in the CW worker fee as it increase the resources available to educate and train U.S. workers.

H.R. 6401 is critical to the present and future of the Northern Marianas and has my full support.

Sincerely,

FRANCISCO M. BORJA,
President.

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS,
Saipan, December 2, 2016.

Hon. GREGORIO "KILILI" CAMACHO SABLAN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SABLAN: Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is in strong support of H.R. 6401.

This critical legislation would provide an increase in the FY 2017 limit on Commonwealth-Only Transitional Workers (CW) and allow the CHCC to petition for renewal of 39 essential healthcare workers impacted when the CW cap was reached just two weeks into the Fiscal Year.

Our Commonwealth Health Center (CHC) is the only hospital in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, providing inpatient and outpatient acute, chronic, and emergency health care services to the people of the CNMI. We also maintain community health centers on the populated islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Our ability to continue to provide these essential on-island health care services, and maintain quality patient care and safety as well as maintain overall public health, depends on being able to maintain current staffing levels and specialized expertise.

Without an increase to the CW cap this year, CHC stands to lose the services and experience of 34 staff nurses, two infection control nurses, a clinical laboratory scientist and specialists in mammography and ultrasonography.

For the foregoing reasons, we are in full support H.R. 6401 and are grateful for your work in addressing this critical health care issue.

Sincerely,

ESTHER L. MUNA,
Chief Executive Officer.

HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS,
December 2, 2016.

Hon. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SABLAN: The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands is in strong support of H.R. 6401, critical legis-

lation that will provide short-term relief from the labor shortage threatening the growing hospitality industry in the Northern Marianas.

Due in large part to increased private investment and tourism the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis recently announced that the Commonwealth economy grew for the fourth consecutive year.

However, our hotel and resort properties are in critical need of labor, particularly those with skills and experience in the hospitality industry, culinary arts and property maintenance. The inability of employers to renew or hire new Commonwealth-Only Transitional Workers (CW) threatens their continued operations and chills future investment in our islands.

The modest one-year increase in CWs, proposed under H.R. 6401, will allow the hospitality industry to continue to provide first-class service to our tourists

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands fully supports H.R. 6401 and appreciates all of your efforts in addressing the labor crisis in the Northern Marianas.

Very truly yours,

GLORIA CAVANAGH,
Chairman.

SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Saipan, December 2, 2016.

Hon. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SABLAN: The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is in strong support of H.R. 6401, critical legislation that will provide short-term relief from the labor shortage threatening the growth of the Northern Marianas economy.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates the Commonwealth economy grew for the fourth consecutive year, a recent high of 3.5 percent. This is attributable to increased private investment and tourism now threatened by the lack of available qualified workers on the island.

The modest one-year increase in Commonwealth-Only Transitional Workers (CW) proposed under H.R. 6401, will provide the business community with the necessary human resources to continue to operate and propel an expanding economy. It will also provide additional critical funds for job training and education programs that are steadily expanding the pool of qualified and skilled U.S. workers on Saipan.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce fully supports H.R. 6401 and appreciates all of your efforts in addressing the labor crisis in the Northern Marianas.

Very truly yours,

VELMA M. PALACIOS,
President of the Board.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank again Chairman ROB BISHOP of the Natural Resources Committee for his understanding and support. I also thank Chairman DON YOUNG, who held a hearing on this issue in September and agreed that action was needed.

I appreciate the support of Ranking Members RAÚL GRIJALVA and RAUL RUIZ. And, of course, Mr. Speaker, I am indebted to the minority whip, Mr. HOYER, and to our majority leader, Mr. MCCARTHY, who agreed to bring H.R. 6401 to the floor today.

I ask my colleagues for the support of H.R. 6401.

Mr. Speaker, The economy of the Northern Mariana Islands grew at a rate of 3 point 5 percent last year and the fourth straight year of growth for my district.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis announced the new data a week ago.

This strong economic expansion is good news for the people of the Mariana Islands. We desperately want this growth to continue. Because our economy is still only three-quarters of what it was in 2000.

But there is a problem with keeping that growth going: our limited population.

For that reason, I have introduced with Congresswoman RADEWAGEN bipartisan legislation, H.R. 6401, the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act.

The Marianas has a very small population—only about 54,000 people. And economic expansion demands not only entrepreneurial capital and investment, which we are suddenly receiving. Economic expansion demands workers, as well.

We have struggled to bring more workers into our labor force.

Isolated as we are—6,000 miles from the U.S. mainland—it is difficult to attract U.S. workers. Our employers to gone everywhere to recruit workers—Guam, the Freely Associated States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. mainland.

We have worked hard to raise the skills of our own local population. A special fee paid by employers of foreign workers has pumped \$6 million into training.

And we are succeeding. Since 2008, the number of U.S. workers has grown. There are 15 percent more U.S. workers in our labor force today than there were ten years ago.

U.S. workers are now the majority of our labor force—a huge turnaround for us.

But we still find ourselves short of the workers we need—especially at this moment, when there are hundreds of millions of dollars of new tourism development being invested in our islands.

H.R. 6401 does several things:

First, it will put more money into that training fund that is proving so successful at helping put our people to work.

The bill also allows us to bring in a limited, additional number of foreign workers under the Commonwealth-only Transitional Worker program that was set up under federal law to help us build our U.S. labor force.

The Transitional Worker program has reduced the number of foreign workers in the Marianas year after year.

But this year the sudden increase in investment in new hotels and other tourism businesses has left us short.

H.R. 6401 would give us an extra 2,000 workers—the same number as we were allowed in 2013—and only for the remainder of this fiscal year.

This is a short-term fix to address an unexpected—and very welcome—change in the economic fortunes of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bill will also help us avoid this worker shortage in the years to come.

Part of the problem this year has been that employers are not using other federal programs that can provide temporary labor for construction projects of the size and scale that are being built in the Marianas.

So, H.R. 6401 bars employers from using the Transitional program we have in the Marianas for new construction.

This shift will not slow the economic expansion we have right now.

But it will allow us to continue reducing the number of foreign workers permitted under the Transitional program.

It will continue the conversion to a predominantly U.S. labor force, which is our long-term goal.

In closing, I want to thank Chairman ROB BISHOP of the Natural Resources Committee for his understanding and support.

Thanks, also, to Chairman DON YOUNG, who held a hearing on these issues in September and agreed that action was needed.

I appreciate the support of Ranking Members RAÚL GRIJALVA and RAUL RUIZ.

And, of course, I am indebted to the Minority Whip Mr. HOYER and to our Majority Leader Mr. MCCARTHY, who agreed to bring H.R. 6401 to the floor today.

And I ask my colleagues for their support for H.R. 6401.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent bill, and I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6401.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TO THE RESERVATION OF THE SILETZ TRIBE IN THE STATE OF OREGON

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 817) to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 817

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

SECTION 1. PURPOSE; CLARIFICATION.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to facilitate fee-to-trust applications for the Siletz Tribe within the geographic area specified in the amendment made by this Act.

(b) CLARIFICATION.—Except as specifically provided otherwise by this Act or the amendment made by this Act, nothing in this Act or the amendment made by this Act, shall prioritize for any purpose the claims of any federally recognized Indian tribe over the claims of any other federally recognized Indian tribe.

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OF THE SILETZ TRIBE OF THE STATE OF OREGON.

Section 7 of the Siletz Tribe Indian Restoration Act (25 U.S.C. 711e) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) TITLE.—The Secretary may accept title to any additional number of acres of real property located within the boundaries of the original 1855 Siletz Coast Reservation established by Executive order dated November 9, 1855, comprised of land within the political boundaries of Benton, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln, Tillamook, and Yamhill Counties in the State of Oregon, if that real property is conveyed or otherwise transferred to the United States by or on behalf of the tribe.

“(B) TRUST.—Land to which title is accepted by the Secretary under this paragraph shall be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the tribe.

“(2) TREATMENT AS PART OF RESERVATION.—All real property that is taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) be considered and evaluated as an on-reservation acquisition under part 151.10 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

“(B) become part of the reservation of the tribe.

“(3) PROHIBITION ON GAMING.—Any real property taken into trust under paragraph (1) shall not be eligible, or used, for any gaming activity carried out under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill deals with the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon. It is a bill that the tribe could apply to have land placed in trust within the original 1855 boundaries of their reservation. The bill prohibits gaming on land acquired in trust under this bill and is identical to a version of H.R. 3211 that we dealt with in our committee.

I think it is a good bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 817 will grant the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon the ability to more easily restore their tribal lands.

The tribe's original lands were greatly diminished by the Federal Govern-

ment during the disastrous allotment and assimilation period of the late 1800s. Thus, the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act of 1954 terminated their Federal status and eliminated their remaining land base altogether. The tribe was rightly restored in 1977 but has had trouble reacquiring parts of their original land base due to the nature of their restoration.

Passage of S. 817 will finally address this issue, so the tribe will no longer have to face delays in dealing with the Department of Interior when taking certain land into trust. This is the culmination of nearly 3 decades of effort by the Siletz tribe. I congratulate them on their tireless work and perseverance.

I also want to commend Senator WYDEN for promoting this legislation, and our colleague from Oregon, Mr. SCHRADER, for championing the House version of the bill.

I urge the adoption of S. 817.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I urge consideration of this bill favorably.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 817.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDING THE GRAND RONDE RESERVATION ACT TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 818) to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 818

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

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL LAND FOR GRAND RONDE RESERVATION.

Section 1 of Public Law 100-425 (commonly known as the “Grand Ronde Reservation Act”) (25 U.S.C. 713f note; 102 Stat. 1594; 104 Stat. 207; 108 Stat. 708; 108 Stat. 4566; 112 Stat. 1896), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by striking “Subject to valid existing rights, including (but not limited to) all” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, including all”; and

(ii) by inserting “(referred to in this Act as the ‘Tribes’)” before the period at the end;

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “Such land” and inserting the following:

“(2) TREATMENT.—The land referred to in paragraph (1)”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ADDITIONAL TRUST ACQUISITIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept title in and to any additional real property located within the boundaries of the original 1857 reservation of the Tribes (as established by the Executive order dated June 30, 1857, and comprised of land within the political boundaries of Polk and Yamhill Counties, Oregon), if that real property is conveyed or otherwise transferred to the United States by, or on behalf of, the Tribes.

“(B) TREATMENT OF TRUST LAND.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An application to take land into trust within the boundaries of the

original 1857 reservation of the Tribes shall be treated by the Secretary as an on-reservation trust acquisition.

“(ii) GAMING.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), real property taken into trust pursuant to this paragraph shall not be eligible, or used, for any class II gaming or class III gaming (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

“(II) EXCEPTION.—Subclause (I) shall not apply to any real property located within 2 miles of the gaming facility in existence on the date of enactment of this paragraph lo-

cated on State Highway 18 in the Grand Ronde community, Oregon.

“(C) RESERVATION.—All real property taken into trust within the boundaries described in subparagraph (A) at any time after September 9, 1988, shall be considered to be a part of the reservation of the Tribes.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding the table, by striking “in subsection (a) are approximately 10,311.60” and inserting “in subsection (a)(1) are the approximately 11,349.92”; and

(B) by striking the table and inserting the following:

“South	West	Section	Subdivision	Acres
4	8	36	SE¼ SE¼	40
4	7	31	Lots 1,2, NE¼, E½ NW¼	320.89
5	7	6	All	634.02
5	7	7	All	638.99
5	7	18	Lots 1 & 2, NE¼, E½ NW¼	320.07
5	8	1	SE¼	160
5	8	3	All	635.60
5	8	7	All	661.75
5	8	8	All	640
5	8	9	All	640
5	8	10	All	640
5	8	11	All	640
5	8	12	All	640
5	8	13	All	640
5	8	14	All	640
5	8	15	All	640
5	8	16	All	640
5	8	17	All	640
6	8	1	SW¼ SW¼, W½ SE¼ SW¼	53.78
6	8	1	S½ E½ SE¼ SW¼	10.03
6	7	7, 8, 17, 18	Former tax lot 800, located within the SE¼ SE¼ of sec. 7; SW¼ SW¼ of sec. 8; NW¼ NW¼ of sec. 17; and NE¼ NE¼ of sec. 18	5.55
4	7	30	Lots 3,4, SW¼ NE¼, SE¼ NW¼, E½ SW¼	241.06
6	8	1	N½ SW¼	29.59
6	8	12	W½ SW¼ NE¼, SE¼ SW¼ NE¼ NW¼, N½ SE¼ NW¼, N½ SW¼ SW¼ SE¼	21.70
6	8	13	W½ E½ NW¼ NW¼	5.31
6	7	7	E½ E½	57.60
6	7	8	SW¼ SW¼ NW¼, W½ SW¼	22.46
6	7	17	NW¼ NW¼, N½ SW¼ NW¼	10.84

“South	West	Section	Subdivision	Acres
6	7	18	E½ NE¼	43.42
6	8	1	W½ SE¼ SE¼	20.6
6	8	1	N½ SW¼ SE¼	19.99
6	8	1	SE¼ NE¼	9.99
6	8	1	NE¼ SW¼	10.46
6	8	1	NE¼ SW¼, NW¼ SW¼	12.99
6	7	6	SW¼ NW¼	37.39
6	7	5	SE¼ SW¼	24.87
6	7	5, 8	SW¼ SE¼ of sec. 5; and NE¼ NE¼, NW¼ NE¼, NE¼ NW¼ of sec. 8	109.9
6	8	1	NW¼ SE¼	31.32
6	8	1	NE¼ SW¼	8.89
6	8	1	SW¼ NE¼, NW¼ NE¼	78.4
6	7	8, 17	SW¼ SW¼ of sec. 8; and NE¼ NW¼, NW¼ NW¼ of sec. 17	14.33
6	7	17	NW¼ NW¼	6.68
6	8	12	SW¼ NE¼	8.19
6	8	1	SE¼ SW¼	2.0
6	8	1	SW¼ SW¼	5.05
6	8	12	SE¼, SW¼	54.64
6	7	17, 18	SW¼, NW¼ of sec. 17; and SE¼, NE¼ of sec. 18	136.83
6	8	1	SW¼ SE¼	20.08
6	7	5	NE¼ SE¼, SE¼ SE¼, E½ SE¼ SW¼	97.38
4	7	31	SE¼	159.60
6	7	17	NW¼ NW¼	3.14
6	8	12	NW¼ SE¼	1.10
6	7	8	SW¼ SW¼	0.92
6	8	12	NE¼ NW¼	1.99
6	7, 8	7, 12	NW¼ NW¼ of sec. 7; and S½ NE¼ E½ NE¼ NE¼ of sec. 12	86.48
6	8	12	NE¼ NW¼	1.56
6	7, 8	6,1	W½ SW¼ SW¼ of sec. 6; and E½ SE¼ SE¼ of sec. 1	35.82
6	7	5	E½ NW¼ SE¼	19.88
6	8	12	NW¼ NE¼	0.29
6	8	1	SE¼ SW¼	2.5
6	7	8	NE¼ NW¼	7.16
6	8	1	SE¼ SW¼	5.5
6	8	1	SE¼ NW¼	1.34

Total

11,349.92.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill for the Grand Ronde Tribe in Oregon allows them to ease the process to apply for trust lands within the original 1857 boundary jurisdiction. It deems property placed in trust for the tribe after 1988 as part of the tribe's reservation and lands acquired by the tribe to be part of the reservation. This bill is also identical to another House bill that we considered in our committee.

I urge its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, like other tribes in Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community were wrongfully stripped of their recognition and existing land base during the termination era in the 1950s.

Federal recognition of the Grand Ronde was rightfully reestablished in 1983, as well as a land base through subsequent legislation. But like other tribes in Oregon, efforts by the tribe to restore additional lands have been hindered by the nature of the tribe's restoration.

Passage of S. 818 will finally address this issue and make it easier for the Grand Ronde to take land into trust within their historical boundaries.

The bill will also allow certain property already taken into trust by the tribe to be considered part of the reservation.

Again, I want to thank Senator WYDEN for promoting this legislation, and thank our colleague from Oregon (Mr. SCHRADER) for advocating for the House version of this bill. And I want to thank Chairman BISHOP for managing this bill with me today.

I ask my colleagues to support S. 818.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 818.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DANIEL J. EVANS OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3028) to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3028

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Daniel J. Evans Olympic National Park Wilderness Act".

SEC. 2. REDESIGNATION AS DANIEL J. EVANS WILDERNESS.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—Section 101(a) of the Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat. 3961) is amended, in the second sentence, by striking "Olympic Wilderness" and inserting "Daniel J. Evans Wilderness".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Olympic Wilderness shall be deemed to be a reference to the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

S. 3028 renames the Olympic Wilderness in the Olympic National Park in the State of Washington as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

□ 1400

Daniel Evans was a three-term Governor of Washington. He also served in the United States Senate. Despite that fact, this is still a fitting memorial to Mr. Evans and is a recognition of his life in public service.

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

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

The lands of the Pacific Northwest are known throughout the country for

their majestic beauty and unique ecosystems. Visitors from near and far flock to the region to experience temperate rain forests and to climb some of the tallest peaks of the country. Were it not for the forward-thinking actions of certain individuals who sought permanent protection for these wildlands decades ago, these iconic places could have been destroyed.

Today we recognize one of those forward-thinking individuals, Senator Daniel J. Evans of Washington State. Thanks to the work of Senator Evans, these areas are maintained in perpetuity due in no small part to the passage of the wilderness bills that protect them. A staunch supporter of the bipartisan Wilderness Act, Senator Evans helped to establish this bedrock environmental law, which ensures that these increasingly rare and pristine lands are protected permanently for enjoyment by all.

Thanks to Congressman REICHERT and Senator CANTWELL for advancing this legislation.

I am pleased to support this bill today, which recognizes the important work of one of our great public lands champions, Senator Daniel J. Evans. I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this is another excellent bill, and I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3028.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

CROSS-BORDER TRADE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 875) to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 875

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 202 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“Subtitle G—U.S. Customs and Border
Protection Public Private Partnerships**

“SEC. 481. FEE AGREEMENTS FOR CERTAIN SERVICES AT PORTS OF ENTRY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 13031(e) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(e)) and section 451 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1451), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, upon the request of any entity, may enter into a fee agreement with such entity under which—

“(1) U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall provide services described in subsection (b) at a United States port of entry or any other facility at which U.S. Customs and Border Protection provides or will provide such services;

“(2) such entity shall remit to U.S. Customs and Border Protection a fee imposed under subsection (h) in an amount equal to the full costs that are incurred or will be incurred in providing such services; and

“(3) if space is provided by such entity, each facility at which U.S. Customs and Border Protection services are performed shall be maintained and equipped by such entity, without cost to the Federal Government, in accordance with U.S. Customs and Border Protection specifications.

“(b) SERVICES DESCRIBED.—The services described in this subsection are any activities of any employee or Office of Field Operations contractor of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (except employees of the U.S. Border Patrol, as established under section 411(e)) pertaining to, or in support of, customs, agricultural processing, border security, or immigration inspection-related matters at a port of entry or any other facility at which U.S. Customs and Border Protection provides or will provide services.

“(c) MODIFICATION OF PRIOR AGREEMENTS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, at the request of an entity who has previously entered into an agreement with U.S. Customs and Border Protection for the reimbursement of fees in effect on the date of enactment of this section, may modify such agreement to implement any provisions of this section.

“(d) LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) IMPACTS OF SERVICES.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection—

“(A) may enter into fee agreements under this section only for services that—

“(i) will increase or enhance the operational capacity of U.S. Customs and Border Protection based on available staffing and workload; and

“(ii) will not shift the cost of services funded in any appropriations Act, or provided from any account in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees, to entities under this Act; and

“(B) may not enter into a fee agreement under this section if such agreement would unduly and permanently impact services funded in any appropriations Act, or provided from any account in the Treasury of the United States, derived by the collection of fees.

“(2) NUMBER.—There shall be no limit to the number of fee agreements that the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may enter into under this section.

“(e) AIR PORTS OF ENTRY.—

“(1) FEE AGREEMENT.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a fee agreement

for U.S. Customs and Border Protection services at an air port of entry may only provide for the payment of overtime costs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and salaries and expenses of U.S. Customs and Border Protection employees to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in performing services described in subsection (b).

“(2) SMALL AIRPORTS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), U.S. Customs and Border Protection may receive reimbursement in addition to overtime costs if the fee agreement is for services at an air port of entry that has fewer than 100,000 arriving international passengers annually.

“(3) COVERED SERVICES.—In addition to costs described in paragraph (1), a fee agreement for U.S. Customs and Border Protection services at an air port of entry referred to in paragraph (2) may provide for the reimbursement of—

“(A) salaries and expenses of not more than 5 full-time equivalent U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers beyond the number of such officers assigned to the port of entry on the date on which the fee agreement was signed;

“(B) salaries and expenses of employees of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, other than the officers referred to in subparagraph (A), to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in performing law enforcement functions; and

“(C) other costs incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection relating to services described in subparagraph (B), such as temporary placement or permanent relocation of employees, including incentive pay for relocation, as appropriate.

“(f) PORT OF ENTRY SIZE.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall ensure that each fee agreement proposal is given equal consideration regardless of the size of the port of entry.

“(g) DENIED APPLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection denies a proposal for a fee agreement under this section, the Commissioner shall provide the entity submitting such proposal with the reason for the denial unless—

“(A) the reason for the denial is law enforcement sensitive; or

“(B) withholding the reason for the denial is in the national security interests of the United States.

“(2) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Decisions of the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection under paragraph (1) are in the discretion of the Commissioner and are not subject to judicial review.

“(h) FEE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the fee to be charged under an agreement authorized under subsection (a) shall be paid by each entity requesting U.S. Customs and Border Protection services, and shall be for the full cost of providing such services, including the salaries and expenses of employees and contractors of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, to provide such services and other costs incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection relating to such services, such as temporary placement or permanent relocation of such employees and contractors.

“(2) TIMING.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may require that the fee referred to in paragraph (1) be paid by each entity that has entered into a fee agreement under subsection (a) with U.S. Customs and Border Protection in advance of the performance of U.S. Customs and Border Protection services.

“(3) OVERSIGHT OF FEES.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall develop a process to oversee the services for which fees are charged pursuant to an agreement under subsection (a), including—

“(A) a determination and report on the full costs of providing such services, and a process for increasing such fees, as necessary;

“(B) the establishment of a periodic remittance schedule to replenish appropriations, accounts, or funds, as necessary; and

“(C) the identification of costs paid by such fees.

“(i) DEPOSIT OF FUNDS.—

“(1) ACCOUNT.—Funds collected pursuant to any agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a)—

“(A) shall be deposited as offsetting collections;

“(B) shall remain available until expended without fiscal year limitation; and

“(C) shall be credited to the applicable appropriation, account, or fund for the amount paid out of such appropriation, account, or fund for any expenses incurred or to be incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection in providing U.S. Customs and Border Protection services under any such agreement and any other costs incurred or to be incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection relating to such services.

“(2) RETURN OF UNUSED FUNDS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall return any unused funds collected and deposited into the account described in paragraph (1) if a fee agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a) is terminated for any reason or the terms of such fee agreement change by mutual agreement to cause a reduction of U.S. Customs and Border Protections services. No interest shall be owed upon the return of any such unused funds.

“(j) TERMINATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall terminate the services provided pursuant to a fee agreement entered into under subsection (a) with an entity that, after receiving notice from the Commissioner that a fee under subsection (h) is due, fails to pay such fee in a timely manner. If such services are terminated, all costs incurred by U.S. Customs and Border Protection that have not been paid shall become immediately due and payable. Interest on unpaid fees shall accrue based on the rate and amount established under sections 6621 and 6622 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(2) PENALTY.—Any entity that, after notice and demand for payment of any fee under subsection (h), fails to pay such fee in a timely manner shall be liable for a penalty or liquidated damage equal to two times the amount of such fee. Any such amount collected under this paragraph shall be deposited into the appropriate account specified under subsection (i) and shall be available as described in such subsection.

“(3) TERMINATION BY THE ENTITY.—Any entity who has previously entered into an agreement with U.S. Customs and Border Protection for the reimbursement of fees in effect on the date of enactment of this section, or under the provisions of this section, may request that such agreement be amended to provide for termination upon advance notice, length, and terms that are negotiated between such entity and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(k) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall—

“(1) submit an annual report identifying the activities undertaken and the agreements entered into pursuant to this section to—

“(A) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(B) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

“(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

“(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

“(F) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

“(G) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

“(H) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

“(2) not later than 15 days before entering into a fee agreement, notify the members of Congress that represent the State or Congressional District in which the affected port of entry or facility is located of such agreement.

“(1) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed as imposing on U.S. Customs and Border Protection any responsibilities, duties, or authorities relating to real property.

“SEC. 482. PORT OF ENTRY DONATION AUTHORITY.

“(a) **PERSONAL PROPERTY DONATION AUTHORITY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, may enter into an agreement with any entity to accept a donation of personal property, money, or nonpersonal services for the uses described in paragraph (3) only with respect to the following locations at which U.S. Customs and Border Protection performs or will be performing inspection services:

“(A) A new or existing sea or air port of entry.

“(B) An existing Federal Government-owned land port of entry.

“(C) A new Federal Government-owned land port of entry if—

“(i) the fair market value of the donation is \$50,000,000 or less; and

“(ii) the fair market value, including any personal and real property donations in total, of such port of entry when completed, is \$50,000,000 or less.

“(2) **LIMITATION ON MONETARY DONATIONS.**—Any monetary donation accepted pursuant to this subsection may not be used to pay the salaries of U.S. Customs and Border Protection employees performing inspection services.

“(3) **USES.**—Donations accepted pursuant to this subsection may be used for activities of the Office of Field Operations set forth in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of section 411(g)(3), which are related to a new or existing sea or air port of entry or a new or existing Federal Government-owned land port of entry described in paragraph (1), including expenses related to—

“(A) furniture, fixtures, equipment, or technology, including the installation or deployment of such items; and

“(B) the operation and maintenance of such furniture, fixtures, equipment, or technology.

“(b) **REAL PROPERTY DONATION AUTHORITY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (3), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Administrator of the

General Services Administration, as applicable, may enter into an agreement with any entity to accept a donation of real property or money for uses described in paragraph (2) only with respect to the following locations at which U.S. Customs and Border Protection performs or will be performing inspection services:

“(A) A new or existing sea or air port of entry.

“(B) An existing Federal Government-owned land port of entry.

“(C) A new Federal Government-owned land port of entry if—

“(i) the fair market value of the donation is \$50,000,000 or less; and

“(ii) the fair market value, including any personal and real property donations in total, of such port of entry when completed, is \$50,000,000 or less.

“(2) **USE.**—Donations accepted pursuant to this subsection may be used for activities of the Office of Field Operations set forth in section 411(g), which are related to the construction, alteration, operation, or maintenance of a new or existing sea or air port of entry or a new or existing a Federal Government-owned land port of entry described in paragraph (1), including expenses related to—

“(A) land acquisition, design, construction, repair, or alteration; and

“(B) operation and maintenance of such port of entry facility.

“(3) **LIMITATION ON REAL PROPERTY DONATIONS.**—A donation of real property under this subsection at an existing land port of entry owned by the General Services Administration may only be accepted by the Administrator of General Services.

“(4) **SUNSET.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The authority to enter into an agreement under this subsection shall terminate on the date that is four years after the date of the enactment of this section.

“(B) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The termination date referred to in subparagraph (A) shall not apply to carrying out the terms of an agreement under this subsection if such agreement is entered into before such termination date.

“(c) **GENERAL PROVISIONS.**—

“(1) **DURATION.**—An agreement entered into under subsection (a) or (b) (and, in the case of such subsection (b), in accordance with paragraph (4) of such subsection) may last as long as required to meet the terms of such agreement.

“(2) **CRITERIA.**—In carrying out an agreement entered into under subsection (a) or (b), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, shall establish criteria regarding—

“(A) the selection and evaluation of donors;

“(B) the identification of roles and responsibilities between U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the General Services Administration, and donors;

“(C) the identification, allocation, and management of explicit and implicit risks of partnering between the Federal Government and donors;

“(D) decision-making and dispute resolution processes; and

“(E) processes for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the General Services Administration, as applicable, to terminate agreements if selected donors are not meeting the terms of any such agreement, including the security standards established by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(3) **EVALUATION PROCEDURES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, as applicable, shall—

“(i) establish criteria for evaluating a proposal to enter into an agreement under subsection (a) or (b); and

“(ii) make such criteria publicly available.

“(B) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—Criteria established pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall consider—

“(i) the impact of a proposal referred to in such subparagraph on the land, sea, or air port of entry at issue and other ports of entry or similar facilities or other infrastructure near the location of the proposed donation;

“(ii) such proposal’s potential to increase trade and travel efficiency through added capacity;

“(iii) such proposal’s potential to enhance the security of the port of entry at issue;

“(iv) the impact of the proposal on reducing wait times at that port of entry or facility and other ports of entry on the same border;

“(v) for a donation under subsection (b)—

“(I) whether such donation satisfies the requirements of such proposal, or whether additional real property would be required; and

“(II) how such donation was acquired, including if eminent domain was used;

“(vi) the funding available to complete the intended use of such donation;

“(vii) the costs of maintaining and operating such donation;

“(viii) the impact of such proposal on U.S. Customs and Border Protection staffing requirements; and

“(ix) other factors that the Commissioner or Administrator determines to be relevant.

“(C) **DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION.**—

“(i) **INCOMPLETE PROPOSALS.**—

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after receiving the proposals for a donation agreement from an entity, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall notify such entity as to whether such proposal is complete or incomplete.

“(II) **RESUBMISSION.**—If the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines that a proposal is incomplete, the Commissioner shall—

“(aa) notify the appropriate entity and provide such entity with a description of all information or material that is needed to complete review of the proposal; and

“(bb) allow the entity to resubmit the proposal with additional information and material described in item (aa) to complete the proposal.

“(ii) **COMPLETE PROPOSALS.**—Not later than 180 days after receiving a completed proposal to enter into an agreement under subsection (a) or (b), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, with the concurrence of the Administrator of General Services, as applicable, shall—

“(I) determine whether to approve or deny such proposal; and

“(II) notify the entity that submitted such proposal of such determination.

“(4) **SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING.**—Except as required under section 3307 of title 40, United States Code, real property donations to the Administrator of General Services made pursuant to subsection (a) and (b) at a GSA-owned land port of entry may be used in addition to any other funding for such purpose, including appropriated funds, property, or services.

“(5) RETURN OF DONATIONS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or the Administrator of General Services, as applicable, may return any donation made pursuant to subsection (a) or (b). No interest shall be owed to the donor with respect to any donation provided under such subsections that is returned pursuant to this subsection.

“(6) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN FUNDING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsections (a) and (b) regarding the acceptance of donations, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Administrator of General Services, as applicable, may not, with respect to an agreement entered into under either of such subsections, obligate or expend amounts in excess of amounts that have been appropriated pursuant to any appropriations Act for purposes specified in either of such subsections or otherwise made available for any of such purposes.

“(B) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Before accepting any donations pursuant to an agreement under subsection (a) or (b), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall certify to the congressional committees set forth in paragraph (7) that the donation will not be used for the construction of a detention facility or a border fence or wall.

“(7) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in collaboration with the Administrator of General Services, as applicable, shall submit an annual report identifying the activities undertaken and agreements entered into pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) to—

“(A) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(B) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

“(C) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

“(D) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(E) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

“(F) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

“(G) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

“(H) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

“(I) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

“(J) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

“(d) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit an annual report to the congressional committees referred to in subsection (c)(7) that evaluates—

“(1) fee agreements entered into pursuant to section 481;

“(2) donation agreements entered into pursuant to subsections (a) and (b); and

“(3) the fees and donations received by U.S. Customs and Border Protection pursuant to such agreements.

“(e) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Decisions of the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Administrator of the General Services Administration under this section regarding the acceptance of real or personal property are in the discretion of the Commissioner and the Administrator and are not subject to judicial review.

“(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, nothing in this section may be construed as affecting in any manner the responsibilities, duties, or

authorities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection or the General Services Administration.

“SEC. 483. CURRENT AND PROPOSED AGREEMENTS.

“Nothing in this subtitle or in section 4 of the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2016 may be construed as affecting—

“(1) any agreement entered into pursuant to section 560 of division D of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6) or section 559 of title V of division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (6 U.S.C. 211 note; Public Law 113-76), as in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this subtitle, and any such agreement shall continue to have full force and effect on and after such date; or

“(2) a proposal accepted for consideration by U.S. Customs and Border Protection pursuant to such section 559, as in existence on the day before such date of enactment.

“SEC. 484. DEFINITIONS.

“In this subtitle:

“(1) DONOR.—The term ‘donor’ means any entity that is proposing to make a donation under this Act.

“(2) ENTITY.—The term ‘entity’ means any—

“(A) person;

“(B) partnership, corporation, trust, estate, cooperative, association, or any other organized group of persons;

“(C) Federal, State or local government (including any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof); or

“(D) any other private or governmental entity.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by adding at the end of the list of items relating to title IV the following:

“Subtitle G—U.S. Customs and Border Protection Public Private Partnerships
“Sec. 481. Fee agreements for certain services at ports of entry.
“Sec. 482. Port of entry donation authority.
“Sec. 483. Current and proposed agreements.
“Sec. 484. Definitions.”

SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF EXISTING REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Section 907(b) of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-125) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) the program for entering into reimbursable fee agreements with U.S. Customs and Border Protection established under section 481 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.”

SEC. 4. REPEALS.

(a) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—Section 560 of division D of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6) is repealed.

(b) PARTNERSHIP PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 559 of division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (6 U.S.C. 211 note; Public Law 113-76) is repealed.

SEC. 5. WAIVER OF POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT APPLICANTS.

Section 3 of the Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-376; 6 U.S.C. 221) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

(2) in subsection (a)(1), as redesignated, by inserting “(except as provided in subsection (b))” after “Border Protection”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) WAIVER.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may waive the polygraph examination requirement under subsection (a)(1) for any applicant who—

“(1) is deemed suitable for employment;

“(2) holds a current, active Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information Clearance;

“(3) has a current Single Scope Background Investigation;

“(4) was not granted any waivers to obtain his or her clearance; and

“(5) is a veteran (as defined in section 2108 of title 5, United States Code).”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 875, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

After my remarks, I will include in the RECORD an exchange of letters between the chairmen of the two committees.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 875, the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2016, is a commonsense, broadly supported, bipartisan bill that will provide a mechanism for increased trade enforcement while also enhancing the facilitation of legitimate trade and travel. I am pleased to note that the other body passed an identical bill by unanimous consent just last week, signaling widespread support. Through this legislation, we continue to demonstrate our commitment to providing the necessary tools to maintain American economic competitiveness while preventing the entry of illicit goods into the United States.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the Federal law enforcement agency responsible for facilitating international travel and trade at our Nation's ports of entry as well as for detecting and interdicting counterfeit, unsafe, and fraudulently entered goods. Last year, the CBP processed more than 382 million passengers at the Nation's 328 land, sea, and air ports of entry and over \$2.4 trillion worth of goods. The CBP estimates that inbound trade and traffic will continue to grow.

In 2013 and 2014, Congress created 5-year pilot programs authorizing the

CBP to enter into reimbursable agreements with public and private entities as a way to meet the escalating demands of increased trade and traffic at the ports of entry. These agreements with private and public sector entities allow for additional inspectional services beyond what the CBP would have normally allocated at ports of entry. They provide additional resources to increase enforcement and processing capacity and to improve dated infrastructure at our ports.

Since 2013, the CBP has entered into reimbursable service agreements with 29 stakeholders at land, sea, and air ports of entry. These agreements have contributed to more than 125,000 additional processing hours to meet stakeholder demand during which 3 million travelers and almost 460,000 vehicles were processed. The pilot programs have been widely regarded as forward-leaning and an effective way to enforce our laws at the border and to meet the demands of increased trade and travel.

Today's legislation would move beyond these tested pilot programs to establish more permanent authority for the CBP to enter into these arrangements, providing the opportunity to make the CBP more efficient and effective at our borders.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, December 5, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BRADY: I am writing concerning H.R. 875, the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2015.

This legislation contains provisions within the Committee on Agriculture's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Agriculture will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 5, 2016.

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CONAWAY, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 875, the "Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2015." As

you noted, the Committee on Agriculture has a jurisdictional interest in this bill.

I am most appreciative of your decision to waive formal consideration of H.R. 875 so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you waived formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Agriculture is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those provisions of the bill that fall within your Rule X jurisdiction. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees on any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include a copy of our letters in the committee report on this legislation, as well as in the Congressional Record during consideration on the House floor.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) will control the time.

There was no objection.

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

I stand in support of the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2016.

This bill offers a pragmatic and bipartisan solution to a real and growing problem: Customs and Border Protection simply has not been able to keep pace, and has not been given the resources to keep pace, with the dramatic growth in travel into the United States.

In the last fiscal year, for example, the CBP processed more than 384 million passengers and more than \$2.4 trillion of imported goods through our air, land, and sea ports, but the CBP's staffing levels have not kept pace with this growth over the years. The result has been substantial and unnecessary delays as passengers and cargo ships wait to be processed.

Not only is this a bipartisan issue, but just as importantly, I think it calls into meaning how we might solve some of the problems that confront America economically. A case in point: it is generally large businesses, medium-sized businesses, and small businesses that tend not to take a position in support of more government but which, in this instance, would ask for more government. There is nothing wrong with that inconsistency. In fact, I think, in this particular instance, it works quite well because they will ask for more agents for the purpose of moving cargo faster. I think that is an entirely reasonable position.

This bill will help to address those delays by increasing trade and travel efficiencies and by eliminating unnecessary redtape in the hiring process at no cost to the taxpayer.

This approach has already been tested, and it has passed the test. In 2013 and 2014, Congress authorized pilot programs, as Dr. BOUSTANY has noted, to enable the CBP to enter into agreements with private sector, State, and

local government entities that would reimburse the CBP for customs-related personnel services at ports of entry. These public-private agreements are believed to have decreased wait times by an average of 30 percent at the ports at which they were implemented. The bill also allows for more of these agreements and for a longer period of time.

For these reasons, I support this bipartisan bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it later on this afternoon.

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD).

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 875, the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act.

This bipartisan bill is the product of significant work throughout the course of the 114th Congress across both Chambers and across committee jurisdiction to ensure that a program that many border communities rely upon continues to return dividends.

I am proud to represent over 800 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border, including the communities and the businesses that thrive on cross-border trade. Over the past two decades, our Nation's trade with Mexico has grown by leaps and bounds, much of it through our land ports of entry. In 2015 alone, Texas businesses exported \$92 billion in goods and services to Mexico—that is \$92 billion with a "B"—more than the next four largest markets combined. However, border infrastructure has not kept up with the growth. The lack of infrastructure and staffing that is necessary to support increased levels of trade crossing into this country has a very real impact on those we serve and work with daily.

This legislation fixes the problem by empowering local leaders and increasing flexibility, with little to no cost to the Federal Government and taxpayers. By allowing local communities and organizations to form public-private partnerships with the Federal Government and to make improvements to our ports of entry, we are investing in the infrastructure that supports our economy. Similar legislation passed the House in a bipartisan manner earlier this year and passed out of the Senate unanimously.

The failure to capitalize on this momentum merely leaves this critical program adrift right when its benefits are about to be realized. Decreasing the time it takes to move goods and services safely across the border will have a tremendous economic impact on not only the region, but on our Nation.

I thank the leadership of fellow Texans and my friends, Senator CORNYN, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. O'ROURKE; and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas

(Mr. CUELLAR), who has been a leader on this very issue and has helped to design the very product that is in front of us today, and I think that he can take great satisfaction from the bipartisan nature of the legislation that we are about to entertain.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) and his staff for helping to put this together. I appreciate it.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) and his staff for putting this bill on a very fast-moving track.

And in particular, I want to thank my good old friend—and I say “good old friend” in a nice way—Chairman KEVIN BRADY. We go back to working together in the State legislature. We have been working in Texas on issues like this for so many years, and I certainly want to thank Chairman BRADY for his work and the bipartisan staff for moving this bill quickly.

In particular, I want to thank my colleagues. Mr. HURD over here, who has a lot of border and he has got a lot of ports of entry, I want to thank him for his leadership on this bill.

I also want to thank BETO O’ROURKE, my friend from El Paso, who also understands, just like Mr. HURD does, the importance of trade.

I thank our Senate sponsor, Senator CORNYN, who has done a great job on this particular bill.

The Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2016 is a bill that builds upon the work that Chairman JOHN CARTER and myself added in the appropriations bill back in 2013 and 2014 to ease the delays and improve the infrastructure at our Nation’s land and sea and air ports of entry.

As has been said, trade and travel to the U.S. has been increasing for the last 10 years. In fiscal year 2015, our Nation saw 382 million travelers processed at the Nation’s 328 land, sea, and air ports of entry. In particular I want to emphasize the land ports of entry. Over 80 percent of all of the people who come into the United States, all of the goods that come into the United States, come in through land ports of entry, and that is why this bill is very important.

As was mentioned a few minutes ago, \$2.4 trillion of trade was processed at our ports of entry. And just as an example—and I know Mr. HURD mentioned it; I know Mr. O’ROURKE is going to mention it—in my port of entry, Laredo, for example, it is a small town of 250,000, but it handles 14,000 trailers a day of trade between the U.S. and Mexico. If you look at the largest customs districts, you have L.A., New York, and then you have Laredo. So this bill is very important to Laredo and the rest of the border itself.

Despite this growing trade that we have at our ports of entry, CBP staffing levels have been stagnant. Back in

2014, the Appropriations Committee and Congress authorized over \$255 million to increase the CBP workforce, which includes hiring 2,000 new CBP officers. However, they have been struggling to hire those 2,000 CBP officers due to attrition, but also due to the long time that it takes to hire those new officers.

The other part that is important is, if you look at the land ports of entry, for example, there are a lot of challenges—and I am talking about the southern and the northern ports of entry that we have. In fact, it would cost us about \$5 billion in capital improvements to make sure that we do this work.

What are we doing in Congress? Well, we are adding about \$146 million a year to meet this \$5 billion that we need. So at this rate of \$146 million a year, it would take 34 years to meet that \$5 billion that we need. Therefore, the Federal Government is not going to add those appropriations.

I understand money is tight. We need to bring in the local government and especially the private sector to make sure that we address the undersized facilities, the outmoded technologies that we have, the officer safety issues that we have, and the long wait times that we have, which I call parking lots, because a lot of times these trucks are waiting in the middle of the bridge.

Therefore, on sections 559 and 560, what we did is we said we are going to bring the private sector in, and it has worked well in doing this. We have seen—and I think it has been mentioned, but I will mention it again. We entered into 29 of those stakeholder reimbursement service agreements, and we saw more additional processing hours to make sure that we moved 3 million additional travelers and almost 460,000 new vehicles.

Again, this is going to help us.

What does this bill do? This bill will help us expand that pilot program in many ways and authorize it for 10 years. This bill will limit the number of reimbursable service agreements that we have at the ports of entry, but, more importantly, it is going to allow us to hire CBP officers faster. I know the chairman knows this very well. Imagine if we have this. We have got to bring officers into the CBP faster, and this is what this bill will do.

So again, I want to thank the House sponsors, KEVIN BRADY, Chairman MICHAEL MCCAUL, Mr. HURD, and Mr. O’ROURKE, and, of course, on the Senate side, Senator CORNYN and Senator KLOBUCHAR for making sure that we did it and that we are doing it in a bipartisan way.

I ask that we pass this bill.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI).

Mr. AMODEI. I thank my colleague from the Pelican State and also the ranking member from the Bay State.

Mr. Speaker, I am a bit nervous. I don’t want to break up this Lone Star class reunion here, but speaking on behalf of a small place in the intermountain west, section 481 of H.R. 875 addresses a CBP staffing issue at smaller land port of entry airports.

As we all know, the CBP mission at our numerous ports of entry is growing, and adequate staffing at the larger ports needs to be augmented. However, airport authorities and smaller land ports of entry are also increasing their international passenger counts and need additional CBP personnel to adequately screen their passengers.

The language contained herein allows small land port airports to reimburse CBP the actual cost of assigning up to five more CBP screening personnel, thereby keeping screening times within reasonable limits for those air passengers. This language represents bicameral, bipartisan, nationwide consensus on a needed staffing reimbursement option for CBP. Similarly, I urge Members’ bipartisan nationwide support.

God bless the State of Texas and the other 49 also.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O’ROURKE), another individual who has had a profound influence on this legislation and has had a long-time interest in the topic as well.

Mr. O’ROURKE. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts, our new ranking member on the committee, for yielding and for his work on this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, there are few things as important for us in this Congress to work on as creating more jobs and sustaining those that we have right now. U.S.-Mexico trade today supports more than 6 million jobs in every single State of the Union, 500,000 jobs in the State of Texas alone, and one out of every four jobs in the community that I have the honor to represent, El Paso, Texas.

The men and women who serve in Customs and Border Protection, the officers in blue at our ports of entry, are understaffed and overstressed, and they need our help. What we are doing in this bill is allowing local communities and local stakeholders who have an interest in the success of our ports of entry and in U.S.-Mexico trade and in creating more jobs to fund the necessary overtime hours and infrastructure improvements at those ports.

I want to thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle and in both Chambers—Senator CORNYN in the other Chamber, Members CUELLAR and HURD and others in this one—who see the wisdom in allowing local communities to fill the gap where government has been unable to do so.

Whether it is the \$90 billion in U.S.-Mexico trade that crosses the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez ports of entry every

year or the 32 million inspections that are conducted there, this is a way to grow our economy. It is a way to ensure that we are more secure because we know precisely who is coming in when we have the manpower and infrastructure to inspect all those who want to cross in here. We are allowing local communities and not the Federal Government to pick up the tab in a way that is going to benefit this country as a whole.

I couldn't help but notice the current chair of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, the incoming chair, and the ranking member, who are all here. I know they are all pleased to see in this bill an expedited process to hire our veterans, to transition them from Active Duty service to meaningful employment as a Customs officer through an expedited process in this bill. That means we staff more of our CBP positions, we put more veterans to work, and we do better for this country.

This is a bill that should have the support of every single Member of this Congress, and I urge its quick passage.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I have no other Members wishing to speak on the bill, and I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank Dr. BOUSTANY, who has been a friend on the Ways and Means Committee. I assume this might be his last time handling legislation on the floor. He was great to work with over the years.

I take some satisfaction, Mr. Speaker, that having either been chairman or ranking member of the Tax Policy Subcommittee of the Committee on Ways and Means, that I simply wore them all down because, every 2 years, they would send somebody else over to share that responsibility.

Dr. BOUSTANY is a real gentleman. He has been a friend, and he has been a very nice guy to work with.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for his very, very kind words. It has been a true pleasure working with him on the Tax Policy Subcommittee. I want to congratulate him on becoming ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee. I know he will do a fabulous job. I am only sorry I won't be around next year to work with him and beyond. I congratulate him.

Godspeed, do a great job, and get tax reform done.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 875, the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2016, to strengthen our ability to enforce U.S. trade laws.

I am very pleased that our solution has such strong bipartisan support and makes good on our commitment to

stop the flow of illicit goods while also facilitating legitimate trade that is vital to American economic competitiveness. I urge passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 875, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXTENDING WAIVER OF LIMITATIONS WITH RESPECT TO EXCLUDING FROM GROSS INCOME AMOUNTS RECEIVED BY WRONGFULLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Ways and Means be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6438) to extend the waiver of limitations with respect to excluding from gross income amounts received by wrongfully incarcerated individuals, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6438

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF WAIVER OF LIMITATIONS WITH RESPECT TO EXCLUDING FROM GROSS INCOME AMOUNTS RECEIVED BY WRONGFULLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 304(d) of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 is amended by striking “1-year” and inserting “2-year”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 304(d) of such Act is amended by striking “application of this Act” and inserting “application of this section”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in section 304 of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JEFF MILLER AND RICHARD BLUMENTHAL VETERANS HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6416) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered

by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6416

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—DISABILITY COMPENSATION MATTERS

Sec. 101. Expedited payment of survivors' benefits.

Sec. 102. Board of Veterans' Appeals video hearings.

Sec. 103. Requirement that Secretary of Veterans Affairs publish the average time required to adjudicate early-filed and later-filed appeals.

Sec. 104. Comptroller General review of claims processing performance of regional offices of Veterans Benefits Administration.

Sec. 105. Report on staffing levels at regional offices of Department of Veterans Affairs under National Work Queue.

Sec. 106. Inclusion in annual budget submission of information on capacity of Veterans Benefits Administration to process benefits claims.

Sec. 107. Report on plans of Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reduce inventory of non-rating workload; sense of Congress regarding Monday Morning Workload Report.

Sec. 108. Annual report on progress in implementing Veterans Benefits Management System.

Sec. 109. Improvements to authority for performance of medical disabilities examinations by contract physicians.

Sec. 110. Independent review of process by which Department of Veterans Affairs assesses impairments that result from traumatic brain injury for purposes of awarding disability compensation.

Sec. 111. Reports on claims for disability compensation.

Sec. 112. Sense of Congress regarding American veterans disabled for life.

Sec. 113. Sense of Congress on submittal of information relating to claims for disabilities incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma.

TITLE II—UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

Sec. 201. Extension of temporary increase in number of judges on United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Sec. 202. Life insurance program relating to judges of United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Sec. 203. Voluntary contributions to enlarge survivors' annuity.

Sec. 204. Selection of chief judge of United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

TITLE III—BURIAL BENEFITS AND OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 301. Expansion of eligibility for headstones, markers, and medallions.

Sec. 302. Expansion of Presidential Memorial Certificate program.

Sec. 303. Department of Veterans Affairs study on matters relating to burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries.

Sec. 304. Study on provision of interments in veterans' cemeteries during weekends.

Sec. 305. Honoring as veterans certain persons who performed service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

TITLE IV—EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Sec. 401. Clarification of eligibility for Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship.

Sec. 402. Approval of courses of education and training for purposes of the vocational rehabilitation program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 403. Authority to prioritize vocational rehabilitation services based on need.

Sec. 404. Reports on progress of students receiving Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.

Sec. 405. Recodification and improvement of election process for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program.

Sec. 406. Work-study allowance.

Sec. 407. Centralized reporting of veteran enrollment by certain groups, districts, and consortiums of educational institutions.

Sec. 408. Role of State approving agencies.

Sec. 409. Modification of requirements for approval for purposes of educational assistance provided by Department of Veterans Affairs of programs designed to prepare individuals for licensure or certification.

Sec. 410. Criteria used to approve courses.

Sec. 411. Compliance surveys.

Sec. 412. Modification of reductions in reporting fee multipliers for payments by Secretary of Veterans Affairs to educational institutions.

Sec. 413. Composition of Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education.

Sec. 414. Survey of individuals using their entitlement to educational assistance under the educational assistance programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 415. Department of Veterans Affairs provision of information on articulation agreements between institutions of higher learning.

Sec. 416. Retention of entitlement to educational assistance during certain additional periods of active duty.

Sec. 417. Technical amendment relating to in-state tuition rate for individuals to whom entitlement is transferred under all-volunteer force educational assistance program and post-9/11 educational assistance.

Sec. 418. Study on the effectiveness of veterans transition efforts.

TITLE V—SMALL BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

Sec. 501. Modification of treatment under contracting goals and preferences of Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 502. Longitudinal study of job counseling, training, and placement service for veterans.

Sec. 503. Limitation on administrative leave for employees of Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 504. Required coordination between Directors for Veterans' Employment and Training with State departments of labor and veterans affairs.

TITLE VI—HEALTH CARE MATTERS

Subtitle A—Medical Care

Sec. 601. Requirement for advance appropriations for the Medical Community Care account of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 602. Improved access to appropriate immunizations for veterans.

Sec. 603. Priority of medal of honor recipients in health care system of Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 604. Requirement that Department of Veterans Affairs collect health-plan contract information from veterans.

Sec. 605. Mental health treatment for veterans who served in classified missions.

Sec. 606. Examination and treatment by Department of Veterans Affairs for emergency medical conditions and women in labor.

Subtitle B—Veterans Health Administration

Sec. 611. Time period covered by annual report on Readjustment Counseling Service.

Sec. 612. Annual report on Veterans Health Administration and furnishing of hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care.

Sec. 613. Expansion of qualifications for licensed mental health counselors of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include doctoral degrees.

Sec. 614. Modification of hours of employment for physicians employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 615. Repeal of compensation panels to determine market pay for physicians and dentists.

Sec. 616. Clarification regarding liability for breach of agreement under Department of Veterans Affairs Employee Incentive Scholarship Program.

Sec. 617. Extension of period for increase in graduate medical education residency positions at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 618. Report on public access to research by Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 619. Authorization of certain major medical facility projects of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Subtitle C—Toxic Exposure

Sec. 631. Definitions.

Sec. 632. National Academy of Medicine assessment on research relating to the descendants of individuals with toxic exposure.

Sec. 633. Advisory board on research relating to health conditions of descendants of veterans with toxic exposure while serving in the Armed Forces.

Sec. 634. Research relating to health conditions of descendants of veterans with toxic exposure while serving in the Armed Forces.

TITLE VII—HOMELESSNESS MATTERS

Subtitle A—Access of Homeless Veterans to Benefits

Sec. 701. Expansion of definition of homeless veteran for purposes of benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 702. Authorization to furnish certain benefits to homeless veterans with discharges or releases under other than honorable conditions.

Sec. 703. Waiver of minimum period of continuous active duty in Armed Forces for certain benefits for homeless veterans.

Sec. 704. Training of personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs and grant recipients.

Sec. 705. Regulations.

Sec. 706. Effective date.

Subtitle B—Other Homelessness Matters

Sec. 711. Increased per diem payments for transitional housing assistance that becomes permanent housing for homeless veterans.

Sec. 712. Program to improve retention of housing by formerly homeless veterans and veterans at risk of becoming homeless.

Sec. 713. Establishment of National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans.

Sec. 714. Requirement for Department of Veterans Affairs to assess comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans.

Sec. 715. Report on outreach relating to increasing the amount of housing available to veterans.

TITLE VIII—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 801. Department of Veterans Affairs construction reforms.

Sec. 802. Technical and clerical amendments.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—DISABILITY COMPENSATION MATTERS

SEC. 101. EXPEDITED PAYMENT OF SURVIVORS' BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5101(a)(1) is amended—

(1) by striking “A specific” and inserting “(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a specific”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B)(i) The Secretary may pay benefits under chapters 13 and 15 and sections 2302, 2307, and 5121 of this title to a survivor of a

veteran who has not filed a formal claim if the Secretary determines that the record contains sufficient evidence to establish the entitlement of the survivor to such benefits.

“(ii) For purposes of this subparagraph and section 5110 of this title, the earlier of the following dates shall be treated as the date of the receipt of the survivor’s application for benefits described in clause (i):

“(I) The date on which the survivor of a veteran (or the representative of such a survivor) notifies the Secretary of the death of the veteran through a death certificate or other relevant evidence that establishes entitlement to survivors’ benefits identified in clause (i).

“(II) The head of any other department or agency of the Federal Government notifies the Secretary of the death of the veteran.

“(iii) In notifying the Secretary of the death of a veteran as described in clause (ii)(I), the survivor (or the representative of such a survivor) may submit to the Secretary additional documents relating to such death without being required to file a formal claim.”

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on benefits paid pursuant to covered claims.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The number of covered claims adjudicated during the one-year period preceding the date of the report, disaggregated by the following:

(i) Claims in which the claimant was entitled to benefits under chapters 13 or 15 or sections 2302, 2307, or 5121 of title 38, United States Code, on the basis of the claimant’s status as the spouse of a deceased veteran.

(ii) Claims in which the claimant was entitled to such benefits on the basis of the claimant’s status as the child of a deceased veteran.

(iii) Claims in which the claimant was entitled to such benefits on the basis of the claimant’s status as the parent of a deceased veteran.

(B) The number of covered claims during such period for which such benefits were not awarded, disaggregated by clauses (i) through (iii) of subparagraph (A).

(C) A comparison of the accuracy and timeliness of covered claims adjudicated during such period with noncovered claims filed by survivors of a veteran.

(D) The findings of the Secretary with respect to adjudicating covered claims.

(E) Such recommendations as the Secretary may have for legislative or administrative action to improve the adjudication of claims submitted to the Secretary for benefits under chapters 13 and 15 and sections 2302, 2307, and 5121 of title 38, United States Code.

(3) COVERED CLAIM DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “covered claim” means a claim covered by section 5101(a)(1)(B) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to claims for benefits based on a death occurring on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 102. BOARD OF VETERANS’ APPEALS VIDEO HEARINGS.

Section 7107 is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1)(A)(i) Upon request for a hearing, the Board shall determine, for purposes of scheduling the hearing for the earliest possible date, whether a hearing before the Board will be held at its principal location or at a facility of the Department or other appropriate Federal facility located within the area served by a regional office of the Department.

“(ii) The Board shall also determine whether to provide a hearing through the use of the facilities and equipment described in subsection (e)(1) or by the appellant personally appearing before a Board member or panel.

“(B)(i) The Board shall notify the appellant of the determinations of the location and type of hearing made under subparagraph (A).

“(ii) Upon notification, the appellant may request a different location or type of hearing as described in such subparagraph.

“(iii) If so requested, the Board shall grant such request and ensure that the hearing is scheduled at the earliest possible date without any undue delay or other prejudice to the appellant.”; and

(2) in subsection (e), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) Any hearing provided through the use of the facilities and equipment described in paragraph (1) shall be conducted in the same manner as, and shall be considered the equivalent of, a personal hearing.”.

SEC. 103. REQUIREMENT THAT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PUBLISH THE AVERAGE TIME REQUIRED TO ADJUDICATE EARLY-FILED AND LATER-FILED APPEALS.

(a) PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On an ongoing basis, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make available to the public the following:

(A) The average length of time to adjudicate an early-filed appeal.

(B) The average length of time to adjudicate a later-filed appeal.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply until the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 39 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on whether publication pursuant to subsection (a)(1) has had an effect on the number of early-filed appeals filed.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The number of appeals and early-filed appeals that were filed during the one-year period ending on the effective date specified in subsection (a)(2).

(B) The number of appeals and early-filed appeals that were filed during the one-year period ending on the date that is two years after the effective date specified in subsection (a)(2).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPEAL.—The term “appeal” means a notice of disagreement filed pursuant to section 7105(a) of title 38, United States Code, in response to notice of the result of an initial review or determination regarding a claim for a benefit under a law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(2) EARLY-FILED.—The term “early-filed” with respect to an appeal means that the no-

tice of disagreement was filed not more than 180 days after the date of mailing of the notice of the result of the initial review or determination described in paragraph (1).

(3) LATER-FILED.—The term “later-filed” with respect to an appeal means the notice of disagreement was filed more than 180 days after the date of mailing of the notice of the result of the initial review or determination described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 104. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF CLAIMS PROCESSING PERFORMANCE OF REGIONAL OFFICES OF VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION.

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—Not later than 15 months after the effective date specified in subsection (e), the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a review of the regional offices of the Veterans Benefits Administration to help the Veterans Benefits Administration achieve more consistent performance in the processing of claims for disability compensation.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The review required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of the following:

(A) The factors, including management practices, that distinguish higher performing regional offices from other regional offices with respect to claims for disability compensation.

(B) The best practices employed by higher performing regional offices that distinguish the performance of such offices from other regional offices.

(C) Such other management practices or tools as the Comptroller General determines could be used to improve the performance of regional offices.

(2) An assessment of the effectiveness of communication with respect to the processing of claims for disability compensation between the regional offices and veterans service organizations and caseworkers employed by Members of Congress.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 15 months after the effective date specified in subsection (e), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the review completed under subsection (a).

(d) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “veterans service organization” means any organization recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 105. REPORT ON STAFFING LEVELS AT REGIONAL OFFICES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS UNDER NATIONAL WORK QUEUE.

Not later than 15 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the criteria and procedures that the Secretary will use to determine appropriate staffing levels at the regional offices of the Department under the National Work Queue for the distribution of the claims processing workload.

SEC. 106. INCLUSION IN ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION ON CAPACITY OF VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION TO PROCESS BENEFITS CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Along with the supporting information included in the budget

submitted to Congress by the President pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the President shall include information on the capacity of the Veterans Benefits Administration to process claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, including information described in subsection (b), during the fiscal year covered by the budget with which the information is submitted.

(b) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The information described in this subsection is the following:

(1) An estimate of the average number of claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary, excluding such claims completed during mandatory overtime, that a single full-time equivalent employee of the Administration should be able to process in a year, based on the following:

(A) A time and motion study that the Secretary shall conduct on the processing of such claims.

(B) Such other information relating to such claims as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) A description of the actions the Secretary will take to improve the processing of such claims.

(3) An assessment of the actions identified by the Secretary under paragraph (2) in the previous year and an identification of the effects of those actions.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to any budget submitted as described in subsection (a) with respect to any fiscal year after fiscal year 2018.

SEC. 107. REPORT ON PLANS OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO REDUCE INVENTORY OF NON-RATING WORKLOAD; SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING MONDAY MORNING WORKLOAD REPORT.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that details the plans of the Secretary to reduce the inventory of work items listed in the Monday Morning Workload Report under End Products 130, 137, 173, 290, 400, 600, 607, 690, 930, and 960.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should include in each Monday Morning Workload Report published by the Secretary the following:

(1) With respect to each regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the following:

(A) The number of fully developed claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary that have been received.

(B) The number of claims described in subparagraph (A) that are pending a decision.

(C) The number of claims described in subparagraph (A) that have been pending a decision for more than 125 days.

(2) Enhanced information on appeals of decisions relating to claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary that are pending, including information contained in the reports of the Department entitled "Appeals Pending" and "Appeals Workload By Station".

SEC. 108. ANNUAL REPORT ON PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING VETERANS BENEFITS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than each of one year, two years, and three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the

Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the progress of the Secretary in implementing the Veterans Benefits Management System.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the current functionality of the Veterans Benefits Management System.

(2) Recommendations submitted to the Secretary by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who are involved in processing claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary, including veterans service representatives, rating veterans service representatives, and decision review officers, for such legislative or administrative action as the employees consider appropriate to improve the processing of such claims.

(3) Recommendations submitted to the Secretary by veterans service organizations who use the Veterans Benefits Management System for such legislative or administrative action as the veterans service organizations consider appropriate to improve such system.

(c) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term "veterans service organization" means any organization recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 109. IMPROVEMENTS TO AUTHORITY FOR PERFORMANCE OF MEDICAL DISABILITIES EXAMINATIONS BY CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.

(a) LICENSURE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.—

(1) TEMPORARY AUTHORITY.—Section 704 of the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 (38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

“(d) LICENSURE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any law regarding the licensure of physicians, a physician described in paragraph (2) may conduct an examination pursuant to a contract entered into under subsection (b) at any location in any State, the District of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, so long as the examination is within the scope of the authorized duties under such contract.

“(2) PHYSICIAN DESCRIBED.—A physician described in this paragraph is a physician who—

“(A) has a current unrestricted license to practice the health care profession of the physician;

“(B) is not barred from practicing such health care profession in any State, the District of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States; and

“(C) is performing authorized duties for the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to a contract entered into under subsection (b).”.

(2) PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 504 of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 1996 (38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

“(c) LICENSURE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any law regarding the licensure of physicians, a physician described in paragraph (2) may conduct an examination pursuant to a contract entered into under subsection (a) at any location in any State, the District of Colum-

bia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, so long as the examination is within the scope of the authorized duties under such contract.

“(2) PHYSICIAN DESCRIBED.—A physician described in this paragraph is a physician who—

“(A) has a current unrestricted license to practice the health care profession of the physician;

“(B) is not barred from practicing such health care profession in any State, the District of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States; and

“(C) is performing authorized duties for the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to a contract entered into under subsection (a).”.

SEC. 110. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF PROCESS BY WHICH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ASSESSES IMPAIRMENTS THAT RESULT FROM TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY FOR PURPOSES OF AWARDED DISABILITY COMPENSATION.

(a) AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to perform the services covered by this section.

(2) TIMING.—The Secretary shall seek to enter into the agreement described in paragraph (1) not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement between the Secretary and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under this section, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine shall conduct a comprehensive review of examinations furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals who submit claims to the Secretary for compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, for traumatic brain injury to assess the impairments of such individuals relating to such injury.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The comprehensive review carried out pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A determination of the adequacy of the tools and protocols used by the Department to provide examinations described in paragraph (1).

(B) A determination of which credentials are necessary for health care specialists and providers to perform such portions of such examinations that relate to an assessment of all disabling effects.

(3) GROUP OF EXPERIENCED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.—In carrying out the comprehensive review pursuant to paragraph (1), the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine shall convene a group of relevant experts, including experts in clinical neuropsychology, psychiatry, physiatry, neurosurgery, and neurology.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 540 days after the date on which the Secretary enters into an agreement under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the comprehensive review conducted under this section.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The findings of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine with respect to the comprehensive review conducted under this section.

(B) Such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine may have for the improvement of the adjudication of claims described in subsection (b)(1).

(d) ALTERNATE CONTRACT ORGANIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary is unable within the period prescribed in subsection (a)(2) to enter into an agreement described in subsection (a)(1) with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on terms acceptable to the Secretary, the Secretary shall seek to enter into such an agreement with another appropriate organization that—

(A) is not part of the Government;

(B) operates as a not-for-profit entity; and

(C) has expertise and objectivity comparable to that of the Health and Medicine Division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

(2) TREATMENT.—If the Secretary enters into an agreement with another organization as described in paragraph (1), any reference in this section to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine shall be treated as a reference to the other organization.

SEC. 111. REPORTS ON CLAIMS FOR DISABILITY COMPENSATION.

(a) REPORT ON REASONABLY RAISED CLAIMS.—Not later than 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the policies of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to processing reasonably raised unrelated claims. Such report shall include—

(1) any statistics on how frequently such unrelated claims are identified by the Secretary;

(2) how frequently the Secretary notifies claimants about potential unrelated claims; and

(3) how often the claimant later submits a claim for the condition described by the unrelated claim.

(b) ANNUAL REPORTS ON COMPLETE AND INCOMPLETE CLAIMS.—During the five-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives annual reports on complete and incomplete claims for disability compensation submitted to the Secretary. Each such report shall include, for the one-year period covered by the report—

(1) the total number of claims submitted to the Secretary;

(2) the total number of incomplete claims submitted to the Secretary;

(3) the total number of complete claims submitted to the Secretary;

(4) the total number of forms indicating an intent to file a claim for benefits submitted to the Secretary;

(5) the total number of electronically filed claims submitted to the Secretary;

(6) the total number of fully developed claims submitted to the Secretary;

(7) the total number of claims submitted to the Secretary that are not complete claims but that the Secretary treats as a request by the claimant for a form to file a claim; and

(8) of the total number of claims identified under paragraph (7), the percent for which the Secretary notified the claimant of the need to file a complete claim.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “claimant” has the meaning given such term in section 5100 of title 38,

United States Code, and includes a representative of a claimant.

(2) The term “reasonably raised unrelated claim” means a claim for disability compensation under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that, in addition to the condition for which such claim is made, includes evidence of a separate condition that is not specifically identified as part of the claim but may be inferred or logically placed at issue upon a sympathetic reading of the claim and the record developed with respect to that claim.

SEC. 112. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) There are at least 4,200,000 veterans currently living with service-connected disabilities.

(2) As a result of their service, many veterans are permanently disabled throughout their lives and in many cases must rely on the support of their families and friends when these visible and invisible burdens become too much to bear alone.

(3) October 5, which is the anniversary of the dedication of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, has been recognized as an appropriate day on which to honor American veterans disabled for life each year.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress—

(1) expresses its appreciation to the men and women left permanently wounded, ill, or injured as a result of their service in the Armed Forces;

(2) supports the annual recognition of American veterans disabled for life each year; and

(3) encourages the American people to honor American veterans disabled for life each year with appropriate programs and activities.

SEC. 113. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION RELATING TO CLAIMS FOR DISABILITIES INCURRED OR AGGRAVATED BY MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should submit to Congress information on the covered claims submitted to the Secretary during each fiscal year, including the information specified in subsection (b).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The information specified in this subsection with respect to each fiscal year is the following:

(1) The number of covered claims submitted to or considered by the Secretary during such fiscal year.

(2) Of the covered claims under paragraph (1), the number and percentage of such claims—

(A) submitted by each sex;

(B) that were approved, including the number and percentage of such approved claims submitted by each sex; and

(C) that were denied, including the number and percentage of such denied claims submitted by each sex.

(3) Of the covered claims under paragraph (1) that were approved, the number and percentage, listed by each sex, of claims assigned to each rating percentage of disability.

(4) Of the covered claims under paragraph (1) that were denied—

(A) the three most common reasons given by the Secretary under section 5104(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, for such denials; and

(B) the number of denials that were based on the failure of a veteran to report for a medical examination.

(5) The number of covered claims that, as of the end of such fiscal year, are pending and, separately, the number of such claims on appeal.

(6) The average number of days that covered claims take to complete beginning on the date on which the claim is submitted.

(7) A description of the training that the Secretary provides to employees of the Veterans Benefits Administration specifically with respect to covered claims, including the frequency, length, and content of such training.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “covered claims” means claims for disability compensation submitted to the Secretary based on a mental health condition alleged to have been incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma.

(2) The term “military sexual trauma” shall have the meaning specified by the Secretary for purposes of this section and shall include “sexual harassment” (as so specified).

TITLE II—UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY INCREASE IN NUMBER OF JUDGES ON UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7253(i)(2) is amended by striking “January 1, 2013” and inserting “January 1, 2021”.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than June 30, 2020, the chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the temporary expansions of the Court under section 7253 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the effect of the expansions on ensuring appeals are handled in a timely manner.

(B) A description of the ways in which the complexity levels of the appeals acted on by the Court may have changed based on service during recent conflicts compared to those based on service from previous eras.

(C) A recommendation on whether the number of judges should be adjusted at the end of the temporary expansion period, including statistics, projections, trend analyses, and other information to support the recommendation.

SEC. 202. LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM RELATING TO JUDGES OF UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7281 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) For purposes of chapter 87 of title 5, a judge who is in regular active service and a judge who is retired under section 7296 of this title or under chapter 83 or 84 of title 5 shall be treated as an employee described in section 8701(a)(5) of title 5.

“(k) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Court may pay on behalf of its judges, who are age 65 or older, any increase in the cost of Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance imposed after April 24, 1999, including any expenses generated by such payments, as authorized by the chief judge of the Court in a manner consistent with such

payment authorized by the Judicial Conference of the United States pursuant to section 604(a)(5) of title 28.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any payment made on or after the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 203. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENLARGE SURVIVORS' ANNUITY.

Section 7297 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(p)(1) A covered judge who makes an election under subsection (b) may purchase, in three-month increments, up to an additional year of service credit for each year of Federal judicial service completed, under the terms set forth in this section.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘covered judge’ means any of the following:

“(A) A judge in regular active service.

“(B) A retired judge who is a recall-eligible retired judge pursuant to subsection (a) of section 7257 of this title.

“(C) A retired judge who would be a recall-eligible retired judge pursuant to subsection (a) of section 7257 but for—

“(i) meeting the aggregate recall service requirements under subsection (b)(3) of such section; or

“(ii) being permanently disabled as described by subsection (b)(4) of such section.”.

SEC. 204. SELECTION OF CHIEF JUDGE OF UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 7253(d) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph (B):

“(B) have at least three years remaining in term of office; and”;

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2)(A) In any case in which there is no judge of the Court in regular active service who meets the requirements under paragraph (1), the judge of the Court in regular active service who is senior in commission and meets subparagraph (A) or (B) and subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) shall act as the chief judge.

“(B) In any case under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph in which there is no judge of the Court in regular active service who meets subparagraph (A) or (B) and subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1), the judge of the Court in regular active service who is senior in commission and meets subparagraph (C) shall act as the chief judge.”.

(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the selection of a chief judge occurring on or after January 1, 2020.

TITLE III—BURIAL BENEFITS AND OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 301. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HEADSTONES, MARKERS, AND MEDALLIONS.

Section 2306(d) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following new paragraph:

“(4)(A) In lieu of furnishing a headstone or marker under this subsection to a deceased individual described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary may furnish, upon request, a medallion or other device of a design determined by the Secretary to signify the deceased individual’s status as a veteran, to be attached to a headstone or marker furnished at private expense.

“(B) A deceased individual described in this subsection is an individual who—

“(i) served in the Armed Forces on or after April 6, 1917; and

“(ii) is eligible for a headstone or marker furnished under paragraph (1) (or would be so eligible but for the date of the death of the individual).”;

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

“(5)(A) In carrying out this subsection with respect to a deceased individual described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall furnish, upon request, a headstone or marker under paragraph (1) or a medallion under paragraph (4) that signifies the deceased’s status as a medal of honor recipient.

“(B) If the Secretary furnished a headstone, marker, or medallion under paragraph (1) or (4) for a deceased individual described in subparagraph (C) that does not signify the deceased’s status as a medal of honor recipient, the Secretary shall, upon request, replace such headstone, marker, or medallion with a headstone, marker, or medallion, as the case may be, that so signifies the deceased’s status as a medal of honor recipient.

“(C) A deceased individual described in this subparagraph is a deceased individual who—

“(i) served in the Armed Forces on or after April 6, 1917;

“(ii) is eligible for a headstone or marker furnished under paragraph (1) or a medallion furnished under paragraph (4) (or would be so eligible for such headstone, marker, or medallion but for the date of the death of the individual); and

“(iii) was awarded the medal of honor under section 3741, 6241, or 8741 of title 10 or section 491 of title 14 (including posthumously).

“(D) In this paragraph, the term ‘medal of honor recipient’ means an individual who is awarded the medal of honor under section 3741, 6241, or 8741 of title 10 or section 491 of title 14.”.

SEC. 302. EXPANSION OF PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 112(a) is amended by striking “veterans,” and all that follows through “service,” and inserting the following: “persons eligible for burial in a national cemetery by reason of any of paragraphs (1), (2), (3), or (7) of section 2402(a) of this title.”.

(b) **APPLICATION.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the death of a person eligible for burial in a national cemetery by reason of paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (7) of section 2402(a) of title 38, United States Code, occurring before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 303. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STUDY ON MATTERS RELATING TO BURIAL OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF VETERANS IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

(a) **STUDY AND REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than one year after the effective date specified in subsection (d), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) complete a study on matters relating to the interring of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the study required under paragraph (1).

(b) **MATTERS STUDIED.**—The matters studied under subsection (a)(1) shall include the following:

(1) Determining the scope of issues relating to unclaimed remains of veterans, including an estimate of the number of unclaimed remains of veterans.

(2) Assessing the effectiveness of the procedures of the Department of Veterans Affairs for working with persons or entities having custody of unclaimed remains to facilitate interment of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration.

(3) Assessing State and local laws that affect the ability of the Secretary to inter unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration.

(4) Developing recommendations for such legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) **METHODOLOGY.**—

(1) **NUMBER OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS.**—In estimating the number of unclaimed remains of veterans under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary may review such subset of applicable entities as the Secretary considers appropriate, including a subset of funeral homes and coroner offices that possess unclaimed veterans remains.

(2) **ASSESSMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL LAWS.**—In assessing State and local laws under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary may assess such sample of applicable State and local laws as the Secretary considers appropriate in lieu of reviewing all applicable State and local laws.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 304. STUDY ON PROVISION OF INTERMENTS IN VETERANS’ CEMETERIES DURING WEEKENDS.

(a) **STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study on the feasibility and the need for providing increased interments in veterans’ cemeteries on Saturdays and Sundays to meet the needs of surviving family members to properly honor the deceased.

(2) **MATTERS INCLUDED.**—The study under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The number of requests made for interments in veterans’ cemeteries on a Saturday or a Sunday since January 1, 2007.

(B) The number of requests identified under subparagraph (A) that were granted.

(C) An estimate of the number of families that, since January 1, 2007, would have selected a weekend interment if such an interment would have been offered.

(D) A review of the practices relating to weekend interments among non-veterans’ cemeteries, including private and municipal cemeteries.

(E) A comparison of the costs to veterans’ cemeteries with respect to providing regular interments only during weekdays and such costs for providing regular interments during the weekdays and at least one weekend day.

(F) Any other information the Secretary determines appropriate.

(3) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with the following:

(A) Veterans who are eligible to be interred in a veterans’ cemetery.

(B) Family members of a deceased individual interred in a veterans’ cemetery.

(C) Veterans service organizations.

(D) Associations representing cemetery and funeral home professionals.

(E) The heads of agencies of State governments relating to veterans affairs.

(F) The directors of the veterans' cemeteries.

(G) Any other person the Secretary determines appropriate.

(b) **SUBMISSION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

(c) **VETERANS' CEMETERIES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term "veterans' cemeteries" means the cemeteries of the National Cemetery Administration, veterans' cemeteries owned by a State, and veterans' cemeteries owned by a tribal organization.

SEC. 305. HONORING AS VETERANS CERTAIN PERSONS WHO PERFORMED SERVICE IN THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

Any person who is entitled under chapter 1223 of title 10, United States Code, to retired pay for nonregular service or, but for age, would be entitled under such chapter to retired pay for nonregular service shall be honored as a veteran but shall not be entitled to any benefit by reason of this honor.

TITLE IV—EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

SEC. 401. CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR MARINE GUNNERY SERGEANT JOHN DAVID FRY SCHOLARSHIP.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 701(d) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 128 Stat. 1796; 38 U.S.C. 3311 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) **APPLICABILITY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after January 1, 2015.

“(2) **DEATHS THAT OCCURRED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, AND DECEMBER 31, 2005.**—For purposes of section 3311(f)(2) of title 38, United States Code, any member of the Armed Forces who died during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on December 31, 2005, is deemed to have died on January 1, 2006.”

(b) **ELECTION ON RECEIPT OF CERTAIN BENEFITS.**—Section 3311(f) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “A surviving spouse” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (4), a surviving spouse”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph (4):

“(4) **EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN ELECTIONS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An election made under paragraph (3) by a spouse described in subparagraph (B) may not be treated as irrevocable if such election occurred before the date of the enactment of this paragraph.

“(B) **ELIGIBLE SURVIVING SPOUSE.**—A spouse described in this subparagraph is an individual—

“(i) who is entitled to assistance under subsection (a) pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection (b); and

“(ii) who was the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who died during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on December 31, 2005.”

(c) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**—Paragraph (5) of subsection (f) of section 3311, as redesignated by subsection (b)(2), is amended by striking “that paragraph” and inserting “paragraph (9) of subsection (b)”.

SEC. 402. APPROVAL OF COURSES OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR PURPOSES OF THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3104(b) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentences: “To the maximum extent practicable, a course of education or training may be pursued by a veteran as part of a rehabilitation program under this chapter only if the course is approved for purposes of chapter 30 or 33 of this title. The Secretary may waive the requirement under the preceding sentence to the extent the Secretary determines appropriate.”

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a course of education or training pursued by a veteran who first begins a program of rehabilitation under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, on or after the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 403. AUTHORITY TO PRIORITIZE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BASED ON NEED.

Section 3104, as amended by section 402, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c)(1) The Secretary shall have the authority to administer this chapter by prioritizing the provision of services under this chapter based on need, as determined by the Secretary. In evaluating need for purposes of this subsection, the Secretary shall consider disability ratings, the severity of employment handicaps, qualification for a program of independent living, income, and any other factor the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(2) Not later than 90 days before making any changes to the prioritization of the provision of services under this chapter as authorized under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a plan describing such changes.”

SEC. 404. REPORTS ON PROGRESS OF STUDENTS RECEIVING POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter III of chapter 33 is amended—

(1) in section 3325(c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph (3):

“(3) the information received by the Secretary under section 3326 of this title; and”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 3326. Report on student progress

“As a condition of approval under chapter 36 of this title of a course offered by an educational institution (as defined in section 3452 of this title), each year, each educational institution (as so defined) that received a payment in that year on behalf of an individual entitled to educational assistance under this chapter shall submit to the Secretary such information regarding the academic progress of the individual as the Secretary may require.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“3326. Report on student progress.”

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the

date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 405. RECODIFICATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF ELECTION PROCESS FOR POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter III of chapter 33, as amended by section 404, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 3327. Election to receive educational assistance

“(a) **INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO ELECT PARTICIPATION IN POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**—An individual may elect to receive educational assistance under this chapter if such individual—

“(1) as of August 1, 2009—

“(A) is entitled to basic educational assistance under chapter 30 of this title and has used, but retains unused, entitlement under that chapter;

“(B) is entitled to educational assistance under chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 of title 10 and has used, but retains unused, entitlement under the applicable chapter;

“(C) is entitled to basic educational assistance under chapter 30 of this title but has not used any entitlement under that chapter;

“(D) is entitled to educational assistance under chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 of title 10 but has not used any entitlement under such chapter;

“(E) is a member of the Armed Forces who is eligible for receipt of basic educational assistance under chapter 30 of this title and is making contributions toward such assistance under section 3011(b) or 3012(c) of this title; or

“(F) is a member of the Armed Forces who is not entitled to basic educational assistance under chapter 30 of this title by reason of an election under section 3011(c)(1) or 3012(d)(1) of this title; and

“(2) as of the date of the individual's election under this paragraph, meets the requirements for entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter.

“(b) **CESSATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD GI BILL.**—Effective as of the first month beginning on or after the date of an election under subsection (a) of an individual described by paragraph (1)(E) of that subsection, the obligation of the individual to make contributions under section 3011(b) or 3012(c) of this title, as applicable, shall cease, and the requirements of such section shall be deemed to be no longer applicable to the individual.

“(c) **REVOCACTION OF REMAINING TRANSFERRED ENTITLEMENT.**—

“(1) **ELECTION TO REVOKE.**—If, on the date an individual described in paragraph (1)(A) or (1)(C) of subsection (a) makes an election under that subsection, a transfer of the entitlement of the individual to basic educational assistance under section 3020 of this title is in effect and a number of months of the entitlement so transferred remain unutilized, the individual may elect to revoke all or a portion of the entitlement so transferred that remains unutilized.

“(2) **AVAILABILITY OF REVOKED ENTITLEMENT.**—Any entitlement revoked by an individual under this subsection shall no longer be available to the dependent to whom transferred, but shall be available to the individual instead for educational assistance under chapter 33 of this title in accordance with the provisions of this section.

“(3) **AVAILABILITY OF UNREVOKED ENTITLEMENT.**—Any entitlement described in paragraph (1) that is not revoked by an individual in accordance with that paragraph

shall remain available to the dependent or dependents concerned in accordance with the current transfer of such entitlement under section 3020 of this title.

“(d) POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2) and except as provided in subsection (e), an individual making an election under subsection (a) shall be entitled to educational assistance under this chapter in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, instead of basic educational assistance under chapter 30 of this title, or educational assistance under chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 of title 10, as applicable.

“(2) LIMITATION ON ENTITLEMENT FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—In the case of an individual making an election under subsection (a) who is described by paragraph (1)(A) of that subsection, the number of months of entitlement of the individual to educational assistance under this chapter shall be the number of months equal to—

“(A) the number of months of unused entitlement of the individual under chapter 30 of this title, as of the date of the election, plus

“(B) the number of months, if any, of entitlement revoked by the individual under subsection (c)(1).

“(e) CONTINUING ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE NOT AVAILABLE UNDER POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event educational assistance to which an individual making an election under subsection (a) would be entitled under chapter 30 of this title, or chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 of title 10, as applicable, is not authorized to be available to the individual under the provisions of this chapter, the individual shall remain entitled to such educational assistance in accordance with the provisions of the applicable chapter.

“(2) CHARGE FOR USE OF ENTITLEMENT.—The utilization by an individual of entitlement under paragraph (1) shall be chargeable against the entitlement of the individual to educational assistance under this chapter at the rate of one month of entitlement under this chapter for each month of entitlement utilized by the individual under paragraph (1) (as determined as if such entitlement were utilized under the provisions of chapter 30 of this title, or chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 of title 10, as applicable).

“(f) ADDITIONAL POST-9/11 ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS HAVING MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD GI BILL.—

“(1) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—In the case of an individual making an election under subsection (a) who is described by subparagraph (A), (C), or (E) of paragraph (1) of that subsection, the amount of educational assistance payable to the individual under this chapter as a monthly stipend payable under paragraph (1)(B) of section 3313(c) of this title, or under paragraphs (2) through (7) of that section (as applicable), shall be the amount otherwise payable as a monthly stipend under the applicable paragraph increased by the amount equal to—

“(A) the total amount of contributions toward basic educational assistance made by the individual under section 3011(b) or 3012(c) of this title, as of the date of the election, multiplied by

“(B) the fraction—

“(i) the numerator of which is—

“(I) the number of months of entitlement to basic educational assistance under chapter 30 of this title remaining to the individual at the time of the election; plus

“(II) the number of months, if any, of entitlement under chapter 30 of this title re-

voked by the individual under subsection (c)(1); and

“(ii) the denominator of which is 36 months.

“(2) MONTHS OF REMAINING ENTITLEMENT FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—In the case of an individual covered by paragraph (1) who is described by subsection (a)(1)(E), the number of months of entitlement to basic educational assistance remaining to the individual for purposes of paragraph (1)(B)(i)(II) shall be 36 months.

“(3) TIMING OF PAYMENT.—The amount payable with respect to an individual under paragraph (1) shall be paid to the individual together with the last payment of the monthly stipend payable to the individual under paragraph (1)(B) of section 3313(c) of this title, or under paragraphs (2) through (7) of that section (as applicable), before the exhaustion of the individual's entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter.

“(g) CONTINUING ENTITLEMENT TO ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CRITICAL SKILLS OR SPECIALTY AND ADDITIONAL SERVICE.—An individual making an election under subsection (a)(1) who, at the time of the election, is entitled to increased educational assistance under section 3015(d) of this title, or section 16131(i) of title 10, or supplemental educational assistance under subchapter III of chapter 30 of this title, shall remain entitled to such increased educational assistance or supplemental educational assistance in the utilization of entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter, in an amount equal to the quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, equivalent of the monthly amount of such increased educational assistance or supplemental educational assistance payable with respect to the individual at the time of the election.

“(h) ALTERNATIVE ELECTION BY SECRETARY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual who, on or after January 1, 2017, submits to the Secretary an election under this section that the Secretary determines is clearly against the interests of the individual, or who fails to make an election under this section, the Secretary may make an alternative election on behalf of the individual that the Secretary determines is in the best interests of the individual.

“(2) NOTICE.—If the Secretary makes an election on behalf of an individual under this subsection, the Secretary shall notify the individual by not later than seven days after making such election and shall provide the individual with a 30-day period, beginning on the date of the individual's receipt of such notice, during which the individual may modify or revoke the election made by the Secretary on the individual's behalf. The Secretary shall include, as part of such notice, a clear statement of why the alternative election made by the Secretary is in the best interests of the individual as compared to the election submitted by the individual. The Secretary shall provide the notice required under this paragraph by electronic means whenever possible.

“(i) IRREVOCABILITY OF ELECTIONS.—An election under subsection (a) or (c)(1) is irrevocable.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by section 404, is further amended by adding at the end the following new item: “3327. Election to receive educational assistance.”

(c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Subsection (c) of section 5003 of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (Public Law

110-252; 38 U.S.C. 3301 note) is hereby repealed.

SEC. 406. WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCE.

Section 3485(a)(4) is amended by striking “June 30, 2013” each place it appears and inserting “June 30, 2013, or the period beginning on June 30, 2017, and ending on June 30, 2022”.

SEC. 407. CENTRALIZED REPORTING OF VETERAN ENROLLMENT BY CERTAIN GROUPS, DISTRICTS, AND CONSORTIUMS OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3684(a) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “32, 33,” after “31.”; and

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

“(4) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘educational institution’ may include a group, district, or consortium of separately accredited educational institutions located in the same State that are organized in a manner that facilitates the centralized reporting of the enrollments in such group, district, or consortium of institutions.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to reports submitted on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 408. ROLE OF STATE APPROVING AGENCIES.

(a) APPROVAL OF CERTAIN COURSES.—Section 3672(b)(2)(A) is amended by striking “the following” and all that follows through the colon and inserting the following: “a program of education is deemed to be approved for purposes of this chapter if a State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency, determines that the program is one of the following programs:”

(b) APPROVAL OF OTHER COURSES.—Section 3675 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “The Secretary or a State approving agency” and inserting “A State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency.”; and

(B) by striking “offered by proprietary for-profit educational institutions” and inserting “not covered by section 3672 of this title”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “the Secretary or the State approving agency” and inserting “the State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency.”; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “the Secretary or the State approving agency” and inserting “the State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency”.

SEC. 409. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL FOR PURPOSES OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO PREPARE INDIVIDUALS FOR LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION.

(a) APPROVAL OF NONACCREDITED COURSES.—Subsection (c) of section 3676 is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (14) as paragraph (16); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (13) the following new paragraphs:

“(14) In the case of a course designed to prepare an individual for licensure or certification in a State, the course—

“(A) meets all instructional curriculum licensure or certification requirements of such State; and

“(B) in the case of a course designed to prepare an individual for licensure to practice law in a State, is accredited by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education under subpart 2 of part H of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b).

“(15) In the case of a course designed to prepare an individual for employment pursuant to standards developed by a board or agency of a State in an occupation that requires approval, licensure, or certification, the course—

“(A) meets such standards; and

“(B) in the case of a course designed to prepare an individual for licensure to practice law in a State, is accredited by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education under subpart 2 of part H of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b).”

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f)(1) The Secretary may waive the requirements of paragraph (14) or (15) of subsection (c) in the case of a course of education offered by an educational institution (either accredited or not accredited) if the Secretary determines all of the following:

“(A) The educational institution is not accredited by an agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education.

“(B) The course did not meet the requirements of such paragraph at any time during the two-year period preceding the date of the waiver.

“(C) The waiver furthers the purposes of the educational assistance programs administered by the Secretary or would further the education interests of individuals eligible for assistance under such programs.

“(D) The educational institution does not provide any commission, bonus, or other incentive payment based directly or indirectly on success in securing enrollments or financial aid to any persons or entities engaged in any student recruiting or admission activities or in making decisions regarding the award of student financial assistance, except for the recruitment of foreign students residing in foreign countries who are not eligible to receive Federal student assistance.

“(2) Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary issues a waiver under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress notice of such waiver and a justification for issuing such waiver.”

(c) APPROVAL OF ACCREDITED COURSES.—Section 3675(b)(3) is amended—

(1) by striking “and (3)” and inserting “(3), (14), (15), and (16)”; and

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “(or, with respect to such paragraphs (14) and (15), the requirements under such paragraphs are waived pursuant to subsection (f)(1) of section 3676 of this title)”.

(d) APPROVAL OF ACCREDITED STANDARD COLLEGE DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED AT PUBLIC OR NOT-FOR-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—Section 3672(b)(2) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “An accredited” and inserting “Except as provided in subparagraph (C), an accredited”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) A course that is described in both subparagraph (A)(i) of this paragraph and in paragraph (14) or (15) of section 3676(c) of this title shall not be deemed to be approved for purposes of this chapter unless—

“(i) a State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State ap-

proving agency, determines that the course meets the applicable criteria in such paragraphs; or

“(ii) the Secretary issues a waiver for such course under section 3676(f)(1) of this title.”

(e) DISAPPROVAL OF COURSES.—Section 3679 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the Secretary or the applicable State approving agency shall disapprove a course of education described in paragraph (14) or (15) of section 3676(c) of this title unless the educational institution providing the course of education—

“(1) publicly discloses any conditions or additional requirements, including training, experience, or examinations, required to obtain the license, certification, or approval for which the course of education is designed to provide preparation; and

“(2) makes each disclosure required by paragraph (1) in a manner that the Secretary considers prominent (as specified by the Secretary in regulations prescribed for purposes of this subsection).”

(f) APPLICABILITY.—If after enrollment in a course of education that is subject to disapproval by reason of an amendment made by this section, an individual pursues one or more courses of education at the same educational institution while remaining continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between courses, semesters, or terms) at that institution, any course so pursued by the individual at that institution while so continuously enrolled shall not be subject to disapproval by reason of such amendment.

SEC. 410. CRITERIA USED TO APPROVE COURSES.

(a) NONACCREDITED COURSES.—Paragraph (16) of section 3676(c), as redesignated by section 409, is amended by inserting before the period the following: “if the Secretary, in consultation with the State approving agency and pursuant to regulations prescribed to carry out this paragraph, determines such criteria are necessary and treat public, private, and proprietary for-profit educational institutions equitably”.

(b) ACCREDITED COURSES.—Section 3675(b)(3) is amended by striking “and (3)” and inserting “(3), and (14)”.

(c) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to—

(1) criteria developed pursuant to paragraph (16) of subsection (c) of section 3676 of title 38, United States Code, on or after January 1, 2013; and

(2) an investigation conducted under such subsection that is covered by a reimbursement of expenses paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to a State pursuant to section 3674 of such title on or after October 1, 2015.

SEC. 411. COMPLIANCE SURVEYS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3693 is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following new subsection (a):

“(a)(1) Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary shall conduct an annual compliance survey of educational institutions and training establishments offering one or more courses approved for the enrollment of eligible veterans or persons if at least 20 such veterans or persons are enrolled in any such course. The Secretary shall—

“(A) design the compliance surveys to ensure that such institutions or establishments, as the case may be, and approved courses are in compliance with all applicable provisions of chapters 30 through 36 of this title;

“(B) survey each such educational institution and training establishment not less than once during every two-year period; and

“(C) assign not fewer than one education compliance specialist to work on compliance surveys in any year for each 40 compliance surveys required to be made under this section for such year.

“(2) The Secretary, in consultation with the State approving agencies, shall—

“(A) annually determine the parameters of the surveys required under paragraph (1); and

“(B) not later than September 1 of each year, make available to the State approving agencies a list of the educational institutions and training establishments that will be surveyed during the fiscal year following the date of making such list available.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) In this section, the terms ‘educational institution’ and ‘training establishment’ have the meanings given such terms in section 3452 of this title.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking “subsection (a) of this section for an annual compliance survey” and inserting “subsection (a)(1) for a compliance survey”; and

(2) by striking “institution” and inserting “educational institution or training establishment”; and

(3) by striking “institution’s demonstrated record of compliance” and inserting “record of compliance of such institution or establishment”.

SEC. 412. MODIFICATION OF REDUCTIONS IN REPORTING FEE MULTIPLIERS FOR PAYMENTS BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25, 2017.—During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on September 25, 2017, the second sentence of section 3684(c) of title 38, United States Code, shall be applied—

(1) by substituting “\$6” for “\$12”; and

(2) by substituting “\$12” for “\$15”.

(b) SEPTEMBER 26, 2017, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25, 2026.—During the period beginning on September 26, 2017, and ending on September 25, 2026, the second sentence of such section shall be applied—

(1) by substituting “\$7” for “\$12”; and

(2) by substituting “\$12” for “\$15”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 406 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175; 38 U.S.C. 3684 note), as amended by the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2016, is amended by striking “During the three-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act” and inserting “During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the day before the date of the enactment of the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016”.

SEC. 413. COMPOSITION OF VETERANS’ ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

Section 3692(a) is amended in the second sentence by striking “veterans representative of World War II” and all that follows through the period at the end of that sentence and inserting the following: “a representative sample of veterans and other individuals who have used, or may in the future use, educational assistance benefits administered by the Secretary.”.

SEC. 414. SURVEY OF INDIVIDUALS USING THEIR ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **SURVEY REQUIRED.**—By not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract with a non-government entity for the conduct of a survey of a statistically valid sample of individuals who have used or are using their entitlement to educational assistance under chapters 30, 32, 33, and 35 of title 38, United States Code, to pursue a program of education or training. The contract shall provide that—

(1) not later than one month before the collection of data under the survey begins, the survey shall be submitted to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives;

(2) the non-government entity shall complete the survey and submit to the Secretary the results of the survey by not later than 180 days after entering into the contract; and

(3) the survey shall be conducted by electronic means and by any other means the non-government entity determines appropriate.

(b) **INFORMATION TO BE COLLECTED.**—The contract under subsection (a) shall provide that the survey shall be designed to collect the following types of information about each individual surveyed, where applicable:

(1) Demographic information, including the highest level of education completed by the individual, the military occupational specialty or specialties of the individual while serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces or as a member of the National Guard or of a Reserve Component of the Armed Forces, and whether the individual has a service-connected disability.

(2) The opinion of the individual regarding participation in the transition assistance program under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code, and the effectiveness of the program, including instruction on the use of the benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(3) The resources the individual used to help the individual—

(A) decide to use the individual's entitlement to educational assistance to enroll in a program of education or training; and

(B) choose the program of education or training the individual pursued.

(4) The individual's goal when the individual enrolled in the program of education or training.

(5) The nature of the individual's experience with the education benefits processing system of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(6) The nature of the individual's experience with the school certifying official of the educational institution where the individual pursued the program of education or training who processed the individual's claim.

(7) Any services or benefits the educational institution or program of education or training provided to veterans while the individual pursued the program of education or training.

(8) The type of educational institution at which the individual pursued the program of education or training.

(9) Whether the individual completed the program of education or training or the number of credit hours completed by the individual as of the time of the survey, and, if applicable, any degree or certificate obtained by the individual for completing the program.

(10) The employment status of the individual and whether such employment status differs from the employment status of the individual prior to enrolling in the program of education or training.

(11) Whether the individual is or was enrolled in a program of education on a full-time or part-time basis.

(12) The opinion of the individual on the effectiveness of the educational assistance program of the Department of Veterans Affairs under which the individual was entitled to educational assistance.

(13) Whether the individual was ever entitled to a rehabilitation under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, and whether the individual participated in such a program.

(14) A description of any circumstances that prevented the individual from using the individual's entitlement to educational assistance to pursue a desired career path or degree.

(15) Whether the individual is using the individual's entitlement to educational assistance to pursue a program of education or training or has transferred such an entitlement to a dependent.

(16) Such other matters as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after receiving the results of the survey required under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the results of the survey and any recommendations of the Secretary relating to such results. Such report shall also include an unedited version of the results of the survey submitted by the non-government entity that conducted the survey.

SEC. 415. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.

(a) **INFORMATION.**—Department of Veterans Affairs counselors who provide educational or vocational counseling services pursuant to section 3697A of title 38, United States Code, shall provide to any eligible individual who requests such counseling services information about the articulation agreements of each institution of higher learning in which the individual is interested.

(b) **CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.**—When the Secretary of Veterans Affairs provides to an individual a certification of eligibility for educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary shall also include detailed information on such educational assistance, including information on requesting education counseling services and on articulation agreements.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term "institution of higher learning" has the meaning given such term in section 3452(f) of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term "articulation agreement" has the meaning given such term in section 486A of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-329; 20 U.S.C. 1093a).

(d) **DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement this section not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 416. RETENTION OF ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE DURING CERTAIN ADDITIONAL PERIODS OF ACTIVE DUTY.

(a) **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE.**—Section 16131(c)(3)(B)(i) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking "or 12304" and inserting "12304, 12304a, or 12304b".

(b) **EXPIRATION DATE.**—Section 16133(b)(4) of such title is amended by striking "or

12304" and inserting "12304, 12304a, or 12304b".

SEC. 417. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO IN-STATE TUITION RATE FOR INDIVIDUALS TO WHOM ENTITLEMENT IS TRANSFERRED UNDER ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**—Subparagraph (B) of section 3679(c)(2) is amended to read as follows:

"(B) An individual who is entitled to assistance under—

"(i) section 3311(b)(9) of this title; or

"(ii) section 3319 of this title by virtue of the individual's relationship to—

"(I) a veteran described in subparagraph (A); or

"(II) a member of the uniformed services described in section 3319(b) of this title who is serving on active duty."

(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a course, semester, or term that begins after July 1, 2017.

SEC. 418. STUDY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF VETERANS TRANSITION EFFORTS.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Defense, shall carry out a study to evaluate programs to assist veterans of the Armed Forces in their transition to civilian life. Such study shall be designed to determine the effectiveness of current programs, especially in regards to the unique challenges faced by women veterans, veterans with disabilities, Native American veterans (including Alaska Native veterans and Native Hawaiian veterans), veterans who are residents of a territory of the United States, veterans who are part of the indigenous population of a territory of the United States, and other groups of minority veterans identified by the Secretaries, including whether such programs—

(1) effectively address the challenges veterans face in pursuing higher education, especially the challenges faced by such groups of minority veterans;

(2) effectively address the challenges such veterans face entering the civilian workforce and in translating experience and skills from military service to the job market; and

(3) effectively address the challenges faced by the families of such veterans transitioning to civilian life.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding the findings and recommendations of the study required under subsection (a).

(c) **PROHIBITION ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this section. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

TITLE V—SMALL BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

SEC. 501. MODIFICATION OF TREATMENT UNDER CONTRACTING GOALS AND PREFERENCES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (h) of section 8127 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking "rated as" and all that follows through "disability." and inserting a period; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

"(C) The date that—

“(i) in the case of a surviving spouse of a veteran with a service-connected disability rated as less than 100 percent disabling or who dies as a result of a service-connected disability, is 10 years after the date of the veteran’s death; or

“(ii) in the case of a surviving spouse of a veteran with a service-connected disability rated as less than 100 percent disabling who does not die as a result of a service-connected disability, is three years after the date of the veteran’s death.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to contracts awarded on or after such date.

SEC. 502. LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF JOB COUNSELING, TRAINING, AND PLACEMENT SERVICE FOR VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 41 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 4115. Longitudinal study of job counseling, training, and placement service for veterans

“(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—(1) The Secretary shall enter into a contract with a non-government entity to conduct a longitudinal study of a statistically valid sample of each of the groups of individuals described in paragraph (2). The contract shall provide for the study of each such group over a period of at least five years.

“(2) The groups of individuals described in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) Veterans who have received intensive services.

“(B) Veterans who did not receive intensive services but who otherwise received services under this chapter.

“(C) Veterans who did not seek or receive services under this chapter.

“(3) The study required by this subsection shall include the collection of the following information for each individual who participates in the study:

“(A) The average number of months such individual served on active duty.

“(B) The disability ratings of such individual.

“(C) Any unemployment benefits received by such individual.

“(D) The average number of months such individual was employed during the year covered by the report.

“(E) The average annual starting and ending salaries of any such individual who was employed during the year covered by the report.

“(F) The average annual income of such individual.

“(G) The average total household income of such individual for the year covered by the report.

“(H) The percentage of such individuals who own their principal residences.

“(I) The employment status of such individual.

“(J) In the case of such an individual who received services under this chapter, whether the individual believes that any service provided by a disabled veterans’ outreach program specialist or local veterans’ employment representative helped the individual to become employed.

“(K) In the case of such an individual who believes such a service helped the individual to become employed, whether—

“(i) the individual retained the position of employment for a period of one year or longer; and

“(ii) the individual believes such a service helped the individual to secure a higher wage or salary.

“(L) The conditions under which such individual was discharged or released from the Armed Forces.

“(M) Whether such individual has used any educational assistance to which the individual is entitled under this title.

“(N) Whether such individual has participated in a rehabilitation program under chapter 31 of this title.

“(O) Whether such individual had contact with a One-Stop Career Center employee while attending a workshop or job fair under the Transition GPS Program of the Department of Defense.

“(P) Demographic information about such individual.

“(Q) Such other information as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—(1) By not later than July 1 of each year covered by the study required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the outcomes of the study during the preceding year.

“(2) The Secretary shall include in each report submitted under paragraph (1) the following:

“(A) Information with respect to job fairs attended by One-Stop Career Center employees at which the employees had contact with a veteran, including, for the year preceding the year in which the report is submitted, the following:

“(i) The number of job fairs attended by One-Stop Career Center employees at which the employees had contact with a veteran.

“(ii) The number of veterans contacted at each such job fair.

“(B) Such information as the Secretary determines is necessary to determine the long-term outcomes of the individuals in the groups described in subsection (a)(2).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“4115. Longitudinal study of job counseling, training, and placement service for veterans.”.

SEC. 503. LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 is amended by inserting after section 715 the following new section:

“§ 717. Limitation on administrative leave

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary may not place any covered individual on administrative leave, or any other type of paid non-duty status without charge to leave, for more than a total of 14 days during any 365-day period.

“(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the limitation under subsection (a) and extend the administrative leave or other paid non-duty status without charge to leave of a covered individual placed on such leave or status under subsection (a) if the Secretary submits to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a detailed explanation of the reasons the individual was placed on administrative leave or other paid non-duty status without charge to leave and the reasons for the extension of such leave or status. Such explanation shall include the job title and grade of the covered individual and the location where the individual is employed.

“(c) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—In this section, the term ‘covered individual’ means an employee of the Department—

“(1) who is subject to an investigation for purposes of determining whether such individual should be subject to any disciplinary action under this title or title 5; or

“(2) against whom any disciplinary action is proposed or initiated under this title or title 5.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 715 the following new item:

“717. Limitation on administrative leave.”.

(b) APPLICATION.—Section 717 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), shall apply with respect to any 365-day period beginning on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 504. REQUIRED COORDINATION BETWEEN DIRECTORS FOR VETERANS’ EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING WITH STATE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR AND VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4103 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) COORDINATION WITH STATE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR AND VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Each Director for Veterans’ Employment and Training for a State shall coordinate the Director’s activities under this chapter with the State department of labor and the State department of veterans affairs.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (c) of such section, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE VI—HEALTH CARE MATTERS

Subtitle A—Medical Care

SEC. 601. REQUIREMENT FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE ACCOUNT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 117(c) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) Veterans Health Administration, Medical Community Care.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1105(a)(37) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) Veterans Health Administration, Medical Community Care.”.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to fiscal years beginning on and after October 1, 2017.

SEC. 602. IMPROVED ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE IMMUNIZATIONS FOR VETERANS.

(a) INCLUSION OF RECOMMENDED ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS AS MEDICAL SERVICES.—

(1) COVERED BENEFIT.—Subparagraph (F) of section 1701(9) is amended to read as follows:

“(F) immunizations against infectious diseases, including each immunization on the recommended adult immunization schedule at the time such immunization is indicated on that schedule;”.

(2) RECOMMENDED ADULT IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE DEFINED.—Section 1701 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) The term ‘recommended adult immunization schedule’ means the schedule established (and periodically reviewed and, as appropriate, revised) by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and delegated to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”.

(b) INCLUSION OF RECOMMENDED ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS IN ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 1704(1)(A) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

“(iii) to provide veterans each immunization on the recommended adult immunization schedule at the time such immunization is indicated on that schedule.”.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the development and implementation by the Department of Veterans Affairs of quality measures and metrics, including targets for compliance, to ensure that veterans receiving medical services under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, receive each immunization on the recommended adult immunization schedule at the time such immunization is indicated on that schedule.

(2) RECOMMENDED ADULT IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “recommended adult immunization schedule” has the meaning given that term in section 1701(10) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(2).

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section may be construed to require a veteran to receive an immunization that the veteran does not want to receive.

SEC. 603. PRIORITY OF MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS IN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) ENROLLMENT PRIORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1705(a) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “and veterans who were awarded the medal of honor under section 3741, 6241, or 8741 of title 10 or section 491 of title 14.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “veterans who were awarded the medal of honor under section 3741, 6241, or 8741 of title 10 or section 491 of title 14.”.

(2) APPLICATION.—The priority of enrollment of medal of honor recipients in the system of annual patient enrollment established and operated under section 1705(a) of such title, as amended by paragraph (1), shall apply to each such recipient, regardless of the date on which the medal is awarded.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1710(a)(2)(D) is amended by inserting after “war” the following: “, who was awarded the medal of honor under section 3741, 6241, or 8741 of title 10 or section 491 of title 14.”.

(c) EXTENDED CARE SERVICES.—Section 1710B(c)(2) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or”;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”;

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) to a veteran who was awarded the medal of honor under section 3741, 6241, or 8741 of title 10 or section 491 of title 14.”.

(d) COPAYMENT FOR MEDICATIONS.—Section 1722A(a)(3) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or”;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”;

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) to a veteran who was awarded the medal of honor under section 3741, 6241, or 8741 of title 10 or section 491 of title 14.”.

SEC. 604. REQUIREMENT THAT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COLLECT HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACT INFORMATION FROM VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 17 is amended by inserting after section 1705 the following new section:

“§ 1705A. Management of health care: information regarding health-plan contracts

“(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Any individual who seeks hospital care or medical services under this chapter shall provide to the Secretary such current information as the Secretary may require to identify any health-plan contract under which such individual is covered.

“(2) The information required to be provided to the Secretary under paragraph (1) with respect to a health-plan contract shall include, as applicable, the following:

“(A) The name of the entity providing coverage under the health-plan contract.

“(B) If coverage under the health-plan contract is in the name of an individual other than the individual required to provide information under this section, the name of the policy holder of the health-plan contract.

“(C) The identification number for the health-plan contract.

“(D) The group code for the health-plan contract.

“(b) ACTION TO COLLECT INFORMATION.—The Secretary may take such action as the Secretary considers appropriate to collect the information required under subsection (a).

“(c) EFFECT ON SERVICES FROM DEPARTMENT.—The Secretary may not deny any services under this chapter to an individual solely due to the fact that the individual fails to provide information required under subsection (a).

“(d) HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘health-plan contract’ has the meaning given that term in section 1725(f) of this title.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1705 the following new item:

“1705A. Management of health care: information regarding health-plan contracts.”.

SEC. 605. MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR VETERANS WHO SERVED IN CLASSIFIED MISSIONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that veterans who experience combat-related mental health wounds should have immediate, appropriate, and consistent access to comprehensive mental health care.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 1720H. Mental health treatment for veterans who served in classified missions

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—(1) The Secretary shall establish standards and procedures to ensure that each eligible veteran may access mental health care furnished by the Secretary in a manner that fully accommodates the obligation of the veteran to not improperly disclose classified information.

“(2) In establishing standards and procedures under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Defense to ensure that such standards and procedures are consistent with the policies on classified information of the Department of Defense.

“(3) The Secretary shall disseminate guidance to employees of the Veterans Health Administration, including mental health professionals, on the standards and procedures established under paragraph (1) and

how to best engage eligible veterans during the course of mental health treatment with respect to classified information.

“(b) IDENTIFICATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that a veteran may elect to identify as an eligible veteran on an appropriate form.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘classified information’ means any information or material that has been determined by an official of the United States pursuant to law to require protection against unauthorized disclosure for reasons of national security.

“(2) The term ‘eligible veteran’ means a veteran who—

“(A) is eligible to receive health care furnished by the Department under this title;

“(B) is seeking mental health treatment; and

“(C) in the course of serving in the Armed Forces, participated in a sensitive mission or served in a sensitive unit.

“(3) The term ‘sensitive mission’ means a mission of the Armed Forces that, at the time at which an eligible veteran seeks treatment, is classified.

“(4) The term ‘sensitive unit’ has the meaning given that term in section 130b(c)(4) of title 10.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1720G the following new item:

“1720H. Mental health treatment for veterans who served in classified missions.”.

SEC. 606. EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND WOMEN IN LABOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter VIII of chapter 17 is amended by inserting after section 1784 the following new section:

“§ 1784A. Examination and treatment for emergency medical conditions and women in labor

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a hospital of the Department that has an emergency department, if any individual comes to the hospital or the campus of the hospital and a request is made on behalf of the individual for examination or treatment for a medical condition, the hospital must provide for an appropriate medical screening examination within the capability of the emergency department, including ancillary services routinely available to the emergency department, to determine whether or not an emergency medical condition exists.

“(b) NECESSARY STABILIZING TREATMENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND LABOR.—(1) If any individual comes to a hospital of the Department that has an emergency department or the campus of such a hospital and the hospital determines that the individual has an emergency medical condition, the hospital must provide either—

“(A) within the staff and facilities available at the hospital, for such further medical examination and such treatment as may be required to stabilize the medical condition; or

“(B) for transfer of the individual to another medical facility in accordance with subsection (c).

“(2) A hospital is deemed to meet the requirement of paragraph (1)(A) with respect to an individual if the hospital offers the individual the further medical examination and treatment described in that paragraph and informs the individual (or a person acting on behalf of the individual) of the risks and benefits to the individual of such examination and treatment, but the individual (or

a person acting on behalf of the individual) refuses to consent to the examination and treatment. The hospital shall take all reasonable steps to secure the written informed consent of the individual (or person) to refuse such examination and treatment.

“(3) A hospital is deemed to meet the requirement of paragraph (1)(B) with respect to an individual if the hospital offers to transfer the individual to another medical facility in accordance with subsection (c) and informs the individual (or a person acting on behalf of the individual) of the risks and benefits to the individual of such transfer, but the individual (or a person acting on behalf of the individual) refuses to consent to the transfer. The hospital shall take all reasonable steps to secure the written informed consent of the individual (or person) to refuse such transfer.

“(c) RESTRICTING TRANSFERS UNTIL INDIVIDUAL STABILIZED.—(1) If an individual at a hospital of the Department has an emergency medical condition that has not been stabilized, the hospital may not transfer the individual unless—

“(A)(i) the individual (or a legally responsible person acting on behalf of the individual), after being informed of the obligations of the hospital under this section and of the risk of transfer, requests, in writing, transfer to another medical facility;

“(ii) a physician of the Department has signed a certification that, based upon the information available at the time of transfer, the medical benefits reasonably expected from the provision of appropriate medical treatment at another medical facility outweigh the increased risks to the individual and, in the case of labor, to the unborn child from effecting the transfer; or

“(iii) if a physician of the Department is not physically present in the emergency department at the time an individual is transferred, a qualified medical person (as defined by the Secretary for purposes of this section) has signed a certification described in clause (ii) after a physician of the Department, in consultation with the person, has made the determination described in such clause, and subsequently countersigns the certification; and

“(B) the transfer is an appropriate transfer to that facility.

“(2) A certification described in clause (ii) or (iii) of paragraph (1)(A) shall include a summary of the risks and benefits upon which the certification is based.

“(3) For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), an appropriate transfer to a medical facility is a transfer—

“(A) in which the transferring hospital provides the medical treatment within its capacity that minimizes the risks to the health of the individual and, in the case of a woman in labor, the health of the unborn child;

“(B) in which the receiving facility—

“(i) has available space and qualified personnel for the treatment of the individual; and

“(ii) has agreed to accept transfer of the individual and to provide appropriate medical treatment;

“(C) in which the transferring hospital sends to the receiving facility all medical records (or copies thereof) available at the time of the transfer relating to the emergency medical condition for which the individual has presented, including—

“(i) observations of signs or symptoms;

“(ii) preliminary diagnosis;

“(iii) treatment provided;

“(iv) the results of any tests; and

“(v) the informed written request or certification (or copy thereof) provided under paragraph (1)(A);

“(D) in which the transfer is effected through qualified personnel and transportation equipment, including the use of necessary and medically appropriate life support measures during the transfer; and

“(E) that meets such other requirements as the Secretary considers necessary in the interest of the health and safety of the individual or individuals transferred.

“(d) PAYMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT.—The Secretary shall charge for any care or services provided under this section in accordance with billing and reimbursement authorities available to the Secretary under other provisions of law.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘campus’ means, with respect to a hospital of the Department—

“(A) the physical area immediately adjacent to the main buildings of the hospital;

“(B) other areas and structures that are not strictly contiguous to the main buildings but are located not more than 250 yards from the main buildings; and

“(C) any other areas determined by the Secretary to be part of the campus of the hospital.

“(2) The term ‘emergency medical condition’ means—

“(A) a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in—

“(i) placing the health of the individual (or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy;

“(ii) serious impairment to bodily functions; or

“(iii) serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part; or

“(B) in the case of a pregnant woman, a stage of labor that a medical provider determines indicates—

“(i) that there is inadequate time to effect a safe transfer to another hospital before delivery; or

“(ii) that transfer may pose a threat to the health or safety of the woman or the unborn child.

“(3)(A) The term ‘to stabilize’ means—

“(i) with respect to an emergency medical condition described in paragraph (2)(A), to provide such medical treatment of the condition as may be necessary to assure, within reasonable medical probability, that no material deterioration of the condition is likely to result from or occur during the transfer of the individual from a facility; or

“(ii) with respect to an emergency medical condition described in paragraph (2)(B), to deliver (including the placenta).

“(B) The term ‘stabilized’ means—

“(i) with respect to an emergency medical condition described in paragraph (2)(A), that no material deterioration of the condition is likely, within reasonable medical probability, to result from or occur during the transfer of the individual from a facility; or

“(ii) with respect to an emergency medical condition described in paragraph (2)(B), that the woman has delivered (including the placenta).

“(4) The term ‘transfer’ means the movement (including the discharge) of an individual outside the facilities of a hospital of the Department at the direction of any person employed by (or affiliated or associated, directly or indirectly, with) the hospital, but does not include such a movement of an individual who—

“(A) has been declared dead; or

“(B) leaves the facility without the permission of any such person.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1784 the following new item:

“1784A. Examination and treatment for emergency medical conditions and women in labor.”

Subtitle B—Veterans Health Administration
SEC. 611. TIME PERIOD COVERED BY ANNUAL REPORT ON READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICE.

Section 7309(e)(1) is amended by striking “calendar year” and inserting “fiscal year”.

SEC. 612. ANNUAL REPORT ON VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND FURNISHING OF HOSPITAL CARE, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND NURSING HOME CARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 7330B. Annual report on Veterans Health Administration and furnishing of hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care

“(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than March 1 of each of years 2018 through 2022, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on, for the calendar year preceding the calendar year during which the report is submitted—

“(1) the furnishing of hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care under the laws administered by the Secretary; and

“(2) the administration of the furnishing of such care and services by the Veterans Health Administration.

“(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall include each of the following for the year covered by the report:

“(1) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the Veterans Health Administration in increasing the access of veterans to hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care furnished by the Secretary for which such veterans are eligible.

“(2) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the Veterans Health Administration in improving the quality of health care provided to veterans, without increasing the costs incurred for such health care by the Federal Government or veterans, including relevant information for each medical center and Veterans Integrated Service Network of the Department set forth separately.

“(3) An assessment of—

“(A) the workload of physicians and other employees of the Veterans Health Administration;

“(B) patient demographics and utilization rates;

“(C) physician compensation;

“(D) the productivity of physicians and other employees of the Veterans Health Administration;

“(E) the percentage of hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care provided to veterans in facilities of the Department and in non-Department facilities and any changes in such percentages compared to the year preceding the year covered by the report;

“(F) pharmaceutical prices; and

“(G) third-party health billings owed to the Department, including the total amount of such billings and the total amount collected by the Department, set forth separately for claims greater than \$1,000 and for claims equal to or less than \$1,000.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘hospital care’, ‘medical services’, ‘nursing home care’, ‘facilities of the Department’, and ‘non-Department facilities’ have the meanings given those terms in section 1701 of this title.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 73 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7330A the following new item:

“7330B. Annual report on Veterans Health Administration and furnishing of hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care.”.

SEC. 613. EXPANSION OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO INCLUDE DOCTORAL DEGREES.

Section 7402(b)(11)(A) is amended by inserting “or doctoral degree” after “master’s degree”.

SEC. 614. MODIFICATION OF HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR PHYSICIANS EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 7423(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “(a) The hours” and inserting “(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the hours”; and

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

“(2)(A) Upon the advance written request of a covered physician, the Secretary may modify the hours of employment for a physician appointed in the Administration under any provision of this chapter on a full-time basis to be more or less than 80 hours in a biweekly pay period, subject to the requirements in subparagraph (B). For the purpose of determining pay, such a physician shall be deemed to have a biweekly schedule of 80 hours of employment.

“(B) A physician with an irregular work schedule established under subparagraph (A) shall be obligated to account for at least 2,080 hours of employment (through performance of work or use of leave or paid time off) in a calendar year.

“(C) The Secretary may prescribe regulations to implement this paragraph, including regulations making adjustments to address the annual hours requirement for physicians who are covered by this paragraph for only a portion of a calendar year.”.

SEC. 615. REPEAL OF COMPENSATION PANELS TO DETERMINE MARKET PAY FOR PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS.

Section 7431(c) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (4);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), respectively; and

(3) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by striking “under paragraph (6)” and inserting “under paragraph (5)”.

SEC. 616. CLARIFICATION REGARDING LIABILITY FOR BREACH OF AGREEMENT UNDER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEE INCENTIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

Section 7675(b)(1)(E) is amended by striking “In the case of a participant who is a part-time student, the” and inserting “The”.

SEC. 617. EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR INCREASE IN GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION RESIDENCY POSITIONS AT MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 301(b) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 7302 note) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “FIVE-YEAR” and inserting “TEN-YEAR”; and

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “5-year period” and inserting “10-year period”.

(b) REPORT.—Paragraph (3)(A) of such section is amended by striking “2019” and inserting “2024”.

SEC. 618. REPORT ON PUBLIC ACCESS TO RESEARCH BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than each of 180 days and one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on increasing public access to scientific publications and digital data from research funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of the location or locations in which the public will be able to access the results of research funded by the Department, whether on an Internet website of the Department or through another source.

(2) A description of the progress made by the Department in meeting public access requirements set forth in the notice entitled “Policy and Implementation Plan for Public Access to Scientific Publications and Digital Data from Research Funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs” (80 Fed. Reg. 60751), including the following:

(A) Compliance of Department investigators with requirements relating to ensuring that research funded by the Department is accessible by the public.

(B) Ensuring data management plans of the Department include provisions for long-term preservation of the scientific data resulting from research funded by the Department.

(3) An explanation of the factors used to evaluate the merit of data management plans of research funded by the Veterans Health Administration.

(4) An explanation of the process of the Department in effect that enables stakeholders to petition a change to the embargo period for a specific field and the factors considered during such process.

SEC. 619. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in an amount not to exceed the amount specified for that project:

(1) Seismic, life safety, and utilities upgrades and expansion of clinical services in Reno, Nevada, in an amount not to exceed \$213,800,000.

(2) Seismic corrections to the mental health and community living center in Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed \$317,300,000.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account \$531,100,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

(c) LIMITATION.—The projects authorized in subsection (a) may only be carried out using—

(1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2017 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (b);

(2) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2017 that remain available for obligation;

(3) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2017 that remain available for obligation;

(4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for fiscal year 2017 for a category of activity not specific to a project;

(5) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2017 for a category of activity not specific to a project; and

(6) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2017 for a category of activity not specific to a project.

Subtitle C—Toxic Exposure

SEC. 631. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ARMED FORCES.—The term “Armed Forces” means the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

(2) DESCENDANT.—The term “descendant” means, with respect to an individual, the biological child or grandchild of that individual.

(3) TOXIC EXPOSURE.—The term “toxic exposure” means a condition in which an individual inhaled or ingested an agent determined to be hazardous to the health of the individual or the agent came in contact with the skin or eyes of the individual in a manner that could be hazardous to the health of the individual.

(4) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 632. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE ASSESSMENT ON RESEARCH RELATING TO THE DESCENDANTS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH TOXIC EXPOSURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) AGREEMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Medicine under which the National Academy of Medicine conducts an assessment on scientific research relating to the descendants of individuals with toxic exposure.

(2) ALTERNATE ORGANIZATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary is unable within the period prescribed in paragraph (1) to enter into an agreement described in such paragraph with the National Academy of Medicine on terms acceptable to the Secretary, the Secretary shall seek to enter into such an agreement with another appropriate organization that—

(i) is not part of the Federal Government;

(ii) operates as a not-for-profit entity; and

(iii) has expertise and objectivity comparable to that of the National Academy of Medicine.

(B) TREATMENT.—If the Secretary enters into an agreement with another organization as described in subparagraph (A), any reference in this section to the National Academy of Medicine shall be treated as a reference to the other organization.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment conducted pursuant to the agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A scientific review of the scientific literature regarding toxicological and epidemiological research on descendants of individuals with toxic exposure.

(2) An assessment of areas requiring further scientific study relating to the descendants of veterans with toxic exposure.

(3) An assessment of the scope and methodology required to conduct adequate scientific research relating to the descendants of individuals with toxic exposure, including—

(A) the types of individuals to be studied, including veterans with toxic exposure and the descendants of those veterans;

(B) the number of veterans and descendants described in subparagraph (A) to be studied;

(C) the potential alternatives for participation in such a study, including whether it would be necessary for participants to travel in order to participate;

(D) the approximate amount of time and resources needed to prepare and conduct the research; and

(E) the appropriate Federal agencies to participate in the research, including the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(4) The establishment of categories, including definitions for each such category, to be used in assessing the evidence that a particular health condition is related to toxic exposure, such as—

(A) sufficient evidence of a causal relationship;

(B) sufficient evidence of an association;

(C) limited or suggestive evidence of an association;

(D) inadequate or insufficient evidence to determine whether an association exists; and

(E) limited or suggestive evidence of no association.

(5) An analysis of—

(A) the feasibility of conducting scientific research to address the areas that require further study as described under paragraph (2);

(B) the value and relevance of the information that could result from such scientific research; and

(C) for purposes of conducting further research, the feasibility and advisability of accessing additional information held by a Federal agency that may be sensitive.

(6) An identification of a research entity or entities with—

(A) expertise in conducting research on health conditions of descendants of individuals with toxic exposure; and

(B) an ability to conduct research on those health conditions to address areas requiring further scientific study as described under paragraph (2).

(c) **REPORT.**—The agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall require the National Academy of Medicine to submit, not later than two years after entering into such agreement, to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives—

(1) the results of the assessment conducted pursuant to such agreement, including such recommendations as the National Academy of Medicine considers appropriate regarding the scope and methodology required to conduct adequate scientific research relating to the descendants of veterans with toxic exposure; and

(2) a determination regarding whether the results of such assessment indicate that it is feasible to conduct further research regarding health conditions of descendants of veterans with toxic exposure, including an explanation of the basis for the determination.

(d) **CERTIFICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after receiving the results of the assessment and determination under subsection (c), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Com-

mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a certification of the understanding of the Secretary, based on such results and determination, regarding the feasibility of conducting further research regarding health conditions of descendants of veterans with toxic exposure that is expressed by such results and determination.

(2) **BASIS FOR CERTIFICATION.**—The certification submitted under paragraph (1) shall include an explanation of the basis for the certification.

SEC. 633. ADVISORY BOARD ON RESEARCH RELATING TO HEALTH CONDITIONS OF DESCENDANTS OF VETERANS WITH TOXIC EXPOSURE WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs certifies under section 632(d) that the results of the assessment and determination under section 632(c) indicate that it is not feasible to conduct further research regarding health conditions of descendants of veterans with toxic exposure, not later than 180 days after receiving such results and determination, the Secretary shall establish an advisory board (in this section referred to as the "Advisory Board") to advise the Secretary in the selection of a research entity or entities under section 634, advise such entity or entities in conducting research under such section, and advise the Secretary with respect to the activities of such entity or entities under such section.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **COMPOSITION.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the National Academy of Medicine, the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and such other heads of Federal agencies as the Secretary determines appropriate—

(A) shall select not more than 13 voting members of the Advisory Board, of whom—

(i) not less than two shall be members of organizations exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(ii) not less than two shall be descendants of veterans with toxic exposure while serving as members of the Armed Forces; and

(iii) not less than seven shall be health professionals, scientists, or academics who are not employees of the Federal Government and have expertise in—

(I) birth defects;

(II) developmental disabilities;

(III) epigenetics;

(IV) public health;

(V) the science of environmental exposure or environmental exposure assessment;

(VI) the science of toxic substances; or

(VII) medical and research ethics; and

(B) may select not more than two non-voting members who are employees of the Federal Government and who are otherwise described in subparagraph (A)(iii).

(2) **CHAIR.**—The Secretary shall select a Chair from among the members of the Advisory Board selected under paragraph (1)(A).

(3) **TERMS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each member of the Advisory Board shall serve a term of two or three years as determined by the Secretary.

(B) **REAPPOINTMENT.**—At the end of the term of a member of the Advisory Board, the Secretary may reselect the member for another term, except that no member may serve more than four consecutive terms.

(c) **DUTIES.**—The Advisory Board shall—

(1) advise the Secretary in the selection of a research entity or entities to conduct research under section 634 from among those identified under section 632(b)(6);

(2) advise such entity or entities and assess the activities of such entity or entities in conducting such research;

(3) develop a research strategy for such entity or entities based on, but not limited to, the results of the assessment conducted under section 632;

(4) advise the Secretary with respect to the activities of such entity or entities under section 634;

(5) submit recommendations to be included by such entity or entities in the report under section 634(d)(2)(C); and

(6) not less frequently than semiannually, meet with the Secretary and representatives of such entity or entities on the research conducted by such entity or entities under section 634.

(d) **MEETINGS.**—The Advisory Board shall meet at the call of the Chair, but not less frequently than semiannually.

(e) **COMPENSATION.**—The members of the Advisory Board shall serve without compensation.

(f) **EXPENSES.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall determine the appropriate expenses of the Advisory Board.

(g) **PERSONNEL.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Chair may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint an executive director of the Advisory Board, who shall be a civilian employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and such other personnel as may be necessary to enable the Advisory Board to perform its duties.

(2) **APPROVAL.**—The appointment of an executive director under paragraph (1) shall be subject to approval by the Advisory Board.

(3) **COMPENSATION.**—The Chair may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, except that the rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

SEC. 634. RESEARCH RELATING TO HEALTH CONDITIONS OF DESCENDANTS OF VETERANS WITH TOXIC EXPOSURE WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs certifies under section 632(d) that the results of the assessment and determination under section 632(c) indicate that it is not feasible to conduct further research regarding health conditions of descendants of veterans with toxic exposure, not later than one year after receiving such results and determination, the Secretary shall (in consultation with the advisory board established under section 633 (in this section referred to as the "Advisory Board")) enter into an agreement with one or more research entities identified under section 632(b)(6) (excluding an entity of the Department of Veterans Affairs) to conduct research on health conditions of descendants of veterans with toxic exposure while serving as members of the Armed Forces (in this section referred to as the "research entity or entities").

(b) **RESEARCH.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To the extent included in the research strategy developed by the Advisory Board under section 633(c)(3), the research entity or entities shall conduct research on health conditions of descendants of veterans with toxic exposure while serving as members of the Armed Forces.

(2) **STUDIES.**—In conducting research under paragraph (1), the research entity or entities may study any veteran, at the election of

the veteran, identified under section 632(b)(3)(A) as a type of individual to be studied in order to conduct adequate scientific research relating to the descendants of veterans with toxic exposure.

(3) CATEGORIZATION.—In conducting research under paragraph (1), the research entity or entities shall assess, using the categories established under section 632(b)(4), the extent to which a health condition of a descendant of a veteran is related to the toxic exposure of the veteran while serving as a member of the Armed Forces.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the head of each Federal agency identified under section 632(b)(3)(E) shall make available to the research entity or entities records held by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, the Armed Forces, that Federal agency, or any other source under the jurisdiction of any such Federal agency or the Armed Forces, as appropriate, that the research entity or entities determine are necessary to carry out this section.

(2) MECHANISM FOR ACCESS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Defense, and the head of each Federal agency identified under section 632(b)(3)(E) shall jointly establish a mechanism for access by the research entity or entities to records made available under paragraph (1).

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after commencing the conduct of research under this section, and not later than September 30 each year thereafter, each research entity with which the Secretary has entered into an agreement under subsection (a) shall, in consultation with the Advisory Board, submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the functions of such entity under this section during the year preceding the submittal of the report.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A summary of the research efforts that have been completed during the year preceding the submittal of the report and that are ongoing as of the date of the submittal of the report.

(B) A description of any findings made during such year in carrying out such research efforts.

(C) Recommendations for administrative or legislative action made by the Advisory Board based on such findings, which may include recommendations for further research under this section.

(3) UPON REQUEST.—Upon the request of any organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may transmit to such organization a copy of a report received by the Secretary under paragraph (1).

TITLE VII—HOMELESSNESS MATTERS

Subtitle A—Access of Homeless Veterans to Benefits

SEC. 701. EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF HOMELESS VETERAN FOR PURPOSES OF BENEFITS UNDER THE LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 2002 is amended—

(1) by striking “In this chapter” and inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—In this chapter”;

(2) by striking “in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

(42 U.S.C. 11302(a))” and inserting “in subsection (a) or (b) of section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302)”;

and

(3) by adding at the end the following:
“(b) VETERAN DEFINED.—(1) Notwithstanding section 101(2) of this title and except as provided in paragraph (2), for purposes of sections 2011, 2012, 2013, 2044, and 2061 of this title, the term ‘veteran’ means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, regardless of length of service, and who was discharged or released therefrom.”

(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘veteran’ excludes a person who—

“(A) received a dishonorable discharge from the Armed Forces; or

“(B) was discharged or dismissed from the Armed Forces by reason of the sentence of a general court-martial.”.

SEC. 702. AUTHORIZATION TO FURNISH CERTAIN BENEFITS TO HOMELESS VETERANS WITH DISCHARGES OR RELEASES UNDER OTHER THAN HONORABLE CONDITIONS.

Section 5303(d) is amended—

(1) by striking “not apply to any war-risk insurance, Government (converted) or National Service Life Insurance policy.” and inserting the following: “not apply to the following:

“(1) Any war-risk insurance, Government (converted) or National Service Life Insurance policy.”; and

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

“(2) Benefits under section 2011, 2012, 2013, 2044, or 2061 of this title (except for benefits for individuals discharged or dismissed from the Armed Forces by reason of the sentence of a general court-martial).”.

SEC. 703. WAIVER OF MINIMUM PERIOD OF CONTINUOUS ACTIVE DUTY IN ARMED FORCES FOR CERTAIN BENEFITS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

Section 5303A(b)(3) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (G) and (H), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following new subparagraph (F):

“(F) to benefits under section 2011, 2012, 2013, 2044, or 2061 of this title.”.

SEC. 704. TRAINING OF PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND GRANT RECIPIENTS.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a program of training and education to ensure that the following persons are aware of and implement this title and the amendments made by this subtitle:

(1) Personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs who are supporting or administering a program under chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) Recipients of grants or other amounts for purposes of carrying out such a program.

SEC. 705. REGULATIONS.

Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe regulations, including such modifications to section 3.12 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), as the Secretary considers appropriate, to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs is in full compliance with this title and the amendments made by this subtitle.

SEC. 706. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall apply to individuals seeking benefits under chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code, before, on, and after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle B—Other Homelessness Matters

SEC. 711. INCREASED PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE THAT BECOMES PERMANENT HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

Section 2012(a)(2) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (D) as subparagraphs (C) through (E), respectively;

(2) in subparagraph (C), as redesignated, by striking “in subparagraph (D)” and inserting “in subparagraph (E)”;

(3) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated, by striking “under subparagraph (B)” and inserting “under subparagraph (C)”;

(4) in subparagraph (E), as redesignated, by striking “in subparagraphs (B) and (C)” and inserting “in subparagraphs (C) and (D)”;

(5) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “The rate” and inserting “Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (B), the rate”;

(B) by striking “under subparagraph (B)” and all that follows and inserting “under subparagraph (C).”;

(6) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph (B):

“(B)(i) Except as provided in clause (ii), in no case may the rate determined under this paragraph exceed the rate authorized for State homes for domiciliary care under subsection (a)(1)(A) of section 1741 of this title, as the Secretary may increase from time to time under subsection (c) of that section.

“(ii) In the case of services furnished to a homeless veteran who is placed in housing that will become permanent housing for the veteran upon termination of the furnishing of such services to such veteran, the maximum rate of per diem authorized under this section is 150 percent of the rate authorized for State homes for domiciliary care under subsection (a)(1)(A) of section 1741 of this title, as the Secretary may increase from time to time under subsection (c) of that section.”.

SEC. 712. PROGRAM TO IMPROVE RETENTION OF HOUSING BY FORMERLY HOMELESS VETERANS AND VETERANS AT RISK OF BECOMING HOMELESS.

(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 20 is amended—

(A) by redesignating section 2013 as section 2014; and

(B) by inserting after section 2012 the following new section 2013:

“§ 2013. Program to improve retention of housing by formerly homeless veterans and veterans at risk of becoming homeless

“(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall carry out a program under which the Secretary shall provide case management services to improve the retention of housing by veterans who were previously homeless and are transitioning to permanent housing and veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless.

“(b) GRANTS.—(1) The Secretary shall carry out the program through the award of grants.

“(2)(A) In awarding grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to organizations that demonstrate a capability to provide case management services as described in subsection (a), particularly organizations that are successfully providing or have successfully provided transitional housing services using amounts provided by the Secretary under sections 2012 and 2061 of this title.

“(B) In giving priority under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall give extra priority

to an organization described in such subparagraph that—

“(i) voluntarily stops receiving amounts provided by the Secretary under sections 2012 and 2061 of this title; and

“(ii) converts a facility that the organization used to provide transitional housing services into a facility that the organization uses to provide permanent housing that meets housing quality standards established under section 8(o)(8)(B) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(8)(B)).

“(C) In any case in which a facility, with respect to which a person received a grant for construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition under section 2011 of this title, is converted as described in subparagraph (B)(ii), such conversion shall be considered to have been carried out pursuant to the needs of the Department and such person shall not be considered in noncompliance with the terms of such grant by reason of such conversion.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking the item relating to section 2013 and inserting the following new items:

“2013. Program to improve retention of housing by formerly homeless veterans and veterans at risk of becoming homeless.

“2014. Authorization of appropriations.”.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe regulations to carry out section 2013 of such title, as added by subsection (a)(1)(B).

(c) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than June 1, 2020, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the program required by section 2013 of such title, as added by subsection (a)(1)(B).

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include assessments of the following:

(A) The percentage of veterans who received case management services under the program who were able to retain permanent housing by the end of the program, disaggregated by each recipient of a grant under such section.

(B) The percentage of veterans who received case management services under the program who were not in permanent housing at the end of the program, disaggregated by housing status and reason for failing to retain permanent housing under the program.

(C) The use by veterans, who received case management services under the program, of housing assistance furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, including a comparison of the use of such assistance by such veterans before and after receiving such services.

(D) An assessment of the employment status of veterans who received case management services under the program, including a comparison of the employment status of such veterans before and after receiving such services.

SEC. 713. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter VII of chapter 20 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 2067. National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—(1) The Secretary shall establish and operate a center to carry out the functions described in subsection (b).

“(2) The center established under paragraph (1) shall be known as the ‘National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans’.

“(3) To the degree practicable, the Secretary shall operate the center established under paragraph (1) independently of the other programs of the Department that address homelessness among veterans.

“(b) **FUNCTIONS.**—The functions described in this subsection are as follows:

(1) To carry out and promote research into the causes and contributing factors to veteran homelessness.

(2) To assess the effectiveness of programs of the Department to meet the needs of homeless veterans.

(3) To identify and disseminate best practices with regard to housing stabilization, income support, employment assistance, community partnerships, and such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate with respect to addressing veteran homelessness.

(4) To integrate evidence-based and best practices, policies, and programs into programs of the Department for homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness and to ensure that the staff of the Department and community partners can implement such practices, policies, and programs.

(5) To serve as a resource center for, and promote and seek to coordinate the exchange of information regarding, all research and training activities carried out by the Department and by other Federal and non-Federal entities with respect to veteran homelessness.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter 20 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2066 the following new item:

“2067. National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans.”.

SEC. 714. REQUIREMENT FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ASSESS COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) assess and measure the capacity of programs for which entities receive grants under section 2011 of title 38, United States Code, or per diem payments under section 2012 or 2061 of such title; and

(2) assess such programs with respect to—

(A) how well they achieve their stated goals at a national level;

(B) placements in permanent housing;

(C) placements in employment; and

(D) increases in the regular income of participants in the programs.

(b) **ASSESSMENT AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS.**—In assessing and measuring under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall develop and use tools to examine the capacity of programs described in such subsection at both the national and local level in order to assess the following:

(1) Whether sufficient capacity exists to meet the needs of homeless veterans in each geographic area.

(2) Whether existing capacity meets the needs of the subpopulations of homeless veterans located in each geographic area.

(3) The amount of capacity that recipients of grants under sections 2011 and 2061 and per diem payments under section 2012 of such title have to provide services for which the recipients are eligible to receive per diem under section 2012(a)(2)(B)(ii) of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 711(6).

(c) **CONSIDERATION OF OTHER RESOURCES.**—In assessing and measuring programs under

subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall consider the availability to such programs of resources made available to such programs and to homeless veterans, including resources provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and by entities other than the Department.

(d) **USE OF INFORMATION.**—The Secretary shall use the information collected under this section as follows:

(1) To set specific goals to ensure that programs described in subsection (a) are effectively serving the needs of homeless veterans.

(2) To assess whether programs described in subsection (a) are meeting goals set under paragraph (1).

(3) To inform funding allocations for programs described in subsection (a).

(4) To improve the referral of homeless veterans to programs described in subsection (a).

(e) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the assessment required by subsection (a) is completed, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on such assessment and such recommendations for legislative and administrative action as the Secretary may have to improve the programs and per diem payments described in subsection (a).

SEC. 715. REPORT ON OUTREACH RELATING TO INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF HOUSING AVAILABLE TO VETERANS.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report describing and assessing the outreach conducted by the Secretary to realtors, landlords, property management companies, and developers to educate them about the housing needs of veterans and the benefits of having veterans as tenants.

TITLE VIII—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 801. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CONSTRUCTION REFORMS.

(a) **APPLICATION OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS; ASSISTANCE.**—Section 8103 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(f) To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall use industry standards, standard designs, and best practices in carrying out the construction of medical facilities.

“(g) The Secretary shall ensure that each employee of the Department with responsibilities, as determined by the Secretary, relating to the infrastructure construction or alteration of medical facilities, including such construction or alteration carried out pursuant to contracts or agreements, undergoes a program of ongoing professional training and development. Such program shall be designed to ensure that employees maintain adequate expertise relating to industry standards and best practices for the acquisition of design and construction services. The Secretary may provide the program under this subsection directly or through a contract or agreement with a non-Federal entity or with a non-Department Federal entity.”.

(b) **FORENSIC AUDITS OF CERTAIN PROJECTS.**—Subsection (c) of section 8104 is amended—

(1) by striking “Not less than 30 days” and inserting “(1) Not less than 30 days”; and

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

“(2) The Secretary shall—
“(A) enter into a contract or agreement with an appropriate non-department Federal entity with the ability to conduct forensic audits on medical facility projects for the conduct of an external forensic audit of the expenditures relating to any major medical facility or super construction project for which the total expenditures exceed the amount requested in the initial budget request for the project submitted to Congress under section 1105 of title 31 by more than 25 percent; and
“(B) enter into a contract or agreement with an appropriate non-department Federal entity with the ability to conduct forensic audits on medical facility projects for the conduct of an external audit of the medical center construction project in Aurora, Colorado.”

(C) USE OF AMOUNTS FROM BID SAVINGS.—Subsection (d)(2)(B) of such section is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

(2) by inserting after clause (i) the following new clause (ii):

“(ii) If the major construction project that is the source of the bid savings is not complete—

“(I) the amount already obligated by the Department or available in the project reserve for such project;

“(II) the percentage of such project that has been completed; and

“(III) the amount available to the Department to complete such project.”; and

(3) in clauses (iii) and (iv), as redesignated by paragraph (1), strike “amounts” and inserting “bid savings amounts” both places it appears.

(d) QUARTERLY REPORT ON SUPER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—At the end of subchapter I of chapter 81 add the following new section: “§ 8120. Quarterly report on super construction projects

“(a) QUARTERLY REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the last day of each fiscal quarter the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the super construction projects carried out by the appropriate non-Department Federal entity described in section 8103(e)(1) of this title during such quarter. Each such report shall include, for each such project—

“(1) the budgetary and scheduling status of the project, as of the last day of the quarter covered by the report; and

“(2) the actual cost and schedule variances of the project, as of such day, compared to the planned cost and schedules for the project.

“(b) SUPER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘super construction project’ has the meaning given such term in section 8103(e)(3) of this title.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to such subchapter the following new item:

“8120. Quarterly report on super construction projects.”.

SEC. 802. TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

Title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) In section 735(a)(5), by striking “(Public Law 104-191)” and inserting “(Public Law 104-191; 42 U.S.C. 1320d-2 note)”.

(2) In the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17, by striking the items relating to sections 1710D and 1710E and inserting the following new items:

“1710D. Traumatic brain injury: comprehensive program for long-term rehabilitation.

“1710E. Traumatic brain injury: use of non-Department facilities for rehabilitation.”.

(3) In section 1710(e)(1)(F), by inserting a comma after “1953”.

(4) In section 7412(b), by striking “under paragraph (1)” and inserting “under subsection (a)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6416, the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation represents a significant portion of the committee’s hard work throughout the 114th Congress and contains numerous provisions that would improve healthcare benefits and services for those that are most deserving: our Nation’s heroes.

□ 1430

I am proud to report that so far this Congress, the House has passed 60 veterans-related bills. By the close of business tomorrow, that tally will be 68. The text of many of those bills can be found within H.R. 6416.

While we do not have enough time for me to go through every worthwhile section of this legislation, I do want to touch on just a few. Among the provisions that would improve disability benefits is one that would allow physicians who are under contract with VA and who have unrestricted licenses to conduct disability examinations in any State, regardless of where that physician is licensed.

Another provision would extend the temporary expansion of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to nine judges through 2020, which would help the court address the growing number of cases before it and ensure veterans receive the court’s decision in a timely manner.

Three proposals sponsored by Chairman MILLER would ensure that all veterans have the opportunity to have fu-

ture generations remember and respect their lives and their service by directing VA to provide a medallion to be affixed to the headstone in a private cemetery that signifies that a deceased person is a veteran, permitting VA to furnish a medallion or marker specifically designed for the graves of the deceased Medal of Honor recipients, and providing Presidential Memorial Certificates to those who served in the National Guard or Reserve even if they were never called to Active Duty.

Other provisions of the bill would make needed improvements to education, vocational rehabilitation, and employment benefits to better support veterans by prioritizing vocational rehabilitation services for our most disabled veterans, increasing approval and access to oversight processes for education programs and schools, improving coordination between Federal and State agencies who provide employment services to veterans, expanding eligibility for work-study programs, extending the amount of time spouses of fallen servicemembers have to use the GI Bill’s Fry Scholarship benefits, and by extending instate tuition rate limit to dependents of servicemembers who are still serving on Active Duty, a policy change that will allow VA to fully cover their tuition charges.

Finally, this bill also contains numerous provisions that would improve the health and care that VA provides our veterans. To increase accountability, oversight, and transparency of the VA healthcare system, it would require VA to produce and provide an annual report on a number of critical measures of care.

To improve the provision of care to those facing a health emergency, it would clarify VA’s responsibility to provide medical screenings and treatment to individuals requesting to be seen in a VA emergency room, including women in labor, and ensure that VA emergency room physicians are afforded the schedule flexibility that their private sector colleagues enjoy and the nature of their work demands.

To address ongoing concerns about the potential impact of toxic exposure during military service on veterans’ descendants, it would require VA to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Medicine to conduct an assessment and issue a report on scientific research relating to the descendants of individuals with toxic exposure and, depending on the results of those efforts, require VA to establish an advisory board to advise the Secretary on further research. That provision is strongly supported by Vietnam Veterans of America, and I am glad to see it included here.

The bill also includes provisions that would require reforms to VA’s medical facility construction processes and procedures. The many failures of VA’s current construction program have been

well publicized and will continue to be a focus of this committee's oversight next Congress so that we can all be assured that VA both has the facilities it needs to provide the care our veterans deserve and is being a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars.

Unfortunately, we were unable to get every provision that cleared this Chamber or that the committee included in this legislation, which only means there is still work to be done next year and beyond. I am grateful to all the Members who have contributed thoughtful and, most importantly, needed legislation throughout this Congress in support of our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6416, a bill named in part after Chairman MILLER.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016.

Naming the bill after my colleagues is a testament to the bipartisan nature of both the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs. The bill before us today contains numerous pieces of legislation introduced or supported by Members on both sides of the aisle. I thank Chairman MILLER and all the members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, both Democrats and Republicans, for their hard work putting together an omnibus bill that will improve the care and support we provide to America's veterans.

I want to specifically acknowledge our committee members—Representative BROWN, Representative TITUS, Dr. RUIZ, Representative O'ROURKE, Representative RICE, Representative WALZ, and Representative MCNERNEY; and my other Democratic colleagues, Representative PINGREE and Representative FRANKEL, Senator-elect DUCKWORTH, Representative GALLEGRO, Representative HAHN, and Representative SINEMA—all who made valuable contributions to this bill.

I also would like to take this time to congratulate Dr. ROE on his selection as the next chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. I look forward to working with him in order to preserve the bipartisan nature of this committee in the 115th Congress so that we can do what is best for veterans.

It is fitting that we are taking this bill up on the eve of the attack on Pearl Harbor. December 7, 1941, is remembered not just for the 2,300 Americans that we lost that day, but also for the heroic response of so many Americans that followed. It is a reminder of the sacrifices millions of young men and women have made in service to our Nation. It is a reminder of the debt we owe them.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity and as a former community college

trustee, I am pleased that this bill contains several provisions that will improve veterans' education and employment prospects after they serve. I have enjoyed collaborating with Chairman WENSTRUP, and I am proud of the bills our subcommittee has moved forward.

This bill before us today contains language from H.R. 2360, the Career-Ready Student Veterans Act, which I introduced last May, to ensure that veterans who use their hard-earned Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits will attend education programs that prepare them for a career in their chosen field of study.

It requires that all career education programs meet proper accreditation, licensure, and certification requirements in order to serve student veterans who are using Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

The Department of Defense already has this policy in place to protect servicemembers using tuition assistance benefits. It often makes sense that Congress should protect student veterans in the very same way. This provision is supported by the American Legion, the VFW, IAVA, and other VSOs.

This bill also includes H.R. 2361, Work-Study for Student Veterans Act, which I introduced with Chairman WENSTRUP. It reauthorizes certain work-study activities for individuals receiving educational assistance through the VA. The current authorization expired in 2013. This bill reauthorizes the program through 2021.

Through the VA's Student Work-Study Allowance Program, qualifying student veterans in college degree programs or vocational or professional programs are paid to work in a variety of capacities on campus, at VA facilities, and at other veteran-centered organizations to assist fellow veterans. This provision will reinstate expired activities to allow participating veterans more options when entering VA's successful work-study program.

The work-study program achieves two important goals: offering student veterans a way to earn a little extra money, and providing transitioning veterans with the guidance and assistance of fellow veterans who know firsthand what that transition is like. Peer-to-peer support is one of the most effective methods we have to help veterans meet the challenges of civilian life.

I worked with Congresswoman RADEWAGEN to introduce H.R. 5229, the Improving Transition Programs for All Veterans Act, which requires VA, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Defense to study the effectiveness of veterans' transition programs for women veterans and other minority groups. This policy will help us learn about how we can specialize transition programs for minority veterans in order to meet their unique needs and overcome barriers to employment.

The specific groups that will be included in this study include women

veterans, veterans with disabilities, Native American veterans, insular island veterans from the U.S. territories, and other groups as determined by the Secretaries. This generation of veterans is the most diverse in American history, and we must be prepared to support every person who has served.

I am pleased to have worked on this legislation in a bipartisan fashion, and I am glad it was included in the omnibus before us today. I believe it will ensure the best outcome for all veterans during their transition from military to civilian life.

H.R. 6416 improves the Fry Scholarship for the children and spouses of fallen soldiers. The bill includes H.R. 2531, introduced by Representative and now Senator-elect TAMMY DUCKWORTH, an Iraq war combat veteran. This provision will provide a surviving spouse whose husband or wife died in the line of duty after 9/11/2001 the time necessary to use the full 36-month benefit from the Fry Scholarship without fear of it being cut short during their educational pursuits.

The Fry Scholarship is an educational benefit given to children and spouses of our fallen troops. Currently, public law cuts off Fry Scholarship eligibility 15 years from the date of a servicemember's death. Unfortunately, this means that spouses who lost a loved one shortly after 9/11 could be out of time to use an educational benefit that is good for 36 months of enrollment and is normally used over the course of 4 years. This policy will allow Gold Star families whose eligibility will end before they can fully use their benefit to complete their education.

There are several very important provisions in H.R. 6416 that I would like to highlight in the area of claims processing and how we, as a nation, honor and memorialize our Nation's heroes.

Chairman ABRAHAM and Ranking Member TITUS of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs have worked hard for the last 2 years, and it shows by the almost two dozen provisions produced by their subcommittee that are included in this bill.

One of these is the long overdue Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act, introduced by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ), which confers honorary veteran status to Guard and Reserve members who have served for 20 years and who would otherwise not meet the full requirement for veteran status under the U.S. Code. These servicemembers wear the same uniform, receive the same training, are subject to the same code of military justice, and in many cases fight and die alongside Active Duty troops in war. It is clear why receiving this honor is so important to them, and I am very happy to be here today to support the legislation of Mr. WALZ.

I would also like to highlight four bills introduced by minority members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs intended to expedite veterans' claims for various types of benefits.

H.R. 6416 also contains the Veterans Access to Speedy Review Act, which requires the Board of Veterans Appeals to allow video appeal hearings available to veterans who choose them. Again, this simple, sensible approach can speed up the benefits appeal process for veterans who are comfortable with the videoconference format. This will mean that many veterans will no longer have to wait for an in-person hearing and will no longer need to travel; saving them time, money, and the stress of traveling, which is particularly difficult for our disabled veterans.

This bill also includes two sections drafted by Congressman O'ROURKE and Ranking Member TITUS that will increase VA transparency so that congressional policymakers and the public know how the VA is doing with its processing of veterans' claims and appeals. The first section requires that the VA publish average times for processing claims and appeals, including those that are timely and overdue. The second section requires a GAO study of the Veterans Benefits Administration regional offices to determine the management and communication factors that distinguish higher performing offices from the average and lower performing offices.

There is another group of veterans who deserve our greatest respect, and that is the men and women left permanently wounded, ill, or injured as a result of service in the armed services. I believe we will hear later from the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL) about her resolution to honor these veterans which is included in today's bill.

Mr. Speaker, making sure veterans get the care and benefits they have earned and deserve is the mission of this committee, and this bill helps keep that promise. For the past 2 years, the Subcommittee on Health has been focused on improving access to care, strengthening mental health care, recruiting and retaining quality providers, and reducing veteran homelessness. These priorities are reflected in the bill before us today.

VA's construction program has been the target of several hearings and reports for many years now. They have exposed cost overruns, poor oversight, and a host of management issues. This bill would address some of the issues brought up over this past Congress. I thank Congresswoman KATHLEEN RICE for her leadership on these issues and for introducing a provision that would require a forensic audit when a project exceeds its authorization by more than 25 percent.

□ 1445

H.R. 6416 also ensures that eligible veterans can access mental health care in a manner that honors their obligation not to disclose classified information.

I would like to thank Representative SINEMA of Arizona for introducing this issue as part of H.R. 421, the Classified Veterans Access to Care Act.

In addition, it adds professionals who have a doctoral degree to the list of qualified, VA-licensed mental health counselors.

On the issue of veteran homelessness, we all agree that one homeless veteran is one too many. For the past decade, VA has been working diligently to dramatically reduce the homeless population among veterans, and those efforts have been successful—but we can always do more.

An important provision of H.R. 6416, introduced by Representative HAHN of California, would help many of our women veterans by expanding the definition of "homeless veteran." This will ensure that veterans who are victims of domestic violence are able to access emergency housing and are not penalized under the law.

Mr. Speaker, as we move forward, I want to acknowledge that, while H.R. 6416 does indeed do a number of good things to help veterans, there is still much more that we need to do. I know that finding ways to pay for new programs without cutting existing support for veterans has been one of our biggest challenges in this Congress, but I look forward to working with our Members and our colleagues across the aisle to advance big policy issues that will help millions of veterans, issues such as appeals reform, leasing and provider agreements, and caregiver support.

Once again, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6416.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we begin debate on these important bills, I would like to take a moment to thank outgoing Chairman MILLER for his tireless work on behalf of our Nation's veterans and, of course, on behalf of Florida's First Congressional District.

Chairman MILLER has led the House Veterans' Affairs Committee through tumultuous times at the VA. Through his service and extensive oversight, he has exposed a bureaucracy that has failed veterans time and time again. His commitment to veterans has never wavered. He has started the VA on a path to reforms the agency has so desperately needed.

It has been an honor to serve along beside him. I know I have got big shoes to fill come January. He leaves behind the legacy of a statesman who has never compromised his principles or

forgotten the people he was elected to serve.

On a personal note, JEFF has become a dear friend, and I know our friendship will continue long after he has left these Halls. For the last 6 years, veterans have had a friend in JEFF MILLER, and so have I. I wish him well in his future endeavors and thank him for all he has done for this body, for Floridians, and for our heroes in the 15 years he served honorably in the House of Representatives, the people's House.

I would also like to thank his wife, Vicki, as well as his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild. As we all know, none of the work we do here would be possible without the support and understanding of our families. There is no question, JEFF has a special family.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. ROE for those extremely kind words. I thank him especially for recognizing my family. We both know how important they are to the success that we are able to obtain here in the Halls of Congress.

I rise in support of H.R. 6416. This legislation contains over 90 sections, many of which originated in almost 70 veterans bills that the House will pass in the 114th Congress. Though H.R. 6416 reflects just a fraction of our collaborative efforts, it nonetheless contains many important provisions that we can all be pleased in this House to support.

For example, it includes the text of H.R. 1380, which would expand eligibility for medallions to veterans who passed away before November 1, 1990. Under current law, the Department of Veterans Affairs furnishes medallions for veterans who are buried in private cemeteries who passed away after November 1, 1990. Many families whose loved ones passed away prior to that date have requested that VA provide a medallion to distinguish their loved one's grave so that all will know it is the burial place of a veteran. This bill would authorize VA to do just that.

H.R. 6416 would also authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to furnish medallions designed especially for veterans who have received the Medal of Honor, our Nation's most prestigious award for military valor. This will ensure that future generations will be able to identify the final resting place of our Nation's most revered heroes.

H.R. 6416 also includes a provision to provide more time for widows and widowers of servicemembers who have died in the line of duty to use their post-9/11 GI bill educational benefits under the Fry Scholarship. The spouses of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice deserve nothing less.

What is more, H.R. 6416 contains provisions from H.R. 1994 that would increase accountability by limiting the

amount of time that the Secretary can place a VA employee on administrative leave to only 14 days in a single year. It makes no sense that a VA employee who commits a wrongdoing can continue to collect a taxpayer-funded paycheck for, in some cases, years while the Department drags its feet determining disciplinary action.

The bill further contains a number of provisions that would improve the care that VA provides to our veterans, including a provision that would address a longstanding concern of many of our Vietnam veterans by requiring VA to conduct research on the possible effects of toxic exposure during military service on veterans' children and their grandchildren.

Importantly, H.R. 6416 also contains a provision from H.R. 310 that would require VA to use industry standards, standard designs, and best practices when constructing VA medical facilities; to provide ongoing professional development and training to VA employees involved in constructing VA medical facilities; and to regularly audit and report on the largest VA medical facility projects.

Before concluding, I want to take a moment to publicly thank a number of individuals who have been instrumental not only in advancing this legislation, but also throughout my time as chairman of our committee.

Serving as chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has been an immense honor, and I am grateful to all of those who put their trust and faith in me to fulfill that role for the last three Congresses. I hope that I have done each of you proud.

I am particularly grateful to my fellow committee chairmen and ranking members in the House, including Mike Michaud, CORRINE BROWN, and MARK TAKANO; and in the Senate, including PATTY MURRAY, RICHARD BURR, BERNIE SANDERS, JOHNNY ISAKSON, and RICHARD BLUMENTHAL.

I am also grateful to House leadership, including John Boehner, PAUL RYAN, and KEVIN MCCARTHY, and to all the committee members who strive day in and day out to do right by America's veteran heroes.

The bipartisan nature of this committee is unique in this Congress. It is nothing less than what our veterans deserve. While much remains to be done, we can all be proud of the work that we have, together, accomplished so far.

I have every confidence, Mr. Speaker, that the next committee chairman, Dr. ROE, whom I am grateful to call a friend, will continue the work that we have started. I look forward to seeing all that he and the House will continue to accomplish for the men and women who have worn the uniform and borne the battle and who, without a doubt, are most worthy of our appreciation and our support.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank my family, most especially my wife, for the

support that they have given during my service here in this Congress.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, might I inquire as to how much time for debate remains on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 7½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Tennessee has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), the ranking member of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the acting ranking member for yielding and for all the important work he has done on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6416, which includes a number of provisions offered by my colleagues on the committee and beyond to help our veterans. It actually includes two measures that I authored: one requires the GAO to conduct a study to find out the causes of underperforming VBA regional offices; the other extends the authorization for GME slots at the VA. This is a provision that will be especially valuable to UNLV's brand-new medical school, which is hosting its inaugural class this fall.

Unfortunately, however, the bill fails to address a major priority of both the VA and veterans themselves, and that is reforming the broken appeals process. Right now, there are 470,000 appeals languishing somewhere in the VA system. Veterans have to wait 2 to 3 years for them to be resolved as these cases churn through the process that Congress hasn't updated since the 1980s. If we don't act now, we will soon be telling our veteran constituents that they are going to have to wait 10 years before their appeals can be resolved, and it will be the fault of this Congress.

Despite having a solution that is ready to go that is widely supported by the administration and the VSOs, the Republican leadership refuses to bring the bill I sponsored on appeals reform to the floor without tying it to an accountability bill that strips VA employees of necessary civil rights protections.

We are told that passing appeals reform without accountability just won't work. Using that specious argument, we shouldn't pass any VA reform bill without accountability because it just won't work. So while I support this measure, I would urge my colleagues to address the appeals reform process before it is too late and we do further disservice to our Nation's heroes.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), who is currently on the committee and seeing Active Duty military patients as a doctor.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our veterans, I rise today in

support of H.R. 6416. This bill would expand benefits and provide improvements to help America's greatest asset: our veterans and their families.

I am especially pleased to support sections in the fourth and fifth titles. All but a few of those provisions passed through the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, which I am honored to chair with Ranking Member TAKANO.

Seven provisions from legislation that I had the honor to author were also included in H.R. 6416. When enacted, these provisions would streamline and simplify how schools and training programs are approved for the GI bill, improve disabled veterans' access to services under the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program, survey GI bill users about their experience with the VA and their use of the post-9/11 GI bill, provide conditions for expanded in-state tuition requirements for dependents of Active-Duty servicemembers, require the Department of Labor to conduct a longitudinal study to track long-term outcomes of veterans who have used DOL-sponsored employment services, and expand the amount of time that a surviving spouse can use post-9/11 GI bill benefits under the Fry Scholarship.

The last GI bill provision is estimated to help nearly 2,000 surviving spouses that use the post-9/11 GI bill to go back to school. Our veterans' families will be better off because of this bill. I support this bill and the efforts of Dr. ROE, Chairman MILLER, and others.

At the same time, I know that we will continue to work hard for our veterans. In the House, we crafted and passed many important issue initiatives that were not in the final bill. As the 115th Congress approaches, I ask my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to reaffirm their commitment to put the interests of our veterans first, and I look forward to continuing that work.

I am proud of my colleagues on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. We have crafted good, bipartisan policies. We have worked hard on behalf of our Nation's veterans. We will continue to do so.

I am also grateful for the staff of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I want to especially thank my own staff on the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee for their expertise and untiring work on behalf of our veterans.

A special thanks goes to Chairman MILLER. His leadership and friendship here in the House will certainly be missed. I look forward to Dr. ROE's leadership.

Once again, I support H.R. 6416, and I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

□ 1500

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY), my good friend

and a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their work on behalf of our Nation's veterans, and for bringing the omnibus veterans bill to the floor today.

In the United States, there are about 5 million veteran-owned businesses and an estimated 500,000 service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. Under current law, if a veteran who was rated 100 percent disabled and owned a service-disabled veteran-owned small business passes away, the surviving spouse has 10 years to transition the business away from service-disabled veteran-owned small business status.

However, if the veteran business owner is rated less than 100 percent disabled, or dies of a non-service-connected injury, the surviving spouse has only 1 year to transition the business for contracts with the VA.

Current law unfairly punishes these businesses and places them at an economic disadvantage. That is why I introduced H.R. 1313. My bill allows service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, whose principal owner passes away and was rated at less than 100 percent disabled at the time of death, with the reasonable 3-year transition period from service-disabled veteran-owned status with the VA.

It is only right that we provide our heroes and their families, and the employees, with the flexibility and certainty to ensure that their businesses continue to thrive.

H.R. 1313 is supported by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, AMVETS, VFW, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and the American Legion.

I want to thank the chairman and ranking member for including my legislation in the omnibus veterans bill, H.R. 6416, and I hope my colleagues will join me to pass this commonsense bill and support the veteran-owned businesses across the country.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO), a very hardworking member of our committee, and a veteran himself.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Not a veteran, but I appreciate the kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation that will bring critical improvements to the way our country serves its veterans.

In my district, Pennsylvania's Sixth Congressional District, thousands of veterans are served by the Department of Veterans Affairs on a range of issues critical to their lives, including disability benefits, education, and healthcare services.

H.R. 6416, the JEFF MILLER and RICHARD BLUMENTHAL Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act, would make improvements to these services

by increasing the amount of time widows have to utilize education benefits, allowing veterans to have screenings and treatment at VA emergency rooms, and tracking staffing abilities so the VA is better suited to accommodate its workload.

I would also like to thank my colleagues on the committee, and our committee staff, for working to include provisions to strengthen the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Since the start of the term, we have been working to find a way to ensure the Court is able to meet the needs of our veterans, and I am pleased to see that efforts to do this are included as part of the bill.

I also want to thank Chairman MILLER for his dedication and service to our committee and to our Nation's veterans. His leadership has been exemplary.

I also would like to recognize and thank our committee staff for all of their hard work over the course of this Congress and my legislative aide for this session, Katharine Bruce, for her hard work.

Finally, I want to just point out that the Veterans' Affairs Committee, in large measure, has accomplished and improved a great deal in a bipartisan way. So I want to thank not only my Republican colleagues on the committee but the Democratic members of the committee as well. We should all be proud of the work that we have done. There is a lot more yet to do, but we have accomplished a lot, I believe, because we have focused on what needs to be done, left politics at the door, and worked in good faith on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. TAKANO, for yielding.

I want to thank Chairman MILLER, and thank him on his retirement and his service to our Congress, and also thank Ranking Member TAKANO and Representative ROE for their work on this bill.

I am grateful that the language from the Ruth Moore Act was included in this bill. It is an important step in making sure that the VA follows through on its promises to fairly treat our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, almost every day I hear from another veteran who is the survivor of military sexual trauma, or MST. These are men and women of all ages, from every branch of the service. They include veterans from World War II to the war in Afghanistan and every era in between.

Those assaults leave indelible marks on their lives in the form of PTSD, anxiety, depression, and so many other conditions. But despite some progress at the VA on their claims, too many are denied the disability benefits they have earned.

I am glad the Defense Department and the VA increased training and prevention efforts around rape and harassment, but, let me be clear, the problem is not yet fixed.

Survivors of sexual assault have been shamed and suffer continued harassment and recrimination. Far too many have been involuntarily discharged in retaliation for reporting sexual assault and harassment, meaning the survivor, not the perpetrator, has paid the price for this criminal behavior.

Before I close, I would like to recognize a very brave woman, Ruth Moore, a Maine veteran, and my bill's namesake. Ruth fought for 23 years before she was finally given the benefits we owed her.

There are thousands and thousands of Ruth Moores out there who have been fighting for their benefits for years, or even decades. We can and must do better. This issue is too important to ignore, and this provision ensures that the VA and survivors know that Congress is watching.

I am so glad the language from my bill was included in the legislation. I thank the committee again.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage all my colleagues to support this legislation and join me in passing H.R. 6416.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank both staffs of the committee, both the minority and majority staff, and on the hard work that both sides of the aisle did. As Mr. COSTELLO said, this has been a bipartisan effort, and I want to thank everyone, Mr. TAKANO, your leadership, and others on the minority side. I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6416, the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016. I commend Chairman MILLER's and Congressman ROE's work on this important legislation.

I'm pleased to say that language from one of my bills, the Protecting Veterans' Educational Choice Act, is included in this bill as section 415. This section will require the VA to inform student-veterans—on the front-end, before they spend a dime of their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits—about agreements between schools regarding the transfer of credits.

Despite having access to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, many veterans still end up having to take out student loans to cover the full cost of their education. In many cases, this is due to situations where veterans aren't aware that credits earned at one institution will not transfer to another school until after they have already expended a significant portion of their benefits.

By requiring that the VA provide veterans with this information on the front-end of the

process, this legislation will address flaws in the system where veterans—many of whom are first-generation college students—are surprised by this feature of higher education.

Ultimately, decisions regarding how and where to use these benefits are rightfully left to those who served our country. Our veterans earned their benefits, and this bill will empower our veterans by arming them with the information and resources that they need to make the best decisions for themselves and their families. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 6416.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6416.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ETHICAL PATIENT CARE FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5399) to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs fulfill the ethical duty to report to State licensing authorities impaired, incompetent, and unethical health care activities.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5399

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ethical Patient Care for Veterans Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. DUTY TO REPORT IMPAIRED, INCOMPETENT, AND UNETHICAL HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 74 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 7330B. Duty to report impaired, incompetent, and unethical health care activities

“(a) REPORTING TO STATE LICENSING AUTHORITY.—In addition to confidential reporting under the quality-assurance program pursuant to section 7311(b)(4) of this title and any other reporting authorized or required by the Secretary, the Secretary shall ensure that each physician of the Department is informed of the duty of the physician to report directly any covered activity committed by another physician that the physician witnesses or otherwise directly discovers to the applicable licensing authority of each State in which the physician who is the subject of the report is licensed to practice medicine.

“(b) TIMING OF REPORTING.—Each physician of the Department shall make a direct report to the State licensing authority of a covered

activity under subsection (a) not later than five days after the date on which the physician witnesses or otherwise directly discovers the covered activity.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered activity’ means any activity occurring in a medical facility of the Department that consists of or causes the provision of impaired, incompetent, or unethical health care that requires direct reporting under opinion number 9.031 of the Code of Medical Ethics of the American Medical Association.

“(2) The term ‘physician of the Department’ includes any contractor who is a physician at a medical facility of the Department.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7330A the following new item:

“7330B. Duty to report impaired, incompetent, and unethical health care activities.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7462(a)(1)(A) of such title is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, including pursuant to section 7330B(c) of this title”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5399, the Ethical Patient Care for Veterans Act of 2016, which I am proud to sponsor. There is no higher priority than ensuring that our Nation’s veterans receive safe, high-quality care from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The vast majority of VA employees are upstanding, well-qualified, and want nothing more than to do right by the veterans in their care. However, in the last several years, we have heard far too many instances where VA employees have failed to live up to the standards of care that our veterans deserve. In many of those cases, a culture of silence or fear of retaliation by supervisors has prevented other employees from reporting those transgressions in a timely manner.

To protect our veterans from poor-performing VA medical professionals, H.R. 5399 would require VA to ensure that every VA physician is informed of his or her duty to report impaired, incompetent, or unethical behavior that the physician witnesses or otherwise discovers directly to the applicable State licensing authorities within 5 days.

This is consistent with the long-standing practice of the American Medical Association and existing VA policy and would improve the quality of care VA provides by making sure that the poor performers, those who put the lives and well-being of veteran patients at risk, are reported to relevant authorities within a reasonable time frame so that the appropriate action can be taken to safeguard the patients in their care.

Mr. Speaker, this is commonsense legislation. More importantly, it is the right thing to do for veterans. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 5399, introduced by the gentleman from Tennessee, Dr. ROE. This bill would ensure that physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs fulfill the ethical duty to report impaired, incompetent, and unethical healthcare activities of their colleagues.

I appreciate the gentleman bringing this issue to our attention. It is another instance of the many ethical and legal imperatives that VA physicians are under while serving those who have dedicated themselves to protect our freedoms.

All physicians have a duty to report impaired colleagues who continue to practice, despite reasonable offers of assistance. This obligation appears in professional guidelines and in laws and regulations governing the practice of medicine.

All physicians are accredited by the American Medical Association, and their policy states, and I quote: “Physicians have an ethical obligation to report impaired, incompetent, and unethical colleagues.”

The Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States’ policy on physician impairment states that physician health programs have “a primary commitment to help state medical boards . . . protect the public . . . These programs should demonstrate an ongoing track record of ensuring safety to the public and reveal deficiencies if they occur.”

The physicians who care for our veterans take their duties and oaths to help their patients very seriously, and I am glad for this opportunity to reiterate the topnotch quality care that the VA provides each and every day.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

In closing, this is one of the final opportunities that I will have to discuss veterans legislation on the floor with my colleague, Chairman MILLER, who appears to have stepped off the floor at the moment. I want to offer my sincere

gratitude for his leadership on the committee.

I think it is fair to say that we have not always agreed on the best path forward, but I think this bill demonstrates our ability, the ability of this committee to put aside our differences and get things done for America's veterans. The Veterans' Committee has long been a model of bipartisanship at a time where cooperation can be hard to come by. I appreciate the chairman's commitment to continuing that tradition, and I wish him all the best in the next chapter of his career.

I have no further speakers, and I do encourage my colleagues to support this legislation and join me in passing H.R. 5399.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I encourage all Members to support this legislation. I have practiced medicine for almost 40 years under these same requirements right here, and we should expect no less for the care of our veterans. I encourage support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5399.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1515

FASTER CARE FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4352) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program establishing a patient self-scheduling appointment system, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4352

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Faster Care for Veterans Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHING A PATIENT SELF-SCHEDULING APPOINTMENT SYSTEM.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall commence a pilot program under which veterans use an Internet website or mobile application to schedule and confirm medical appointments at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) SELECTION OF LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall select not less than three Vet-

erans Integrated Services Networks in which to carry out the pilot program under subsection (a).

(c) CONTRACTS.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall seek to enter into a contract using competitive procedures with one or more contractors to provide the scheduling capability described in subsection (a).

(2) NOTICE OF COMPETITION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals for the contract described in paragraph (1). Such request shall be full and open to any contractor that has an existing commercially available, off-the-shelf online patient self-scheduling system that includes the capabilities specified in section 3(a).

(3) SELECTION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall award a contract to one or more contractors pursuant to the request for proposals under paragraph (2).

(d) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by paragraph (2), the Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) for an 18-month period.

(2) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may extend the duration of the pilot program under subsection (a), and may expand the selection of Veterans Integrated Services Networks under subsection (b), if the Secretary determines that the pilot program is reducing the wait times of veterans seeking medical care and ensuring that more available appointment times are filled.

(e) MOBILE APPLICATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term "mobile application" means a software program that runs on the operating system of a cellular telephone, tablet computer, or similar portable computing device that transmits data over a wireless connection.

SEC. 3. CAPABILITIES OF PATIENT SELF-SCHEDULING APPOINTMENT SYSTEM.

(a) MINIMUM CAPABILITIES.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the patient self-scheduling appointment system used in the pilot program under section 2, and any other patient self-scheduling appointment system developed or used by the Department of Veterans Affairs, includes, at a minimum, the following capabilities:

(1) Capability to schedule, modify, and cancel appointments for primary care, specialty care, and mental health.

(2) Capability to support appointments for the provision of health care regardless of whether such care is provided in person or through telehealth services.

(3) Capability to view appointment availability in real time.

(4) Capability to make available, in real time, appointments that were previously filled but later cancelled by other patients.

(5) Capability to provide prompts or reminders to veterans to schedule follow-up appointments.

(6) Capability to be used 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

(7) Capability to integrate with the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture of the Department, or such successor information technology system.

(b) INDEPENDENT VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION.—

(1) INDEPENDENT ENTITY.—

(A) The Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with an appropriate non-governmental, not-for-profit entity with expertise in health information technology to independently validate and verify that the

patient self-scheduling appointment system used in the pilot program under section 2, and any other patient self-scheduling appointment system developed or used by the Department of Veterans Affairs, includes the capabilities specified in subsection (a).

(B) Each independent validation and verification conducted under subparagraph (A) shall be completed as follows:

(i) With respect to the validation and verification of the patient self-scheduling appointment system used in the pilot program under section 2, by not later than 60 days after the date on which such pilot program commences.

(ii) With respect to any other patient self-scheduling appointment system developed or used by the Department of Veterans Affairs, by not later than 60 days after the date on which such system is deployed, regardless of whether such deployment is on a limited basis, but not including any deployments for testing purposes.

(2) GAO EVALUATION.—

(A) The Comptroller General of the United States shall evaluate each validation and verification conducted under paragraph (1).

(B) Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Comptroller General completes an evaluation under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on such evaluation.

(C) In this paragraph, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(i) the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate; and

(ii) the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—

(1) CAPABILITIES INCLUDED.—Not later than December 31, 2017, the Secretary shall certify to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the patient self-scheduling appointment system used in the pilot program under section 2, and any other patient self-scheduling appointment system developed or used by the Department of Veterans Affairs as of the date of the certification, includes the capabilities specified in subsection (a).

(2) NEW SYSTEMS.—If the Secretary develops or begins using a new patient self-scheduling appointment system that is not covered by a certification made under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall certify to such committees that such new system includes the capabilities specified in subsection (a) by not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary determines to replace the previous patient self-scheduling appointment system.

(3) EFFECT OF CAPABILITIES NOT INCLUDED.—If the Secretary does not make a timely certification under paragraph (1) or paragraph (2), the Secretary shall replace any patient self-scheduling appointment system developed by the Secretary that is in use with a commercially available, off-the-shelf online patient self-scheduling system that includes the capabilities specified in subsection (a).

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON NEW APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4352, as amended, the Faster Care for Veterans Act of 2016.

The wait time scandals that continue to plague the Department of Veterans Affairs have highlighted the need for veterans to be able to schedule their own medical appointments. Everyone agrees that the veterans who want this capability should have it.

A self-scheduling option would reduce the workload on overburdened schedulers, allow the VA to use taxpayer resources more efficiently, and grant veterans who would prefer to schedule their own appointments the ability and flexibility to do so. It would also encourage accountability by giving veterans verifiable records of their own appointment bookings.

VA has been considering self-scheduling since at least 2013. However, projects start and stop, priorities shift, and nothing usable has so far emerged from those considerations. Unfortunately, this seems to be the result of a tug of war between some VA officials who favor a commercial off-the-shelf system and others who favor a government-developed system.

VA has been developing a self-scheduling mobile application based on its VISTA management system and plans to roll it out in January 2017. I have high hopes for that effort, but VA's IT development record is mixed—to put it mildly—and past experience shows that meeting high standards and firm deadlines are crucial to success.

The time has come to settle this issue once and for all. H.R. 4352, as amended, establishes capability standards reflecting the state of the art that apply to any commercial or government self-scheduling system in VA. It also directs VA to pilot the best available commercial software in three locations. The bill tasks an independent expert to verify whether that commercial system and the government system meet those standards, and by the end of 2017, VA must certify whether or not they do.

The concept is, in other words, a bake-off to create the most successful possible software for our veterans. Ideally, both systems will meet the standards, but if the government system cannot make the grade, VA will have a commercial alternative thoroughly piloted and ready to go to work for VA patients.

H.R. 4352, as amended, is sponsored by Congressman SETH MOULTON from Massachusetts and Congresswoman CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS from Washington. I thank them both for their leadership on this issue.

This broadly bipartisan legislation is an efficient, timely solution to a longstanding problem, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4352, as amended, sponsored by my friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts and a veteran himself, Representative MOULTON.

This important legislation authorizes the VA to administer a pilot program where veterans use an Internet Web site to schedule and confirm medical appointments at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA has been working to bring the power of scheduling to veterans since the wait time scandal at the Phoenix VA Medical Center in 2014.

The Department of Veterans Affairs had developed and is rolling out the Veterans Appointment Request, otherwise known as VAR, for primary care. This is a mobile application, and the approach will allow veterans to directly schedule or request primary care appointments and request mental health appointments at facilities where they are already receiving care. With the app, veterans can also view appointment details, track the status of requests, send messages about the requested appointments, get notifications about appointments, and cancel most appointments.

The VA has also implemented the Audiology and Optometry Direct Scheduling Initiative. This program began as a successful pilot at three sites in 2015 and is now being expanded to all VA medical centers.

Veterans can schedule a routine appointment for audiology or optometry directly by calling the scheduling department or by speaking directly with audiology or optometry staff. The covered services include hearing tests, eye exams, vision prescriptions, eyeglass fittings, and other routine appointments.

This important legislation will allow veterans to better control their VA experience no matter what services they need. Ensuring veterans are comfortable with the scheduling platform ultimately used is a critical factor. Whether that is a smartphone, Internet Web site or calling directly to make that appointment, the primary consideration is the ease of use by the veteran.

The only way to make sure it works is to test it. This legislation will ensure that the technology fits the veteran and also fits the VA.

For those reasons, I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is long overdue. One of the problems we have in VA is that we know the scandal at Phoenix where there were secret waiting lists for appointments for honorably discharged veterans to see a doctor.

This is one of the ways in which we can put veterans back in charge. One of the things I want to do is put veterans and doctors—healthcare providers—in charge of the health care and not bureaucrats, schedulers, and so forth. This puts the power back in front of the veterans.

We are at the Christmas season. Many of us order packages on Amazon or wherever. Guess what we can do? We can track that through our own personal device anywhere that package is so that it reaches our doorstep. Veterans should have that command so they can have an appointment when they want it; they can make it. The technology is available. I can't think of a better thing to do than to have a private and public competition to see which is the most effective for the veteran. I think in a year we are going to know. It will be simple to implement. Almost everyone has a smart device now that we can use for this process.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON).

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4352, the Faster Care for Veterans Act, which I introduced with Congresswoman CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS.

The idea behind the bill is simple. Our Nation's veterans deserve the same technological innovations and level of service at VA healthcare facilities as patients in the private market. One such innovation is patient self-scheduling technology. Patients can log on to an app on their phone or on a Web site, indicate the type of appointment they need, select their location, and schedule their own appointments at a time convenient for them—no middle men, no obnoxious hold music, and no unending carousel of options on an automated phone menu; just a quick and easy medical appointment that works for your schedule.

This technology is not just beneficial for patients, it is good for medical providers as well. In the private market, the introduction of patient self-scheduling has dramatically decreased wait times, saving time and money. The VA ought to chase these same innovations so our veterans receive the best health care and user experience in the world.

As a Member of Congress, I declined congressional health care and pledged to receive my care at the VA. I receive excellent service from terrific doctors and nurses at my home VA facility in Bedford, Massachusetts. However, scheduling an appointment here in D.C. or at home in Bedford has never been easy.

Dennis Magnasco, my veterans' liaison in my office in Salem, Massachusetts, learned this the hard way. Shortly after I introduced the Faster Care for Veterans Act, Dennis called our local VA hospital to make an appointment himself. He listened to the options on the automated menu and pressed one to schedule an appointment. After several more pushed buttons, rather than connecting him to the talented schedulers who work in the Bedford VA, the automated menu started over again. It went into an endless cycle. He hung up, and after multiple unsuccessful further attempts, he recorded himself doing this in a video.

I put this video on my Facebook page, and the response was astonishing. Four million people saw the video, 35,000 people shared the video, and 2,000 people commented. People from all over the country shared their experience trying to schedule their own appointments at the VA. The frustration is nationwide.

A veteran from Walcott, Arkansas, said: I can tell you this is for real. It happens every time I call. I usually give up and drive to the clinic 18 or 20 miles away so I can talk to a person face to face.

A veteran from El Paso, Texas, said: This is exactly what happens every time you try to call for an appointment or even get general information about an existing appointment. This is exactly why lots of us vets end up giving up on the system.

A veteran from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, said: The longest I have been on hold with the VA was an hour and 45 minutes before I gave up.

This is not an issue of quality of care, it is an issue of access to care. The Faster Care for Veterans Act is a solution.

First, this bill directs the VA to conduct a pilot program to test commercial off-the-shelf self-scheduling technology at three locations across the country while allowing the VA to continue developing its inhouse solution.

Second, the bill requires both the pilot program and the VA's solution to meet several capabilities currently available in the private market. These requirements will ensure our veterans get the same level of service as every other American.

Third, the bill provides for an independent assessment to verify if the pilot program or the VA's solution meets the minimum capabilities.

Lastly, the bill requires the VA to replace any system used by the VA that

does not meet those minimum requirements with a commercially available off-the-shelf technology that does meet those capabilities.

The bill is supported by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, the American College of Neurosurgeons, and the American Osteopathic Association; and this bill is cosponsored by more than half of the House of Representatives. Our veterans are demanding a 21st century VA healthcare system. This bill is one step in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS), who is our conference chair. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS is a very passionate supporter of veterans' issues.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, more than 2 years after we were all shocked by the news that Phoenix veterans had died waiting for appointments at their local VA. Yet, after all this time, little has changed.

Every week veterans contact my office seeking help to get the care that they need, like the veteran who couldn't access urgent care and was afraid he would be billed if he went to the hospital for help, or the veteran who got cancer from atomic testing but had to jump through all kinds of hoops to prove it.

Is this how a grateful nation should treat its veterans? Absolutely not.

The best way we show our gratitude to those who have served is to get them the care that they have earned. When a veteran contacts the VA, they should have the red carpet rolled out for them, period; but, instead, these stories are repeated over and over and over in communities all across the country: The VA won't listen; the VA doesn't return calls; we can't see a doctor.

There is a disconnect between the service of our military and the service they receive when they return home.

Mr. MOULTON of Massachusetts and I introduced the Faster Care for Veterans Act to leverage technology to cut back on wait times. Our veterans should have the same options that people have in doctors' offices across the country. They should be able to use an app, go online to schedule; or if they want to call, they can do that, too.

□ 1530

The point is the technology to make it easier to self-schedule already exists. Why not provide it to our veterans?

With this bill, we are demonstrating to the VA that innovative technology can work. It can get our veterans the care that they have earned more quickly without all the red tape.

But wait times are just the tip of this bureaucratic iceberg. The terrible sto-

ries this past week of HIV exposure and a veteran dying with maggots in his wounds are graphic reminders to all of us that the VA has lost sight of its sole mission: serving veterans.

Veterans should be in control of all aspects of their health care. That is not what is happening right now. After all the years, all the money, no more excuses. It is time for a deeper look into rethinking this outdated government bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, I never again want to hear a war hero cry because of how the VA has treated him. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the Faster Care for Veterans Act.

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

I have no further speakers. Before I close, I would like to say that I fully appreciate the work of my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON), for the work he has done on this bill and for the way in which he is able to reach out to veterans and those who care for veterans across the country.

I am especially pleased that included in this legislation is a specific way to independently assess the off-the-shelf technology as compared to the technology that is being developed in-house at the VA. I think these provisions will ensure that the taxpayer is protected in terms of cost, efficiency, and effectiveness. And, of course, bottom line, this means effectiveness for our veterans. We want to make sure that the best technology is put forward, whether it is in-house or whether it is the off-the-shelf choice, that we have a way to independently verify which is best.

I want to encourage all of my colleagues to support this important legislation and join me in passing H.R. 4352.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank Mr. MOULTON and one of our leaders, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, for bringing this very important piece of legislation to the floor. One of the reasons is that it shows when you bring someone with real-world experiences who uses the VA how they can then take that and convert that into meaningful legislation that will actually help veterans around the country.

I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4352, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COLONEL DEMAS T. CRAW VA CLINIC

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3492) to designate the Traverse City VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Traverse City, Michigan, as the "Colonel Demas T. Craw VA Clinic".

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

S. 3492

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF COLONEL DEMAS T. CRAW VA CLINIC IN TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Demas T. Craw was born on April 9, 1900, in Long Lake Township, Michigan.

(2) While residing in Traverse City, Michigan, Demas T. Craw enlisted in the United States Army at Columbus Barracks, Ohio, on April 18, 1918, and trained with the 12th Cavalry at Camp Stanley, Texas.

(3) Colonel Craw achieved the position of senior pilot and was awarded—

(A) the Medal of Honor for action in North Africa;

(B) the World War I Victory Medal;

(C) the World War II Victory Medal;

(D) the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal;

(E) the Mexican Service Medal;

(F) the American Defense Service Medal;

(G) the Purple Heart;

(H) the Royal Order of George I; and

(I) the Observer Badge.

(4) Colonel Craw's citation for the Medal of Honor said, "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty. On November 8, 1942, near Port Lyautey, French Morocco, Col. Craw volunteered to accompany the leading wave of assault boats to the shore and pass through the enemy lines to locate the French commander with a view to suspending hostilities. This request was first refused as being too dangerous but upon the officer's insistence that he was qualified to undertake and accomplish the mission he was allowed to go. Encountering heavy fire while in the landing boat and unable to dock in the river because of shell fire from shore batteries, Col. Craw, accompanied by 1 officer and 1 soldier, succeeded in landing on the beach at Mehdiya Plage under constant low-level strafing from 3 enemy planes. Riding in a bantam truck toward French headquarters, progress of the party was hindered by fire from our own naval guns. Nearing Port Lyautey, Col. Craw was instantly killed by a sustained burst of machinegun fire at pointblank range from a concealed position near the road."

(5) Colonel Craw was killed in action on November 8, 1942, while attempting to deliver a message to broker a cease fire with France.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The Traverse City VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Traverse City, Michigan, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Colonel Demas T. Craw VA Clinic".

(c) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (b) shall be considered to be a reference to the Colonel Demas T. Craw VA Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3492, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Community-Based Outpatient Clinic in Traverse City, Michigan, as the Colonel Demas T. Craw VA Clinic.

I thank the bill's sponsor, Senator GARY PETERS from Michigan, for his efforts in introducing this bill.

I also want to thank my colleague, friend, and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, Congressman DAN BENISHEK, from Michigan, for his work on the House side to ensure that Colonel Craw is honored.

Demas T. Craw was born and raised in Long Lake Township, Michigan. He enlisted in the United States Army at just 18 years old and went to serve both in World War I and World War II, eventually earning the position of senior pilot. Colonel Craw served our country valiantly until he was tragically killed in combat.

In 1942, Colonel Craw volunteered to accompany the leading wave of assault boats to shore in Operation Torch, the Allied invasion of north Africa. The mission was to pass through the enemy lines to locate the French commander with a view to suspending hostilities. Sadly, during the course of that mission, Colonel Craw was instantly killed by a sustained burst of machine-gun fire at pointblank range from a concealed position near the road.

During his illustrious time in the Army, Colonel Craw accumulated numerous awards, including the World War I Victory Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Purple Heart. He also received our Nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor, for his valiant actions in north Africa.

Colonel Demas Craw was a Michigan native and Traverse City resident who served our country with courage. It is only appropriate that the community-

based outpatient clinic in Traverse City be named in his honor.

S. 3492 satisfies the committee's naming criteria and is supported by the Michigan congressional delegation as well as numerous veterans organizations, including the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and the American Legion.

Once again, I am grateful to Congressman BENISHEK for sponsoring the companion to this legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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

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

I rise today in support of this legislation sponsored by my colleague, Dr. BENISHEK. This bill will name the Traverse City, Michigan, Community-Based Outpatient Clinic the Colonel Demas T. Craw VA Clinic.

Colonel Craw had a distinguished military career. He dropped out of high school to enlist in the Army during World War I. He was furloughed and discharged when the war ended, but he soon reenlisted. After being promoted to corporal, he continued to work to advance in the Army. He earned an appointment to West Point in 1920 and graduated in 1924 as a second lieutenant.

After being assigned to the Army Air Corps, then First Lieutenant Craw served around the world and the United States. Upon entering World War II, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and assigned to north Africa in 1942. On his last mission, Colonel Craw volunteered to approach the French forces to negotiate a ceasefire when Allied forces began their assault.

Colonel Craw earned the Medal of Honor for his actions on his last mission. As the citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty . . . Colonel Craw volunteered to accompany the leading wave of assault boats to the shore and pass through the enemy lines to locate the French commander with a view to suspending hostilities . . . Encountering heavy fire . . . Colonel Craw, accompanied by one officer and one soldier, succeeded in landing on the beach under constant strafing from three enemy planes. Riding toward French headquarters, progress of the party was hindered by fire from U.S. naval guns. Nearing his destination, Colonel Craw was instantly killed by a sustained burst of machine-gun fire at pointblank range from a concealed position near the road.

Not only was Colonel Craw awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions, but the officer accompanying him, Major Pierpont M. Hamilton, who was captured before ultimately succeeding in suspending the hostilities, was also awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in this mission.

I am honored to support this bill to name the VA facility in Traverse City, Michigan, the Colonel Demas T. Craw VA Clinic.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK), a great friend and colleague.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. ROE.

I rise today in support of legislation to name the Traverse City VA Clinic after Colonel Demas T. Crow, a Medal of Honor recipient from my district in Traverse City.

As I soon will be retiring from Congress, I quickly want to say that it has been quite an honor for me to work with the chairman, JEFF MILLER, and all the members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee over the last 6 years. It hasn't been an easy fight, but I believe we have made real progress toward a better VA for the men and women who have fought for our freedom.

This sacred work must continue, as they still deserve much better. I have faith that the next chairman of the committee, my friend, Dr. PHIL ROE, will be able to continue this progress and break new ground in the fight for our Nation's heroes.

I have been very pleased to assist in the effort to honor Colonel Crow in the House, along with a dedicated team of veterans and patriotic citizens. Led by retired Lieutenant Colonel Terry Hawn and Dr. Dan Lathrop, they worked to gather the over 2,000 signatures needed and build support within the community to honor this truly deserving local hero.

Born near Traverse City in 1900, Colonel Crow served in the U.S. Army during both world wars. As a United States Army Air Forces officer in World War II, he served as a U.S. adviser to the Royal Air Force prior to American entry to the war, and was captured and interned by German forces for 6 weeks in 1941.

He was killed in action, described previously, on November 8, 1942, after volunteering to lead a dangerous and, ultimately, successful mission behind enemy lines. He received the Medal of Honor posthumously for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty."

We couldn't have done this without the support of the entire Michigan congressional delegation, as well as the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition, the American Legion Department of Michigan, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Michigan, and many other veteran service organizations.

I want to thank Senator GARY PETERS for introducing the Senate version of this legislation that we are considering today.

I urge my colleagues to help honor this American hero and pass S. 3492.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Before I close, I want to offer a word of praise and affection for my good friend Dr. BENISHEK for his long service to this body and to the committee. I also want to congratulate his intrepidity for saying the word "intrepidity" on the floor of the House.

I am very pleased to support this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in passing S. 3492.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, it is a great privilege for all of us to be here on the floor of this incredible House to speak. We would not be able to do that if it weren't for the heroics of people like Colonel Crow and the sacrifice that he and his family made.

We are entering the Christmas season, and I think about our Armed Forces that are stationed around the world, young men and women today, that are out there protecting our Nation's freedoms and others' freedoms. So it is a great honor—and I think one of the things that I have enjoyed doing the most—naming and hearing about the incredible heroics of some of these men and women that have been before us. I want to encourage all Members to support this legislation wholeheartedly.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3492.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1545

CHARLES DUNCAN BURIED WITH HONOR ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3076) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish caskets and urns for burial in cemeteries of States and tribal organizations of veterans without next of kin or sufficient resources to provide for caskets or urns, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3076

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Charles Duncan Buried with Honor Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. CASKETS AND URNS FOR BURIAL OF CERTAIN VETERANS IN CEMETERIES OF STATES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 2306(f) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "for burial in a national cemetery of a deceased veteran" and inserting "for burial of a deceased veteran in a national cemetery or in a veterans cemetery of a State or tribal organization for which the Department has provided a grant under section 2408 of this title"; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "the burial of the veteran in a national cemetery" and inserting "such burial".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on S. 3076.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to urge all Members to support S. 3076, the Charles Duncan Buried with Honor Act of 2016.

S. 3076, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent on September 20, 2016, would provide indigent families of deceased veterans with more choices as they make the difficult decision about where to lay their loved ones to rest without being financially penalized. This legislation is a practical solution for a common challenge that is faced by too many veterans' families. Dr. Wenstrup, my colleague and a valued member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, has sponsored H.R. 6114, the House companion to this bill.

Under current law, if a family does not have sufficient resources to buy a casket or an urn for a deceased loved one, the VA can provide one if the veteran is buried in a national cemetery, but not if the veteran is buried in a State or a tribal cemetery. However, for some families, interring a veteran in a national cemetery is not always the best option. For example, a national cemetery may be too far away for families to attend burial services or to regularly visit their loved ones.

To better serve the families of all veterans, S. 3076 allows the VA to furnish a casket or an urn if the deceased veteran is laid to rest in a national or in a State or a tribal cemetery. It is appropriate to honor the service of veterans who have passed by providing a casket or an urn regardless of where the veteran is interred.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 3076.

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

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

I rise in support of S. 3076, the Charles Duncan Buried with Honor Act, which expands the cemetery burial options offered by the VA to the families of financially insolvent veterans and to those with no identifiable next of kin.

I thank my friend, the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee chairman, Dr. Wenstrup, for sponsoring this bill in the House.

We who serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee hear over and over how important it is to the families of many veterans that they be buried near loved ones and near home. This is particularly true in rural areas where the option of burial in a national veterans' cemetery within a manageable travel distance is frequently not an option.

Under current law, indigent veterans and those with no next of kin are eligible for reimbursement rates of \$2,421 for caskets or \$244 for urns when buried in a national cemetery. However, if a State or a tribal cemetery that is supported by grants from the VA is geographically closer to the veteran's home and is preferable to the veteran or to the family, burial there is not currently allowed.

The bill before us today provides that choice by broadening the scope of the Dignified Burial and other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act to include the option of burial in a State or a tribal cemetery for which the Department of Veterans Affairs has provided a grant.

Mr. Speaker, this bill enjoys the support of the American Legion. It makes good sense and ensures that we are doing everything in our power to provide the greatest honor and comfort for veterans and their families. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), an active member of the committee.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 3076, the Charles Duncan Buried with Honor Act.

This bill will have a direct and personal impact on the families of many of our veterans. I am pleased that it is being considered today, and I was proud to sponsor the House companion bill, H.R. 6114.

Under current law, if a veteran dies without the resources to pay for a casket, the VA will provide one, but only as long as the veteran is buried in a national cemetery. That means that, in my district and throughout the country, the families in need of this service may be transported to a national cemetery, which is often far from home and far from family. This has caused heartache for many families in my district in Ohio and across the country. It can mean that their loved ones must be buried nowhere near their homes. It

can prevent friends and family from attending the funerals or from regularly visiting the grave sites.

S. 3076 would amend current law to allow veterans who receive caskets that are purchased by the VA to be buried at a State or a tribal cemetery for which the VA has provided a grant. By expanding the burial options available to veterans, we can better ensure that they are laid to rest close to their loved ones. Let's provide this peace of mind to our veterans and their families. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation and join me in passing S. 3076.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. I thank the distinguished incoming chairman of the committee. I appreciate the time. I also thank my colleague in the Arkansas delegation, Senator COTTON, for his important work on S. 3076, which we are discussing today. I support it enthusiastically.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, July 25, 2015, U.S. Navy veteran and Little Rock resident Charles Duncan passed away at the age of 66, leaving behind a daughter, three grandsons, three great-grandsons, a brother, and a sister, along with many grieving family members, friends, and loved ones.

Sadly, like too many of our veterans, Mr. DUNCAN was financially insolvent and could not afford the cost of his funeral. Thankfully, he was eligible for essential VA benefits to cover these costs. However, these benefits required that he be buried at the national cemetery in Fort Smith instead of close to his home and his family in Little Rock. By expanding the cemetery burial options that are offered by the VA to our veterans in need, we can provide families with the solace that they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and support the peaceful rest of the veterans we have lost.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support S. 3076.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3076.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5143, TRANSPARENT INSURANCE STANDARDS ACT OF 2016; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 9, 2016, THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2017; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. BYRNE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-846) on the resolution (H. Res. 944) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5143) to provide greater transparency and congressional oversight of international insurance standards setting processes, and for other purposes; providing for proceedings during the period from December 9, 2016, through January 3, 2017; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMERGENCY MEDICAL STAFFING RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACT

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4150) to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to modify the hours of employment of physicians employed on a full-time basis by the Department of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4150

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Veterans Affairs Emergency Medical Staffing Recruitment and Retention Act".

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR PHYSICIANS EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 7423(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "(a) The hours" and inserting "(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the hours"; and

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

"(2)(A) Upon the advance written request of a covered physician, the Secretary may modify the hours of employment for a physician appointed in the Administration under any provision of this chapter on a full-time basis to be more or less than 80 hours in a biweekly pay period, subject to the requirements in subparagraph (B). For the purpose of determining pay, such a physician shall be deemed to have a biweekly schedule of 80 hours of employment.

"(B) A physician with an irregular work schedule established under subparagraph (A) shall be obligated to account for at least 2,080 hours of employment (through performance of work or use of leave or paid time off) in a calendar year.

“(C) The Secretary may prescribe regulations to implement this paragraph, including regulations making adjustments to address the annual hours requirement for physicians who are covered by this paragraph for only a portion of a calendar year.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on H.R. 4150, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4150, as amended, the Department of Veterans Affairs Emergency Medical Staffing Recruitment and Retention Act, would authorize the VA, upon written request, to modify the hours of employment for full-time physicians to be more than or less than 80 hours in a biweekly pay period, as agreed to by the physician and hospital management.

Earlier this year, the VA testified that there are nearly 4,000 physician vacancies across the VA healthcare system. The VA's ability to effectively recruit and retain high-quality medical professionals to care for our veterans is threatened by the Nation's worsening physician shortage, which the Association of American Medical Colleges has stated could grow to just under 100,000 physicians by 2025. In light of this, it is imperative that we provide the VA with every available tool to improve physician recruitment and to make efficient use of the current physician workforce.

Currently, the VA's ability in both regards is hampered by a rigid 80-hour, biweekly work schedule that is at odds with private sector industry standards. Typically, emergency room, ER, providers in non-VA hospitals across the country work flexible schedules to accommodate the irregular hours that emergency medicine demands. However, ER doctors in VA medical facilities are not afforded the opportunity to adopt the flexible schedules that their private sector colleagues enjoy. This bill would correct that discrepancy and improve the VA's ability to recruit and retain ER physicians.

H.R. 4150, as amended, which has my full support, originated as a VA legislative proposal and is sponsored by Congressman RAUL RUIZ of California, who is an emergency medical physician. I am grateful to him for his efforts in ad-

ressing this issue, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this needed legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4150, as amended, introduced by my very good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ). This legislation will improve the recruitment and retention of medical professionals at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 4150, as amended, allows the VA to arrange flexible physician work schedules to allow for the staffing and full implementation of a hospitalist physician system and to accommodate the unusual work schedule requirements for emergency medicine physicians. We all recognize the need for flexibility when working the rigorous and irregular hours that are routinely required of emergency medicine doctors. Giving the VA the ability to have flexible working hours that best suit the demand for delivering health care to the veterans who rely on those doctors just makes sense.

The current 80-hour, biweekly pay period limitation for these doctors creates challenges at the VA medical centers to adequately and sensibly staff the emergency rooms. Generally, most healthcare providers work a traditional 40-hour workweek. However, for hospitalists and emergency room physicians, they may need to work more than that in a week to provide safe, quality health care to veterans who seek services at the VA.

Ensuring access to care for veterans has been a major focus of this committee's, and this bill will help to eliminate the access barrier and provide a more efficient and effective way to ensure that the emergency rooms across the VA healthcare system are ready to take care of our veterans. Importantly, the bill also includes protections for physicians by requiring their consent before they can move to the flexible schedule.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I, too, am strongly in favor of this bill. I don't know where Dr. RUIZ was with regard to this 40-hour week, but I wish he had been around when I was in training and in practice because it would have been a joy to have worked just 40 hours. This particular bill allows the flexibility that every other hospital in the world has for staffing, and this is with the consent of the physicians and the hospital. It just makes sense.

I am so glad that Dr. RUIZ brought this up. As a practicing ER physician, he knows about this, and he knows exactly what it is.

I appreciate Dr. RUIZ bringing this up and making the committee aware of it. This will become a new law.

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

□ 1600

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ), my good friend who is an emergency room physician and a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. RUIZ. I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that I too had 100-, 120-hour workweeks and months; and I was the scut, of course, during my internships and residency; so I understand the words that you have spoken.

I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 4150, the Department of Veterans Affairs Emergency Medical Staffing Recruitment and Retention Act.

The point is this, and it is very simple: the VA needs to provide high-quality care that is veteran-centered. That is why I introduced this bill which works to address the difficulty of recruiting and retaining the best physicians to work within the VA healthcare system.

The problem is that, by law, the VA is beholden to the bureaucratic OPM's 80-biweekly requirement for full-time physicians. This does not fit with the current practice of physicians in many specialties, including emergency medicine and hospital medicine. These specialties typically require more flexible, often irregular working hours—some weeks they work less; some weeks they work the triple amount—but it needs to fit their schedule in order for them to provide the best care that they can for the patient.

Also, for instance, in emergency departments, it has been studied that the most dangerous time for a patient is during shift changes when a patient's care is transferred to another doctor. It all depends on the quality of the transfer, discussing what happened, and the follow-up that the second doctor is going to do. Therefore, emergency physicians prefer to work 12-hour shifts in order to minimize that transfer, and many emergency physicians work beyond their 12 hours in order to not transfer and just close the patient's case.

So this bill would give the VA the flexibility it needs to schedule physicians in a manner similar to that scene in the private sector while remaining OPM-compliant.

This bill will provide VA medical centers with the ability to implement flexible physician work schedules that can accommodate hospitalists' and emergency physicians' schedules and practices.

Our veterans deserve high-quality care. Attracting the best and brightest physicians to practice at the VA is a critical step in that direction.

And like my other bills up for consideration today as part of other legislation on the floor—the Veterans Access to Speedy Review Act, the Veterans' Survivors Claims Processing Automation Act—this bill works to ensure that the VA works for veterans, to make sure that it is about serving the veteran.

Let's pass this bill, Mr. Speaker, and take another step towards providing the highest quality care for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to our Nation.

I thank the chairman once again, and I thank the ranking member for his efforts in getting this to the floor today.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, before I close, I want to just add how proud I am that we got this bill over the finish line, working together with the majority, working together with the stakeholders.

I want to give special words of gratitude to the staff in my office and the staff on the Veterans' Affairs Committee for working extra hours to get this bill done.

This makes enormous sense to do, and it should have been done sooner, but I am very glad we could get it done in this Congress.

I look very much forward to working with Dr. ROE in the next Congress to do similar bills and bills of greater magnitude in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation. I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 4150, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I too encourage all Members to support H.R. 4150.

I also want to thank both the staff of the minority and the majority for their incredible work. Alex Large, who is on staff in my office, has worked very hard on many of these bills.

This is a time around our country where many of our young men and women are stationed in harm's way away from their families at the holidays. I too have done that, and I just appreciate very much the sacrifice that these men and women make for us each and every day. Let's not forget that there are people out there in some very dangerous places right now, as we speak, who are protecting our freedoms.

With that, it is indeed a pleasure to work on this committee because it is a bipartisan committee, and I think that the committee is laser-focused on doing what is right for veterans.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4150, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 6394, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 939, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 6416, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

IMPROVING BROADBAND ACCESS FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6394) to require the Federal Communications Commission to submit to Congress a report on promoting broadband Internet access service for veterans, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 4, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 604]

YEAS—411

Abraham	Brooks (IN)	Comstock	Doggett	Kelly (PA)	Perlmutter
Adams	Brownley (CA)	Conaway	Dold	Kennedy	Perry
Aderholt	Buchanan	Connolly	Donovan	Kildee	Peters
Aguiar	Buck	Conyers	Doyle, Michael F.	Kilmer	Peterson
Allen	Bucshon	Cook	Duckworth	Kind	Pingree
Amodei	Burgess	Cooper	Duffy	King (IA)	Pitts
Ashford	Bustos	Costa	Duncan (SC)	King (NY)	Pocan
Babin	Butterfield	Costello (PA)	Duncan (TN)	Kinzinger (IL)	Poliquin
Barletta	Byrne	Courtney	Edwards	Kiame	Polis
Barr	Calvert	Cramer	Ellison	Knight	Pompeo
Barton	Capps	Crawford	Ellmers (NC)	Kuster	Posey
Beatty	Capuano	Crenshaw	Emmer (MN)	Labrador	Price (NC)
Becerra	Cárdenas	Crowley	Engel	LaHood	Price, Tom
Benishek	Carney	Cuellar	Eshoo	LaMalfa	Quigley
Bera	Carson (IN)	Culberson	Eshoo	Lamborn	Rangel
Beyer	Carter (GA)	Cummings	Esty	Lance	Ratcliffe
Bilirakis	Carter (TX)	Curbelo (FL)	Evans	Langevin	Reed
Bishop (GA)	Cartwright	Davidson	Farenthold	Larsen (WA)	Reichert
Bishop (MI)	Castro (TX)	Davis (CA)	Farr	Larson (CT)	Renacci
Bishop (UT)	Castro (TX)	Davis, Danny	Fincher	Latta	Rice (NY)
Black	Chaffetz	Davis, Rodney	Fitpatrick	Lawrence	Rice (SC)
Blackburn	Chu, Judy	DeFazio	Fitzpatrick	Levin	Rigell
Blum	Cicilline	DeGette	Fleischmann	Lewis	Roby
Blumenauer	Clark (MA)	Delaney	Fleming	Lieu, Ted	Roe (TN)
Bonamici	Clarke (NY)	DeLauro	Flores	Lipinski	Rogers (AL)
Bost	Clay	DelBene	Fortenberry	LoBiondo	Rogers (KY)
Boustany	Cleaver	Denham	Foster	Loebach	Rohrabacher
Boyle, Brendan F.	Clyburn	Dent	Fox	Lofgren	Rokita
Brady (PA)	Coffman	DeSantis	Frankel (FL)	Long	Rooney (FL)
Brady (TX)	Cohen	DeSaulnier	Franks (AZ)	Loudermilk	Ros-Lehtinen
Brat	Cole	DesJarlais	Frelinghuysen	Love	Roskam
Bridenstine	Collins (GA)	Deutch	Fudge	Lowenthal	Ross
Brooks (AL)	Collins (NY)	Diaz-Balart	Gabbard	Lowey	Rothfus
	Comer	Dingell	Gallego	Lucas	Rouzer
			Garamendi	Luetkemeyer	Roybal-Allard
			Garrett	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Royce
			Gibbs	Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)	Ruppersberger
			Gibson	Lummis	Rush
			Gohmert	Lynch	Ryan (OH)
			Goodlatte	MacArthur	Salmon
			Gosar	Maloney,	Sánchez, Linda T.
			Gowdy	Maloney, Sean	Sanford
			Graham	Marchant	Sarbanes
			Graves (GA)	Marino	Scalise
			Graves (LA)	Massie	Schakowsky
			Graves (MO)	Matsui	Schiff
			Grayson	Matsui	Schrader
			Green, Al	McCarthy	Schweikert
			Green, Gene	McCaul	Scott (VA)
			Griffith	McClintock	Scott, Austin
			Grijalva	McCollum	Scott, David
			Guinta	McDermott	Sensenbrenner
			Guthrie	McGovern	Serrano
			Gutiérrez	McHenry	Sessions
			Hanabusa	McKinley	Sewell (AL)
			Hanna	McMorris	Sherman
			Hardy	Rodgers	Shimkus
			Harper	McNerney	Shuster
			Harris	McSally	Simpson
			Hartzler	Meadows	Sinema
			Hastings	Herrera Beutler	Sires
			Heck (NV)	Hice, Jody B.	Slaughter
			Hensarling	Higgins	Smith (MO)
			Herrera Beutler	Hill	Smith (NE)
			Hice, Jody B.	Himes	Smith (NJ)
			Higgins	Hinojosa	Smith (TX)
			Meeks	Holding	Smith (WA)
			Meng	Honda	Speier
			Messer	Hoyer	Stefanik
			Mica	Hudson	Stewart
			Miller (FL)	Huelskamp	Stivers
			Miller (FL)	Huffman	Stutzman
			Moolenaar	Huizenga (MI)	Swalwell (CA)
			Mooney (WV)	Hultgren	Takano
			Moore	Hunter	Thompson (CA)
			Moulton	Hurd (TX)	Thompson (MS)
			Mullin	Hurt (VA)	Thompson (PA)
			Mulvaney	Issa	Thornberry
			Murphy (FL)	Jackson Lee	Tiberi
			Murphy (PA)	Jeffries	Tipton
			Nadler	Jenkins (KS)	Noem
			Napolitano	Jenkins (WV)	Nolan
			Neal	Johnson (GA)	Norcross
			Neugebauer	Johnson (OH)	Nugent
			Newhouse	Johnson (OH)	Nunes
			Noem	Johnson, E. B.	O'Rourke
			Nolan	Johnson, Sam	Olson
			Norcross	Jones	Palazzo
			Nugent	Jordan	Pallone
			Nunes	Joyce	Palmer
			O'Rourke	Kaptur	Pascrell
			Olson	Katko	Paulsen
			Palazzo	Keating	Payne
			Valadao	Kelly (IL)	Pearce
			Van Hollen	Kelly (MS)	Pelosi
			Vargas		
			Veasey		
			Vela		
			Velázquez		
			Visclosky		

Wagner Weber (TX) Woodall
Walberg Webster (FL) Yarmuth
Walden Welch Yoder
Walker Wenstrup Yoho
Walorski Westerman Young (AK)
Walz Williams Young (IA)
Wasserman Wilson (FL) Young (IN)
Schultz Wilson (SC) Zeldin
Waters, Maxine Wittman
Watson Coleman Womack

NAYS—4

Amash Ribble
Grothman Russell

NOT VOTING—18

Bass Heck (WA) Pittenger
Brown (FL) Israel Poe (TX)
Castor (FL) Jolly Richmond
Clawson (FL) Kirkpatrick Sanchez, Loretta
Forbes Lee Walters, Mimi
Granger Miller (MI) Westmoreland

□ 1630

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

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT ACCESS TO DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS AND CONNECTIVITY IS NECESSARY TO PREPARE YOUTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 939) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that access to digital communications tools and connectivity is necessary to prepare youth in the United States to compete in the 21st century economy, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 1, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 605]

YEAS—414

Abraham Bishop (UT) Bucshon
Adams Black Burgess
Aderholt Blackburn Bustos
Aguilar Blum Butterfield
Allen Blumenauer Byrne
Amodei Bonamici Calvert
Ashford Bost Capps
Babin Boustany Capuano
Barletta Boyle, Brendan Cárdenas
Barr F. Carney
Beatty Brady (PA) Carson (IN)
Becerra Brady (TX) Carter (GA)
Benishek Brat Carter (TX)
Bera Bridenstine Cartwright
Beyer Brooks (AL) Castro (TX)
Bilirakis Brooks (IN) Chabot
Bishop (GA) Brownley (CA) Chaffetz
Bishop (MI) Buck Chu, Judy

Cicilline Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith

Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Love
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
Lujan, Ben Ray
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie

NAYS—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—18

Barton Clawson (FL) Miller (MI)
Forbes Pittenger
Israel Poe (TX)
Jolly Richmond
Kirkpatrick Sanchez, Loretta
Lee Westmoreland
Castor (FL) Loudermilk

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1638

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JEFF MILLER AND RICHARD BLUMENTHAL VETERANS HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6416) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 419, nays 0, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 606]

YEAS—419

Abraham Aguilar Amodei
Adams Allen Ashford
Aderholt Amash Babin

Barletta	Dold	Kelly (IL)	Pearce	Salmon	Torres
Barr	Donovan	Kelly (MS)	Pelosi	Sánchez, Linda	Trott
Barton	Doyle, Michael	Kelly (PA)	Perlmutter	T.	Tsongas
Bass	F.	Kennedy	Perry	Sanford	Turner
Beatty	Duckworth	Kildee	Peters	Sarbanes	Upton
Becerra	Duffy	Kilmer	Peterson	Scalise	Valadao
Benishek	Duncan (SC)	Kind	Pingree	Schakowsky	Van Hollen
Bera	Duncan (TN)	King (IA)	Pitts	Schiff	Vargas
Beyer	Edwards	King (NY)	Pocan	Schrader	Veasey
Bilirakis	Ellison	Kinzinger (IL)	Poliquin	Schweikert	Vela
Bishop (GA)	Ellmers (NC)	Kline	Polis	Scott (VA)	Velázquez
Bishop (MI)	Emmer (MN)	Knight	Pompeo	Scott, Austin	Visclosky
Bishop (UT)	Engel	Kuster	Posey	Scott, David	Wagner
Black	Eshoo	Labrador	Price (NC)	Sensenbrenner	Walberg
Blackburn	Esty	LaHood	Price, Tom	Serrano	Walden
Blum	Evans	LaMalfa	Quigley	Sessions	Walker
Blumenauer	Farenthold	Lamborn	Rangel	Sewell (AL)	Walorski
Bonamici	Farr	Lance	Ratcliffe	Sherman	Walters, Mimi
Bost	Fincher	Langevin	Reed	Shimkus	Walz
Boustany	Fitzpatrick	Larsen (WA)	Reichert	Shuster	Wasserman
Boyle, Brendan	Fleischmann	Larson (CT)	Renacci	Simpson	Schultz
F.	Fleming	Latta	Ribble	Sinema	Waters, Maxine
Brady (PA)	Flores	Lawrence	Rice (NY)	Sires	Watson Coleman
Brady (TX)	Fortenberry	Levin	Rice (SC)	Slaughter	Weber (TX)
Brat	Foster	Lewis	Rigell	Smith (MO)	Webster (FL)
Bridenstine	Fox	Lieu, Ted	Roby	Smith (NE)	Welch
Brooks (AL)	Frankel (FL)	Lipinski	Roe (TN)	Smith (NJ)	Wenstrup
Brooks (IN)	Franks (AZ)	LoBiondo	Rogers (AL)	Smith (TX)	Westerman
Brownley (CA)	Frelinghuysen	Loebsack	Rogers (KY)	Smith (WA)	Williams
Buchanan	Fudge	Loftgren	Rohrabacher	Speier	Wilson (FL)
Buck	Gabbard	Long	Rokita	Stefanik	Wilson (SC)
Bucshon	Gallego	Loudermilk	Rooney (FL)	Stewart	Wittman
Burgess	Garamendi	Love	Ros-Lehtinen	Stivers	Womack
Bustos	Garrett	Lowenthal	Roskam	Stutzman	Woodall
Butterfield	Gibbs	Lowe	Ross	Swalwell (CA)	Yarmuth
Byrne	Gibson	Lucas	Rothfus	Takano	Yoder
Calvert	Gohmert	Luetkemeyer	Rouzer	Thompson (CA)	Yoho
Capps	Goodlatte	Lujan Grisham	Roybal-Allard	Thompson (MS)	Young (AK)
Capuano	Gosar	(NM)	Royce	Thompson (PA)	Young (IA)
Cárdenas	Gowdy	Luján, Ben Ray	Ruiz	Thornberry	Young (IN)
Carney	Graham	(NM)	Ruppersberger	Tiberi	Zeldin
Carson (IN)	Granger	Lummis	Rush	Tipton	Zinke
Carter (GA)	Graves (GA)	Lynch	Russell	Titus	
Carter (TX)	Graves (LA)	MacArthur	Ryan (OH)	Tonko	
Cartwright	Graves (MO)	Maloney,			
Castro (TX)	Grayson	Carolyn			
Chabot	Green, Al	Maloney, Sean	Brown (FL)	Jolly	Poe (TX)
Chaffetz	Green, Gene	Marchant	Castor (FL)	Kirkpatrick	Richmond
Chu, Judy	Griffith	Marino	Clawson (FL)	Lee	Sanchez, Loretta
Cicilline	Grijalva	Massie	Forbes	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland
Clark (MA)	Grothman	Matsui	Israel	Pittenger	
Clarke (NY)	Guinta	McCarthy			
Clay	Guthrie	McCaul			
Cleaver	Gutiérrez	McClintock			
Clyburn	Hanabusa	McCollum			
Coffman	Hanna	McDermott			
Cohen	Hardy	McGovern			
Cole	Harper	McHenry			
Collins (GA)	Harris	McKinley			
Collins (NY)	Hartzler	McMorris			
Comer	Hastings	Rodgers			
Comstock	Heck (NV)	McNerney			
Conaway	Heck (WA)	McSally			
Connolly	Hensarling	Meadows			
Conyers	Herrera Beutler	Meehan			
Cook	Hice, Jody B.	Meeks			
Cooper	Higgins	Meng			
Costa	Hill	Messer			
Costello (PA)	Himes	Mica			
Courtney	Hinojosa	Miller (FL)			
Cramer	Holding	Moolenaar			
Crawford	Honda	Mooney (WV)			
Crenshaw	Hoyer	Moore			
Crowley	Hudson	Moulton			
Cuellar	Huelskamp	Mullin			
Culberson	Huffman	Mulvaney			
Cummings	Huizenga (MI)	Murphy (FL)			
Curbelo (FL)	Hultgren	Murphy (PA)			
Davidson	Hunter	Nadler			
Davis (CA)	Hurd (TX)	Napolitano			
Davis, Danny	Hurt (VA)	Neal			
Davis, Rodney	Issa	Neugebauer			
DeFazio	Jackson Lee	Newhouse			
DeGette	Jeffries	Noem			
Delaney	Jenkins (KS)	Nolan			
DeLauro	Jenkins (WV)	Norcross			
DelBene	Johnson (GA)	Nugent			
Denham	Johnson (OH)	Nunes			
Dent	Johnson, E. B.	O'Rourke			
DeSantis	Johnson, Sam	Olson			
DeSaulnier	Jones	Palazzo			
DesJarlais	Jordan	Pallone			
Deutch	Joyce	Palmer			
Diaz-Balart	Kaptur	Pascarell			
Dingell	Katko	Paulsen			
Doggett	Keating	Payne			

NOT VOTING—14

Brown (FL)	Jolly	Poe (TX)
Castor (FL)	Kirkpatrick	Richmond
Clawson (FL)	Lee	Sanchez, Loretta
Forbes	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland
Israel	Pittenger	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1646

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intent to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 828, impeaching John Andrew Koskinen, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Resolved, that John Andrew Koskinen, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors and that the following articles of impeachment be exhibited to the Senate:

Articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of Representatives of the United States of America in the name of itself and of the people of the United States of America, against John Andrew Koskinen, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, in maintenance and support of its impeachment against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Article I.

John Andrew Koskinen, in his conduct while Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, engaged in a pattern of conduct that is incompatible with his duties as an Officer of the United States, as follows:

Commissioner Koskinen failed in his duty to respond to lawfully issued congressional subpoenas. On August 2, 2013, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives issued a subpoena to Secretary of the Treasury Jacob Lew, the custodian of Internal Revenue Service documents. That subpoena demanded, among other things, "all communications sent or received by Lois Lerner, from January 1, 2009, to August 2, 2013". On February 14, 2014, following the Senate's confirmation of John Andrew Koskinen as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives reissued the subpoena to him.

On March 4, 2014, Internal Revenue Service employees in Martinsburg, West Virginia, magnetically erased 422 backup tapes, destroying as many as 24,000 of Lois Lerner's emails responsive to the subpoena. This action impeded congressional investigations into the Internal Revenue Service targeting of Americans based on their political affiliation. The American people may never know the true culpability or extent of the Internal Revenue Service targeting because of the destruction of evidence that took place.

Wherefore, John Andrew Koskinen, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

Article II.

John Andrew Koskinen engaged in a pattern of deception that demonstrates his unfitness to serve as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service. Commissioner Koskinen made a series of false and misleading statements to Congress in contravention of his oath to tell the truth. Those false statements included the following:

One, on June 20, 2014, Commissioner Koskinen testified that "since the start of this investigation, every email has been preserved. Nothing has been lost. Nothing has been destroyed."

Two, on June 23, 2014, Commissioner Koskinen testified that the Internal Revenue Service had "confirmed that backup tapes from 2011 no longer existed because they have been recycled,

pursuant to the Internal Revenue Service normal policy". He went on to explain that "confirmed means that somebody went back and looked and made sure that in fact any backup tapes that had existed had been recycled".

Three, on March 26, 2014, Commissioner Koskinen was asked during a hearing before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, "Sir, are you or are you not going to provide this committee all of Lois Lerner's emails?". He answered, "Yes, we will do that."

Each of those statements was materially false. On March 4, 2014, Internal Revenue Service employees magnetically erased 422 backup tapes containing as many as 24,000 of Lois Lerner's emails. On February 2, 2014, senior Internal Revenue Service officials discovered that Lois Lerner's computer hard drive had crashed, rendering hundreds or thousands of her emails unrecoverable. Commissioner Koskinen's false statements impeded and confused congressional investigations into the Internal Revenue Service targeting of Americans based on their political affiliation.

Wherefore, John Andrew Koskinen, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

Article III.

John Andrew Koskinen, throughout his tenure as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, has acted in a manner inconsistent with the trust and confidence placed in him as an Officer of the United States, as follows:

During his confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Finance, John Andrew Koskinen promised, "We will be transparent about any problems we run into; and the public and certainly this committee will know about those problems as soon as we do."

Commissioner Koskinen repeatedly violated that promise. As early as February 2014 and no later than April 2014, he was aware that a substantial portion of Lois Lerner's emails could not be produced to Congress. However, in a March 19, 2014, letter to Senator Wyden of the Senate Committee on Finance, Commissioner Koskinen said, "We are transmitting today additional information that we believe completes our production to your committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. . . . In light of these productions, I hope that the investigations can be concluded in the very near future." At the time he sent that letter, he knew that the document production was not complete.

Commissioner Koskinen did not notify Congress of any problem until June 13, 2014, when he included the information on the fifth page of the third enclosure of a letter to the Senate Committee on Finance.

Wherefore, John Andrew Koskinen, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

Article IV.

John Andrew Koskinen has failed to act with competence and forthrightness in overseeing the investigation into Internal Revenue Service targeting of Americans because of their political affiliations as follows:

Commissioner Koskinen stated in a hearing on June 20, 2014, that the Internal Revenue Service had "gone to great lengths" to retrieve all of Lois Lerner's emails. Commissioner Koskinen's actions contradicted the assurances he gave to Congress.

The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration found over 1,000 of Lois Lerner's emails that the Internal Revenue Service had failed to produce. Those discoveries took only 15 days of investigation to uncover. The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration searched a number of available sources, including disaster backup tapes, Lois Lerner's Blackberry, the email server, backup tapes for the email server, and Lois Lerner's temporary replacement laptop. The Internal Revenue Service failed to examine any of those sources in its own investigation.

Wherefore, John Andrew Koskinen, by such conduct, warrants impeachment, trial, and removal from office.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer this resolution, H. Res. 828, for consideration by the full House.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 828

Resolved, That John Andrew Koskinen, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors and that the following articles of impeachment be exhibited to the Senate:

Articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of Representatives of the United States of America in the name of itself and of the people of the United States of America, against John Andrew Koskinen, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, in maintenance and support of its impeachment against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

ARTICLE I

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received by Lois Lerner, from January 1, 2009, to August 2, 2013". On February 14, 2014, following the Senate's confirmation of John Andrew Koskinen as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives reissued the subpoena to him.

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Wherefore, John Andrew Koskinen, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

ARTICLE II

John Andrew Koskinen engaged in a pattern of deception that demonstrates his unfitness to serve as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service. Commissioner Koskinen made a series of false and misleading statements to Congress in contravention of his oath to tell the truth. Those false statements included the following:

(1) On June 20, 2014, Commissioner Koskinen testified that "since the start of this investigation, every email has been preserved. Nothing has been lost. Nothing has been destroyed."

(2) On June 23, 2014, Commissioner Koskinen testified that the Internal Revenue Service had "confirmed that backup tapes from 2011 no longer existed because they have been recycled, pursuant to the Internal Revenue Service normal policy". He went on to explain that "[c]onfirmed means that somebody went back and looked and made sure that in fact any backup tapes that had existed had been recycled".

(3) On March 26, 2014, Commissioner Koskinen was asked during a hearing before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, "Sir, are you or are you not going to provide this committee all of Lois Lerner's emails?". He answered, "Yes, we will do that."

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ARTICLE III

John Andrew Koskinen, throughout his tenure as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, has acted in a manner inconsistent with the trust and confidence placed in him as an Officer of the United States, as follows:

During his confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Finance, John Andrew Koskinen promised, "[W]e will be transparent about any problems we run into; and

the public and certainly this committee will know about those problems as soon as we do.”.

Commissioner Koskinen repeatedly violated that promise. As early as February 2014 and no later than April 2014, he was aware that a substantial portion of Lois Lerner's emails could not be produced to Congress. However, in a March 19, 2014, letter to Senator Wyden of the Senate Committee on Finance, Commissioner Koskinen said, “We are transmitting today additional information that we believe completes our production to your committee and the House Ways and Means [Committee]. . . . In light of these productions, I hope that the investigations can be concluded in the very near future.”. At the time he sent that letter, he knew that the document production was not complete.

Commissioner Koskinen did not notify Congress of any problem until June 13, 2014, when he included the information on the fifth page of the third enclosure of a letter to the Senate Committee on Finance.

Wherefore, John Andrew Koskinen, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

ARTICLE IV

John Andrew Koskinen has failed to act with competence and forthrightness in overseeing the investigation into Internal Revenue Service targeting of Americans because of their political affiliations as follows:

Commissioner Koskinen stated in a hearing on June 20, 2014, that the Internal Revenue Service had “gone to great lengths” to retrieve all of Lois Lerner's emails. Commissioner Koskinen's actions contradicted the assurances he gave to Congress.

The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration found over 1,000 of Lois Lerner's emails that the Internal Revenue Service had failed to produce. Those discoveries took only 15 days of investigation to uncover. The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration searched a number of available sources, including disaster backup tapes, Lois Lerner's Blackberry, the email server, backup tapes for the email server, and Lois Lerner's temporary replacement laptop. The Internal Revenue Service failed to examine any of those sources in its own investigation.

Wherefore, John Andrew Koskinen, by such conduct, warrants impeachment, trial, and removal from office.

□ 1700

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution presents a question of privilege.

MOTION TO TABLE

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I move to lay the resolution on the table.

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

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 180, nays 235, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 607]

YEAS—180

Adams	Bass	Bera
Aguilar	Beatty	Beyer
Ashford	Becerra	Bishop (GA)

Blumenauer	Grayson	O'Rourke
Blumencig	Green, Al	Pallone
Boyle, Brendan F.	Green, Gene	Pascarell
Brady (PA)	Grijalva	Payne
Brownley (CA)	Gutiérrez	Pelosi
Bustos	Hanabusa	Perlmutter
Butterfield	Hastings	Peters
Capps	Heck (WA)	Peterson
Capuano	Higgins	Pingree
Cárdenas	Himes	Pocan
Carney	Hinojosa	Polis
Carson (IN)	Honda	Price (NC)
Cartwright	Hoyer	Quigley
Castro (TX)	Huffman	Rangel
Chu, Judy	Israel	Rice (NY)
Ciциlline	Jefferson Lee	Roybal-Allard
Clark (MA)	Jeffries	Ruiz
Clarke (NY)	Johnson (GA)	Ruppersberger
Clay	Johnson, E. B.	Rush
Cleaver	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)
Clyburn	Keating	Sanchez, Linda T.
Cohen	Kelly (IL)	Sarbanes
Connolly	Kennedy	Schakowsky
Conyers	Kildee	Schiff
Cooper	Kilmer	Schrader
Costa	Kind	Scott (VA)
Courtney	Kuster	Scott, David
Crowley	Langevin	Serrano
Cuellar	Larson (CT)	Sewell (AL)
Cummings	Lawrence	Sherman
Davis (CA)	Levin	Sinema
Davis, Danny	Lewis	Sires
DeFazio	Lipinski	Slaughter
DeGette	Loebback	Smith (WA)
Delaney	Lofgren	Speier
DeLauro	Lowenthal	Swalwell (CA)
DeBene	Lowe	Takano
Dent	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Thompson (CA)
DeSaulnier	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Thompson (MS)
Deutch	Lynch	Titus
Dingell	Maloney,	Tonko
Doggett	Carolyn	Torres
Doyle, Michael F.	Maloney, Sean	Tsongas
Duckworth	Matsui	Vargas
Edwards	McCollum	Veasey
Ellison	McDermott	Vela
Engel	McGovern	Velázquez
Eshoo	McNerney	Viscosky
Esty	Meeeks	Walz
Evans	Meng	Wasserman
Farr	Moore	Schultz
Foster	Moulton	Waters, Maxine
Frankel (FL)	Murphy (FL)	Watson Coleman
Fudge	Nadler	Welch
Gabbard	Napolitano	Wilson (FL)
Gallego	Neal	Yarmuth
Garamendi	Nolan	Young (AK)
Graham	Norcross	

NAYS—235

Abraham	Coffman	Fortenberry
Aderholt	Cole	Fox
Allen	Collins (GA)	Franks (AZ)
Amash	Collins (NY)	Frelinghuysen
Amodei	Comer	Garrett
Babin	Comstock	Gibbs
Barletta	Conaway	Gibson
Barr	Cook	Gohmert
Barton	Costello (PA)	Goodlatte
Benishek	Cramer	Gosar
Bilirakis	Crawford	Gowdy
Bishop (MI)	Crenshaw	Granger
Bishop (UT)	Culberson	Graves (GA)
Black	Curbeo (FL)	Graves (LA)
Blackburn	Davidson	Graves (MO)
Blum	Davis, Rodney	Griffith
Bost	Denham	Grothman
Boustany	DeSantis	Guinta
Brady (TX)	DesJarlais	Guthrie
Brat	Diaz-Balart	Hanna
Bridenstine	Dold	Hardy
Brooks (AL)	Donovan	Harper
Brooks (IN)	Duffy	Harris
Buchanan	Duncan (SC)	Hartzler
Buck	Duncan (TN)	Hensarling
Bucshon	Ellmers (NC)	Herrera Beutler
Burgess	Emmer (MN)	Hice, Jody B.
Byrne	Farenthold	Hill
Calvert	Fincher	Holding
Carter (GA)	Fitzpatrick	Hudson
Carter (TX)	Fleischmann	Huelskamp
Chabot	Fleming	Huizenga (MI)
Chaffetz	Flores	Hultgren

Hunter	Mica	Scalise
Hurd (TX)	Miller (FL)	Schweikert
Hurt (VA)	Moolenaar	Scott, Austin
Jenkins (KS)	Mooney (WV)	Sensenbrenner
Jenkins (WV)	Mullin	Sessions
Johnson (OH)	Mulvaney	Shimkus
Johnson, Sam	Murphy (PA)	Shuster
Jones	Neugebauer	Simpson
Jordan	Newhouse	Smith (MO)
Joyce	Noem	Smith (NE)
Katko	Nugent	Smith (NJ)
Kelly (MS)	Nunes	Smith (TX)
Kelly (PA)	Olson	Stefanik
King (IA)	Palazzo	Stewart
King (NY)	Palmer	Stivers
Kinzinger (IL)	Paulsen	Stutzman
Kline	Pearce	Thompson (PA)
Knight	Perry	Thornberry
Labrador	Pitts	Tiberi
LaHood	Poliquin	Tipton
LaMalfa	Pompeo	Trott
Lamborn	Posey	Turner
Lance	Price, Tom	Upton
Latta	Ratcliffe	Valadao
LoBiondo	Reed	Wagner
Long	Reichert	Walberg
Loudermilk	Renacci	Walden
Love	Ribble	Walker
Lucas	Rice (SC)	Walorski
Luetkemeyer	Rigell	Walters, Mimi
Lummis	Roby	Weber (TX)
MacArthur	Roe (TN)	Webster (FL)
Marchant	Rogers (AL)	Wenstrup
Marino	Rogers (KY)	Westerman
Massie	Rohrabacher	Williams
McCarthy	Rokita	Wilson (SC)
McCaul	Rooney (FL)	Wittman
McClintock	Ros-Lehtinen	Womack
McHenry	Roskam	Woodall
McKinley	Ross	Yoder
McMorris	Rothfus	Yoho
Rodgers	Rouzer	Young (IA)
McSally	Royce	Young (IN)
Meadows	Russell	Zeldin
Meehan	Salmon	Zinke
Messer	Sanford	

NOT VOTING—18

Brown (FL)	Jolly	Pittenger
Castor (FL)	Kirkpatrick	Poe (TX)
Clawson (FL)	Larsen (WA)	Richmond
Forbes	Lee	Sanchez, Loretta
Heck (NV)	Lieu, Ted	Van Hollen
Issa	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1719

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

So the motion to table was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I was too far away to return for the vote in time. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 607.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise for a parliamentary inquiry based upon the resolution before us and the most somber responsibility of impeachment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Texas will state her parliamentary inquiry.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the inquiry is the underlying premise as to whether or not an impeachment should go forward when there are questions that are not documented of malfeasance or malice or the interpretation of

the Madison Papers or the impeachment articles under the Constitution. Obviously, we are now preparing to refer.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is whether or not we have made the appropriate documentation in the resolutions of the Articles of Impeachment that we should even refer this at all?

I raise the question on a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has ruled that this resolution raises a question of the privileges of the House, and it is up to the House to dispose of that question.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Let me say that the substance of the Articles of Impeachment do not meet the standards that are evidenced in the articles in the Constitution or interpretive works, such as the Madison Papers. I believe it is without substance, and I would hope that we would not refer this at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not stating a parliamentary inquiry.

MOTION TO REFER

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Goodlatte moves that the resolution be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, Members have different opinions about what to do to address the allegations of misconduct against IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. Some would impeach him; others would censure him. Still others would impose no penalty.

To address these differences of opinion and to ensure this body administers due process in these deliberations, I recommend that the House refer this matter to the House Judiciary Committee.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the motion to refer.

The previous question was ordered.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, is this impeachment resolution necessary or is it, in fact, true that Mr. Koskinen's term extends well into the next President's term all the way until November? Is that true?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot advise on that matter.

The question is on the motion to refer.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 342, noes 72, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 608]

AYES—342

Abraham	DeLauro	Jenkins (KS)
Adams	DeBene	Jenkins (WV)
Aguilar	Denham	Johnson (GA)
Amodei	Dent	Johnson (OH)
Ashford	DeSaulnier	Johnson, E. B.
Barletta	Diaz-Balart	Jones
Barr	Dingell	Joyce
Bass	Doggett	Kaptur
Beatty	Dold	Katko
Becerra	Donovan	Keating
Benishek	Doyle, Michael	Kelly (IL)
Bera	F.	Kelly (PA)
Beyer	Duckworth	Kennedy
Bishop (GA)	Duffy	Kildee
Bishop (MI)	Duncan (TN)	Kilmer
Bishop (UT)	Edwards	Kind
Black	Ellison	King (NY)
Blumenauer	Ellmers (NC)	Kinzinger (IL)
Bonamici	Emmer (MN)	Kline
Bost	Engel	Knight
Boustany	Eshoo	Kuster
Boyle, Brendan	Esty	LaHood
F.	Evans	Lance
Brady (PA)	Farenthold	Langevin
Brady (TX)	Farr	Larson (CT)
Brooks (IN)	Fincher	Latta
Brownley (CA)	Fitzpatrick	Lawrence
Buchanan	Fleischmann	Levin
Bushon	Flores	Lewis
Burgess	Fortenberry	Lieu, Ted
Bustos	Foster	Lipinski
Butterfield	Fox	LoBiondo
Calvert	Frankel (FL)	Loeback
Capps	Franks (AZ)	Loftgren
Capuano	Frelinghuysen	Loudermilk
Cárdenas	Fudge	Love
Carney	Gabbard	Lowenthal
Carson (IN)	Galleo	Lowe
Carter (GA)	Garamendi	Lucas
Carter (TX)	Gibbs	Luetkemeyer
Cartwright	Gibson	Lujan Grisham
Castro (TX)	Goodlatte	(NM)
Chabot	Gowdy	Luján, Ben Ray
Chu, Judy	Graham	(NM)
Ciilline	Granger	Lynch
Clark (MA)	Graves (GA)	MacArthur
Clarke (NY)	Graves (MO)	Maloney
Clay	Grayson	Carolyn
Cleaver	Green, Al	Maloney, Sean
Clyburn	Green, Gene	Marino
Coffman	Grijalva	Matsui
Cohen	Grothman	McCarthy
Cole	Guinta	McCaul
Collins (GA)	Guthrie	McClintock
Collins (NY)	Gutiérrez	McCollum
Comer	Hanabusa	McGovern
Comstock	Hanna	McHenry
Conaway	Hardy	McKinley
Connolly	Harper	McMorris
Conyers	Hastings	Rodgers
Cook	Heck (WA)	McNerney
Cooper	Hensarling	McSally
Costa	Higgins	Meehan
Costello (PA)	Hill	Meeks
Courtney	Himes	Meng
Cramer	Hinojosa	Mica
Crawford	Holding	Miller (FL)
Crenshaw	Honda	Moolenaar
Crowley	Hoyer	Moore
Cuellar	Hudson	Moulton
Culberson	Huffman	Mullin
Cummings	Huizenga (MI)	Murphy (FL)
Curbelo (FL)	Hultgren	Murphy (PA)
Davis (CA)	Hurd (TX)	Nadler
Davis, Danny	Hurt (VA)	Napolitano
Davis, Rodney	Israel	Neal
DeFazio	Issa	Neugebauer
DeGette	Jackson Lee	Newhouse
Delaney	Jeffries	Nolan

Norcross	Roybal-Allard	Thompson (MS)
Nugent	Royce	Thompson (PA)
Nunes	Ruiz	Thornberry
O'Rourke	Ruppersberger	Tiberi
Olson	Ryan (OH)	Tipton
Palazzo	Sánchez, Linda	Titus
Pallone	T.	Tonko
Pascrell	Sarbanes	Torres
Paulsen	Scalise	Trott
Payne	Schakowsky	Tsongas
Pelosi	Schiff	Turner
Perlmutter	Schrader	Upton
Peters	Scott (VA)	Valadao
Peterson	Scott, Austin	Vargas
Pingree	Scott, David	Veasey
Pocan	Sensenbrenner	Vela
Poliquin	Serrano	Velázquez
Polis	Sessions	Visclosky
Pompeo	Sewell (AL)	Walden
Price (NC)	Sherman	Walorski
Price, Tom	Shimkus	Walters, Mimi
Quigley	Shuster	Walz
Rangel	Simpson	Wasserman
Ratcliffe	Sinema	Schultz
Reed	Sires	Waters, Maxine
Reichert	Slaughter	Watson Coleman
Renacci	Smith (MO)	Wenstrup
Rice (NY)	Smith (NE)	Westerman
Rice (SC)	Smith (NJ)	Wilson (FL)
Richmond	Smith (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Roe (TN)	Smith (WA)	Womack
Rogers (AL)	Speier	Woodall
Rogers (KY)	Stefanik	Yarmuth
Rokita	Stewart	Yoder
Ros-Lehtinen	Stivers	Young (AK)
Roskam	Swalwell (CA)	Young (IA)
Ross	Takano	Young (IN)
Rothfus	Thompson (CA)	

NOES—72

Aderholt	Harris	Perry
Allen	Hartzler	Pitts
Amash	Herrera Beutler	Posey
Babin	Hice, Jody B.	Ribble
Barton	Huelskamp	Rigell
Bilirakis	Hunter	Roby
Blackburn	Johnson, Sam	Rohrabacher
Blum	Jordan	Rooney (FL)
Brat	Kelly (MS)	Rouzer
Bridenstine	King (IA)	Russell
Brooks (AL)	Labrador	Salmon
Buck	LaMalfa	Sanford
Byrne	Lamborn	Schweikert
Chaffetz	Long	Stutzman
Davidson	Lummis	Wagner
DeSantis	Marchant	Walberg
DesJarlais	Massie	Walker
Duncan (SC)	Meadows	Weber (TX)
Fleming	Messer	Webster (FL)
Garrett	Mooney (WV)	Williams
Gohmert	Mulvaney	Wittman
Gosar	Noem	Yoho
Graves (LA)	Palmer	Zeldin
Griffith	Pearce	Zinke

NOT VOTING—19

Brown (FL)	Kirkpatrick	Rush
Castor (FL)	Larsen (WA)	Sanchez, Loretta
Clawson (FL)	Lee	Van Hollen
Deutch	McDermott	Welch
Forbes	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland
Heck (NV)	Pittenger	
Joly	Poe (TX)	

□ 1740

Messrs. BILIRAKIS and PALMER changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the motion to refer was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR THE PRINTING OF A REVISED EDITION OF THE RULES AND MANUAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KATKO). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 945

Resolved, That a revised edition of the Rules and Manual of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress be printed and bound for the use of the House of Representatives, of which nine hundred eighty copies shall be bound in leather with thumb index and delivered as may be directed by the Parliamentarian of the House.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 34

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 174) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 34, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Beginning on page 1, line 7, strike "following correction:" and all that follows and insert the following:

"following corrections:

"(1) Amend the long title so as to read: 'An Act to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes.'"

"(2) Amend the section heading for section 1001 so as to read: 'BEAU BIDEN CANCER MOONSHOT AND NIH INNOVATION PROJECTS'."

"(3) Amend the table of contents in section 1 so that the item relating to section 1001 reads as follows:

"'1001. Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot and NIH innovation projects.'"

Mr. UPTON (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BIG TEN CHAMPION PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Big Ten football champions, the Penn State Nittany Lions.

Following a series of impressive victories that stunned the Nation, Penn State, my alma mater, finished the regular season ranked fifth in the Nation.

After falling behind to Wisconsin 28-14 at halftime, Penn State's chances to take home the Big Ten trophy looked bleak; but under the leadership of Big Ten Coach of the Year James Franklin, the Nittany Lions rallied to score 24 points in the second half to win the Big Ten championship. Throughout the game, they showed grit, determination, and sportsmanship, making me proud to be a fellow Penn Stater.

Congratulations to the Nittany Lions on an impressive season, and I wish you the best of luck in the Rose Bowl.

We are.

□ 1745

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT AGAINST FANNIE MAE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in support of the housing discrimination lawsuit filed against the Federal National Mortgage Association yesterday, Monday, by the National Fair Housing Alliance and 20 local fair housing organizations across our Nation. The lawsuit properly alleges Fannie Mae purposely failed to maintain its foreclosed properties in African American and Latino neighborhoods to the same condition as it maintains properties in Caucasian neighborhoods. Over 20 cities were involved in this filing, and investigations revealed severe maintenance issues in communities of color, in contrast to Freddie Mac, which maintains its properties at a much higher standard in all neighborhoods.

With a net income of over \$45 billion over the last 2 years, Fannie Mae remains one of the largest issuers of single-family, mortgage-related securities. This year, Fannie Mae reported holding over 40 million foreclosed properties, many of which they do not maintain.

So why hasn't Fannie Mae maintained its foreclosed properties in African American and Latino communities? They certainly have enough profits to do so. May the judges rule in favor of Fannie Mae meeting its public responsibilities to the communities of this country as soon as possible.

HONORING ERIC ELLSWORTH

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Utah Highway Patrol trooper and Brigham City resident Eric Ellsworth, who was killed on November 18 in the line of duty. Eric was selflessly working to ensure the safety of others on a rural road in Box Elder County when he was tragically struck by a car and died several days later of the wounds that he sustained.

In the days since his death, Eric's family, friends, and fellow troopers have honored his memory, recalling his love for his family, his passion for life, his kindness, and his faith.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we honor Eric for the courage that he demonstrated on a daily basis to protect the citizens of Utah. We are going to remember his heroic sacrifice and those of others like him who dedicate themselves to the safety of others, regardless of personal danger.

My prayers go out to Eric's wife, his sons, and his extended family during this very difficult time.

HONORING CHOCO GONZALEZ MEZA

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Choco Gonzalez Meza, a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, who changed the face of Texas politics. Her recent passing is a tremendous loss not only for her family, but for so many throughout Texas and the Nation whose lives she touched.

Born in Coahuila, Mexico, Choco and her family immigrated to the United States when she was just 3 years old. She graduated from St. Mary's University in San Antonio and went on to hold a number of leadership positions throughout her career. Whether at nonprofits like the YWCA, through public service as deputy assistant secretary at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or in politics as Bexar County Democratic chair, Choco tirelessly fought for social justice and strove to create opportunity for marginalized groups.

Choco was truly a historic figure in Texas politics and a compassionate, selfless soul. We mourn her passing and are grateful for all she gave to our

community in San Antonio and to our Nation's democracy.

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS PROGRAM

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, this is Nesbly Nayeli Saenz. She lives in my community, where she is raising a 14-, an 11-, and a 6-year-old U.S. citizen family. She is actively involved in the success of our community. She works two jobs, and she recently came out with over 320 other El Pasoans to talk about the importance of ensuring that the DREAMers, 750,000 of our fellow Americans who were brought here to this country at a young age, are able to stay here. The uncertainty created by our President-elect's promise to end the DACA program is creating anxiety and fear for these DREAMers and may ultimately lead to their deportation, which will hurt not just those DREAMers and their families, it will hurt our country.

I ask the President-elect and I ask this Congress to do our jobs to provide that certainty to make sure that our laws reflect our values and that we keep wonderful Americans like Nesbly in our communities, in our country. It is going to be good for them, and it is going to be good for our country.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, tonight I will continue on a quest that we have been challenged with for the last 7 years, and that is how to grow the American economy.

Coming out of the Great Recession, where we lost millions of jobs and some 2 million manufacturing jobs that were in addition to the previous 6 million that had been lost in the years ahead of the Great Recession, we searched for how to rebuild the American economy and the great manufacturing base that once was the foundation for economic growth and the foundation for the middle class. This quest takes us yet again to, really, something that most Americans do not consider as manufacturing.

Let me start with a very quick review of the project that we have been working on, which we call the Make It In America project, so that Americans can make it. Wouldn't we want all of our families to be able to make it in America, to be able to buy that house, to educate our kids, to take the vacation?

So the Make It In America project includes trade, about which there has

been much discussion in these recent years, in the debates in the election process; tax policy, which we will be dealing with shortly, and I may touch on that just lightly today; energy policy; labor; education; research; and infrastructure.

These are some of the critical elements that we focus on when we talk about making it in America so that Americans can make it in America.

Today I want to talk about a couple of pieces of this that we normally don't think about when we talk about manufacturing. So we will just put this up here and be reminded about American manufacturing.

Think of the American farmer. Is that manufacturing? Well, I don't know. You take sun, water, earth, seeds, effort, entrepreneurialism, and you make something called food. We are going to take it just a step beyond that, because part of the manufacturing in America really is the preparation of food for Americans; in other words, the producing of the food taken out of the field and prepared for sale to American families—some of it in the grocery stores, some of it now in farmer's markets. But the manufacturing of food is a huge industry.

It is also an industry that has enormous growth potential. We know that, for example, just in the Central Valley of California, which I represent—the Sacramento Valley and the San Joaquin Valley—there are 1,659 food and beverage manufacturing establishments that are part of that food chain: taking rice from the fields in my district to the brewery and producing something that many Americans want on a Sunday afternoon at the tailgate party before the football game, beer, or maybe it is from the vineyards to the winery, and then think about all of the other pieces that go into that. There is the package in which the six-pack is packed or the crate into which the bottles of wine are sent off to the local retail store.

All of those pieces are also expanded by the machinery that is in the winery or in the brewery or in the tomato factory. All of these are jobs. And in many cases, these are American manufacturing jobs way, way back in the chain that have produced the pump or the electric motor or the pipe or the vat into which all of these products would be manufactured. So when we talk about manufacturing in the food industry, which is usually ignored when we talk about manufacturing in America, we need to realize that it is a huge part of the American economy and the American manufacturing scene.

I was recently at one of the largest tomato packing plants in California, the CPC plant in Woodland, California, that produces every kind of tomato paste you might want, all of the tomato sauce, all of the salsa. You name it, it is manufactured there in a very

complex environment in which, seasonally, there are 1,200 workers and, annually, 125 that are left to maintain, to improve the equipment, and to take care of any problems that occurred in that manufacturing process. There are also hundreds of employed truckers who then take those cases of tomato paste, put them on the truck, and ship them all the way across America, or put them on a train or put them in a container to be taken to the Port of Oakland and then shipped overseas.

So when you consider the agricultural industry, think beyond the farmer. Think to what one of the bosses at a big winery in California told me as I was touring there a couple of years ago. When I was talking about manufacturing, he said: Hey, come. Let's take a look out the back of my office.

I said: Fine. Let's go.

He said: Do you see that?

I said: Yes. Those are huge tanks and pumps and all the rest.

He said: No. That is a manufacturing facility, and what we make is the best wine in the entire world.

Indeed, it was very, very good wine.

So when we talk about bringing manufacturing jobs back to America—and there has been much discussion, as Mr. Trump has gone off to a Carrier plant in Indiana—we ought to also think about food manufacturing, and that is something that is not going to disappear from the American scene because, hey, it is grown here in America, and it needs to be processed here in America.

I want to take this so that we understand the full extent of the potential here. And if we have these elements in place, we will be able to create a very significant number of jobs.

Trade policy, I am not going to get into that anymore, but this is a big piece of every trade deal: Will American agriculture, the farmers and the processors of those products, be able to trade into the international market? By and large, American agriculture has been precluded, through various trade deals of the past, from being able to reach its full potential in international trade.

I want to talk specifically about labor for a moment, and these are the statistics from the California Department of Labor Marketing and Information Division.

Between 2012 and 2022—so 4 of those years have already gone by—there will be, in California, 51,900 total openings in the food manufacturing sector. Some of those are replacements; 27,000 of those would be to replace people who are retiring and 24,000 will be new openings as the manufacturing of food expands. They are in every category you can imagine: packing and filling machine operators, cleaners of the vehicles and the equipment, inspectors, industrial machine mechanics, packers and packagers, drivers and sale workers, general operations, and managers.

That is a huge number. There are almost 52,000 new jobs available just in the food processing sector of the California economy.

Now, we make policy around here in every one of these areas, and the policies can enhance the food industry in the United States and create even more jobs in the United States. I want to give one example, and this is a piece of legislation that we have introduced here in Congress. We call it the American Food for American Schools Act—American food for American schools. It is H.R. 6299.

Now, for years, we have had the School Lunch Act, providing nutritional food for kids at school, and the law has been pretty clear. It is Federal tax dollars, your tax dollars, mine. The American taxpayers' money is supposed to be used to buy American-produced food. So maybe it is a peach or an apple, or maybe it is orange juice or perhaps one of those little packages of mixed fruits. Whatever it happens to be, your tax dollars are supposed to be spent on American-produced food.

However, that is not necessarily the case, because there is a loophole as wide as a container ship, and schools across the Nation have been able to use that loophole to avoid buying American food, even though they are using American taxpayer dollars.

□ 1800

So what we intend to do here is to tighten up that loophole and make it clear that if a school district intends to buy food produced in China or in Egypt or anywhere else around the world that they will have to tell the public that they are not buying American food, they are buying food produced somewhere else around the world, and using the tax dollars from the parents to buy foreign food rather than supporting the American farmer.

I want to give you a couple of examples of the egregious nature of this waiver. Sacramento, California, is at the heart of the canned peach industry. Nearly all the canned peaches are grown within 50 miles of Sacramento. The Sacramento City Unified School District decided that, to save a few cents per can, they would reach out and buy Chinese peaches. I don't mean a peach that is Chinese but, rather, peaches that are grown in China, canned in China under food security and safety regulations that are anybody's guess as to what they are, and serve that in California, in Sacramento.

It turns out that that created a bit of a stir and a bit of a problem for the school district, and they backed off, but that big loophole remains, and so the American Food for American Schools Act would close that loophole, providing opportunities for employment here in the United States and, in the case of Sacramento, in the Sac-

ramento region. So we tightened it up. We say if a school district wants to bypass the Federal law and use American taxpayer money to buy strawberries from Egypt—which, by the way, happened to have been contaminated and were actually purchased by a school district across this nation, contaminated with hepatitis A.

Recalls occurred. School districts used those strawberries. In one case in California, they made smoothies of it. Fortunately, to this date, we know of no illnesses that have been caused. But, clearly, if they had bought American, this would not have been a problem. So there would be notification, and there would be a very tight loophole through which the school districts would have to pass to avoid this issue of using American taxpayer dollars to buy American food.

So the American Food for American Schools Act will have to be taken up next year. I believe it already is a bipartisan bill, and I would expect that next year it will have even more support as we make it clear that if we want to make it in America then we have to use our laws to support the American manufacturing sector. And tonight, if it is not yet clear, I will say it again. The farmer manufactures food—sunlight, water, soil, nutrients, entrepreneurial activity, hard work and labor to make the food—and then that food moves through the processing chain, creating additional manufacturing jobs. By the way, these are not low-paying jobs. The average is \$20 an hour. So we are talking about wages that are at the bottom end of the middle class structure.

What we are looking at here are many different ways to achieve a rebirth, a regeneration of the American manufacturing sector, and today we bring something that I think most people didn't expect when we talk about making it in America. They didn't expect us to be saying that if we are going to make it in America, if Americans are going to be able to make it, then we ought to look to the manufacturing sector, broadly defined, whether it is agriculture or, as we talked about last week in the manufacturing of high-speed rail, the manufacturing of trains and vehicles of all kinds.

So when your tax dollars are being spent, I would ask all of my colleagues and all of the public: Hey, are my tax dollars being spent on American-made goods and services, or are you buying foreign? That is a question for us to answer here and to write laws that encourage that your tax dollars will be spent on American-made goods and services. So we can make it in America. We can manufacture in America, and America can prosper as a result of the laws and the policies we put in place here.

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

I AM PROUD OF MY FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California for his service, for his dedication to making it in America and continuing to support those in agriculture, those who are working so hard to feed this Nation, everything they bring. I want to thank the gentleman.

I rise today as a humble Member of this body, representing the people of Florida's 18th Congressional District since 2013. Four years ago, I came to Congress to work as an independent thinker toward bipartisan solutions, making sure that we are moving our country forward but also moving our Nation forward.

To that end, I started the Congressional United Solutions Caucus with likeminded Members from both sides of the aisle. Working together, we introduced major bipartisan legislation that would cut nearly \$500 billion in government spending over 10 years by rooting out waste, inefficiencies, and finding some wasteful spending. I am proud that several of the commonsense measures outlined in the SAVE Act were actually passed as part of the House annual appropriations process, showing that both parties can actually work together to get our fiscal house in order.

Furthermore, I have been proud of the bipartisan work of our State's delegation to put Florida first. Together, we passed major legislation that I introduced with Congressman DENNIS ROSS from Florida to improve the flood insurance market, giving Florida families more options for flood insurance coverage by bringing down the cost of those policies.

As the founder and the co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Citrus Caucus, I worked with my colleagues TOM ROONEY and VERN BUCHANAN to secure almost \$150 million for citrus greening research that is vital to our State's iconic orange industry. We also passed legislation to expand tax incentives for replanting efforts to help the local farmers impacted by greening.

Just last week, the House passed the WINGMAN Act that I introduced with Congressman TED YOHO from Florida to remove barriers that prevent congressional staff, who already are working closely with the VA and local veterans on their claims, from being able to update constituents in a more timely manner. This change would help alleviate the burden on VA staff, better serve the veterans by expediting the claims process, and help tackle the backlog of cases.

We also brought Members together, not just from Florida but across the

Nation, to bring attention to the crisis in our local waterways and highlight the urgent need for Everglades restoration efforts to help provide long-term relief to our communities. I will never forget how touched and humbled I was to see more than 100 Floridians make their trip to Washington. Some of those folks came up 14 hours by bus to have their voices heard at a historic congressional briefing on our waterways that I helped host in October of 2013.

In the midst of a government shutdown, 22 Members of Congress, including Democrats and Republicans, Senator BILL NELSON, Leader NANCY PELOSI, and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman BILL SHUSTER came together with experts, community leaders, and residents to raise awareness for advocates of the solutions that are needed.

Every day, I am given extraordinary opportunities to help the people of Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast. Every day, I am afforded an opportunity to make a difference in a person's life. I am proud that, over the past 4 years, we have assisted thousands of constituents, helping to return over \$4 million in earned benefits for the district. Those are lifechanging results that partisan bickering cannot take away.

Too often, the negative attacks and partisanship overshadow the issues that actually matter to American families. We desperately need a new era of politics with leaders who put their country before their party, who solve problems instead of pointing fingers, and who are committed to service.

While the outcome of this past election was not what I had hoped for for our State or for our Nation, there is still a window of opportunity for new leaders to make changes in America that our country is clearly yearning for. Much of the system is broken, from the money in politics to the corporate influences and the gerrymandering. There is too much outside impact influencing our election process.

I also agree that many laws and regulations could use adjustments to work better for the American people and for our country. But let us remember that the outcome of this past election was not a mandate for many of the policy actions that are being discussed right now. Instead, we saw a still-divided nation making it more important than ever that we have solutions that work for all Americans, not some Americans.

That is why I hope to see a new focus on tackling climate change, tax reform, investing in our infrastructure, rebuilding the middle class, improving educational opportunities, and protecting our country from the threats of cyber attacks and terrorism, all things I championed during my time in this Chamber.

But above all, I hope that we do not move our country backwards. That re-

quires leaders who can unite us, not those using fear and lies to further divide this country. I will always be the first to say that we must work together—not as Democrats, not as Republicans, but as Americans. However, we cannot simply gloss over the hateful and divisive rhetoric that plagued our country this past year. The United States is better than this, and the world is watching.

As an eternal optimist, I am hopeful that our leaders will work together to begin to heal these wounds and move our country forward together, showing that we are stronger than those who wish to divide us. That is what I will keep pushing for and hope that our leaders in Washington will join me in fighting for what is right for the American people.

My commitment to our community, to the great State of Florida, and to our Nation will always continue. Thank you to my constituents, to my colleagues, and to my team for an honor of a lifetime, serving the Treasure Coast and Palm Beach here in the United States Congress.

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

CLOSING OUT THE 114TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Florida for his service here in this body and wish him well as he opens the next chapter of his life, and I certainly hope that we will stay in touch.

Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor to really thank the people of the 10th District of Illinois for giving me an opportunity, a tremendous honor to become their voice here in Washington, D.C., to serve them here in the United States House of Representatives.

When I first ran for Congress, it was because I, as a small-business owner, felt the government was making it harder and harder for me to put the key in the door of my small business, harder for me to hire an individual, and I think they should be making it easier for me to do those things, easier for me to put the key in the door, easier for me to hire that next individual.

Today, Mr. Speaker, too many politicians and bureaucrats in Washington just don't understand what it takes to meet a budget and a payroll. We see a disconnect in so many people who are risking everything, who feel that the folks here in Washington, D.C., just don't understand. They feel that Washington has grown far too distant, become out of touch, and unresponsive to the real-world difficulties that families

are facing each and every day. Too many people feel that government officials have forgotten who they actually work for, something that myself and my team never forgot.

□ 1815

Throughout my time in office, my team and I have gone to work each and every day to fix this disconnect. In just the past 2 years, we have held more than 1,000 events that we held back in the district with community leaders and constituents to listen, learn, act, and ultimately make sure that we were accessible so that those individuals felt that they had their voice in Washington, D.C.; that we did understand what they were encountering each and every day, whether it was up in Zion or north Chicago or down in Des Plaines or in Highland Park and Lake Forest.

We responded to over 50,000 constituents' letters. We helped over 1,250 families break through the red tape of government bureaucracy in order to help them with whatever it was that was plaguing them at the time. That really was because of the great constituent service that our team displayed day in and day out. We held five nonpartisan job fairs in order to connect 10th District jobseekers with good, high-paying careers that were right here in the district.

Mr. Speaker, I represent the fourth largest manufacturing district in the country, and manufacturer after manufacturer would let me know: I have good, high-paying jobs available, I just can't find people qualified to take those jobs.

Holding these job fairs was a critical thing in order to make sure people were able to make payments on their mortgage, to be able to make sure that there was food on the table. These actions made a real difference in people's lives for themselves and for their families.

Mr. Speaker, I have always said that there is so much more that unites us than divides us. Yet, when we look at Washington, too many people are talking about the gridlock. That is the stuff that sells newspapers. That is the thing that is on the nightly news.

Yet, people have to recognize here in this body, the people's House, and, frankly, across the Capitol in the Senate, that we are not Republicans or Democrats first, but we are Americans, first and foremost, and that we are all bound by the shared vision of wanting our communities and our Nation to succeed, to be safe, healthy, and strong.

That is why I have always sought to work across the aisle to tackle the most challenging issues facing our country. The results have proved that, when we work together, we truly can make an enormous impact on the lives of the American people, we can make their lives just a little bit easier.

When we think about what we have been able to do over the course of the last few years, I still remember time and again we would go to townhall meetings and we would go to events and talk to people, and they would ask: Is Washington working?

The answer was unequivocally: No, it is not working.

Yet, when we reminded them about some of the things that we were able to do over the course of the last 2 years when we worked together, most people were shocked.

We passed historic, bipartisan reforms to ensure that seniors will continue to have access to their doctors through Medicare. This fix ends a nearly two-decade-long stretch of short-term patches year after year.

Doctors would be concerned that, at the end of the year, they were going to get a 25 or 30 percent cut in their pay just for taking care of our seniors. Therefore, a lot of the doctors ended up saying: I am not going to take care of seniors.

Well, we came together in a bipartisan way and actually fixed that problem. We passed the first long-term surface transportation bill and infrastructure funding bill in more than a decade. Our efforts brought money flowing into Illinois to fix our roads and rails, reduce congestion, and make the daily commute safer not just for the 10th District, but for communities all across our country.

We passed a historic education reform bill, which will improve the classroom experience for students in our community. The Every Student Succeeds Act reduced the Federal control and returned more power to parents so that they could actually make more decisions about their children's education, to the teachers, and to the local school districts, which is where the power should be.

I have to say that I am particularly proud of our Educational Advisory Board, which was chaired by Laz Lopez and so many others that contributed to that that were really instrumental in helping provide and in shaping some policy with regard to education in our office.

I am particularly proud of one of the provisions that actually made it into the reform bill, which I authored, which will bring literally millions of dollars into one of the neediest school districts in our country, the North Chicago Community Unit School District 187. Our effort actually put students ahead of the interests of others and we put partisan politics aside to make a real difference in their lives.

As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, it was an honor to be part of an effort to develop and pass important legislation to reduce the tax burden on families across our country. Our work allows small businesses and families to have more certainty when

it comes to planning, how they are able to expense equipment and do certain things that they want to be able to do when it comes time to planning, budgeting, and the like.

We ensure that critical antipoverty programs continue to receive the resources that they need to be successful while also injecting a number of new and innovative ideas into the conversation that will better help people reach their fullest potential.

I want to make special mention of the great work being done by YouthBuild, which is helping young men and women in Lake County. YouthBuild is a nationwide organization, but their Lake County chapter is one of the best. I recognize that I may be biased, but they are helping individuals that might have taken a wrong turn throughout an early part of their life, giving them real-world skills to be able to get on their feet and be able to move forward. I will forever be in their debt for doing really incredible work to provide hope for an enormous number of individuals.

Over the last 2 years, we secured robust funding for programs like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in order to protect what I believe is one of our greatest natural resources in the Great Lakes. Our bipartisan efforts bring us one step closer to ensuring that we keep this incredible asset, incredible resource clean for future generations.

We worked across the aisle to pass bills to prevent sex trafficking as well as ensure survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence have the resources that they need.

Most recently, we worked together to pass landmark legislation known as 21st Century Cures Act. In that bill was a bill that was certainly near and dear to many, and certainly to Dr. TIM MURPHY, in the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act.

So many are being impacted around the country, and this is something that needs our attention. This soon-to-be law also increases funding for the National Institutes of Health, which will speed up our efforts to find cures to many of the world's deadliest diseases while also delivering long-overdue reforms to address the gaps in our Nation's mental health system.

When we think about the National Institutes of Health, Mr. Speaker, we actually passed over the last 2 years the largest increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health.

I do believe that, if we want to try to reduce the costs of health care, one of the things that we are going to have to do is come up with cures for things like Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease and diabetes. We spend \$330 billion every year treating diabetes. If we came up with a cure, I am confident that we could put those resources to use in so many other areas.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few examples of what can be accomplished when we set aside our partisan differences and decide to work together for the people that we represent.

Of course, another area we notably did on this is the issue of prescription drug and heroin abuse. There is one family in particular that inspired our team's efforts, which deserves, I believe, special mention.

In the suburbs of Chicago, Mr. Speaker, someone dies from a heroin overdose every 3 days. In Cook County, it is every day. They leave behind a family in grief.

I first met Chelsea Laliberte nearly 5 years ago. She grew up in Buffalo Grove, just outside of Chicago, with her brother Alex. Alex graduated from Stevenson High School. He played sports. He got good grades. He had a tremendous number of friends. Then, during his sophomore year in college, he started getting sick.

When Alex got sick, he would go to the hospital and get better and get back on his feet, at least for a little while; but a few months later, this would repeat. He would get sick and be admitted once again. It was a vicious cycle.

Honestly, his family didn't know what was going on. What we did finally find out is that Alex was addicted to prescription drugs and he was suffering from withdrawal, which brought him to the hospital. Then, in 2008, just a few days after final exams, Alex Laliberte overdosed and died. He was 20 years old.

As a father, I can't imagine the pain of losing one of my children to a drug overdose. But sadly, too many families have experienced this loss. Heroin abuse and prescription drug abuse is an epidemic that is impacting our entire country.

I worked with Chelsea and the Laliberte family to introduce a bill called Lali's Law, named in memory of Alex, that would increase access to an overdose antidote called naloxone.

Naloxone has already saved more than 150 lives in Lake County, Illinois, alone in just the last 2 years. This was really done by the initiative of Mike Nerheim and the police and so many people coming together. The police actually asked if they could carry naloxone because they were tired of showing up on the scene and seeing someone right before them die from an overdose.

When they agreed and gave first responders in squad cars the ability to administer naloxone, life after life was saved. So I do want to recognize Mike Nerheim and all those at the Lake County Opioid Initiative for the great work that they are doing, the lives that they are saving. This is something that, frankly, we are just starting to address and there is a lot more work, obviously, that needs to be done.

The World Health Organization actually says that with increasing access to naloxone, we have an opportunity to save over 20,000 lives this year. Working together, we passed our bill through the House and with overwhelmingly bipartisan support secured its inclusion in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which the President signed into law in July.

It is my sincere hope that, because of our efforts, Alex's lasting legacy will include saving countless lives, sparing families this unimaginable grief, and giving people all across our country a second chance at recovery.

While I am tremendously proud of the achievements that we have accomplished together, there is still, of course, so much more that needs to be done. The costs of taking care of our families, educating our children, providing health care, and saving for retirement have all become more burdensome in the recent years.

Misguided economic policies hold back our small businesses and entrepreneurs and too many families are being trapped in generational poverty without the opportunities for meaningful work or for a quality education.

As a father of three young children and the son of a schoolteacher, one of the most important issues that I have tackled during my time in Congress has been ensuring that future generations are equipped with the skills that they need to succeed. A quality education is the building blocks for literally everything that we want to achieve, from curing cancer and Alzheimer's to helping hardworking individuals secure a good, high-paying job.

Among the work that I am most proud of in this Congress are three important bills that we put forward.

First, we wrote the HELP for Students and Parents Act to make college more affordable, more accessible for literally everyone. Today, across the United States, there are \$1.3 trillion in student loan debt between 40 million Americans. Sadly, there are students in our community as young as elementary school who now believe that, because their families don't have the means to pay, they are never going to be able to achieve the dream of going to college, regardless of how hard they work. That is simply unacceptable and must change.

The HELP for Students and Parents Act is one measure that can improve by helping make employer contributions towards employee student loan repayment and the employer contributions towards 529 college savings accounts for a worker's child—the norm in American society.

Building on these ideas that are commonplace today, such as tax benefits that encourage employer-sponsored retirement accounts and health care, this legislation would update the Tax Code to reflect the financial goals of stu-

dents and parents seeking to help with student debt. With only 3 percent of employers currently offering student loan debt repayment, this is a meaningful way to ease the anxiety of student debt and make college education more attainable for people all across our country.

Second, Mr. Speaker, we introduced the Stand Up for Students Act to level the playing field for low-income school districts that are being ravaged by fiscal mismanagement in my home State.

□ 1830

Sadly, for years, Springfield and the politicians there have taxed Federal money given to school districts serving low-income students in an effort to pay down debts created due to fiscal mismanagement. Under no circumstances should these politicians be allowed to use Federal money intended to help the most in-need schools to bail themselves out of a mess that they created through decades of irresponsible spending.

The Stand Up for Students Act would hold Springfield accountable and would ensure that we are giving the most vulnerable children the best chance at success by stopping this immoral tax on students who need our help the most.

And third, beyond education in the classroom, I want to underscore our efforts in advancing innovative anti-poverty measures that will connect hardworking people with a job. I introduced the Accelerating Individuals into the Workforce Act to help reform the way our country thinks about poverty and getting people back to work. With nearly 50 million Americans still living in poverty, we must demand a new and better approach.

The Accelerating Individuals into the Workforce Act helps those on welfare land a job. It does this by providing funding that will reduce the cost to an employer for taking a chance and hiring an individual who may be on welfare. This boost can make all the difference in the world for that individual seeking a job, and I am pleased that this legislation passed the House earlier this year.

Moving forward, I urge my colleagues in the next Congress to take up these three bills to help our students and young workers and individuals struggling to climb the economic ladder the educational opportunities that they deserve, and let's help people reach their full potential.

I also urge my colleagues in this body to take up other pieces of legislation. I certainly am hopeful that we can tackle immigration reform. As a nation of immigrants, we know that this is a humanitarian issue. It is an economic issue, and a national security issue that, frankly, must be tackled.

When we look at those, the DREAM-ers that are as American as many of us

right here in this body, we want to make sure that they have an opportunity to stay here in our country, to be contributing members of our community, and to be able to continue to live their lives as they are doing right now. We want them to come out of the shadows and have an opportunity to succeed.

I also think we have an opportunity and a need to move forward on commonsense gun legislation, on background checks, because, again, I think the thing that we have to come back to, Mr. Speaker, is the idea that we want to focus on what unites us. Coming from the Chicago area, I can tell you what we have to do and what unites us is the idea that we want to reduce gun violence.

One of our colleagues here in the House, my friend, DANNY DAVIS, just lost his grandson just a few short weeks ago, an altercation in this young man's home over a pair of tennis shoes.

We have to step up and do something that, again, is not infringing on Second Amendment rights, but is talking about some commonsense legislation to make our community safer.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the difference that we have made on foreign affairs and national security, because one thing that I love about the 10th District is that there are so many great people who are incredibly knowledgeable and passionate about the strong alliances and the grave threats that we have overseas.

Beginning with my first speech here in this Chamber nearly 6 years ago, I have worked to stand against the Iranian aggression and Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapon. For years, I have been a strong and unapologetic advocate for ratcheting up the sanctions and pressure on Iran. I have pushed for promoting human rights and democracy inside of Iran and have devoted much time on this very floor to warn against agreeing to a fundamentally flawed nuclear pact with Iran.

I continue to believe that the Iranian nuclear agreement is a historic mistake that has emboldened our enemies and will haunt us for a generation. It has endangered our friends and, frankly, is just misguided. The same fatal flaws with the agreement that existed a year ago still continue to this day.

I am proud of our efforts to lead on this issue. I am heartened that our bipartisan majority in the Congress rejected this dangerous agreement, and I continue to call on Congress to lead the way in restoring a crippling sanctions architecture on Iran.

Mr. Speaker, I am also incredibly proud of our efforts to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship these past few years:

We have ensured robust foreign assistance so that Israel may protect its civilians from the many terror threats

on its borders. We have fought to combat efforts in the international community, including in the United Nations, that seek to delegitimize Israel and wrongly pressure Israel to give up its defensible borders.

We have unequivocally condemned instances of Palestinian incitement to violence against Israelis. We openly and proudly welcomed Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech before the Congress last February.

And, of course, we authored legislation known as the Combating BDS Act of 2016, which has earned over 160 cosponsors in this body. This critical legislation, which I am hopeful will pass in the next Congress, provides a much-needed opportunity so that we may go on the offensive against the hateful Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement against the State of Israel.

While we do not know what the future will hold, or every upcoming challenge that we will face in the Middle East, I am confident that the United States will be best-served by continuing to strengthen our partnership with Israel, so that we can face these security challenges together, shoulder to shoulder.

Now, Mr. Speaker, none of our work in this Congress would have been possible without the incredible team that was truly dedicated to improving the lives of the people of the 10th Congressional District.

Now, that team starts with two great chiefs: James Slepian, who was the chief when we first came in this Congress, more of a quiet leader, very sharp, a quick wit, was incredibly instrumental in guiding us through some turbulent times; and David Stern, whom I consider to be a dear friend, and his advice and counsel is some that I cherish. He is a little bit misguided on his love for the White Sox, but we will forgive him on that. But the long and the short of it is a passionate advocate for the people of the 10th District and one who always has a smile on his face.

They helped lead an incredible team, along with my deputy chief of staff, Kim Brisky, who always had an opportunity to make sure that we stayed on the straight and narrow, who always was there for us when we needed a pick-me-up. And so, Kim, who is, I am sure, going on to bigger and better things, she was absolutely fantastic.

My deputy director, Philippe Melin, actually has been with me as long as anyone. And I will say that he may sometimes rub people the wrong way, but I have always appreciated his passion for the district, his ability to throw himself into any particular issue, to fight on behalf of children when it comes to education; whether it be building coalitions, Philippe has actually been super.

My legislative director, Matt Diller, is that quiet individual that made sure the trains were running on time.

Our communications director, Brad Stewart, probably held up a camera more times than I care to remember, and I apologize to him for messing up probably more times than I needed to. Ultimately, when it came to our social media and actually getting the word out, Brad was vitally important in making sure that our message was getting out to the people that it needed to.

We had an outstanding staff in Washington that worked hard to amplify the voice of each and every constituent, and Jordan Heyman, who was really focused on a lot of healthcare work, came to us from the campaign, but really rolled up her sleeves and was fantastic.

Noah Barger, Noah—or Jason, as he is sometimes referred to—always had a smile on his face, was probably one of the rocks in that office.

Chelsea Caulfield, who is truly the spark plug of our team, and would come into the office to see a smile from Chelsea, who made sure that I was where I needed to be and when I needed to be there.

Brittany Consolo, who came into our office. Time and again, people would always comment about how kind Brittany was, and so, for her, I say that we know that she has got a very bright future as well.

And the hardest working district office in the country:

Eric Miller, who really was what I consider one of the leaders of our casework, is one of the guys that put his head down day in and day out. We would not be or could not have gotten to the 1,250 cases were it not for Eric;

Victoria Williams, who has a special talent when it comes to not only working with people and connecting, especially with those on domestic abuse and the like, which was an area that she threw herself into;

Peter Collins, who had more spreadsheets available than I think anybody else, but Peter, again, one of my favorite Hellenic individuals in the office;

Scott Lietzow was a passionate advocate and worked with our veterans day in and day out and helped put our Veterans Advisory Board together, and he worked with them day in and day out to make a difference in their lives;

Allie Breschi, a proud Denison graduate, was helping Brad out in terms of our communications and did a super job;

Andy Chiero also worked with our veterans;

Alma Herrera, who, I think was really a dynamo, and we missed her as she went off to finish up some schooling;

Natalie Szmyd came in and filled the role and helped out with our Polish community;

Bobby Miller also was one of those individuals that exceeded expectations right from the beginning;

Jordan Richter and Nikki West; Ginny Wood, who helped out with our

seniors; Justo Arellano and Martin Lopez really were absolutely fantastic in rounding out our team.

So again, I think you are only as good as the team that you have put together, and I am super proud of the team that I was able to put together, that really worked tirelessly on behalf of the constituents of the 10th District.

One of the things I am proud of is that lifelong Democrats would come up to us and say, you know, thanks for helping us out on this, and I think that we have got to talk to you about, you know, when you do something good for us. But ultimately, our job was, regardless of whom you are elected by, I made sure that our team knew that we represented 100 percent of the people.

This team really cared so much about the work that we were doing and made a real difference in the lives of literally everyone that they had an opportunity to touch.

But some people that I think are important to thank are my colleagues. This is a pretty remarkable place, with some really remarkable people, and I want to thank them for their friendship and the great work that we were able to accomplish together. I will miss them dearly, those on the other side of the aisle as well, because most of our legislation, almost every piece of legislation that we offered, was with bipartisan support. I kept telling my team, if we couldn't get those on the other side of the aisle to sign up, this bill wasn't going anywhere.

I also want to thank the people who make this body work, the unsung heroes, the folks down in the wood shop, the folks behind the rostrum, the people that make Congress work. Really, these are the folks that respect the institution, and the institution will move on 10 years from now and, we hope, hundreds of years from now.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the last group that I want to thank is my family. I have three beautiful children and a wife who is a saint to allow me to do this day in and day out. So, for Harper, Bobby, and Honor, thank you for giving up the time. I am sorry that I was not there, but we have a new chapter; and so we know, if this is the worst thing that happens in terms of our time away from the Congress, we have great new things ahead for us.

And for my bride, Danielle, sweetheart, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to do this. I know that you oftentimes were the one making sure that the trains ran on time back at home, and for that I will forever be grateful.

So from day one, this has been about working together to get the job done, making the Federal Government more efficient, effective, and accountable, and restoring strong American leadership on the global stage.

When I was growing up, my parents gave me a plaque that said: "Your integrity determines your identity." As a

small-business owner, I learned that nothing gets done without teamwork.

□ 1845

If we want to achieve anything as a nation, we must commit to advancing commonsense, bipartisan solutions to break through this gridlock. That is why I am so proud to have consistently been ranked one of the most independent, bipartisan Members in the United States Congress. This commitment to genuine bipartisanship has been the key to some of our biggest successes that we have had over the last 2 years. It is also what has helped us to become effective on amplifying the independent voice for the 10th District of Illinois.

I strongly believe that America's best days, Mr. Speaker, are ahead of us. Together, I am confident that we can ensure a more prosperous and free future for our children and for future generations.

To the people of the 10th District, I offer my sincere thanks for the opportunity of a lifetime to be able to represent you in the United States Congress. It has truly been the greatest honor of my life.

To my staff, again, I want to say "thank you" for all that you do. It has been an honor to be able to work with you.

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

THE FIRST 100 DAYS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, before I begin my remarks, I think it's only appropriate to congratulate, thank, and wish all the best to my friend, BOB DOLD.

BOB, you have earned a reputation around here. You may not know it, but I am going to tell it to you: I think you are the hardest working person here. I listened to a number of your accomplishments. It is not only representative of your thoughtfulness and your desire to serve the country, but it is this integrity of work ethic that has impressed me and so many other Members here.

I know this departure is a bit bitter-sweet. Sweet in a sense that you are now free to be with your primary purpose in life: your children, your family, and your mission together as a family; and a little bit bitter in that you are going to miss us and we will miss you. I thank you for your leadership.

Mr. Speaker, regarding my remarks tonight, I want to begin with a little anecdote. Vice President-elect Mike Pence was a Member of the House of Representatives. I overlapped some

time and service with him. He was a friend and, in some ways, a mentor. He came to speak to a group of us recently, and Vice President-elect Pence had this to say: Buckle up.

Buckle up because, Mr. Speaker, the next 100 days are going to be intense. Beginning in January, we will have a new President and a new Congress. The next 100 days not only will be intense, but it will also create possibilities. That next 100 days will set a new architecture for government and a repurposed relationship between the people and the state.

Mr. Speaker, for far too long, partisan paralysis has plagued this Congress leading to stagnation in Washington. We know it and the people know it. With this historic and transformative election, the playbooks of both political parties that had been used for decades are tattered and lay in shreds; and rightfully so.

This transition of Presidential administrations has unleashed the potential for a genuine reimagining of public policy, and it is time for the Nation to adopt a more inclusive model. Power that has been concentrated in Washington and on Wall Street has left millions of Americans feeling left behind and at the margins of what many regard as a corrupt and elitist world. Millions of Americans face stagnating wages, downward mobility, and an increased cost-of-living. Income inequality has risen while, at the same time, the small business sector has been seriously harmed. This must change.

So what are we looking at?

We are looking at this: we are looking at new healthcare horizons, new trade and tax policies aimed at restoring the decimated manufacturing sector, returning jobs and returning dignity and social cohesion to large swaths of our Nation. An economic system of inclusion and empowerment capable of generating widespread participation is now the new center ground of this country.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in the time that we have, I would like to survey multiple public policy areas that are in need of deep replenishment, and I would like to speak about the opportunity of possibilities that lies before us.

So right out of the gate, what are we going to do?

Congress will launch a significant healthcare reform initiative. Mr. Speaker, we all know this, but it needs to be said once again: skyrocketing cost and diminished choice is the residue of poor policy, and we can do better. At the same time, we cannot default back to the previous arrangement which left way too many persons behind. While there might be a fierce fight in this body on the specifics of reform proposal, broad agreement will likely coalesce around two things: protecting persons from inhuman market

forces while, at the same time, incentivizing the best of market innovation to bring about change.

Americans with spiraling healthcare costs know that a new healthcare construct is needed. To address these concerns, the next approach must reinvigorate health insurance with the goals of lowering price, protecting the sick, and improving options. The next generation health savings account will be at the cornerstone of this effort restoring relationship, responsibility, and respect as drivers of healthcare policy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act, known as ObamaCare, has helped some people, yet, at the same time, it has hurt others. We often speak about repealing and replacing it, but perhaps it is time to speak about repealing it and replacing the repeal-and-replace language with new language that really underlies the principles that we all ought to be embracing. They are really three-fold; the first of which is relationship, responsibility, and respect.

Mr. Speaker, for persons who have had a gravely sick child, perhaps there is nothing more difficult than having to turn that child's care over to other persons. I recall when our daughter, Kathryn, was a little infant. My wife and I, with our daughter, walked to the door of the surgery room and then handed her over to the nurse. We had to let her go into the hands of people that we had to trust. She has had a long journey. She has had five major heart surgeries and nine total surgeries. But that very first moment where we turned our little baby over to the nurse was an extraordinarily poignant and deeply impactful one for my wife and me, made only better by the reality that that team of people that had been put around her genuinely cared and that we were in relationship with them. Relationship between the doctor and the patient, between a healthcare system and the person—not the commodity, but the person—is an absolutely critical first principle.

Mr. Speaker, a long time ago, I had a very severe headache. I was a young man, and I had to buy my insurance privately. I did so. I tried to be responsible. But because that headache was so intense, I decided: Well, I am going to have to seek a specialist.

Bypassing the family doctor in order to save myself \$50, I went to the ENT, the ear, nose, and throat surgeon. She told me that, after an x-ray, she couldn't really tell what the problem was and that they were going to need to do a CAT scan.

Immediately I launched into some questions. I said: Doctor, I know there is a problem with medical liability and there is an attempt by the medical establishment to create the conditions in which the potential for lawsuits is mitigated and there are a lot of tests to run.

She interrupts me. She says: Why are you telling me all this?

I said: Because, Doctor, I am paying for it. I have a major medical policy, what is called a catastrophic policy, with a very high deductible. This is coming out of my pocket. Do you really need the test?

She said: Oh, I see. Well, yes, I need the test; but now that you said that, I am just looking at your sinuses. So why don't we call a couple of places in town and ask them if they could widen the cross section of the image and give you a discount for doing so?

She had her assistant do that. In a minute, we found a facility that would actually discount the price based upon another type of test.

So what happened here?

I saved perhaps another \$75, the doctor got the tests that she needed, and perhaps, more importantly, the community resource was more properly allocated because I had a role in the decisionmaking process. Put in economic terms, I had an incentive in the allocation of that resource because I was paying for it. That is called responsibility.

Back to this idea of what we are coming to, particularly for the next generation, the younger generation, whereby we create and revitalize the whole health savings account policy apparatus. If you set a little money aside on a tax-deferred basis, then it helps you control the ordinary costs of health care, and, at the same time, if something goes wrong, you shouldn't have to be on the gurney in the hospital asking for a price list for the cheapest anesthesiologist. No, you are protected. That is the right methodology of thinking forward that will actually protect you when you are in vulnerable circumstances but empower you to take better control in relationship with your doctor and medical provider of those first-dollar costs.

That is what I think we can see coming as a cornerstone of the revival of our healthcare system. That is a start of a system we can regard with respect. It is relationship, responsibility, and respect. Those are the principles and the new cornerstones of health care moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, regarding infrastructure, another important policy area, broad bipartisan agreement exists around rebuilding our Nation's infrastructure. From airports to roads, to bridges, to information technology, new projects are on the horizon. I would add that sustainable energy should be on that list. As a public good, properly selected infrastructure improvements are a benefit to society at large.

Infrastructure can also be virtual, setting up systems for better interconnectivity. It also has implications for health care as we build out, for instance, innovative healthcare

models. The challenge, of course, to all of us will be in financing and insuring the proper division between Federal, State, and local governments as well as with the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, the third policy area is spending. In an unprecedented legislative development, our government is moving forward on two budgets simultaneously. Those of us serving on the House Appropriations Committee have a very heavy lift. In a parallel process, we will fix up the current budget while creating a budget for the following year.

While it is easy to speak about new ideas, plans to pay for them are the test of smart government. We must remain sober about spending. Deficit spending is a form of taxation—especially on the poor and seniors—when this debt that is run up is monetized. The good news is that this peculiar set of circumstances gives lawmakers—all of us—much more flexibility in creating genuinely creative policy outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, a fourth area I want to touch on is taxes. Tax is a broad issue that, like health care, has many thorny and complex considerations. I anticipate that Congress will move to solve tax anomalies that harm America's competitive standing in the world, including giveaways to multinational corporations. The Tax Code should reposition funds captured overseas to be brought back into America, and any reform should prioritize small business—the source of new jobs and the source of local economies.

This process should really be guided by a three-fold goal. First of all, fairness. Second, simplification. And the third is economic growth in order to produce revenues for the government.

□ 1900

First of all, let's touch on this issue of fairness. President-elect Trump, our new President, has called for doing away with a provision in the Tax Code called carried interest. I agree with him. If you are wealthy enough, you can basically take income and restructure it to be paid as capital gains. That means a higher income tax becomes a much lower tax through this mechanism. The vast majority of people in America can't do it. A few can. Closing this is not a panacea, necessarily, but it is a good first step. It points to a deeper principle; one that is called fairness.

When a person makes things with their own two hands, when they use the creative gifts of their intellect, this is an imprint of their own personal dignity, the dignity of work, that gift, that meaningful place where you can actually see the fruit of your own labor.

So what is the first thing we do? We tax it. We call it earned income, while another category of income called un-

earned gets a preferential rate. This is a discussion we need to have.

The second point, simplification. A few years back, we had a tax reform act here. It was controversial. A number of us voted for it, and it passed. Before doing that, I decided to run up the road and see someone who lives near where I do. His name is Warren Buffett. Now, Warren Buffett and I have different philosophical approaches on many things, but he was generous enough to welcome me to his office. We spent about an hour together. I wanted to get his particular perspective not only on that tax bill but on some other things.

In an interesting exchange, Mr. Buffett turned around to his credenza, pulled out a file, an old file, pulled out a single piece of paper, and said: JEFF, just do this, just do this. Put the Tax Code on a piece of paper. Simplification.

Now, a Tax Code, in reality, cannot always be cut. It has to be optimized. We have to run the government, we have to have revenues, but in a manner that does not deteriorate the ability of the economy, small business and others, to create jobs, and to provide the proper catalyst for economic growth. And that is the balance.

Mr. Speaker, let me turn to the issue of regulation. But before I do, can I inquire as to the amount of time that is left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN). The gentleman from Nebraska has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Let's touch upon the issue of regulation. Washington is readying to correct regulatory overreach that has constrained the ability of small business to flourish. For far too long, Washington has distorted markets and, most importantly, the imagination of people to find better solutions for themselves and for their neighbors. Government must play its role, but with constraints on its tendency to seize more power.

Mr. Speaker, I recently visited a 125-year-old bank in a small town called North Bend, Nebraska. It is an agriculture community. This bank is now in its fourth generation. The family was eager to show me something they had recently discovered. There is an architectural gym that had been covered over by a ceiling. In doing some remodeling, they found a hidden stained glass panel and gorgeous ornamentation on the various beams above. The bank is, rightly, proud to showcase this history and this beautiful symbol of a flourishing past.

The story began when all of the banks in the area in this town went under during the Great Depression. One of the local banks reorganized itself and came forward with a proposal to the community. It was this: If you stay with us, you stay with our bank, we

will give you 50 cents on your dollar now and pay you back the rest over time.

Mr. Speaker, it took the family that owned that bank 20 years, but they paid every dime back to every member of that bank, without ever taking a dividend for themselves until that money was paid back. The original owner died shortly thereafter. He gave his word, and he got it done.

As a longstanding community institution, this local bank did not bring our Nation down in the financial crisis of 2008. It did not benefit from insider class privilege that enabled liar loans and high-risk collateralized debt negotiations. It did not help multinational banking conglomerates grow so large in hubris and reach that they nearly tanked our economy. At the same time, this small Nebraska bank is besieged by a regulatory overlay created by a crisis that it did not participate in. It is not fair.

So rightsizing regulation does not mean doing away with it, Mr. Speaker. It means what is sensible to protect the health and safety and well-being and create a fair playing field for everyone with minimal intrusion for maximum market functionality. There is a real cost to regulation, there is a real cost to no regulation, and there is a real cost to dumb regulation. We look forward to finding that balance once again.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other aspects that I could speak about regarding community revitalization and foreign policy, but I want to touch on an important debate that is under way now regarding our immigration system. Our immigration system is stretched. Laws have not been enforced, have led to chaos and dislocation, testing the natural generosity of Americans. Righting the legal system, stopping unscrupulous employers, and holding those who break the law to account are the start of restoring a humane and fair immigration policy.

In another small town right north of Omaha, Blair, Nebraska, it is nestled among the beautiful, rolling, wooded hills along the Missouri River. It is a traditional hub of agricultural activity as well. I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress.

There are several large manufacturing plants, and it is a very stable community, a community of very strong values, so much so that recently a Sunday school class of little children wrote to me about the need to help other impoverished children in countries across the world. Their letters were so touching and heartwarming. They demonstrated this enduring universal ideal that animates the moral imagination of Nebraska's young people and young people throughout the country.

But fast forward to a jarring criminal incident that took place a few months

ago when three men were arrested in Blair driving nearly 90 miles per hour, with a loaded gun, stolen in Iowa. Two of them were Somali immigrants from Lincoln and Minneapolis here on visas. Both were wanted by the Department of Homeland Security, and, between the two, had 34 previous arrests. The third man had 50 previous arrests. Even though the three have been in America long enough to have been arrested 94 times, they still requested a court interpreter. They abused their privilege. They do not belong in America.

America has a great capacity to be generous. But those who have received our generosity have an obligation. If you want to come to America, you will accept American values. If you want to come to America, you will work, provide for yourself, and integrate responsibly into dutiful citizenship. If you want to come to America, it is absolutely essential, and I and many others will stand with you. Celebrate your past culture, explain it to your new community, and, at the same time, celebrate your new one, as so many good people coming to our country do.

Our Nation has generally maintained a vibrant immigration system, and it has been an important part of the character and development of our country, but chaos, disorder, and crime undermine our ability to maintain that openness.

Of all of our country's pressing priorities, one of the most should be ensuring that the criminal justice system, the judicial system, and the immigration system work in concert to swiftly remove persons who have seriously transgressed our laws. This will help keep America safe and protect the integrity of immigration policy for those who want to come here, rebuild their lives, contribute to this wonderful society, and sustain America's generous impulse.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate to leave you tonight with some comments on the future of democracy. Some of what I talked about are ideals, but they give us a chance to envision and create a more inclusive government, economy, and society. Given that the future of democracy depends on quickly moving forward in the right direction, there is a mood of both curiosity as well as urgency here. Curiosity as to how we are going to translate this moment and urgency not to waste it.

Even though the election was a proxy for many open and deep philosophical divides in our country, now there is the possibility of great change. As President-elect Trump said on the night of his election: We must now come together, and I want to be President for all Americans.

President Obama very generously and graciously extended a hand of friendship to President Trump and said: President Bush was so extraordinarily helpful to me in this transi-

tion, I will work the same in any way he wants with President-elect Trump.

President Clinton, admitting that this was a painful loss said: It was a fair election. We need to give the new President-elect a chance, and we must unite.

I think that set an important tone, Mr. Speaker.

We take it for granted, but this demonstrated the brilliance of how our democracy provides for this peaceful transition of power. In spite of some protest, we have witnessed the ongoing resiliency of America's governing traditions. In Congress, a great deal of ideological rigidity has been vaporized. Conversations among fellow Republicans and Democrats are yielding a sense of new horizons, which, if properly considered, will help shape a meaningful approach with the next White House.

Mr. Speaker, the next hundred days are critical. It is time to create the architecture of a 21st century government, one that is innovative, one that is effective, restoring the trust and confidence of the people.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great old movie starring Bette Davis called "All About Eve." In that classic Hollywood moment, she looks around to her guest with that smoldering gaze and says: "Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy night."

Mr. Speaker, real change is always bumpy. But when done with purpose and clarity, with the intention of doing good for others, we can allow ourselves to dream big again.

I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING RANDY NEUGEBAUER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), the chairman of the Space Subcommittee of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, it is a tremendous honor and privilege for me to stand up here to honor one of my colleagues, who is going to be retiring, Representative RANDY NEUGEBAUER, who is just finishing up his seventh term. He has been a great mentor. I am finishing up my first term in office.

I want to say how much the Neugebauers mean to me and my wife, Roxanne.

RANDY NEUGEBAUER and his beautiful wife, Dana, have been a tremendous addition not only to the Texas delegation up here in the United States Congress but also to the Republican spouses and Democrat spouses, who have worked so long and hard for many years to support their Member spouses.

□ 1915

I just want to say how much I appreciate him, admire him, and wish him Godspeed. He is a great Christian man, and his wife is a great Christian woman. We appreciate so very, very much his long years of service to our country, to our Nation, to his district, as well as to his God.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) for his comments.

I now yield to another colleague from Texas, ROGER WILLIAMS.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues down here tonight to honor a patriot and a good friend, Congressman RANDY NEUGEBAUER.

While your retirement is well-deserved, RANDY, your departure is, certainly, a loss not only to us as your friends, but to Texas and America.

RANDY and I serve together on the Financial Services Committee. Before we came up to Washington, we were both in small businesses. Still are. I knew RANDY before he was a Congressman, and he is still the same guy. Congressman NEUGEBAUER is a voice of reason. He has valuable, firsthand knowledge of how the private sector works—knowledge which is needed very much in Washington today. He understands how Washington's decisions affect Main Street America. That empathy is crucial to conducting good policy, and it is rare. We could use more lawmakers like RANDY NEUGEBAUER. Congressman NEUGEBAUER is a Texas Tech fan. I feel sorry for him, but he always thinks they will win every single game.

Congressman RANDY NEUGEBAUER, I wish you and your wife, Dana, my best as you begin the next chapter of your lives. May your spare time be spent with your grandkids, fly fishing, and rooting for the Raiders. You have served your State and our Nation with honor and devotion. We will all miss you. You will be missed. I must simply say to you, RANDY, guns up. May God bless you, and may God bless America for allowing you to serve this great country.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman's comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, another good Texan, MICHAEL CONAWAY.

Mr. CONAWAY. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to brag on RANDY NEUGEBAUER. He is a friend, and

he and I have a unique circumstance that we share in that we ran against each other in Texas. Larry Combest served District 19 at that point in time, and they had a special election. Randy and I ran against each other. It hasn't happened in a long time, but right after that election, people asked me: What do you think about RANDY NEUGEBAUER?

I said: Well, he is my friend. They said: I know, but that is what you politicians always say—the “good gentleman,” the “friend.” You never tell the truth in those circumstances.

I said: No, no, no. With RANDY and I, the key is our wives are friends; so, if wives can survive a campaign against each other and be friends, then it is a testament that we ran the way Republicans should run against each other. He stuck to why folks should vote for RANDY NEUGEBAUER, and I stuck with why folks should vote for me.

RANDY prevailed in that election and joined Congress in June of 2003. He has served wonderfully and ably since then. RANDY has a strong moral compass and exhibits that moral compass to the House all of the time. He is one of those guys who is true north and never wavers, a rock solid Conservative and someone, I am sure, who is proud of his service to the folks in District 19.

Our districts are contiguous. My northern border is his southern border; so we overlap in certain areas, and I get comments from his constituents about the great work he and his constituent service team do back home. We are going to miss him. We are going to miss him greatly—his voice. He serves on the Agriculture Committee as vice chairman and has served the agricultural communities as well as his having experience on the Armed Services Committee.

I am proud to call RANDY my friend and I am proud of his service here. He and his wife, Dana, are off to the next chapter—an exciting chapter. I need to warn the rainbow trout and brown trout populations all over America that, on the days we are in office in 2017 and 2018, they need to be on the lookout for an avid fly fisherman who will be on the hunt for all of those trout.

Again, I want to add my congratulations to RANDY on a job well done in service to his State and our Nation in an admirable way. He leaves office in the right way—on his own terms and very proud. I would ask for God's blessing on him and Dana and for God's blessing on Texas, and may God continue to bless the great United States of America.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank the gentleman for those nice comments.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to another Texas colleague, a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, PETE OLSON.

Mr. OLSON. I thank my friend from San Antonio.

Mr. Speaker, RANDY NEUGEBAUER is many things. He is a damned proud Texan and is a Texas Tech Red Raider who always has his guns up. He is a husband to a fierce force of Texas nature—his wife, Dana. He is a father of two sons and is a grandfather of four grandkids. He is a respected Member of Congress—seven terms in this body—and he is my dear friend. In RANDY's time here, he has made America a better place for my family, for his family, and for every American family.

As we say in our Navy to departing friends who leave the ship, who go ashore for the last time: RANDY, may you always have fair winds and following seas. Texas 19 departing.

I salute you.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to host today's Special Order in honor of my friend and colleague from Texas, Representative RANDY NEUGEBAUER.

Representative NEUGEBAUER is a consistent Conservative. In fact, the National Journal named him the “most conservative Member of Congress” in 2011. He has also been a valuable member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, which I chair. He has been a member of that committee for over a decade. I am grateful for his work on the committee to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and efficiently.

Representative NEUGEBAUER has actively pushed back against burdensome EPA regulations that limit affordable, reliable energy. He has also championed research and development efforts that benefit all forms of energy. This isn't surprising since Representative NEUGEBAUER's district has oil and gas development and produces the most wind energy of any district in the country.

In this Congress, Representative NEUGEBAUER's National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act authorized coordinated research to minimize the effects of windstorms on local communities. It will help save lives and property damage. This legislation was inspired by Representative NEUGEBAUER's personal experience with a tornado that devastated his hometown of Lubbock, Texas, some years ago. His bill was signed into law last year, and now Federal agencies and universities can work to better predict, prepare, and recover from dangerous storms.

We thank Representative NEUGEBAUER for his service to the people of west Texas and for his many initiatives on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. His retirement is well-deserved, and we know he is going to enjoy more time with his family in west Texas.

Mr. Speaker, one of the best summaries of Mr. NEUGEBAUER's contributions as a person, as a family member, and as a great Member of Congress is

the following, and I want to make sure that everybody is aware of these contributions and his personal attributes as well.

RANDY NEUGEBAUER proudly represents the 19th Congressional District, which stretches across 29 counties in west Texas and the Big Country, and he has represented that great district for 14 years.

Raised in Lubbock, RANDY learned the west Texas values of family, faith, hard work, and public service. These are the values he has carried with him throughout his life as an accounting student at Texas Tech University, as a banker, as a homebuilder, and now as a Member of Congress.

He serves on the Financial Services Committee, where he is chairman of the Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee. In this role, he has oversight responsibility for U.S. banks and the banking industry, credit unions, depository institutions and Federal deposit insurance, consumer credit, and financial regulators, including the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Federal Reserve. Representative NEUGEBAUER is also the vice chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, where he played a leading role in developing the 2014 farm bill. He also serves on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, which, I mentioned a while ago, I chair.

His legislative initiatives include eliminating wasteful Federal spending; improving crop insurance; and fighting Federal overreach on energy, the environment, the economy, and personal liberties.

RANDY NEUGEBAUER's bill to lessen government interference and encourage more private sector participation in the terrorism risk insurance market became the first law of the 114th Congress. The President also signed his bill to promote research and minimize the devastating effects caused by windstorms. Last year, as I alluded to a minute ago, the President signed into law his initiative that gives Texas Tech the opportunity to build a VA clinic on the campus to better serve west Texas' veterans.

Congressman NEUGEBAUER and his wife, Dana, who is with us this evening in the gallery back to my left, are both graduates of Texas Tech University. They have been married for 46 years and are the proud parents of two sons, two daughters-in-law, three grandsons, and one granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, you can see that Representative NEUGEBAUER has led a very rich life, a very satisfactory life, and a life dedicated to his country and to his family. There can be no question about that.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I yield to another Texas colleague, the chairman of the Rules Committee, PETE SESSIONS.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing us—not only the Texas delegation, but other Members of Congress who would wish to come down—the opportunity to express our sincere appreciation and debt of gratitude to the gentleman from Lubbock, Texas, and to his dear and beautiful wife, Dana Neugebauer, and family who are in the House tonight. On behalf of the Texas delegation and as a Member of Congress from Dallas, Texas, I would say from the people of Dallas, Texas—Texas' 32nd Congressional District—we have long been friends with the gentleman from the 19th District of Texas and appreciate his life and service to this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, you have just heard much of Congressman NEUGEBAUER, much of not only what might be resume information, but, really, what might be, when it plays itself out, information that is about the service that Congressman NEUGEBAUER has given, the leadership that he has provided not only to the committees of service, but, really, to the people of this country.

Congressman NEUGEBAUER came to Congress as an exciting young man who was not only full of opportunity, but who came from a vibrant part of Texas with his ideas about freedom, about free enterprise, about opportunity, about collegiality—about the things which he placed high value on. RANDY comes from a part of Texas—and I would like to say everybody from Texas might be this way, but it is not true—where a handshake and your word make a difference.

The entire time he was here, Mr. NEUGEBAUER didn't oversell and didn't underdeliver. He did the things that were necessary as the proper representation of not only the Texas delegation, but as a man of distinction from Lubbock, Texas—the High Plains. He brought with him the professional attributes that were very necessary within the Texas delegation to be successful. Very early on, he championed those ideas. They were ideas of bringing forth representation from a group of people in Lubbock, Texas, and north Texas who strongly believed in America, who strongly believed that America's greatest days lie in its future. RANDY always spoke of not only the ideas that he had, but of the people he represented in terms of real admiration for those people, admiration for hard work, admiration for an honest day's work, admiration for an honest day's pay.

□ 1930

So you can see, Mr. Speaker, those who have known RANDY the best watched him in his personal dealings not only with Members of our delegation, but also in committees and the hard work and the homework that he

did to make sure that he did his part necessary.

He rose not only in the ranks of responsibility, but also rose in the ranks of people who admired Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I am one of those people. I looked at RANDY, who had come just a couple of years behind me, as not only a champion of words and ideas, but he had the ability to express those ideas, the ability to speak to people in terms of content, of where our country would head. This was a time after 9/11 when we were faced with fear, uncertainty, and perhaps some complexity that might be available to some.

It never existed to Congressman NEUGEBAUER. RANDY threw all of that out. I would say he threw out the high and the low and lived off of confidence, confidence about not only the way of life that he understood and he represented, but really about the United States military and the men and women who were from his district whom he spoke so plainly about, who we understood where they were. They were committed.

Yes, we are Texans, but he really spoke of America, of America as not just this shining city on a hill, but Americans who would dedicate themselves to a principle, to ideas higher than just citizenship as a responsibility, as a necessary part of making sure that this country and where home is back in Lubbock, Texas, in the high plains, that that is what he believed was honorable.

People who would go and sacrifice themselves, who would go help people in another land, who were called on because of commitment to service, these are the kind of people that RANDY NEUGEBAUER would identify with. These are the kind of people RANDY NEUGEBAUER would talk about. These are the kind of people who, at our Thursday Texas delegation—yes, we are a bunch of darn Texans, but we get together, and we celebrate and share not only camaraderie and commonality, but ideas about where we wanted to go. That is RANDY NEUGEBAUER. That is what RANDY NEUGEBAUER did every single week, faithfully, dutifully, and he knew what he was doing.

So I want to say to the gentleman, the young chairman of the Science Committee, thank you for being here for our dear colleague, current colleague RANDY NEUGEBAUER.

One last point, a point of privilege.

Look, when you come up here, you are proud of where you are from, and you want to do a good job. One of those marks is to be thought of as a real conservative. RANDY NEUGEBAUER, at least 1 year, and probably 2 or 3, was, by his voting record—this isn't a vote. This is actual delivery of product—number one, the most conservative person in this body. I had that chance for 1 year; I tried for 2. It is hard to outguess the

scorecard. RANDY NEUGEBAUER is a good guesser also because he knows where he is from—right, wrong, good, bad, up, down, more, less, proper.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we honor a real hero of mine, the gentleman from Lubbock, Texas, RANDY NEUGEBAUER. And let no one forget his beautiful, young bride who, day after day, gave confidence to so many other people about who they are, what they do. I hope these 46 years turn into 146 years of marriage, Mr. Chairman. I wish RANDY NEUGEBAUER and Dana and that entire family the very best.

I thank Chairman SMITH for allowing me the chance to come down and say to my dear friend and the Neugebauer family: A job well done, Godspeed, and I hope I do well enough to get invited back to Lubbock to see you again.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank the chairman for his nice remarks this evening.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

And let me say to my friend Representative GOHMERT that, we only have a total of 6 minutes left, and I do want to allow Mr. NEUGEBAUER time to speak as well.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank the gentleman. And because of all of the glowing comments about RANDY, I knew I should not share more than a couple minutes so that there is time at the end.

We have heard the old saying that in Washington, D.C., if you want a friend, get a dog; but when I got here to Washington, D.C., as a Member of Congress, RANDY NEUGEBAUER was a friend, and he is a friend. He is a man of integrity. He is a man of honor. He does his best to live out the Beatitudes that Jesus talked about better than I have. He is not a man who has been afraid to ever stand up and call things the way he sees them. It is one of the many things I admire about him so much.

Apostle Paul said three things about what he had accomplished. He said: I have fought the good fight. Then there was another clause, and then he said: I have finished the race. Well, RANDY NEUGEBAUER has not finished the race. The race has still yet to go. He has not finished the course. He is just taking a new course.

But I know that, as a brother in Christ and as a man of integrity, he will continue to listen to the still, small voice that has guided him and his wife through the years and has made him someone who inspires me, encourages me, and someone that I would hope to emulate. I am grateful to RANDY NEUGEBAUER for his service and for all he has done for America.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Texas, particularly for bringing out an aspect of RANDY NEUGEBAUER's character that has not yet been mentioned tonight. And I might also add, and you know only too

well, that he has been an active member of a prayer group here in the House of Representatives as well. So that spiritual aspect, that spiritual character is rightfully shown tonight.

I yield to the gentleman from Lubbock, Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER), our colleague and Texas friend, whom we honor tonight.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Well, I thank the gentleman, and I thank my colleagues for those very kind words.

What an honor and a privilege it has been to be able to serve with people of this integrity and this commitment to our country.

You know, it was just a little over 13½ years ago that our colleague from Texas (Mr. BARTON) introduced me on this very House floor my very first day. It was June 5, 2003. I came in a special election. I think Mr. CONAWAY mentioned that we had a race together. I was sworn in as the 236th Texan and the 9,832nd American citizen. What you realize is what an honor and a privilege it is to get to do this, and what an honor and a privilege it has been to represent the people of the 19th Congressional District.

Somebody asked me one day: Do I ever think about, when I am on the House floor, the men and women who have served here in the past?

I said: No, I really don't think about the men and women who have served in the past because their history has been written. The people that I think about are the men and women whom I serve with every day because we are writing our history, and the things that we do and the things that we say on this floor have a huge impact not only on our constituents, but on our country and on the world.

So I want to thank my wife, Dana, and my family for helping me do this job on behalf of the people of the 19th District. Without Dana's support, I couldn't have done this. My two sons and their wives have been an integral part of this, and even my grandkids were out campaigning when we were running for Congress.

I also want to thank those men and women who have come through our congressional office, both here in D.C. and back in the district, who have worked so hard on behalf of our constituents, making sure that that veteran gets his check or making sure that that Social Security check that was lost was found, helping people get their loved ones back from a foreign country because of visa problems. All of those kinds of things are important.

So I want to thank the staff who have been so much a part of that, and I want to thank the people of the 19th District and my family, but I also want to thank my fellow colleagues whom I have served with.

Everybody here that I have come in contact with loves America. Now, what we do have is a difference of opinion

from time to time on what it takes to make sure that America has the bright future that we all want it to have, and that is a healthy process.

I am excited for our President-elect and these new Members of Congress who will be sworn in in just a few weeks because they have a big task ahead of them. So as many of my constituents have prayed for me and this Congress in the past, Dana and I will be praying for them as they take our country forward.

Thank you again, and God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank Representative NEUGEBAUER for his service to Texas and to our country. We wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor my fellow Texas colleague and friend RANDY NEUGEBAUER.

RANDY has been serving the constituents of the 19th Congressional District of Texas since 2003. Prior to coming to Congress, he served on the Lubbock City Council and as Mayor Pro Tempore. He also worked in the private sector as a banker and a homebuilder.

In Congress, RANDY has worked hard to eliminate wasteful federal spending, curb federal overreach and create better agriculture policies. He has served on the Financial Services Committee, the Agriculture Committee, and the Science, Space and Technology Committee. He has also served as a Chairman of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, and as Vice-Chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

RANDY and I are similar in many ways. Growing up in Texas, we were both instilled with strong values of family, faith, hard work, and public service. We both went on to marry our high school sweethearts. We each have two sons and have been blessed with multiple grandchildren. And we both take pride in representing our respective universities where we are alumnus in Congress. Even though Texas Tech and Texas A&M have a strong rivalry, we have worked together for the good of all Texans.

RANDY will be missed in the halls of Congress. He took pride in serving the constituents of all 29 counties in West Texas that make up the 19th Congressional District. I commend him for his many years of public service to Texas and for our nation. It truly has been an honor to serve and work alongside RANDY. I wish him the best of luck on his retirement and want to thank him for friendship and guidance.

As I close, I ask everyone to continue praying for our country and for our military and first responder who selflessly serve and sacrifice to protect us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members that it is not in order to refer to occupants of the gallery.

REFLECTIONS OF A FRESHMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) for his service and that of his spouse and family, for they made my welcome to Congress so agreeable and so appropriate, and I have enjoyed my service with Mr. NEUGEBAUER on the House Financial Services Committee.

You know, when I am home, one of the most frequent questions I get is to describe the major changes that I have seen in Washington since my previous work on Capitol Hill and in the executive branch. And yes, now it has been more than 24 years since I served in the administration of George H. W. Bush from 1989–1993, 24 years and three two-term Presidents—two Democrats, one Republican. Anyone familiar with life inside the beltway would certainly see that the city's traffic has become unbearable, and the number of places to eat has really been improved in those 24 years.

But tonight I don't want to talk about the enrichment of life along The National Mall with new monuments to FDR and MLK and new visionary sites, such as the Native American Museum and now our African American Museum. Instead, it is not urbanization or nightlife that has happened that I noticed, that I talk about when I see my constituents, but it is really the changes I see in public policy as I wander back like Rip Van Winkle 20 years later to our Nation's Capital.

The politics and productivity of the city are more stymied and less successful than in my experience in the executive branch, led by George H. W. Bush, or even in my service as a legislative aide on the Senate Banking Committee staff back during the days of the first term of President Reagan.

Tonight I would like to outline my thoughts on those biggest differences I have seen in our Federal Government. These include the size and complexity and the unmanageable nature of the administrative state, the growth and unreformed nature of our mandatory spending programs, the failure of the Congress to meet its most fundamental constitutional responsibilities, that is, the oversight of the executive and the timely and thoughtful appropriations governed by the Appropriations Clause of our Constitution.

□ 1945

At the end of this "Rip Van Winkle" overview, I will offer suggestions as to possible solutions to these challenges that we face in Washington. While I am a realist, I understand consensus is difficult in this city, and, while sensitive, my remarks tonight will appeal, in my view, to both Democrats and Repub-

licans about how do we have an effective Federal Government, one that honors our constitutional limitations, the best intentions of our Founders, and demonstrates to the American people that their legislative and executive branches can work together for the long-term common good and the general welfare of this Nation.

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, does a splendid job in enumerating the significant grievances that the American colonists had against King George III. Among them, my favorite of the "Facts . . . submitted to a candid world": "He," the king, "has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance."

When I am visiting with our fellow citizens in the seven counties of the Second Congressional District of Arkansas, our doctors and hospital administrators, people who own small businesses, community bankers, high school and elementary schoolteachers, university administrators, highway contractors, small-town mayors, inevitably the size, scope, and complexity of the paperwork, micromanagement, and intrusion of the administrative state dominates that conversation.

While other policy proposals from the tax and policy ideas to funding the need for our needed Federal programs, inevitably every conversation ultimately returns to how management and employees believe they are no longer focused on their missions to increase sales, produce profits, grow their business, educate kids, operate on patients, make loans to entrepreneurs and successful businesses, and help expand the American Dream.

Instead, they are stuck in a world of three-ring binders, CYA activities, and a morass of paperwork and documentation—all possibly well-intentioned, but the bottom line is they take people away from their core mission and core values, drive up costs, reduce availability of credit to consumers, drive up prices for consumers, and, in many ways, cause Americans to be cynical about their government.

In a 2015 article on New York City's broken bureaucracy, Phil Howard decried the red-tape jungle that doubles costs and postpones critical infrastructure projects in one of the greatest cities in the world. This is a fundamental issue today because President-elect Trump says we need to invest more in infrastructure. Look at the dollar per mile of road paved when you look at the costs added by the bureaucracy.

In 1931, the construction of The Empire State Building was completed in 410 days, 12 days ahead of schedule. Today, just raising the roadway of the Bayonne Bridge in New York, besides absurd requirements to survey historic buildings within a 2-mile radius of an existing bridge that touched no build-

ings, it required 47 permits from 19 different agencies and a 5,000-page Federal environmental assessment and a city environmental review before a permit could even be issued. After 5 years, the project was sued for inadequate environmental review. Now the \$1.3 billion project is not expected to be completed until 2017. We are talking about years, decades to raise the deck on the bridge that will increase traffic to New York Harbor that in no way endangers the environment or any other aspect.

Peggy Noonan has said that Washington is turning America into the paperwork nation at odds with the American character of inventors, builders, innovators, and pioneers.

I have a message for our President-elect. When you are involved in partnering with us in draining the swamp, it is a worthy goal, how about draining America's inbox and just leave our American people alone to innovate, employ people, and help grow this economy.

This is why the Founders struggled so mightily over the proper role of the Federal versus State prerogatives in designing our Constitution. It is the core of why they settled upon the enumerated powers in our Constitution and left those other powers not so designated to the Federal Government to our States or entrusted to the people. Over recent years, the administrative state has eroded that trust the people have to make their own good choices. It is critical that we restore this trust and allow our local and State governments to tackle social and economic challenges with our people close to the problems and create a commonsense approach.

So your old friend, Rip Van Winkle, here tonight has returned to the banks of the Potomac to see a great leviathan draped across the landscape. Called the administrative state, this beast now reigns supreme, uncaring, tone deaf, and its tentacles dedicated to one-size-fits-all edicts, and, in many ways, unresponsive even to the will of the people's representatives in the United States House and Senate.

Phil Howard, who I referenced a few minutes ago, wrote two great books that I encourage everyone in our country to read: "The Death of Common Sense" and "The Rule of Nobody," which succinctly outline the failures of this system that has been built up, calcified over the years, with no one in the system really responsible for asking: What is the right thing to do?

Ultimately, then, no one is responsible for these failures of the administrative state.

Instead, administrative officials have come to Capitol Hill and rarely offer testimony of value that adds to the debate, that informs the decisionmaking. A typical example can be seen in the 6 years of review and critique of the post-recession banking measure called

the Dodd-Frank Act. Former Committee on Financial Services chair here in the House, Barney Frank, and author of this bill, principal architect, said that many things in this final act weren't right and required modifications, but a standard response from the Obama administration's financial officials at the Comptroller of the Currency, the FDIC, or the Federal Reserve, or even the SEC, our securities commission, can be paraphrased simply as: Congress passed the law, we are implementing the law, period, full stop.

That is not the right answer nor is it the right question. Standing for orthodoxy instead of what will benefit the American people, that should be their obligation, to help Congress design policies that help the American Dream flourish.

Jefferson, envisioning our nation divided into States, counties, and townships, said: "It is not by the consolidation, or concentration of powers, but by their distribution, that good . . . is effected."

Abraham Lincoln reminded our citizens that "the legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all . . ."

I place emphasis on the nature of "community of people" whereby we buy into this longstanding philosophical position of subsidiarity, whereby solutions to problems or challenges are best decided and left to the community and that, if necessary, the government closest to the people band together with families and local associations to take action, not punt every decision to the Federal Government.

At one time, such dedication to self-reliance and common sense were lauded as virtues, essential to the character of our Nation and of our people. Edmund Burke referred to the "middling" associations for doing good in England, and Alex de Tocqueville spoke reverently of Americans' insatiable ability to problem solve through the formation of associations of all kinds, that Americans were always finding themselves producing an association to build inns, to raise churches, to distribute books, to send missionaries out, to help create hospitals, prisons, and schools, all local communities coming together to do these things for themselves.

In my first 2 years in Congress, I have witnessed firsthand the overwhelming size of the administrative state when compared to my earlier service on Capitol Hill and in President Bush 41's White House. First let's consider the sheer volume of rules that have been issued, estimated to cost our economy \$100 million or more in net cost.

Just under President Obama, we have witnessed over 600 rulemakings that exceed \$100 million in threshold. Some, like the Clean Power Plan, many,

many times that amount. In fact, the Office of Management and Budget, as of November 15, just a few days ago, noted there were 98 more midnight rules of the Obama administration; 17 of those hitting the \$100 million mark of cost to our economy.

The conservative American Action Forum has estimated that President Obama has imposed 40 percent more major rules than his predecessor and that the overall cost of the Obama administration's regulations on the American people stands at \$813 billion.

Likewise, consider the longer term. This chart illustrates the scope of these rulemakings as well as the long-term trend in publication of new rulemakings in the Federal Register, where all the government's actions are published for public dissemination and review. But still more than the sheer number and cost of these rulemakings is how intrusive they have become in daily lives or duplicative they are of another rule that was never repealed. That is why I found very appealing President-elect Trump said let's repeal rules before we make new ones. I wrote him recently, suggesting that he form a regulatory reform task force, like President Reagan did, and put Vice President Pence in charge of it to work with OMB and peel back this layer of duplicative costly regulation. These costs hurt consumers, and they hurt job creation.

A mortgage application, a fundamental part of our American experience across this Nation for a first-time home buyer used to be about 100 pages. Now it is about 500 pages. I would argue the consumer is not materially better informed or better off with these additional pages. Instead, we have just added duplicative paperwork because it looks better. But on reflection, is that consumer better off? Is our Nation better off for that cost? Shouldn't these kinds of things use common sense?

In 1994, I served on The Heritage Foundation's Advisory Council on Regulatory Reform. Twenty years ago, your old Rip Van Winkle friend here argued that the cost in 1994 of the Federal regulatory system was nearly \$1.6 trillion annually. I compared it, then, to the personal income tax, what it raised, what we all contribute of about \$1.2 trillion in 1994 dollars.

The everyday government involvement in hardworking Americans' lives has only grown over those past two decades, and the Competitive Enterprise Institute's across-the-board cost estimate now for Federal regulations, including the impact of the Obama administration is nearly at \$1.9 trillion per year, exceeding the cost of the individual income tax system and corporate tax revenues and quickly approaching—are you seated?—quickly approaching the entire amount of corporate pretax profits.

The regulatory regime of the Federal Government is not just vast and costly,

it is unnecessarily intrusive. In Arkansas, we have seen agency regulations have devastating effects on our farmers, our small businesses, nonprofits, schools, colleges, universities, and State agencies. No one is immune from the leviathan's overreach.

Also in recent years, one has noted the expansion of the executive branch authority by increasing staff at the White House that is not subject to the confirmation of the United States Senate. While President Reagan had appointed one czar to work on drugs in the White House, President Obama has appointed 44 czars, with 35 of those not requiring confirmation by the United States Senate.

By using executive orders or executive memoranda to carry out policies that exceed existing statutory authority and properly belong to the first branch of government, the legislative branch, here, President Obama has hit new heights in what historian Arthur Schlesinger termed "the imperial Presidency."

□ 2000

It is critical to note that it is not the numbers of executive orders that are meaningful as to the directives themselves and how far-reaching they are vis-a-vis that proper statutory authority.

For example, if one utilizes data from the American Presidency Project and compares Reagan, Clinton, and Bush 43 with President Obama—all two-term Presidents—one finds President Reagan issued 381 executive orders; President Clinton, 364 executive orders; President Bush 43, 291; and President Obama at an apparently in line 260. But that is not the end of the story. President Obama has utilized a new measure that dodges publicity, transparency, and these statistics of the American Presidency Project: the Presidential memorandum.

By the end of 2015, this most imperial of Presidents had issued 219 memoranda—these are just the ones that have been published in the Federal Register—and the White House memorandum tally at the end of 2015 was 476, for a total of more than 600 executive orders and Presidential directives.

It can certainly be argued that Obama's executive action has far exceeded the scope and breadth of previous administrations. Even The Washington Post editorial board noted that the President's executive action on immigration in 2014 had no precedent and flew in the face of congressional intent. Indeed.

The Federal courts, too, have recognized the excess of this administration with their blocking of the President's 2014 executive order on immigration, nationwide injunctions on the Department of Labor's overtime rule, injunctions on the EPA's waters of the United States rule, and finally, the

current legal battle over the Clean Power Plan.

So, while I have certainly seen, in my two decades of being out of the Poto-mac arena, a growing trend in the administrative state by way of executive actions that skirt the Administrative Procedure Act and public comment, this administration has also aggressively attempted to avoid publicly vetted rulemaking by something even, in my judgment, more nefarious to our constitutional freedoms, and that is creating regulation by enforcement action.

In my first 2 years in Congress, this has happened at the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Justice and clearly skirts the statutory traditions of the United States and the role of the Administrative Procedure Act.

One of the economically chilling issues related to this contains the use of settlement trust funds, whereby the Department of Justice or other agencies of government choose to settle Federal civil actions against companies or individuals through a settlement procedure, as opposed to going to trial, and then assess a major monetary penalty which, instead of being paid to the victims, is paid to politically favored interest groups.

These activists, in turn, bring more lawsuits to feather their own nests. And if this isn't crony coercion, with its pernicious effect on the economy and a chilling effect on all innovation and economic growth, I don't know what is. It is certainly not in keeping with 70, 80 years of tradition under the Administrative Procedure Act.

My former colleague and White House counsel to President Bush 41, Ambassador C. Boyden Gray, stated in his testimony, before the House Financial Services Committee, about the dangers of an executive with access to the Treasury. That is clearly what these slush funds are. The need to ensure separation of powers and power of the purse are firmly in the hands of Congress, not the executive.

Mr. Gray stated: "Every other constitutional power runs into the appropriations power," and that throughout our history, "presidents have consistently endeavored to seize the appropriations powers from Congress."

This is where you get into the intention that our Founders anticipated. Federalist 51: when one branch of government gets too big for their breeches, it needs to be countered by another branch of government. This overreach by the executive needs to be responded to by the first branch, the legislative branch, and make sure that we, in fact, consistently authorize our appropriations responsibly.

To close this discussion of the administrative state, let's consider a primary example of growth of the state where Congress does not have an opportunity

to safeguard its legislative and appropriation and oversight responsibility. People's exhibit A is the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

In the Dodd-Frank Act, I mentioned a few minutes ago, in my view, the Congress mistakenly created a funding source for the CFPB not subject to the appropriations that are actually set aside. Instead, it is a fixed amount of income out of the Federal Reserve system hidden away from Congress' oversight that normally would be paid directly to the Treasury. Instead, it is diverted to the CFPB, and it gives an agency independence like you can't see anywhere else. It is a violation, in my view, of our appropriations responsibility. The Director can't be fired, so it is a violation of our oversight responsibility.

I was pleased, this October, that the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia unanimously ruled in the PHH mortgage case that the CFPB's sole Director position possesses unchecked "unilateral power" and calls the Director "the single most powerful official in the entire United States Government." I am sorry, what? The single most powerful official in the United States Government. Gosh, I thought that was the President, the Speaker of the House. No, no, no. It is a guy at the CFPB. In fact, they acted in an unconstitutional manner.

So I am with the District of Columbia court, and I have no doubt that the pending case, State National Bank of Big Spring, Texas, challenging the CFPB's unconstitutionality will be noted as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, these are some of my observations about the growth of the administrative state. I have no doubt that, when I come back to this floor, I will continue this discussion and offer solutions about what we need to do in Congress, in the legislative branch, and in the executive branch to make sure that we are upholding our obligation to our voters, our citizens, the people who have elected us, who have sent us here to represent their interests—hardworking people like RANDY NEUGEBAUER that we lauded a few minutes ago for his extraordinary service to the 19th District of Texas. Our administrative state is unmanageable, and it deserves to be reined in.

As a freshman, soon-to-be sophomore, a second-term Member of this body, I am going to fight for those changes that return the power to the people's House and the people's Senate as it relates to oversight of the executive and the appropriations method.

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

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1555. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 2234. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

S. 2577. An act to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner offices, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7755. A letter from the Director, Civil Rights Center, Office of the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of the Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (RIN: 1291-AA36) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7756. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age received December 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7757. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food and Drug Administration Review and Action on Over-the-Counter Time and Extent Applications [Docket No.: FDA-2016-N-0543] (RIN: 0910-AH30) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7758. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling

Regulations [Docket No.: FDA-2000-N-0011] received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7759. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical Gas Containers and Closures; Current Good Manufacturing Practice Requirements [Docket No.: FDA-2005-N-0343] (RIN: 0910-AC53) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7760. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Indirect Food Additives: Paper and Paperboard Components [Docket No.: FDA-2016-F-1153] received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7761. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report certifying that the export of the listed item to the People's Republic of China is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2778 note; Public Law 105-261, Sec. 1512 (as amended by Public Law 105-277, Sec. 146); (112 Stat. 2174); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7762. A letter from the Deputy Assistant to the President and Director, Office of Administration, Executive Office of The President, transmitting transactions from the Unanticipated Needs Account for fiscal year 2016 as required by 3 U.S.C. 108, pursuant to 3 U.S.C. 108(b); Public Law 95-570, Sec. 2(a); (92 Stat. 2449); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7763. A letter from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting the Commission's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress, for the period April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7764. A letter from the Executive Director, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2016 through 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 306(a); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 2; (124 Stat. 3866); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7765. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2016 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7766. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress and the Corporation for National and Community Service's Response and Report on Final Action for the six-month period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7767. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's semi-annual report on the activities of the Inspector General for April 1, 2016, through September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) Sec. 5(b); Public

Law 95-452, Sec. 5(b); (92 Stat. 1103); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7768. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's semi-annual report on the activities of the Inspector General for April 1, 2016, through September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) Sec. 5(b); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 5(b); (92 Stat. 1103); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7769. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's FY 2016 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7770. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's Semiannual Report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, Public Law 95-452; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7771. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's Semiannual Management Report to the Congress for the period of April 1, 2016, through September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7772. A letter from the Labor Member and Management Member, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's Inspector General Semiannual Report to the Congress for the period April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, Public Law 95-452; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7773. A letter from the Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2016 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7774. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2014 Report to Congress on Administration of the Tribal Self-Governance Program, pursuant to Sec. 458aaa-13(a), 25 U.S.C. 450 et seq., as amended; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7775. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act Report to Congress for 2016, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 14165b(f); Public Law 114-12, Sec. 4(f); (129 Stat. 196); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7776. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Ouachita River, Monroe, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0666] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7777. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Saint Andrew Bay, Panama City, FL

[Docket No.: USCG-2016-0932] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7778. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Pago Pago Harbor, American Samoa [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0749] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7779. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; San Francisco, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0154] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7780. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Tennessee River, Knoxville, TN, MM TNR 646.9-647.1 [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0845] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7781. A letter from the Administrator, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Department of Transportation, transmitting the annual financial audit and management report of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7782. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Import Restrictions Imposed on Certain Archeological Material from Egypt [CBP Dec. 16-23] (RIN: 1515-AE19) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7783. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Certain Archeological and Ethnological Materials from the Plurinational State of Bolivia [CBP Dec. 16-24] (RIN: 1515-AE20) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7784. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Application of Section 108(a)(1)(E)(ii) to the Federal Housing Finance Agency's (FHFA's) Principal Reduction Modification Program (PRMP) and the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) [Notice 2016-72] received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BYRNE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 944. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5143) to provide greater transparency and congressional oversight of international insurance standards setting processes, and for other purposes; providing for proceedings during the period from December 9, 2016, through January 3, 2017; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 114-846). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 6439. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOWDY (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 6440. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for new procedures regarding the payment of restitution by defendants convicted of child pornography offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

H.R. 6441. A bill to provide for the regulation of video visitation services by the Federal Communications Commission generally, to establish criteria for the provision of video visitation services by the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 6442. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 6443. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to impose an excise tax on opioid manufacturers, to make the funds collected through such tax available for opioid (including heroin) abuse prevention and treatment programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 6444. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary of Education to annually adjust Federal Perkins loan amounts for inflation; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 6445. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish, in the event of any war, a war tax to be collected and deposited in a trust fund for the payment of benefits and compensation to veterans of that war; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PAYNE, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 6446. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to provide private education loan forgiveness for certain borrowers, to require disclosures related to private education loan default rates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.J. Res. 106. A joint resolution approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCARTHY:

H. Res. 945. A resolution providing for the printing of a revised edition of the Rules and Manual of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. KILDEE):

H. Res. 946. A resolution celebrating the history of the Detroit River with the 15-year commemoration of the International Underground Railroad Memorial Monument, comprised of the Gateway to Freedom Monument in Detroit, Michigan, and the Tower of Freedom Monument in Windsor, Ontario, Canada; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H. Res. 947. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the third Sunday in October as Clergy Spouse Appreciation Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GOWDY:

H.R. 6440.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill derives its authority from Congress' Article I, Section 8, Clause 9 authority to "constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court." This authority includes the rules and procedures used by inferior federal courts.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

H.R. 6441.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section I of the Constitution of the United States of America: "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress, of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 6442.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority for this bill is pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 6443.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 6444.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 6445.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof".

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 6446.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.J. Res. 106.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 of the United States Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 188: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 213: Ms. DELAUNO and Mr. BERA.
H.R. 572: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 577: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 746: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 1095: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 1098: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 1197: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 1312: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 1356: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 1603: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 2082: Mr. REED.
H.R. 2103: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2450: Mr. PASCRELL.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 6439.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 1 and 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution, and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

- H.R. 2461: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 2920: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 3268: Mr. MEEKS and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 3355: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 3520: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 3558: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 3640: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 3660: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3892: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 4074: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 4223: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 4298: Mr. BOST and Mr. BRADY of Texas.
H.R. 4313: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 4513: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 4932: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 5177: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 5299: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 5361: Mrs. TORRES.
H.R. 5454: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 5474: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
- H.R. 5619: Mr. DESANTIS.
H.R. 5867: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 5904: Mr. DAVIDSON and Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 5961: Mrs. COMSTOCK.
H.R. 5974: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 5999: Mr. DUFFY and Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 6025: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 6117: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 6159: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 6196: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.
H.R. 6234: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 6278: Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 6298: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 6336: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 6340: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 6421: Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 6423: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H.R. 6426: Mr. DESANTIS.
H.R. 6428: Mr. BEYER and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 6431: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. KILMER, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.J. Res. 100: Mr. STEWART and Mr. LABRADOR.
H.J. Res. 102: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. POCAN.
H.J. Res. 104: Mr. COOPER.
H. Con. Res. 171: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. GRIMALVA, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. SPEIER.
H. Con. Res. 175: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H. Res. 28: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Res. 848: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. WALZ.
H. Res. 861: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. RUSH.
H. Res. 942: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. ALLEN.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHWEST INDIANA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to recognize the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra upon its 75th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra is hosting a commemorative gala that will feature its signature Holiday Pops concert on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at the Star Plaza Theatre in Merrillville, Indiana.

The Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra humbly originated in 1941 as a vision from cello instructor Arthur Zack, who hailed from Gary, Indiana. Using the Gary Post-Tribune as a means to recruit performers, Zack led twenty-six musicians for the group's first rehearsal. From this foundation, the roster flourished, and the first concert was performed on December 7, 1941, at Seaman Hall of City Methodist Church in Gary. Regrettably, news of the attack on Pearl Harbor was received prior to the start of the performance, which prompted Zack to open the concert with a heart-felt rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" on the piano. With reverence to the importance of that decision, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra will commence its 75th anniversary concert with the national anthem.

While remaining with the organization for several more years, Zack's perseverance and energy helped shape and establish the group, then known as the Gary Symphony. Over the years, its musicians have delighted audiences with their performances at various churches and schools throughout Northwest Indiana. In 1972, the members reorganized as the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and continued to host concerts at area high schools.

The Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra held its first performance at the Star Plaza Theatre in September of 1981, the same venue at which the outstanding musicians performed their first concert in November of 1982. The following year, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra branded the Star Plaza Theatre as its home concert hall, although they still remained true to their roots by performing at other local venues in the community, including a series of outdoor concerts.

The Northwest Indiana Symphony is now comprised of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Chorus, and the Women's Association. The Orchestra takes pride in its dedication to encouraging youth to broaden their knowledge and appreciation of music through educational programs.

Since its inception, scores of distinguished and renowned musicians and entertainers from around the world have featured their talents alongside the orchestra. Well-known names in music, such as Benny Goodman, Dizzy Gillespie, Doc Severinsen and the Tonight Show Band, and Roger Williams, have performed as guest artists over the years.

For the last 75 years, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra has entertained and enchanted audiences with their executions of both classical and contemporary music. Their faithful devotion to promoting the arts in Northwest Indiana has provided accessibility to cultural and enriching opportunities for exceptional musical performances to all local residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating and celebrating the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra on its 75th anniversary. Northwest Indiana is grateful and proud to be home to the brilliantly talented members of this organization, and for their outstanding gifts, leadership, and service, these members are worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING GARY A. ROSEMA, OTTAWA COUNTY SHERIFF, ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Sheriff Gary Rosema, on his retirement from the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office.

After graduating from the FBI National Academy, Gary Rosema began his career in law enforcement in 1973 as a patrol officer for the Coopersville Police Department. One year later, he joined the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department as a deputy and achieved the rank of detective in 1981. In 1993, Gary Rosema was elected to serve as Ottawa County's sheriff.

Sheriff Rosema has dedicated his career to providing the highest quality law enforcement service to the residents and communities in Ottawa County. His relentless work for the community includes serving as chairman of Michigan's Council on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Initiatives and Chair of the Operations Board of Directors for the West Michigan Enforcement Team, which is a multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement task force.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Second District of Michigan, we thank Sheriff Gary Rosema for his 43 years of service to West Michigan and to our nation.

HONORING THE FAIRFIELD AREA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I proudly honor my constituents, the Fairfield Area High School Girls' Soccer team, for earning the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Class 1A championship. These young women have brought home the first state team sports title in Fairfield's history.

The Green Knights defeated District VII Champion, Shady Side, in a 9-4 victory at Hersheypark Stadium on November 18, 2016. The Green Knights finished the season with a 25-1 record and scored 27 goals in four state playoff games, including two nine-goal performances.

For a team from a small community, the Green Knights had an army of loyal supporters. I extend my congratulations to head coach Phomma Phanhthy, and the school officials, family and friends who supported these young women on this incredible journey.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate the Fairfield Area High School Girls' Soccer team on the hard work and dedication that led to their 2016 State Championship.

HONORING MOTHER IRENE L. GARY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable person, Mrs. Irene L. Gary.

Mrs. Irene L. Gary affectionately known as "Julie" was born on September 5, 1930 in Goodman, Mississippi to the late Ozzie Lloyd and Essie Long. She received her general education from the Georgeville Community. She served as a cook for Holmes Community College which she loved doing for many years. Throughout her career she served in the capacity for other businesses until retirement.

Irene's spiritual life began when she joined Georgeville United Methodist Church in Goodman, Mississippi. She relocated to Lexington, Mississippi where she began to worship at St. John C.M.E. Church under the pastorage of the late Rev. Larry Blackmon. Later in life she joined the Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorage of Rev. Edward Charles Pitchford where she served faithfully until her health began to decline. Because of

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

her spirit of serving others, she was chosen by her pastor to be a part of the Mother's Board. She loved her church, her pastor and his family. Irene was a unique individual; you had to know her to understand her and to understand her was to love her.

Irene departed her natural life on August 1, 2016. Her parents, Ozzie Lloyd and Essie Long, her loving sister, Eva Smart, and her niece, Carolyn Smart, all preceded her in death. Fond memories of her will forever remain with her children: Virginia Brown and George Gary; a grandson whom she reared as her own, Donald Gary, all of Lexington, MS; two very dedicated friends Gloria Remus and Ruthie Marshall of Lexington, MS; five grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; a God granddaughter, Sade Melton; nieces, nephews, cousins, and neighbors whom she loved; family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Irene L. Gary, for her dedication to the community.

COMMENDING THE 2016 BEST OF
BRADDOCK RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2016 Best of Braddock Awards, presented by the Braddock District Council of Community Associations. These awards are given annually to deserving individuals, organizations, and companies in the Braddock Magisterial District of Fairfax County, Virginia, who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to our community. I am pleased to join the Braddock District Council of Community Associations in recognizing the following Recipients of the 2016 Best of Braddock Awards:

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

Casey McCollum, Olde Forge/Surrey Square Civic Association. For 10 years, Ms. McCollum has worked with A Forever Home Rescue Foundation, providing safe and loving care for foster dogs, including pregnant dogs and those rescued from puppy mills and inhumane conditions. Her dedication and unconditional love for the dogs she fosters helps prepare them for their adoptive families and forever homes.

Glen Erickson-Bell, Chapel Hill Civic Association. Mr. Erickson-Bell is the "Steward of Oak Hill Park." When efforts to engage park personnel were fruitless, he took it upon himself to contact Friends of Accotink Creek for guidance. These efforts led to the formation of the Friends of Oak Hill Park which led efforts to clear the trails and clean up the trash so that residents were able to once again enjoy Oak Hill.

Young Person of the Year: Bonnibel Bishop. Since elementary school, Ms. Bishop has been involved in community service. She has traveled throughout the Commonwealth promoting her anti-bullying platform and participated in events for TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.) She also has do-

nated her time to various events in support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) including its Children's Hospital.

CLUBS OR ORGANIZATIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE
BRADDOCK DISTRICT

Holy Spirit Transportation Ministry. Richard and Maly Chobot formed the Transportation Ministry at Holy Spirit Church to help those who need rides to medical appointments or procedures. The entirely volunteer group provides a service that makes a difference in the everyday lives of members in the community.

Boy Scout Troop 1965. In the past year, the 40 Scouts of Troop 1965 have collectively completed more than 800 hours of service projects ranging from conservation projects to construction projects throughout the area. The members of Troop 1965 continue to serve those around them and the greater Braddock District.

Staff, Volunteers and Friends of Kings Park Library. With the closure of Pohick Library for renovation, the Kings Park Library has seen an exponential increase in usage. The dedicated staff, volunteers, and friends of Kings Park Library have worked together to meet the increased demand without sacrificing service, making Kings Park one of the most cherished libraries in the county.

Friends of Oak Hill Park. Instead of sitting back and waiting for someone else to solve a community problem, the Friends of Oak Hill Park took matters into their own hands. They united the communities surrounding Oak Hill Park and launched extensive clean-up and restoration projects, transforming it into a welcoming parkland for all to enjoy.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Paula McKinley, Olde Forge/Surrey Square Civic Association. While many celebrate Memorial Day and July 4th with picnics and parades, Ms. McKinley personally purchased more than 800 U.S. flags and oversaw their installation, ensuring that we remember our history and honor those who gave their lives for us all.

Ron Luxenburg, Lake Braddock. The winter of 2015/16 was one for the record books. While most of us were home stranded, waiting for the plows to arrive, Mr. Luxenburg plowed his entire cul-de-sac, as well as his neighbors' driveways and sidewalks without being asked or paid. These efforts truly exhibit Mr. Luxenburg's generosity and passion for serving others.

Don Wallace. Mr. Wallace sits on the board of Food for Others and since 2008, has actively worked to educate the community about the need to donate food for thousands of Northern Virginians who might otherwise go hungry. He has personally organized the collection and transfer of donated food to the Food for Others warehouse. His efforts have resulted in more than 9 tons of food being donated to this worthwhile organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these outstanding individuals and organizations and also in thanking them for their service to our community. Their efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to the Braddock District and are deserving of our highest praise.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HANOVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my sincere thanks and congratulations to the Hanover Fire Department in Pennsylvania on its 200th Anniversary.

The collective accomplishments of the staff and volunteers of the Hanover Fire Department truly are exceptional. Over the last 200 years, the Department's men and women helped to save countless lives and properties, and have made the Hanover area a safer and better place in which to live and work.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I thank and congratulate the Hanover Fire Department on its 200th Anniversary and wish them continued great success and service in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING DEBBIE SHEDDEN

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Debbie Shedden who is the current President of the Tennessee School Boards Association. Debbie has been active at the local, state, and national levels of education for several years. She was named the Tennessee School Board Member of the Year in 2011 and received the Premier Ambassador Award from Tennessee School Boards Association in 2013 and 2014. In 2016 Tennessee Education Commissioner Dr. Candice McQueen reappointed Debbie to the Tennessee Task Force on Student Testing and Assessment. Debbie is also actively involved in the Rogersville Rotary Club and the Interact Club at Cherokee High School.

Debbie has dedicated herself to serving the students and communities of Hawkins County and Tennessee. I am proud to recognize Debbie for her commitment and work to improving education in Tennessee.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MELISSA
KEESEE FOR HER SERVICE

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American on her retirement from federal service. Mrs. Melissa L. Keesee, Paralegal Specialist, U.S. Special Operations Command Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (SOJA), MacDill AFB, Florida, is retiring after over 37 years of distinguished and dedicated federal service, the last 22 years serving in SOJA.

Mrs. Keesee began her journey in federal service as a U.S. Army Civilian clerk with U.S.

Southern Command, Republic of Panama. She then became a U.S. Air Force Civilian as secretary, U.S. Readiness Command, MacDill AFB, FL. She is a plank owner in U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) as she transitioned into the standup of the command as a secretary, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, FL. She then traveled to Texas where she was a secretary with Air Education Training Command, Randolph AFB, TX and a secretary with Headquarters, U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service, Randolph AFB, TX. Before returning to MacDill AFB, she became a secretary with the 81st Training Wing (AETC), Keesler AFB, MS. At MacDill AFB for the second time, she rejoined USSOCOM as a secretary with J3 (operations) then moved to SOJA. Mrs. Keesee has touched countless people in her tenure with SOJA. Notable alumni of SOJA that she has worked with include three U.S. Attorneys, several General Officers in the Army, including a former The Judge Advocate of the Army (TJAG), and numerous prominent local jurists and attorneys.

Her talent and dedication to duty were recognized with her award of one of the first Joint Civilian Service Commendation Medals to be awarded at USSOCOM. In 2008, the Air Force Judge Advocate Corps recognized her as the prestigious Harold R. Vague Award Winner (the most outstanding civilian paralegal in the Air Force). In that same year, SOJA recognized her with the Major General William Garrison Award. This award recognizes "significant contributions to advancement of the rule of law in the Special Operations community." Mrs. Keesee has been a critical part of USSOCOM from its early beginnings and has served with all USSOCOM SJAs (SOJAs) in her time with USSOCOM.

Always professional and going above and beyond, Mrs. Keesee has been an invaluable continuity in the high speed office of SOJA. Melissa has touched and helped countless SOF JAGs and legal personnel in her federal career. She truly is a "Quiet Professional". Her country and home state are thankful and proud. I wish Melissa and her husband of 25 years, Rick, along with their daughter, Jessica, Godspeed in retirement and justly deserved personal time.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR JAMIE M.
GLINES

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who have served this great Nation with honor, men such as Major Jamie M. Glines, United States Marine Corps.

For the past year, Major Glines, call sign "Banana", served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Major Glines is a proud Marine Corps Aviator. During his assignment, he provided senior-level guidance for defense, veterans, foreign affairs and intelligence matters. Major Glines executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of the

First District and the numerous defense installations in the First District with distinction.

Furthermore, he provided exceptional support to me as my staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee in my roles as the Readiness Subcommittee Chairman, the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus, and the Chairman of the United States Naval Academy's Board of Visitors.

Major Glines directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion and he was able to leverage his personal and operational experience in the Marine Corps to respond to the most challenging inquiries.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the First District, Major Glines took on projects with regional, state and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and develop innovative solutions often requiring collaboration across many levels of government.

Major Glines's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers.

I would also like to thank Major Glines for the service and sacrifice he has made, and continues to make, for our Nation and our great Marine Corps. His keen sense of honor, impeccable integrity, boundless work ethic, humor and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the First District of Virginia. As an UH-1Y Huey pilot with over 2,000 flight hours, Major Glines completed multiple deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and served as an instructor at the Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron. Major Glines is headed to Marine Corps Aviation in the Pentagon where he will continue to work on Congressional matters. I have no doubt that Major Glines will continue to serve the Marine Corps honorably and with distinction.

I wish him, his wife Elise, and his children Arlene, Jordan, Michael, and Zoe the best of luck as they continue their journey together as a Marine family. It was an honor and a pleasure having him serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that men and women like Major Jamie Glines are members of our all-volunteer force and they stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away from their families and the comforts of the United States of America.

Major Jamie Glines, thank you. Best of luck to you and God bless you, your family, and all the Marines you are charged with leading. Semper Fi.

HONORING MRS. LINDA BERMAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mrs. Linda Berman, a dedicated volunteer for the Democratic Party and resident of Amherst, New York. Linda's tireless service is

recognized today by her friends on the Amherst Democratic Committee. A member of the Committee since 2005, Linda and her son David have committed countless hours to further Democratic causes in our community.

Linda was introduced to politics in 2003, when she met Mark Poloncarz. Linda and her son David joined Mark to campaign for John Kerry's bid for the presidency. The three political volunteers established the group "Democrats for Progress" in 2005. That same year Mark Poloncarz sought the office of Erie County Comptroller, so Linda and David worked diligently to support his efforts.

In 2005, Linda joined the Amherst Democratic Committee, where she remains involved in to this day. In her capacity as a volunteer, she worked on every facet of Democratic politics: chairing events, service as a Zone Leader, running phone banks and other important service on campaigns.

Of particular note are Linda's efforts to elect Mark Poloncarz as Erie County Executive in 2011. Her experience earned her an appointment as a delegate in 2012 for the Democratic National Convention, where she traveled to North Carolina to support the nomination of incumbent President Barack Obama.

Before her involvement in politics, Linda and her husband were the owners of Masterline, a successful small business on Sheridan Drive that sold hair pieces. After selling the business, Linda worked for five years at the Buffalo Jewish Center. Next she brought her skills to the business office of the Williamsville Central School District, a position she held for fifteen years before her retirement in July of 2008.

Linda shares her passion for politics with her beloved son David, who has unwaveringly supported his mother and her efforts every step of the way. Over the years, he has walked in parades, knocked on doors, and participated in a number of Democratic campaigns. Their bond as a family and commitment to serving Democrats in Western New York is truly honorable.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor Mrs. Linda Berman and her admirable dedication to Democratic politics. Linda's commitment, which she instilled in her son David, is exceptional, and she is most deserving of this recognition by the Amherst Democratic Committee.

RECOGNIZING NEELAM CANTO-
LUGO FOR RECEIVING THE VEGA
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Neelam Cantolugo for her extraordinary service to the people of Nepal. Through her volunteer work with the Women Development Advocacy Center, Neelam provided entrepreneurial training to Nepalese youth, women, and community organizers. Upon her return to the States, Neelam has continued her important work with the organization, supporting its digital literacy and

micro-enterprise acceleration projects. To date, Neelam has raised \$9,800 and has received a donation of eleven computers, which will provide greater opportunity to economically disadvantaged women and empower rural entrepreneurs.

On behalf of the people of California's 3rd Congressional District, please accept my sincere congratulations as well as my best wishes for the future.

ARVADA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Arvada High School for their creative and unique mobile application (app) that was entered in the 2016 Congressional App Challenge. As first-time participants in the challenge, teams from Arvada HS built an app to assist students in locating their lockers, giving the school a welcoming environment for new students and incoming freshmen.

The students of Arvada High School spent countless hours and used numerous tools to learn about coding, further advancing their STEM education. Each team built their app in less than three months which shows their perseverance and dedication to this challenge and exemplifies the character and determination the faculty instills in the students at the school. One of the teams at the school won the "Rookie of the Year" award which further demonstrates their hard work on this project.

I am proud of Arvada High School for their dedication and school spirit in this endeavor. I am certain the students in this school will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of their future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 601 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 5015—the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 602 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 6427—the Creating Financial Prosperity for Businesses and Investors Act, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 603 on suspending the rules and passing House Amendment to S. 1635—the Department of State Authorities Act, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 601, yea on Roll Call No. 602, and nay on Roll Call No. 603.

NORTHGLENN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Northglenn High School for their creative and unique mobile applications (app) entered in the 2016 Congressional App Challenge.

Two student teams from Northglenn High School participated in the challenge. The winning app allowed the residents of Northglenn to experience their city in virtual reality as a way to learn more about the area in which they live and its history. The other team developed an app that provided various filters to help showcase clothing. Each team spent countless hours and used numerous tools to learn about coding, further advancing their STEM education. Each team built their app in less than three months which shows their perseverance and dedication to this project.

I am proud of Northglenn High School for their dedication and school spirit in this endeavor. I am certain the students in this school will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of their future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SENECA HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS ON WINNING BACK-TO-BACK STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Seneca High School cheerleaders on winning back-to-back state championships this past November.

The Seneca High School Cheerleading team competed in the 2A Large Division and added this championship to their four previous state titles (2007, 2008, 2011, and 2015). The Cheerleading State Championship took place on Sunday, November 6, 2016, at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

This state title was coached by Kristi Schlessman. Two of her cheerleaders, Rachel Wohlenhaus and Tess Hultman, were awarded All-State Cheerleader awards. The Seneca Cheerleading team has become a dynasty for Seneca High School and I would like to extend my personal congratulations for their

achievement. On behalf of the 7th District of Missouri, I would like to thank them for representing our community.

HONORING WESTHAVEN MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Westhaven Funeral Home, Utica Branch.

Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home, Inc. was birthed from a partnership between Audrey B. Wiley, Freddie L. and Anthony R. Davis on February 16, 1996.

In April of 2002, the first of three additional branches came into fruition in Utica, MS. With much prayer and supplication, this branch has been opened for going on twelve years. This mix-use building has been an added asset for churches, community gatherings, family gatherings and much, much more.

This location has been beneficial to Westhaven as well as their clientele, tax base and socially. They have maintained a relationship throughout the community and have been able to create jobs and bring about other attributes.

Westhaven continues to serve Utica and the surrounding areas offering: Traditional and Personalized Funeral Services; Special Limousine and Transport Services; Funeral Program Design and Printing; Domestic and International Shipping; Pre-Plan Funeral Arrangements; Caskets; Vaults and Urns; Notary Public; Cremations and Obituaries.

It is their prayer that they can continue to be a blessing to the town of Utica for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home, Utica Branch for its dedication to serving our great state of Mississippi.

CONGRATULATING THE 2016 CHAIRMAN'S AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce for its ongoing dedication to local businesses and our community and to congratulate the 2016 Chairman's Award recipients.

The Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest chambers in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region and is located in one of the largest technology corridors in the country. It actively supports the interest of its members and also supports broader initiatives including STEM education, workforce initiatives, economic development, and local non-profits.

Each year during the Annual Chairman's Awards Luncheon, the Chamber honors those extraordinary businesses, non-profit organizations, and citizens who have dedicated their

talents and activities to enhancing our economy and our community.

I am pleased to include the names of the following recipients of the 2016 Chairman's Awards.

Service Award: Mr. Paul Karstetter, Stitely & Karstetter.

Committee Chair of the Year: Ms. Sharon DeBragga, Mountain View Alternative High School.

Volunteer of the Year: Ms. Andrea Savitch, Unique Travel Events.

Champion Partners: Mr. Doug Downer, HRI Associates; Ms. Anna Schneider, Volkswagen Group of America; and Mr. Jeff Dick, MainStreet Bank.

Best New Event: Mr. Matt Hurst and Mr. Greg Langweg, Hilton Washington Dulles Airport for "Dished!"

Best New Program: Ms. Angela Inzerillo, Impact Business Solutions and Ms. Robin Suomi, Startup Growth for "Business Success."

Best Committee: Mr. Mike O'Reilly, The O'Reilly Law Firm and Mr. Vinay Patel, Fairbrook Hotels as co-chairs of the Herndon Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce for its dedication and commitment to our community and in congratulating the 2016 Chairman's Award recipients. I extend my personal thanks to these businesses and individuals for their many contributions to our region's economic success and quality of life. Their contributions are among the many reasons why Fairfax County is one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family. I commend them on their awards and wish them great success in all future endeavors.

BCER GROUP

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the BCER Group for receiving the Colorado Companies to Watch Award, an awards program honoring second-stage companies for the important role they play in Colorado's economy and entrepreneurial community.

The BCER Group is a consulting engineering firm which provides creative and state-of-the-art mechanical, electrical, fire protection, life safety, and technology engineering services for commercial, institutional, industrial, and government projects nationwide. Founded in 1994, the BCER Group has grown to three offices and 88 employees. Today they are known for their ability to make quick decisions, take necessary risks, and evolve with the ever-changing industry in order to provide growth opportunities for their employees, clients and community.

The BCER Group was founded on several guiding principles such as fostering a fun, friendly company environment while still focusing on the serious nature of its work. This founding principle as well as its leadership and

commitment to the community remain at the heart of BCER's culture. The company supports a variety of charitable organizations including the Santa House, The Salvation Army, Caruso Charities, Whiz Kids Tutoring Program, and the Children's Hospital Burn Camp.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the BCER Group for this well-deserved recognition by Colorado Companies to Watch and wish them continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF JIM MILLER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Miller on the occasion of his retirement as Federal Liaison for the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System.

For well over fifteen years, Jim diligently worked as an advocate for Ohio's public pension system. By utilizing his unique knowledge and experience, Jim proved himself to be a remarkable asset to both Ohio's public employees and elected officials.

It has been said that Jim has never met a stranger. His quick wit, comfort with people and passion for his work played a large role in his tremendous success. Whether he was speaking with the most senior member of Congress or a junior staff member, Jim was able to relate and connect with them. This candor allowed parties to come together in an effort to garner meaningful results for beneficiaries and taxpayers alike.

As Jim transitions to his next stage in life, his knowledge and guidance will truly be missed, yet few are more deserving of a peaceful and relaxing retirement. On behalf of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I would like to thank Jim Miller for his many years of service and wish him a happy retirement.

HONORING COLONEL SONG LENG
XIONG

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Colonel Song Leng Xiong. Colonel Song Leng Xiong passed away peacefully in the presence of his loved ones on September 28, 2016 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. August 14, 2017 would have been his 78th birthday.

Colonel Song Leng Xiong was born in 1939 in the village of Ban Xoun, Mouang Ped, in the Xieng Khouang Province in Laos. He began his distinguished military career at the age of just 14, when he enlisted in the French Army and was selected to attend training in South Vietnam, serving as a radio operator from 1953 to 1954. From 1956 to 1960, he was assigned a battalion to guard Route 7 in Muang Xoun, and later led the building of the Phou Vieng airfield in his home province.

After being specially selected to further his training in Thailand, in June of 1960, Colonel Song Leng Xiong was tasked with selecting nearly 600 new recruits to receive special training as part of the United States Central Intelligence Agency's Special Guerilla Units. Through this program, the CIA recruited thousands of Hmong soldiers and military leaders like Colonel Song Leng Xiong to fight against the Communist Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese Army regulars in Laos, working as surrogate soldiers of the United States Armed Forces. As many as 100,000 Hmong were recruited and trained to serve as these secret warriors, bravely battling the North Vietnamese Army for our country's cause.

Colonel Song Leng Xiong fought in many battles for our country. In addition to leading his own battalion, he personally rescued and retrieved over seven American pilots who were shot down over Laos. His is one of countless stories of Hmong service-members and military leaders who protected our country through conducting guerrilla actions, guarding key installations, gathering intelligence, and undertaking rescue missions—all in the name of freedom.

While the Secret War in Laos ended in 1975, Colonel Song Leng Xiong's service to his people and our country did not. Many refugees of the Secret War sought a better life here in the United States. Colonel Song Leng Xiong, a refugee himself, chose to stay behind and continue helping his fellow refugees in the transition. He immigrated to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1993 after the United Nations closed the Ban Vinai refugee camp. In Minneapolis, Colonel Song Leng Xiong became a leader in our community through his service as Chair of the Lao-Hmong American Coalition chapter of Minnesota. In this role, he and his wife, Manichan Xiong, worked to share the stories of their community so that all Americans never forget their sacrifice.

I am honored to recognize my constituent Colonel Song Leng Xiong for his tremendous sacrifices on behalf of our country. We are all better off due to his life of service. His dedication to freedom and to this country will never be forgotten. Thank you, Colonel Song Leng Xiong, for protecting our country with such great distinction, and for the legacy you leave of continuing the fight for freedom.

TRIBUTE TO THE 187TH AIR
NATIONAL GUARD FIGHTER WING

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Alabama is a state rich with tradition and legacies of excellence. Yet, one that stands out is the legacy of military excellence exhibited by the 187th Air National Guard Fighter Wing, located at Dannelly Field in Montgomery, Alabama.

The 187th Air National Guard Fighter Wing has an unparalleled legacy of excellence worthy of praise and worth protecting for the future. Currently, the guard unit is a prime candidate to fly the new F-35A Lightning II fighter

jets, known as the Joint Strike Fighter. The 187th currently flies the oldest F-16s in the U.S. Air Force's inventory; however, it is among eighteen Air National Guard units competing for the coveted new aircraft.

The Alabama delegation in Congress is unanimous and steadfast in our support of the 187th Air National Guard Fighter Wing winning this new assignment. Nothing helps us make the case more than the long history of outstanding military service that has been the proud legacy of the 187th.

The 187th Fighter Wing has a proven combat track record and an unparalleled military heritage. It is home to the 100th Fighter Squadron—the famed “Red Tails.” This squadron's lineage traces back to World War II and the renowned Tuskegee Airmen, America's first black military pilots and support personnel.

The 187th benefits from being a key strategic resource—only five miles from Maxwell Air Force Base, and twenty-five minutes flying time from Eglin, Tyndall, Hurlburt, and Moody Air Force Bases. This presents numerous opportunities for joint air-to-air and air-to-ground training. F-35 pilots of the 187th may also utilize the electronic ranges on Eglin AFB. This is all contingent, however, on the unit being outfitted with the new fighter jets. During my tenure in office, I have been and will continue to be a stalwart advocate for this vital national resource located in my district.

As a Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I have a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities that confront our nation. I am also keenly aware that the world we live in is filled with potential threats that are constantly developing and changing. We have to remain ever vigilant and be prepared to not only confront ongoing threats but those emerging as well. A major key to our success requires that we maintain air-superiority and provide effective air-cover for our men and women deployed in combat zones. This is the defining legacy of the 187th from World War II to today.

Given its rich history and superior service to this nation, the 187th Air National Guard Fighter Wing stands poised and well-equipped to bring the next generation of air power to the Alabama Air National Guard.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PURSUIT
OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Yogesh Varhade and his pursuit of social justice. His hero, Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, died 60 years ago today. Ambedkar inspired the Dalit Buddhist Movement in India, campaigned against social discrimination of the Dalit caste, supported the rights of women and laborers, and was appointed first Minister of Law and Justice in India in 1947.

In honor of Dr. Ambedkar, Mr. Varhade founded the Ambedkar Center for Justice and Peace, a non-governmental organization,

which has a headquarters in Kingston, PA. For the last 25 years Mr. Varhade dedicated himself to addressing issues of child labor, bonded labor, prostitution, human trafficking, and caste-based discrimination as they occur in India by implementing a legal literacy program for the marginalized in India and by educating others at the United Nations as well as elected leaders like myself

We in the United States struggle with versions of these ugly truths born from hate and intolerance. Forced labor and human trafficking are a \$150 billion industry worldwide. This nation has done much to pursue diplomatic solutions to these international issues. We must rededicate ourselves to this work and to our many partners in honor of the heroes who led the way.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOSE
ABEYTA

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jose Abeyta of Montrose, Colorado, who passed away on November 14, 2016. Jose is survived by his wife, Loretta, whom he was married to for 40 years, and their two sons, Lenny and Juan. Jose was a personal friend of mine and a beloved member of his community. He served our country proudly during the Vietnam War from 1969–1971 as a fixed wing mechanic for the Army's 358th Aviation Detachment. He received an honorable discharge after serving for two years.

Mr. Abeyta is a hero because of the time he spent in the Army, but the life he lived after his service showed us what an honorable man and model citizen he truly was. Jose married Loretta one month after returning home from Vietnam, and they moved to Colorado Springs, where he went to school and earned a degree in Sociology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Mr. Abeyta paid his own way through school, and then he and Loretta moved back to Montrose, where he began his career as a probation officer. He later ran successfully for city council in 2006. He served as the Mayor of Montrose in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, it was not just his work that defined who Mr. Abeyta was, but also his devotion to serving others. As a husband, father, war veteran, little league coach, and public servant, he lived a life full of selfless service and stood as an example for all Americans to live by. He started out as the new guy in Montrose, and he ended up serving as the Mayor, which speaks volumes about the impact he had on the community. I am saddened by Mr. Abeyta's death, because he is an irreplaceable figure in Montrose, but I am grateful that I had the opportunity to know him. His family is in my thoughts and prayers, and I hope the community of Montrose will continue to celebrate his tremendous accomplishments in the weeks and months to come.

TO COMMEND THE HONOREES OF
THE 2016 KOREAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON COMMUNITY APPRECIATION NIGHT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the extraordinary honorees who will be recognized during the 3rd Annual Community Appreciation Night celebration sponsored by the Korean American Association of Greater Washington (KAAW). Although this is the 3rd Community Appreciation Night, it is the first in which individuals will be recognized for their public service.

The KAAW strives to inform and engage the Korean American community throughout our region. Through its efforts and the efforts of its President, So Jung Lim, the organization continues to grow and successfully empower Korean Americans to become fully engaged participants in our local community and political process. Northern Virginia is blessed by its diversity—in fact, it is home to one of the largest concentrations of Americans of Korean ancestry in the entire country. As the Member of Congress for the 11th District of Virginia and the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I am proud to have partnered with the Korean community on numerous issues, going back to my time as a Member and later Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The KAAW has been a constant and invaluable partner in these efforts.

Public service is a core value of our society. Each of us has the ability and responsibility to contribute what we can in order to make our communities better. Whether it is volunteering at a local school, in a community or civic association, at a food bank or other charity, or serving in elected office, the efforts of public servants and community activists enrich us all. This is especially true for first responders and educators. They dedicate their lives to our children, our safety, and our future. KAAW has embraced this ethos and tonight will honor five first responders and two educators who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

It is my great honor to include the names of the following individuals in recognition of their extraordinary achievements:

Officer Nicole Ha, Washington Metropolitan Police Department, Special Liaison Division—Asian Liaison Unit.

Dr. Shelly O'Foran, English Department Chair, Freedom High School.

Police Officer First Class Hyun Chang, Fairfax County Police Department.

Master Deputy Charles Gravatte, Loudoun County Sheriff Office.

Firefighter Andrew Gode, Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management.

Alex Morrison, Orchestra Teacher, Centreville High School.

Officer Jeong Hong, Fairfax County Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending these fine men and women and congratulate each of them on being honored by KAAW. I also wish to extend my sincere appreciation to KAAW for sponsoring this

event and providing the opportunity for us to express our respect and appreciation to each of the honorees.

HONORING MRS. GERTRUDE R. GRENADA

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Gertrude R. Grenada who was born and educated in the Mt. Olive Community in Bolton, Mississippi.

Mrs. Grenada was one of 10 children who knew too well how important it was to achieve an education. She furthered her education by attending Jackson State College (University). Mrs. Grenada holds a B.S. Degree in Early Childhood Education along with 23 hours of study toward her Master's Degree. She was first employed with the Hinds County Headstart Agency in 1966 as a Social Worker.

Mrs. Grenada served 37 years of employment with the Hinds County Headstart Agency. She touched the lives of more than 4 thousand children in the Bolton, Edwards and Jackson communities. What she enjoyed the most was working closely with the children, being surrounded and respected by fellow co-workers and employers with the highest levels of intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Gertrude R. Grenada.

PROVIDING CARE TO THE DUCHENNE COMMUNITY

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recall the significance of the authority extended by Congress to the Food and Drug Administration in the 2012 Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act. This legislation enhanced the FDA's ability to develop and implement accelerated approval programs to provide therapies to patients with rare, debilitating, and one-hundred percent fatal diseases.

Duchenne muscular dystrophy is a genetic disorder resulting in progressive muscle degeneration. This rare condition, which typically affects boys, is characterized by lung and heart complications that cause certain premature death.

Despite compelling evidence of its efficacy, the FDA recently refused to consider a New Drug Application for a therapy developed to treat a commonly diagnosed form of Duchenne.

As there are no alternative treatments for this particular form of Duchenne eligible for purchase or approval, Duchenne patients are left unable to mitigate the effects of the deadly disease.

I urge the FDA to grant a full and fair review to New Drug Applications for Duchenne thera-

pies in accordance with the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act. The timely delivery of treatments is of the utmost importance to the Duchenne community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 601 (H.R. 5015), Yea on Roll Call No. 602 (H.R. 6427), and Yea on Roll Call No. 603 (House Amendment to S. 1635).

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 38th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 70 individuals, 1 K-9, and 1 team in a variety of categories including: the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze, Silver and Gold Medal of Valor.

Nineteen members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I include the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

Gold Medal of Valor: Lieutenant Lawrence G. Mullin, Technician Ryland W. Chapman.

Silver Medal of Valor: Captain Carlos R. Carrillo, Lieutenant Daniel P. Gajewski, Master Technician Rolando E. Contreras, Master Technician Timothy J. Pais, Urban Search and Rescue Team.

Bronze Medal of Valor: Lieutenant Joshua T. Allison, Lieutenant Reginald L. Wadley, Master Technician Glenn W. Dressler, Master Technician Robert G. Ritchie, Master Technician Beverly L. Studds, Technician Travis L. Franks, Technician Jorge M. Martinez, Firefighter/Medic R.L. Radam III, Firefighter Delfin Reyes.

Certificate of Valor: Lieutenant David E. Myers, Lieutenant Scott F. Primrose.

Lifesaving Award: Technician Eric C. Villman.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2016 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men

and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday December 1, 2016 I had to return home to my district for a dental emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted:

ROLL CALL 594: Nay; ROLL CALL 595: Nay; ROLL CALL 596: Nay; ROLL CALL 597: Nay; ROLL CALL 598: Yea; ROLL CALL 599: Nay; ROLL CALL 600: Nay.

HONORING THE TOWN OF CRENSHAW

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a thriving town in the Mississippi Delta, the Town of Crenshaw.

Over the course of 20 years, men and women of the Armed Forces, law enforcement, Fire and Emergency Medical Services have been recognized for their service to our communities and country.

Mayor Oscar Barlow and First Lady Heather Barlow have put in tireless hours to get the word out about paying tribute to these very special men and women. They have gone above and beyond their call to make each program special for these men and women.

In addition, they not only get the administration involved in paying tribute, but also area churches, federal, state and county leaders all come together in unity to show support to those who put their lives on the line daily for our communities and country.

Our men and women of Armed Forces, law enforcement, Fire and EMS come out to receive a thank you from people who truly care and appreciate the sacrifice they make for us all.

The Town of Crenshaw and our country also owe a thank you to the Mayor and First Lady for putting together such a wonderful tribute program for 20 years and for the vision they have in making these programs. We owe these men and women a simple, yet huge "THANK YOU!"

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Town of Crenshaw, Mississippi for paying tribute to all Servicemen who serve and protect our communities and this great country.

HONORING FLARA PRESIDENT
TONY FRANSETTA

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Congressmen TED DEUTCH, ALCEE HASTINGS, and PATRICK MURPHY, to recognize retiring FLARA President Tony Fransetta for his leadership and public service.

FLARA, the Florida Alliance of Retired Americans, represents the best interests of retired Floridians and stands in support of working families. As President, Tony has led the organization in its fight to protect the health and economic security of seniors throughout the state of Florida. His energetic leadership of FLARA helped expand the organization, increasing membership from 37,000 to 217,000 during his tenure. Tony leaves behind an influential legacy in which future leaders of FLARA will strive to follow.

Commissioner Melissa McKinlay is declaring Tuesday, December 6th as Tony Fransetta Day in Palm Beach County to recognize Tony's leadership and advocacy. We would like to join the Commissioner and our friends back in Florida in honoring, celebrating, and thanking Tony for his service protecting and advancing the interests of our communities.

Tony is a great role model for Floridians, and we are pleased to honor him today and wish him the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 FAIRFAX
COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 38th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 70 individuals, 1 K-9, and 1 team in a variety of categories including: the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medal of Valor.

Forty-six members of the Fairfax County Police Department and one K-9 are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I include the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

Silver Medal of Valor: Second Lieutenant Nicholas Dipippa, PFC Paul J. Blasko, Jr.,

PFC Peter T. Liu, PFC Federick R. Yap, Officer Jesse B. Katzman

Bronze Medal of Valor: PFC Dwayne L. Daniels, PFC Michael S. Morris, PFC Andrew H. Curtze, PFC Christopher C. Taylor, PFC Shay V. Nelson, PFC Vincent J. Pullicino, PFC Justin M. Urbaniak, Officer Sharif W. Issa
Certificate of Valor: Captain Robert A. Blakley, Jr., Lieutenant C. Matthew Owens, Jr., Detective Douglas H. Comfort, Sergeant David J. Giaccio, PFC Christopher C. Taylor, PFC Daniel N. Custer (2), PFC Ryan L. Fisher, PFC Michael P. Levish, PFC David A. Curcio, PFC Amy A. Early, PFC Luis E. Martinez, PFC Edward K. George, PFC Kyle M. Proffitt, MPO Damien E. Cichocki, Officer Joseph W. Shifflett, Officer William M. Mulhern

Lifesaving Award: Second Lieutenant Dana L. Robinson, Sergeant Robert C. Hines, PFC Eric Acevedo, PFC David A. Neil, Jr., PFC Scott J. Abram, PFC Richard L. Cash, PFC Nathan R. Vanhusen, PFC Bradley E. Chiz, PFC Gary S. Tuggle, PFC Benjamin J. McIntosh, PFC Craig R. Quattrin, PFC Lane M. Leisey, PFC Angela P. Thomas, PFC Stephen T. Vaughn, Officer Kent G. Bailey, Officer Anne C. Bosacco, Officer Brenton K. Moreau

Meritorious Award: K9 Enzo

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2016 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
FATHER PAUL KWIATKOWSKI

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as Catholics worldwide celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas today, the life of Father Paul Kwiatkowski will be celebrated in a Funeral Mass at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral in Toledo, Ohio. With eternally grateful hearts but deepest sadness at his passing, thousands of citizens across our community mourn the passing of Fr. Paul, a loving, gentle, and kind apostle of Christ. Fr. Paul was beloved by all who knew him. And we know him through his works. As our perceptive Aunt Esther would observe: "Now, that was a priest!"

How many of us hold unforgettable memories of Fr. Paul's selfless service and abiding kindness, always in the heart of our community. His steady and faith filled journey among us imbued the word "faith" with real meaning. A favorite memory for me is the beautiful, annual Memorial Day Mass with appropriate observances at Mt. Carmel Cemetery for veterans and their families, at which he would officiate. A gifted musician, many times he would play his violin under the budding trees as his cassock blew gently in the spring winds. There was a sense of peace and connectedness to the awesome power of creation he brought to every occasion. A hospitable

lunch always followed at the former Polish American Veterans Association Post on La-grange Street. I too recall the moving Polish Mass at the former St. Hedwig's before the Polish Festival opened, as the church doors swung wide and the congregants filled the sidewalks. To Toledo's Polonia, those of Polish-American heritage, he was a revered touchstone and valued counselor. I similarly treasure the memories of the Central American garment workers he hosted at St. James Catholic Church, a reminder of the work that remains to be done on worker exploitation across our hemisphere. Fr. Paul's service always managed to meet the suffering edge of humanity. And his spirit gave strength to others.

Fr. Paul was a learned man, but he possessed a rare gift for communicating with people of all persuasions. He was an educator and Latin teacher as well as a fine musician, and people naturally drew to him. His wonderful sense of humor and twinkling eyes had their own way of communicating "you are welcome." He dedicated his life to ministering to congregations in the heart of our city, always including some of the poorest precincts in Toledo. His rare leadership and tutelage of the Lagrange Stickney and Broadway neighborhoods sparked and immeasurably contributed to the neighborhoods' ongoing revitalization. His work at St. James and Immaculate Conception Catholic parishes made newcomers feel welcome. He consistently engaged with the people of the broader neighborhood, extending beyond the walls of the churches he pastored. Fr. Paul defined evangelization by embracing community.

I cannot even imagine nor count the number of individuals he counseled and comforted over a half century of his service. I do know our Toledo community remains grateful forever that he gave his life for us. He was a people's priest, a diocesan priest. He lived his vows.

May the angels lift him high, ushering him to paradise where there will always be music, joy and peace.

SUPPORTING THE GENERATION OF
TOMORROW

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Wallin Education Partners for the work they are doing to ensure that Minnesotans from all walks of life receive a college education.

Since 1992, Wallin Education Partners has provided scholarships to Twin Cities high school students who excelled in academics but are from low-income families. This year alone, Wallin Education Partners has awarded a scholarship to twenty students in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District so that they may receive the education they deserve.

Along with the financial assistance, Wallin Education Partners also helps students utilize all of the resources available to them during their college experience, often assisting them until they graduate.

Due to the support that Wallin Education Partners provides annually, it is anticipated that we will be seeing more students from low-income families graduate from college. All students deserve access to quality education, regardless of their means and upbringing, and this organization is a great tool for students across this great state.

I am incredibly thankful to Wallin Education Partners for giving worthy students the chance to gain an education and fulfill their dreams. By providing some of the best and brightest in our state with the key to an education, you are not just ensuring the success of our students, but the success of our nation as a whole. Your contributions have not gone unnoticed and they are enormously appreciated.

Congratulations to: Yana Aleksandrova, Issraa El-khatib, Carissa Gillispie, John Hilst, Kevin Huynh, Emily Johnson, Jenna Kallestad, Elias Kinfu, Baker LaMott, Gentry Musgrove, Taylor O'Neill, Jeremy Schipper, Eryn Schlotfeldt, Thomas Shoegren, Randall Skeate, Tenzin Sonam, Kayla Tanner, Emily Vang, Madeline Walker, and Joseph Zuleger. We look forward to seeing what the future brings for this year's recipients.

HONORING SPIRIT XPLOSION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable professional minority business Spirit Xplosion Home of CE All Stars of Cleveland, Mississippi.

Mrs. Kimetria Parks, owner/coach is a native of Holly Springs, Mississippi. She moved to Cleveland, Mississippi in 1999 while attending Delta State University. She's married to Mr. Christopher Parks, Co-Owner/Coach and they have two beautiful daughters named Paris Kaitlyn Parks and Layken Parks. Mrs. Parks earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2003 and a Masters of Business Administration in 2013 from Delta State University. She is the Finance Officer of Mississippi United to End Homelessness and owner/coach of Spirit Xplosion Home of CE All Stars. Her fellowships with St. Peter MB Church in Sunflower, Mississippi. Mr. Parks graduated from Delta State University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in General Studies and Minor in Family Consumer Science and Criminal Justice and 2012 with a Masters in Physical Education with an Emphasis on Human Performance.

She has a great love and compassion for young people. Her ministry is to inspire young people to excel in all things with God's leading and to encourage women. Everything she does is done with the spirit of excellency. Her motto is: "If I can help somebody then her living is not in vain." She loves God wholeheartedly and thrives to live according to his will and his way; not just on Sunday, but every day. She's a genuine giver and does it cheerfully. Everything she has God gave it to her, everything she owns God has blessed her with it, and she has faith the size of a mustard seed and know that it's not over until God says it's over.

Spirit Xplosion Home of CE All Stars was established in 2011 and kicked off their first season in February, 2012. Their competitive teams have won several UCA, Athletic Championship, Jam Fest, Deep South, WSA, and local competitions. They strongly believe that their success originates from the dedication and commitment of the athletes and parents. Furthermore, they realize the importance of hard work, discipline, a family atmosphere, and perhaps most importantly—fun. Each child is an individual and is treated as such to instill confidence and a sense of personal accomplishment. Their main focus is to prepare children for the challenges that lie ahead of them. Their ability to work as a team, striving toward a common goal, will prove to be a lifelong skill. The encouragement to reach that goal is CE All-Stars passion.

Spirit Xplosion Home of CE All Stars competitive teams are not recreational. They train to compete at a high level of intensity. Two of their main goals are to create award winning routines and be an active group in the community. This type of goal requires commitment to attendance and structured workouts. Spirit Xplosion Home of CE All-Stars athletes commit twelve months to the program. CE All-Stars is a family and love building new relationships with everyone that walks through their doors. They are the "Best of the South and We're In It To Win It".

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an outstanding minority business in the Mississippi Delta.

THE "TAX TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2016"

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the provisions of H.R. 6439, the "Tax Technical Corrections Act of 2016," as introduced today (December 6, 2016), make tax technical corrections and other corrections including clerical and deadwood-related corrections. The bill revises and updates H.R. 4891, the Technical Corrections Act of 2016, which was introduced on April 11, 2016. Ways and Means Committee Chairman BRADY and incoming Ranking Member NEAL have asked the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation to make available to the public a technical explanation of the bill (JCX-91-16). The technical explanation expresses the Committee's understanding and legislative intent behind this important legislation. It is available on the Joint Committee's website at www.jct.gov.

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and

women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 38th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 70 individuals, 1 K-9, and 1 team in a variety of categories including: the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medal of Valor.

Six members of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office are being honored this year for their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I include the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

Lifesaving Award: Sergeant Teena Putman, Sergeant Leslie Sheehan (2 awards), MDS Jeffrey Waple, PFC Kent Lwin, Deputy Alisha Peterson, PFC Cecil Richardson.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2016 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during the vote series that occurred on December 5, 2016, due to flight delays resulting from inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes" on the three measures under consideration: H.R. 6427, the Creating Financial Prosperity for Businesses and Investors Act; H.R. 5015, the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016; and the House Amendment to S. 1635, the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017, as amended.

REMEMBERING DONALD MONTANARO

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Donald Montanaro, who passed away last Wednesday of complications from lymphoma. A music teacher at the Curtis Institute of Music for three decades and clarinetist for the Philadelphia Orchestra for nearly fifty years, Mr. Montanaro touched the lives of thousands, in audiences and countless students around the world.

A Philadelphia native, Donald studied clarinet at the Curtis Institute of Music starting in 1951. After graduating in 1954, he left Philly to begin his music career. However, like so many Philadelphians, he just couldn't resist the call of home. After only a few years playing with the New Orleans Symphony and the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, Mr. Montanaro returned to join the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1957 as the associate principal clarinetist. He would remain a staple of the orchestra until his retirement in 2005.

Beyond his own remarkable career as a clarinetist, Donald will be fondly remembered for what he taught others. As a teacher at the Curtis Institute from 1980 to 2014, he brought the legacy of celebrated music instructors Marcel Tabuteau and Daniel Bonade to a new generation of musicians. His former students can be found in orchestras ranging from New York and Los Angeles to Seoul and Beijing. In fact, one of Mr. Montanaro's former students now occupies his chair as the Philadelphia Orchestra's associate principal clarinetist. In his recordings and students, Donald has preserved and passed on the legacy of the Philadelphia Sound.

Although Donald is no longer with us, his legacy will live on in concert halls and conservatories the world over. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating the life of Donald Montanaro, one of the finest musicians Philadelphia has ever known.

HONORING VERKILYA ELESHIA HOGAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable person, an unsung hero, Ms. Verkilya Eleshia Hogan.

Ms. Verkilya Eleshia Hogan was born on July 25, 1999 to her proud parents Vernon and Sheronda Jackson. She is an intelligent, obedient, and outgoing young lady. She is also very passionate and dedicated to every task that she takes on.

Ms. Hogan very actively participates in many organizations and programs. She has been a cheerleader since the fifth-grade and currently serves as Captain of the Holmes County Central High Varsity Cheer-Squad. She has remarkable leadership skills and continues to be a positive influence to those around her.

At an early age Ms. Hogan proudly experienced an amazing miracle of God which encouraged her to serve Him more daily. On May 18, 2016, she was involved in a detrimental UTV accident. A portion of her left forearm had to be amputated on May 24, 2016. As a teenager, this was disheartening because she didn't know how her future would be with her condition, but she knew God had already worked things out in her favor. She never lost faith through her circumstances, because she appreciated the simple fact that she could see and breathe each day. The Bible says, "From the fullness of his grace we have

all received one blessing after another" John 1:16. This scripture, she believes, gives her good reason to give all glory and praises to God.

She will finish her senior year in high school with honors and attend the University of Southern Mississippi, majoring in Kinesiology and pursuing a career as a Physical Therapist. She is determined to go above and beyond to reach her goals and continue to walk in a positive direction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Verkilya Eleshia Hogan, an unsung hero, for her dedication to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 FAIRFAX COUNTY VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Volunteer Fairfax and express my sincere appreciation to recipients of the 24th Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards.

Established more than 40 years ago, Volunteer Fairfax matches the skills and interests of thousands of volunteers with the needs of local non-profit organizations. The success of this model and its impact on delivery of needed services is beyond question; Volunteer Fairfax has been rated as one of the most effective community service organizations in the nation.

Last year alone, over 23,000 individuals volunteered directly through Volunteer Fairfax; an additional 2,547 employees volunteered through their employers BusinessLink program and the value of volunteer services provided exceeded \$2 million.

Each year from this group of extraordinary "Doers Who Do," Volunteer Fairfax selects a few exceptional individuals, groups, or organizations to be honored. It is my great pleasure to include the following names of the 2016 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards honorees:

Community Champions:
 Braddock District: Jim Bertolini.
 Dranesville District: Kathleen Murphy.
 Hunter Mill District: Jeff Anderson.
 Lee District: Linda Waller.
 Mason District: Diane Kilbourne.
 Mount Vernon District: Ron Fitzsimmons.
 Providence District: The Greater Merrifield Business Association.
 Springfield District: George and Estella Lynch.
 Sully District: Gary Flather.
 At-Large: Gary A. Ambrose.
 Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Over: Kathy Hertz.
 Adult Volunteer 250 Hours & Under: Michele Duell.
 Adult Volunteer Group: Girls on the Run of NOVA Coaches.
 Corporate Volunteer Program: Excella Consulting.
 Fairfax County Volunteer: Fred Pitman.

Fairfax County Volunteer Program: Fairfax County Public Library.

Family Volunteer: Hegland Family.
 Integrate Group: Fairfax County Juvenile Court Volunteer Interpreter Program.

Integrate Individual: Juan Hernandez.

Lifetime Achievement: Alan Schuman.

Rising Star: Jeff Ye.

Senior Volunteer: Les Esmond.

Volunteer Program: Marshall High School FBLA.

Youth Volunteer: Eunice Kwarteng.

Youth Volunteer Group: Stony Brook Junior Volunteers.

In addition, Benchmark Honors will be awarded in four different categories to commend those who have contributed 100, 250, 500, or 1,000 hours of volunteer time to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Volunteer Fairfax for its decades of outstanding community service. I congratulate the recipients of the 2016 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Award and thank them and the thousands of other local volunteers for their incredible contributions to our community. Their selfless dedication is worthy of our highest praise and is one reason that our community is often ranked as one of the best places in the country to live, work, and raise a family.

HONORING SERGEANT GREG RAMONI

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Greg Ramoni for his service to his country and community. A Scottsburg, Indiana native, Ramoni served in the United States Army for eight and a half years. He completed several tours in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan. While in Bosnia, Sgt. Ramoni's unit received word that their tour had been extended through Christmas, and they would be missing the holidays with their families. While on patrol, Sgt. Ramoni spotted a Christmas tree growing on the side of a mountain. Intent on alleviating his soldier's homesickness, he stopped, chopped the tree down, and dragged it back to the convoy. His troops watched in dismay—the mountainside was littered with landmines. Sgt. Ramoni safely brought the tree back to base, and they celebrated Christmas together. Sgt. Ramoni's dedication to his soldiers and mission earned him, among others, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Superior Award. He also earned recognition for his leadership of President George W. Bush's personal security detail.

Sgt. Ramoni continues to enrich the lives of those in his community by serving with numerous boards and organizations like the Scott County Arts Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and Kiwanis. He serves as the Director of Emergency Communications, Deputy Director of the Emergency Management Agency for Scott County, and Reservist for the Indiana National Guard. He established a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT),

which aims to educate citizens about disaster preparedness. Sgt. Ramoni is a pillar of his community, and a devoted husband and father.

HONORING THE MS. THERESA A.
MANUEL

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary Tampa resident and Olympian, Theresa A. Manuel. While Ms. Manuel competed internationally in track and field, her undying commitment to students at home as a teacher and coach may have had an even greater impact on the hearts of my neighbors across the Tampa Bay area.

Despite growing up during segregation, Theresa Manuel persevered through adversity to become the first African-American woman from Florida to compete in the Olympic Games.

Ms. Manuel was born in 1926 in Port Tampa City, Florida. As a young woman, she was a star basketball player at Middleton High School in Tampa. Ms. Manuel had such a love for basketball that she would often convince neighbors to set up lamps at night so she and her teammates could practice on the outdoor court near Middleton High. She attended the Tuskegee Institute, now Tuskegee University in Alabama, where she was affectionately nicknamed "Trick Shot" for her skill in basketball and in addition won multiple championships for the Tuskegee Track and Field team. In the summer before her senior year, Ms. Manuel made history by competing as a member of the U.S. Track and Field team at the 1948 Olympic Games in London. She competed in the Olympics at a time when sports were not widely considered open to women, let alone black women. She represented her country with dignity and grace, and upon returning home she and her team proudly celebrated their success with President Harry Truman at the White House.

After graduating from Tuskegee, Ms. Manuel moved back to Tampa to care for her ailing mother and began her 38 year career as a decorated teacher and coach. She was a legendary coach in Tampa. She led her teams to multiple state championships and was named the best coach in the Hillsborough County in 1975, and subsequently the best in the state of Florida in 1976. Ms. Manuel continued to garner countless honors and awards throughout her distinguished lifetime. Some of those honors include being inducted into the Tuskegee Institute Hall of Fame and City of Tampa Hall of Fame and being named one of the "100 Distinguished Women of Hillsborough County."

Ms. Manuel's importance to the African-American community in Florida and indeed all Floridians transcends even her many accomplishments in sport. Most importantly, she will always be remembered as a great leader and giant matriarchal figure to the thousands of students whose lives she touched. She was a

champion in all facets of life. On November 21st, 2016, Ms. Manuel passed away at the age of 90 in Tampa, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Tampa Bay community, I am proud to honor Ms. Theresa A. Manuel for her lifelong service and inspirational life.

HONORING ASHLEY WILSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable young lady, Ms. Ashley Wilson of Crystal Springs, Mississippi.

Ashley Wilson is a proud native of Crystal Springs, MS. She is a recent graduate of Jackson State University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration.

Ashley is a Senior Intern who serves as the Financial/Events Planning Specialist at One Voice. She has been with the organization since 2011 and is set to serve as the Chair for the organization's 10th Year Anniversary Celebration.

Making a difference in her home town, Ashley has served as an advocate for her community, where she has served as an Advisory Member to the Crystal Springs Mayoral Council and a member of the Citizens Making a Difference (CMADCS), an organization that acts as a voice for the people's concerns for the city of Crystal Springs.

Furthermore, Ashley has also served on many other committees across the state, such as the 50th Anniversary Commemoration Committee, Mississippi Meeting of the Minds Planning Committee and many other various committees where she has played a vital role in being a voice for change not only in her community, but across the state of Mississippi.

Ashley is currently an active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). As a healthcare advocate for the Mississippi State Conference NAACP, she has worked with several healthcare related projects. The projects that have touched her heart the most include the NAACP's Childhood Obesity Project and the national GET HYPE Initiative, which focuses on healthy eating for today's youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Ashley Wilson for her dedication to serving throughout her community and throughout organizations around Mississippi.

REMEMBERING DR. WARREN
WARWICK

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and work of Dr. Warren Warwick.

As a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Warwick was a pioneer in the advancement of care for cystic fibrosis patients. Dr. Warwick is often remembered for his work developing the first high frequency chest compression vest, but that was just part of his comprehensive approach to cystic fibrosis care that set the national benchmark for excellence in the treatment of cystic fibrosis.

Early in his career, Dr. Warwick founded the University of Minnesota Cystic Fibrosis Clinic where he served as director for nearly 40 years. Dr. Warwick was known for his compassion, kindness, ingenuity, and tireless commitment to the improvement of patient care.

Dr. Warwick's patients understood that he expected them to be active participants in the fight of their disease, and in turn his patients knew he would be right there, relentlessly fighting with them. It was a fight for which he committed his entire adult life.

Not long after joining the University of Minnesota faculty, Warwick set out, on behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, to collect patient data from each of the 31 Cystic Fibrosis Care centers spread across the United States. Because of his work, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation patient registry was created, which is the global gold standard in ongoing quality improvement through data sharing and collaboration in disease management today.

At the time of the Cystic Fibrosis registry's inception, cystic fibrosis patients routinely lived only into early childhood. Today, many live well beyond their fifties, thanks largely to the advancements in treatment only possible through the patient registry and Dr. Warwick's unwavering commitment to discovery and excellence in patient care.

In addition to serving his patients, Dr. Warwick honorably served his country for over thirty years in the United States Army Reserves Medical Corps, retiring as a Colonel. Throughout, he enjoyed being with his family, and is remembered as a loving and supportive husband, brother, and father.

No single individual has more profoundly impacted or advanced the treatment of cystic fibrosis in our lifetime than Dr. Warren Warwick. His legacy—one of a passionate pursuit of excellence and dedicating his life to helping others—will live on.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WAYNE
GLENN ON HOSTING HIS 2,000TH
RADIO SHOW

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ozark's broadcaster Wayne Glenn, "The Old Record Collector," on hosting his 2,000th consecutive radio show.

Mr. Glenn has been the host of "Remember When" on Springfield's KTXR radio station since 1978. Broadcasting every Saturday from 6 a.m. until 1 p.m., he has been a staple of the Ozark country music folklore for decades by never missing a show. He has over 15,000 vinyl records and can tell you a history lesson about each song he plays.

On December 10, 2016, Mr. Glenn will be hosting his 2,000th episode of "Remember When" with KTXR opening its doors to the public for a chance to celebrate this historic milestone with an Ozark icon. It is my pleasure to help recognize Glenn for this great achievement. For all the work he has done to be the voice of Saturday morning radio in southwest Missouri, it makes me proud to serve him and all of Missouri's 7th Congressional District.

TUESDAYS IN TEXAS: SAM
RAYBURN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the name Sam Rayburn of Texas is well known to this House. It can be found identifying portraits and busts just outside this Chamber. It is the namesake of meeting rooms and offices throughout the Capitol complex. I, along with many of you, work in the Rayburn office building. I hold conferences in the Rayburn meeting room just across the hall. The name of Sam Rayburn is synonymous with statesmanship and devotion to public service at its finest. His importance to the tradition and legacy of this place can be summed up in the fact that at one time this chamber was referred to as "Sam's House."

Rayburn earned the admiration of even his rivals. Joe Martin, after losing the election for speaker to Sam Rayburn, said of his colleague "he is a man of great ability, of rare political acumen, and skillful in debate." He gained that reputation during a tenure in Congress that lasted almost 49 years, and a record long Speakership of 17 years. His leadership was vital, and well timed. He served this country during the critical years between the beginning of World War II and the Kennedy administration. It was the strike of his gavel that entered America into the war, and it was he that administered the oath of office to Vice President Lyndon Johnson.

As a leader, he always preferred persuasion and good-humor to coercion. Following this philosophy, he used the influence of the speakership only sparingly and with subtlety and cunning. His authority, therefore, came from the general respect of his peers for the character of the man, not the power or prestige of his title. He was known for his unwavering integrity, his loyalty to friends and colleagues in both parties, his fairness, and his disdain for pretension. Rayburn once made the following remark, explaining his philosophy on leadership: "You cannot lead people by trying to drive them. Persuasion and reason are the only ways to lead them. In that way the Speaker has influence and power in the House."

Sam Rayburn would become one of the most powerful individuals in the United States, but all this was preceded by humble beginnings. Rayburn grew up working on his father's cotton farm in North Texas. Even as a boy, he dreamed of becoming the Speaker of the House. He left the farm to seek out that

dream, working his way through East Texas Normal College, which would later become Texas A&M University. He then taught school, and was eventually elected to serve in the Texas House of Representatives. While there he pursued a degree in law. In 1912 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and remained there for almost half a century. He was a life-long bachelor, some say that this House was his love, his passion. Appropriately, then, perhaps, Sam Rayburn died in office. Despite knowing that his cancer was terminal, and several moments of unconsciousness at the Speaker's chair, he insisted on seeing the Kennedy New Frontier program through.

Sam Rayburn served his country well, so well as to become a fixture of this institution, and remains so today.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 LEADERSHIP PRINCE WILLIAM VISION AWARD AND KATHY ELLINGTON ALUMNI LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2016 recipients of the Leadership Prince William Vision Award and the Kathy Ellington Alumni Leadership Award.

Founded in 2007, Leadership Prince William is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to providing an enriching environment for passionate community members to engage and network with the desire of contributing to the betterment of the Greater Prince William area. More than 270 community leaders have completed Leadership Prince William's Signature Program. Past participants of the Signature Program include a vast array of individuals from the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors. In 2014, Leadership Prince William launched Youth Leadership Prince William. Similar to the Signature Program for adults, Youth Leadership Prince William provides the next generation of leaders with the tools necessary to excel in education, skill development, and community engagement opportunities.

The success and positive effects of Leadership Prince William are beyond question. Based on their talents and passions, Leadership Prince William participants, both past and present, are working to address the greatest needs of the community through skill-based initiatives. Now in its third year, Leadership Prince William staff members and the Board of Regents commend positive forces of change by presenting two awards to members of the community who exemplify true leadership. The Leadership Prince William Vision Award is presented to an individual who has developed strategic and innovative partnerships and exemplifies leadership in the Greater Prince William area and beyond. The Kathy Ellington Alumni Leadership Award honors an individual with noteworthy vision, insight, and understanding of the community's greatest needs.

Because of their noteworthy efforts, our community is better off for the lasting positive imprint on the residents of the Greater Prince William area and beyond. It is my honor to enter the recipients of these awards into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The 2016 Leadership Prince William Vision Award is bestowed upon Dr. Gary L. Jones, CEO of Youth for Tomorrow, for his innovative leadership and programs used to provide children and families with a continuum of services through issue-focused behavioral health and developmental programs. Under Dr. Jones' leadership, the scope of Youth for Tomorrow has grown with Prince William County. In 1996, Youth for Tomorrow provided assistance to eight boys in two residences and a temporary learning structure with an operating budget of \$800,000. Today, Youth for Tomorrow serves more than 1,000 children annually with a residential capacity of 122. Boys and girls are housed in seven homes spread across 200 acres and learn in a state-of-the-art academic center that offers a comfortable learning environment and access to six on-site behavioral health service programs.

The 2016 Kathy Ellington Alumni Award recipient is Sharon Henry, who serves in dual roles as the supervisor of the Office of Community and Business Engagement for Prince William County Public Schools and Executive Director of Supporting Partnerships and Resources for Kids (or SPARK), the education foundation for PWCS. Ms. Henry's leadership has reached beyond the confines of PWCS to educate the whole child and ensure students have access to learning tools and materials both in and out of the classroom. Since assuming her role with SPARK in 2007, the foundation's budget has grown exponentially from \$477,450 to a bustling \$3.2 million as of 2015. Ms. Henry's innovative approach to the operation of the foundation has allowed it to be named one of the "20 Best Education Foundations in the United States."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the selfless efforts and leadership of Dr. Gary Jones and Sharon Henry and to congratulate them on being honored by Leadership Prince William for their immeasurable contributions to our community. Their tireless work on behalf of the residents of the Greater Prince William area are truly deserving of our highest praise.

RESTORING THE CONGRESSIONAL
DUTY TO DECLARE WAR

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, for more than a century and a half, Congress declared war as the framers of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 directed when they wrote that Congress had the "power to declare war." But starting in the 1950s, Congress began authorizing the President to make the determination for war and voters were deprived of the power to influence their Congressional representatives. The result has been labeled an Authorization for Use of Military Force, or AUMF. It

was used in the Vietnam War of 1965–73 and the 2003 war against Iraq, 2003 to the present.

I want to bring attention to a Rutgers Law Review article, "Restoring the Congressional Duty to Declare War," that has challenged the constitutionality of all United States wars fought since World War II. Rutgers School of Law Professor Emeritus Alfred W. Blumrosen and Steven M. Blumrosen, the authors of "Restoring the Congressional Duty to Declare War," rely not only on the language of the Constitution that "Congress shall have the power to declare war" but also on the debates in the Constitutional Convention that began June 1, 1787. On that day, Charles Pinckney from South Carolina made clear that he opposed giving the power of war to the President because that would render him "a Monarchy of the worst kind, to wit an elective one."

The Convention took two votes. The first put the power of war in the Congress and the second prohibited the Congress from transferring that power to the President. In the following weeks all but one member of the Convention joined Pinckney in the conclusion that Congress, and not the President, should declare war.

Later in the convention, after Pinckney pointed out that Congress might not be in session when the country was attacked, the Convention provided that the Congress could allow the President to call out the state militias in cases of insurrection, invasion, or resistance to federal laws. Congress later implemented its power by declaring a limited war on France for seizing seamen from American ships under claims that they were French. In 1880 the Supreme Court approved this procedure by interpreting the Declare War clause as encompassing "any contention by force" with another country, including both full-scale wars and limited wars. But the events at the Convention and the early Supreme Court opinions were not considered by Congress and the lower Federal Courts when the president was allowed to determine war in Vietnam in 1964 and against Iraq in 2003.

The authors found that the Federal judicial system had ignored the decision of the Constitutional Convention and the early Supreme Court opinions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all interested in this subject to refer to Alfred W. Blumrosen & Steven M. Blumrosen, Restoring the Congressional Duty to Declare War, 63 Rutgers U.L. Rev. 407 (2011).

HONORING SPECIALIST FOURTH
CLASS TECHNICIAN GARY ESTES

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Specialist Fourth Class Technician Gary Estes for his service to the United States Army and to his country. Born in rural, central Kentucky SP4(T) Estes entered the U.S. Army in the fall of 1966. He was trained as a reconnaissance specialist, and then was deployed to Vietnam as a member of an ar-

mored cavalry regiment. In addition to executing reconnaissance missions, SP4(T) Estes served as a machine gunner. While aboard an armored vehicle, Estes and his unit came under fire from enemy forces. Estes suffered severe injuries to his shoulder, face, and hand, and had to be airlifted from the battlefield to a hospital in Japan. This event earned him the Purple Heart for his heroism in battle. After two months spent recovering from his wounds, SP4(T) Estes volunteered to return to Vietnam to complete his tour.

In addition to the Purple Heart, SP4(T) Estes was honored as a "Blackhorse Trooper," a distinction reserved for select, elite soldiers, for his exceptional skill in the cavalry regiment. His heroism and desire to serve his country also earned him the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and a Combat Infantryman Badge.

After his service abroad, SP4(T) Estes returned home and dove into community service. He is a member of American Legion Post 233, and has held various executive board positions, including Post Commander. Estes also served as Commander of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). SP4(T) Estes uses his volunteer spirit to help serve veterans and members of his community.

HONORING MARY HARRISON LEE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Mary Harrison Lee who was born on July 22, 1939 in Manila, Philippines to Ida Lloren. She was adopted at an early age by Reverend and Mrs. Ernest Harrison. Her adopted father was a chaplain in the army giving her the opportunity to live in many places, such as Captieux, France, Erlangen, Germany, Fort Riley, Kansas, and San Antonio, Texas.

Mary graduated from Rochefort American High School in France. Upon returning to the United States, she visited Tougaloo College and immediately fell in love with its quaintness, intimacy, the hanging moss from the oak trees, and the family atmosphere. She was convinced that this was where she wanted to spend her next four years and enrolled in the upcoming semester.

She became a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. on December 13, 1959. She felt the plight of the Civil Rights movement and volunteered to become a Freedom Rider. Mary helped lead a "sit-in" in the Trailways bus station in downtown Jackson, where she was arrested and jailed. She did not waiver from the overall mission to gain equality for African Americans. As a result, on June 23, 1961, Freedom Riders from Tougaloo College set a precedent and became the first residents of Mississippi to lead in the movement. While at Tougaloo College, Mary met and fell in love with Gene Lee. They were married in 1963. She and Gene were natural educators. Mary dedicated her working career educating youth.

She began as a teacher in Picayune, Mississippi; later moving to Kansas City, Missouri. In 1973, she relocated with her family to Germany and taught within the Department of Defense American School system. In 1981, Mary and her family returned to the United States and settled in Jackson, Mississippi, where she retired in 2001 as Principal from Boyd Elementary School.

Mary and Gene were blessed with three (3) beautiful children: Geno (Angie), Daryl (Cassie), and Angel (Chris), and eight (8) grandchildren: Jessica, Tori, Gabby, Nick, Bella, Alexa, McKenzie, and Malita.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Mary Harrison Lee for her dedication to serving.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DIANNE
ELIZABETH OSIS ON HER RE-
TIREMENT AFTER 36 YEARS AS
CHAIRWOMAN AND PRESIDENT
OF SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS
JOURNAL

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Springfield Business Journal founder Dianne Elizabeth Osis on her retirement after 36 years as chairwoman and president.

The Springfield Business Journal has been a staple of Springfield since 1983 and has provided the area with outstanding business news. The Springfield Business Journal was founded by Osis in 1983 with humble beginnings and transformed in the 36 years into a pillar of journalism in the Springfield area. Osis is an example of exemplary hard work.

Although Osis is retiring from her position as chairwoman on January 1, 2017, she still plans on keeping her board position at the Springfield Business Journal. It is my pleasure to recognize her great achievements and wish the staff of the Springfield Business Journal a joyous and well-earned celebration of their success over the years. She has made southwest Missouri a better place to live and made me proud to serve the 7th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 OFFICERS
OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FED-
ERATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIA-
TIONS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens' Associations (the "Federation") and the individuals who will serve as officers for the 2016–2017 term. As a former two-term President of the Federation, I understand that those who volunteer their time, energies, and talents to civic activities play a vital role in making Fairfax County one of the best places

in the nation in which to live, work, and raise a family. I am honored to recognize the following individuals for their service to our community:

President: Tim Thompson.

First Vice-President: Ed Wyse.

Second Vice-President: Bill Barfield.

Treasurer: Alejandro Mattiuzzo.

Corresponding Secretary: Matt Bell.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these individuals and in congratulating them on being chosen as officers by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens' Associations. Civic engagement is one of the core indicators of a healthy community and Fairfax County residents enjoy an exceptional quality of life due in part to the efforts of these individuals. Their contributions and leadership have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise. I commend them for the enthusiasm that has led them to seek officer positions within the Federation and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them great success in all future endeavors.

HONORING FIRST SERGEANT
RONALD OWENS

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Sergeant Ronald Owens for his service to his country and community. 1SG Owens completed basic training in 1966, two years after graduating from high school. After basic training, he was sent for additional training to learn to intercept and interpret radio traffic. 1SG Owens' extensive 24-year career in the United States Army included two tours in Southeast Asia. 1SG Owens' began his second tour under fire in the dense jungles of Vietnam as a participant in one of the largest and bloodiest campaigns of the Vietnam War—the Tet Offensive. During the campaign, 1SG Owens utilized his specialized training to interrupt and analyze radio communication. 1SG Owens' outstanding record of service to his country and to the United States Army is evidenced by his regular promotions; he entered the service as a private in 1965 and reached First Sergeant in the summer of 1986. 1SG Owens earned, among others, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Medal with One Star, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

After joining the U.S. Army Reserves in 1980, 1SG Owens supervised over 250 personnel at the 335th Military Intelligence Company in Louisville, Kentucky. He retired from military service in 2006, but remained active in his community. He was a volunteer firefighter in New Middletown, Indiana, and earned a "First Responders Certificate" for his work responding to emergencies and providing assistance to victims. 1SG Owens' exemplary record of service to his country and community has set the standard for generations of servicemen and servicewomen to come.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER COLLIN
ROSE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the service, sacrifice, and life of Officer Collin Rose of the Wayne State University Police Department. Two weeks ago, Officer Rose's life was tragically cut short when he was gunned down in the line of duty. Mr. Rose was just 29.

Despite being such a young man, he leaves behind a long list of friends, family, and accomplishments. He grew up in the Pittsburgh area where he played baseball and was a die hard Steelers fan, even after his move to Michigan. He graduated from Ferris State University in northwest Michigan, and quickly seized on his first law enforcement opportunity as an intern with the Battle Creek police. He later enrolled as a cadet with the New Baltimore police, and the village of Richland gave him his first full-time police officer position.

Collin joined the Wayne State University Police Force five years ago. In that time, he and the entire force have become an integral part of the Detroit law enforcement network. The Wayne State force has worked diligently to improve the safety and security of not only the campus area, but all of midtown Detroit, freeing up resources of the Detroit Police Department and other area law enforcement agencies.

Collin leaves behind a beautiful and grieving fiancée, Nikki Salgot. He proposed to her just a few blocks from here at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial last May at the conclusion of the Police Unity Bicycle Tour. He was an avid bicyclist, and rode with Chapter One of the unity tour since 2013.

Collin was also a dog lover. In fact, he was a K-9 handler with the force, and leaves behind two beloved dogs, Wolverine and Clyde. He was also a member of a Metro Detroit dog training club.

On behalf of a grieving Detroit, I thank Collin for his service and his commitment. To Nikki, to his parents, Randy and Karen, to his brother Curtis, and to the rest of his family, friends, and brothers on the force, for your unimaginable loss my heart goes out to you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
MONETT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
TEAM ON WINNING THE
CLASS 3A MISSOURI STATE HIGH
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Monett High School football team on winning the Class 3A Missouri State High School Activities Association State Championship.

The Cubs won the state championship on November 26, 2016, by defeating Maryville

27–18. This is the first state championship since 1977 for Monett High School and caps off an overall 14–1 season. This historic game saw trick plays and excellent coaching by both teams, all while taking place in Springfield's own Plaster Stadium at Missouri State University.

Monett High School is coached by Derek Uhl, and saw strong leadership from players Ian Meyer, Alex Turner and Michael Branch. It is my pleasure to help recognize the Monett High School football team on their well-earned celebration of success. It makes me proud to serve them, and all of Missouri's 7th Congressional District.

HONORING MR. CHARLES SELMON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant, Charles Selmon. Mr. Selmon has shown what can be done through tenacity, dedication and a desire to serve Warren County.

Mr. Selmon earned a Bachelor of Science in Social Work and a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from Mississippi College. He studied Economic Development at the University of Southern Mississippi. He furthered his studies in the Post Master's Degree program at Jackson State University. Mr. Selmon has received National Security Training from the U.S. Army War College located in Carlisle, PA.

Mr. Selmon has served as a Psychology Instructor at both Alcorn State University and Hinds Community College. Mr. Selmon was elected to the Warren County Board of Supervisors position in 1996. He was elected to a fifth term with the Warren County Board of Supervisors. While serving on the Board of Supervisors Mr. Selmon has served as President and Vice-President. He has also served as President of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) and as President of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors Minority Caucus. Mr. Selmon was chosen to represent the State of Mississippi with the National Association of Counties regarding Human Services.

Mr. Selmon is a member of the Warren County Economic Development Committee, Back-To-School Committee (School Day Supplies), Warren County Community Development Committee (Senior Citizens Dinner), and serves on the Workforce Investment Board. He is the President of the Boys and Girls Club of Vicksburg which he established.

Mr. Selmon was appointed Superintendent of Sunday School and selected to the Deacon Board of Travelers Rest Baptist Church.

Mr. Selmon received the President Award for Distinguished Leadership in Government.

Mr. Selmon is the father of twin daughters (Alyshia and Tericka). He is married to Fredia Selmon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Supervisor Charles Selmon for his services to Warren County.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
SILETZ INDIANS AND CONFED-
ERATED TRIBES OF GRAND
RONDE INDIANS

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 817 and S. 818 and ask my House colleagues for their support for these bills which are vital to two tribes I have the honor of representing.

Over the past three congresses Senators WYDEN, MERKLEY and I introduced these important bills to simplify the fee-to-trust process for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde respectively. Our legislation will provide considerable help to the Siletz and Grand Ronde in their continued efforts to restore land that was lost during federal policies of allotment and termination of tribal recognition in 1954. The Tribes' efforts to restore land are currently hampered by a lengthy, expensive, and cumbersome Bureau of Indian Affairs process. The ability to reacquire land is critical to self-determination efforts by terminated and restored tribes like the Siletz and Grand Ronde.

Under our legislation any property located within the boundaries of the respective Tribe's original reservation will be treated as "on-reservation" for the purpose of processing acquisitions of property into trust, and deemed a part of the Tribe's reservation once taken into trust. It should be noted that nothing in these bills prioritizes for any purpose the claims of any federally-recognized Indian tribe over the claims of any other federally recognized Indian tribe.

Once enacted, these bills will not only save the Tribes' time and money which could be better utilized serving its membership and the community, but would also streamline the BIA's land-into-trust responsibilities to the Tribes', thus saving taxpayer money. Reforming this process for the Siletz and Grand Ronde tribes reflects the federal policy of tribal self-determination and the priority of restoring lands to once-terminated tribes.

I would like to personally thank Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA, Subcommittee Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member RUIZ, and former Chairman HASTINGS and former Ranking Member DEFAZIO for their leadership, assistance, time, and patience over the years moving these bills through the Natural Resources Committee.

Finally, I would like to thank the Siletz and Grand Ronde Tribes for their friendship and wish them a much deserved congratulations. Their tireless efforts and perseverance over the last six years has been critical to getting this legislation across the finish line. It's an honor to represent both in Congress and I am proud to play a small part in your continued efforts to restore your historic lands.

STAY OUT OF MOSUL

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, haven't we learned anything?

In 1899, Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem called *The White Man's Burden*, urging America to bring "civilization" to the Philippines. The results were 250,000 deaths, war crimes, and denial of Philippine independence for half a century.

Haven't we learned anything?

U.S. forces occupied Iraq for nine years, until the Iraqis insisted that we leave. The results were more than 600,000 deaths, a cost of \$4 trillion (8 percent of our national net worth), and a Sunni vacuum that the Islamic State terror group has filled.

Haven't we learned anything?

I've been to every country in the world recognized by the United Nations. There are a few universals. Everywhere, people want to fall in love; they love children and pets; they're acquisitive. And everywhere, people don't want to see foreigners with guns. They'd prefer a local dictatorship to a foreign military occupation. So please don't tell me that sending U.S. troops back to Iraq would be "for their own good."

Some argue that we must send U.S. troops to Mosul for our sake, regardless of what the Iraqis want or need. That's called "colonialism." It pits us against one of the great narratives of our times, world decolonization. It invites the hatred not only of more than 1 billion Muslims but the entire world. They will see us not as liberators but as the enemy.

It is a bizarre misconception to think that sending U.S. troops 8,000 miles from home somehow makes us safer. It doesn't. And it is a great disservice to our troops to fight in a place where they don't understand the language, the religion or the customs.

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I asked 10 nearby Sunni Muslim countries whether they would send ground forces to fight ISIL. Four said yes. Then I asked Secretary of State John Kerry whether he had asked the same question. He said "no."

If Iraq actually is a thing, then it should be capable of defending itself. If it can't or won't, then fighters who look and sound like locals should do the job.

It isn't the white man's burden. It never was.

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 TOWN OF
HERNDON POLICE DEPARTMENT
VALOR AWARD RECIPIENT'S

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the pres-

tigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 38th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will recognize 70 individuals, 1 K-9, and 1 team in a variety of categories including: the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze, Silver and Gold Medal of Valor.

This year, Special Police Officer Mark Butler of the Town of Herndon Police Department is being honored with the Silver Medal of Valor for his exceptional service. It is with great pride that I include his name.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2016 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Town of Herndon Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

HONORING CONSTANCE BLAND

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Constance Bland, who is an Educator, a Leader and Public Servant.

Constance G. Bland, Ph.D. was appointed Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) at Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) in the spring of 2014. As VPAA, she is responsible for leadership, educational policy, academic programs, budgeting and resource allocation; supervision of staff development programs, federal grant program administration; monitoring of personnel actions and transactions, and participation in academic personnel policy development and negotiation. She is also responsible for relationships with the wider educational and occupational community, particularly the public schools, as well as additional responsibilities as assigned by the President.

Before becoming VPAA, Dr. Bland was Professor and Chair of the Department of Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences. She developed computer science educational curriculum related to database management systems, software engineering and introduction to computer science. In an effort to impact retention of computer science majors, she was involved in a project to determine the impact of introducing the concepts of object oriented programming for first year computer science students using a visual animation tool known as Alice.

Dr. Bland also acquired significant external funding for the department from sources including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Eisenhower (state of

Mississippi), SUN Microsystems and mini-grants from Jackson State University. Her last external funds secured for the department included an S-STEM scholarship grant and an HBCU-UP implementation grant. A major focus of the scholarship grants secured by Dr. Bland involved initiatives to increase the number of computer science and mathematics majors at MVSU. Funds secured were used to institute tutorial services, provide student development activities and support debt reduction through scholarships to decrease external employment of students seeking degrees. The goal of the latest HBCU-UP grant is to encourage STEM graduates to pursue graduate education.

Dr. Bland has devoted 23 years of service to MVSU, and has demonstrated her passion and commitment to the University, faculty, staff and students. Her involvement has been extensive, yet she finds time and energy to serve, work and lead, shouldering countless burdens with good humor and grace. She is a tower of strength and a strong force for progressive efficient public service. She always shows patience and tolerance, qualities of an experienced and committed leader. Dr. Bland is a visionary leader who inspires staff, students and the community. She is responsible for developing MVSU's first Women in Science and Technology Conference (WIST) designed to encourage young girls in grades 7th through 12th to consider majoring in STEM

disciplines. The conference will celebrate its 20th anniversary in Spring 2016 and can boast of numerous female students who have gone on to become practicing women in science and technology.

Dr. Bland holds an Associate's degree in Mathematics from Coahoma Junior College, a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics, Bachelor of Science in computer science, Master of Science degree in computer science and a Doctoral degree in computer engineering from the University of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Constance Bland, an Educator, a leader and Public Servant for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT
KEVIN WAGNER

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Lieutenant Kevin Wagner for his service to his country and community. 1LT Wagner completed two tours in Iraq, each marked with heroism, tragedy, and compassion. During his second tour, as the winter

season settled into Mosul, rain fell with little relief which caused his unit to suffer from painful trench foot. In response, 1LT Wagner withdrew the maximum amount from his pay, and anonymously purchased the entire stock of clean, dry, socks from the camp's supply store. He then placed pairs on each soldier's bed. His actions only came to light among his soldiers ten years later at a reunion. His service earned him the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Upon his return home, 1LT Wagner channeled his leadership skills to better his community. He volunteers to help lead Vacation Bible School at his church, and serves as a mentor to at-risk children. 1LT Wagner and another veteran began a veteran's support group, "Home After the War", that aims to help returning veterans talk through trauma they experienced in combat. After a tornado struck Henryville, Indiana, a friend called on Wagner to help her husband who was suffering from violent flashbacks triggered by the destruction in the town. 1LT Wagner talked with him, helped him clean his home, and encouraged him as he reconstructed his life. 1LT Wagner's compassion and sense of duty is apparent in his record both on the battlefield and at home.

SENATE—Wednesday, December 7, 2016

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Elder D. Todd Christofferson, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father who art in Heaven, we bow before Thee this day, the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and remember with soberness and humility the sacrifice of so many who have offered their lives to preserve our liberty. We pray that Thou wilt bless their descendants and sustain the vital institutions of our government that this precious liberty may be preserved through the generations to come.

We ask Thy blessing upon the U.S. Senate and each of its individual Members this day and in the days and months ahead. Grant them the wisdom and judgment they seek in the disposition of all matters that come before them. Honor their desire to contribute to the well-being of the people of this Nation and indeed those of all nations who may be influenced for good by their decisions.

We thank Thee for Thy abundant mercy and constant blessings upon us. In the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATION BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the continuing resolution was filed in the House yesterday. As we wait for the House to take the next step, I encourage all Members to continue reviewing the legislative text, which has been available for some time.

The Water Resources Development Act legislation has been filed in the

House as well. This is bipartisan legislation that will strengthen our Nation's infrastructure and commerce while investing in the safety and reliability of our drinking water. As colleagues know, it includes, let me repeat, aid for families in Flint.

As we wait for final passage in the House, I encourage Senators to keep doing our part to ensure that we can bring WRDA and its assistance for Flint over the finish line as soon as possible.

On another matter, I am pleased the 21st Century Cures Act bill will pass this afternoon with significant support from both sides of the aisle. This medical innovation bill will help foster solutions when it comes to heartbreaking illnesses such as Alzheimer's, opioid addiction, mental health disorders, and cancer—heartbreaking illnesses that affect our families, friends, and constituents. This is one of the most meaningful bills we will pass this year, and it would not have been possible without the hard work of colleagues such as Chairman ALEXANDER, Senators CORNYN, HATCH and CASSIDY, and of course along with Ranking Member MURRAY.

Let us also again recognize Vice President BIDEN for his work on the Cancer Moonshot initiatives, which have fittingly been renamed for Beau Biden in this legislation. I will have more to say about the Vice President when he joins us again this afternoon, but for now I look forward to passing the 21st Century Cures Act today.

On another matter, we will have another important vote this afternoon. It is a vote to move forward on the national defense authorization conference report.

We all know the world the next administration will inherit is a difficult and dangerous one. There are many threats. There are numerous national security challenges, and there is much to be done to better prepare our military and the next administration to deal with them. That is what this bipartisan national defense legislation aims to do. It will help strengthen our military posture. It will send clear messages to both our allies and our adversaries, and it will provide more of the tools our servicemembers need to be successful. It makes clear that we must also pass the continuing resolution that includes funding for the war against ISIL and for our forces in Afghanistan.

We have already seen the consequences of failing to take the necessary steps to confront our national security challenges. It is another rea-

son we need to move forward and pass this defense legislation so we can take forward-looking steps now to help take on these challenges and support our men and women in uniform.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Of course, Mr. President, it is fitting that we are talking about the bravery of our servicemembers on December 7. Today marks the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, a date that FDR rightly predicted "will live in infamy." It is a time when we reflect on the meaning of this day for our country and for our military, a time when we remember all those who sacrificed on our behalf, and a time when we recognize the men and women in uniform currently serving to keep our country safer.

Through the years, one of my greatest experiences has been the opportunity I have had to meet with distinguished Kentucky veterans as they visit Washington through the Honor Flight Program. I know many of our colleagues do the same thing when veterans from their States come to town.

Today I ask our colleagues to join me in remembering all those who served and sacrificed so much and in thanking our men and women in uniform who are stationed around the world this holiday season.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY AYOTTE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, "God gave us two ears so we would listen more than talk."

It is a simple phrase that many of us have likely heard before, but to Senator KELLY AYOTTE, it is the best piece of advice she says she ever received, and it is a proverb she has lived by during her time in the Senate. In fact, it is how she got her start here in the first place.

As New Hampshire's first female attorney general, KELLY listened to the concerns of those around her. She heard their concerns about the direction our country was going, about the numerous security threats facing our Nation, and about out-of-control spending. She could have just sat on the sidelines as these problems escalated—it certainly would have been the easier choice—but she chose to jump in the game and work to solve them instead. From day one, Senator AYOTTE rolled up her sleeves and got to work. As the most prominent New Hampshire newspaper put it, she has never been a "freshman back-bencher," she has been a dynamo from the start.

I can't say I was surprised. I still remember the first time I heard about KELLY. It was from our former colleague Judd Gregg, who told me about this rising star in New Hampshire. Boy, was he right. It didn't take long for everyone to reach a similar conclusion.

KELLY is tough, she is a problem solver, and she is a fighter. Senator AYOTTE doesn't view the challenges of this job as obstacles either. She prefers to call them opportunities. She says: "It's how you react to those bends in the road that will make the biggest difference in your life." During her 6 years here, she has clearly made a difference in the lives of a lot of others as well.

Senator AYOTTE has helped make a difference as a champion for jobs and as a champion for the economy. As someone who has helped start a small business, she knows firsthand how regulations can stifle growth. She fought to cut through the redtape and the burdensome rules. She cosponsored a law to help small businesses expand and refinance, and she worked to strengthen manufacturing and support job training.

Senator AYOTTE has helped make a difference as a leader on combating opioid abuse. As a former prosecutor who has been among the loudest voices drawing attention to this horrible epidemic, she knows how devastating it has been in her State and across the country. She worked with first responders and families to figure out how to address this heartbreaking challenge. She sponsored and helped pass comprehensive legislation that will help us tackle it. Now, in no small part because of her efforts, we will pass critical funding this very week that will help our communities begin to heal.

Like New Hampshire, my home State of Kentucky has been among the hardest hit by this epidemic. It has been a privilege working with my friend to help do something about it.

Senator AYOTTE has helped make a difference as an expert on national security issues too. This military spouse didn't need someone to tell her what it means to serve nor what it means for veterans and their families. She mastered the issue almost overnight. She fought for language in the VA reform legislation to expand choice when it comes to veterans' health care. She helped prevent dangerous Guantanamo terrorists from being moved to U.S. soil, and she has long spoken out about the threat posed by Iran. She just voted to extend some critical sanctions against the regime last week, and Senator AYOTTE has helped lead efforts to counter its ballistic missile program for years.

It is clear she has been a leader on national security issues right from the start. I was proud to have Senator AYOTTE join me and other colleagues on a congressional delegation I led to

the Middle East not long after she took office. It was evident then what a difference she would make on these important matters. She has regularly joined in efforts with two other leading voices in our conference on defense, too, Senators MCCAIN and GRAHAM. Together, they are the "Three Amigos" or, as our former colleague Joe Lieberman might point out, we should really call them the "Three Amigos 2.0."

Either way, here is what is clear. It is an equal partnership, one of mutual respect and trust, one that has strengthened our conference and defense policy, and one that I am sure Senators MCCAIN and GRAHAM would tell you has enriched both their Senate work and their lives. I am sure many other colleagues feel exactly the same way.

Senator AYOTTE set out to make an impact. She clearly made one on her State, her country, for her constituents, and her colleagues, but I know Senator AYOTTE would tell you the most cherished moments of her life aren't those spent in classified briefings or on congressional delegations, they are the ones spent with her family—with her husband Joe and their two children, 9-year-old Jake and 12-year-old Kate. They have always been her biggest fans. They are a constant source of comfort and support. Sometimes they like to jump in on the action themselves.

In fact, Kate recently made a cameo—alongside her mother—in an ad featuring the two shooting hoops and practicing layups. From what I hear, Kate may even have her sights on a future in politics. She once advised her mom not to run for President.

Senator AYOTTE was taken aback. She said she wasn't planning on it but wondered why she would ask in the first place. Well, Kate replied: "Because I want to be the first woman President."

I guess it is true what they say, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. It is not surprising when you consider the example KELLY AYOTTE has set, not just for Kate but for so many others as well. If anyone can do it all, it is KELLY AYOTTE. From sports practices and Lego competitions to 5Ks and trips to the largest lake in New Hampshire, the time with her kids is what truly brings KELLY joy.

As all of you know, this job can make you appreciate the little things even more. It is why you will never hear her complain about waiting in the pickup line at school. It is why she enjoys spending her weekend grocery shopping at the Market Basket, probably picking up the ingredients for Grape-Nuts pudding—whatever that is. Apparently, it is one of KELLY's favorites. I will just take her word for that.

I wish to acknowledge what a privilege it has been getting to know Senator AYOTTE and working with her over

the past few years. Her impact has been immeasurable, her friendship indisputable. I know she has made her family proud as well.

I want to conclude with a mantra that KELLY and Joe rely upon when facing a challenge: "Brush the dirt off and get back in the game." It is a good reminder for each of us. I feel confident in saying that Senator AYOTTE will be back in the game, looking out for her State and making our country stronger and safer no matter where her next journey leads.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, finally, as each session of Congress comes to a close, both leaders traditionally pay tribute to the retiring Members of their own parties. This year is a bit different, of course, with the retirement of the Democratic leader. So in addition to what I will be saying about him tomorrow, I figured I might shake things up just a bit more, just this one time. I figured I would tell my colleagues about two colleagues from across the aisle who have made their own mark on this Chamber for many years.

BARBARA MIKULSKI

The first colleague I wish to speak about is from Maryland. Some call her Senator MIKULSKI, some call her Senator BARB, but everyone knows this: She is tough. It explains how she got here in the first place.

You see, BARBARA MIKULSKI had a lot of dreams growing up. She wanted to be a scientist. She wanted to be a nun. She even wanted to be an astronaut. And if not for a "C" in chemistry, a vow of obedience, and the thought of wearing a flight suit—or so we have heard—she probably could have done all of those things. But Senator BARB chose a different path—or rather all of them at once. You see, you don't have to work in a lab to champion science research; you can serve as the lead Democratic appropriator on the Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee. You don't have to put on a habit to look out for others; you can serve as dean of the Senate women and cultivate mentorship among your colleagues. And you certainly don't have to blast into space to blaze a trail—something this longest serving female Member of Congress knows very well. It wasn't an easy road getting here. It wasn't an easy road when she got here. No Democratic woman had ever been elected to the Senate in her own right before BARBARA MIKULSKI. But, as she said on the stump, "I might be short, but I won't be overlooked." And, boy, she hasn't been. I doubt she ever will be. Maybe it has something to do with the mantra she follows: Do or do not—there is no try. No surprise that this "Star Wars" fan is taking advice from Master Yoda.

She has learned a lot from others, too, like her great-grandmother, who emigrated from Poland with hope and little else—hope that her family might one day experience this country's many freedoms and opportunities. I know she would be proud of her great-granddaughter today, proud of this crime novelist, this crab cake gourmet, this senior Senator from Maryland.

So here is what we have come to know about Senator MIKULSKI: Her word is her bond, she is a passionate advocate for the causes she supports, and good luck stopping her once she puts her mind to something.

BARBARA BOXER

You could say the same thing about another BARBARA I know too. Senator BOXER, like her colleague from Maryland, is hardly the tallest Member around here, but she is not in the habit of getting overlooked either. The Boxer box helps with that, of course. It is what she stands on at press conferences to give her just a little more height. And, yes, if that sounds familiar, that is because it is that box which once served as inspiration for an episode of HBO's "Veep."

It is a good thing our colleague has a sense of humor. She understands how far that can go around here. She has often relied on it through her years in the Senate, in fact, including when she announced her retirement via rhyme: "More than 20 years in a job I love," she wrote, "thanks to California and the Lord above." You get the picture. It goes on, but here is the key line: "As long as there are issues and challenges and strife, I will never retire, 'cause that's the meaning of my life." That sure sounds like the Senator BOXER I know.

It is not always easy to find common ground around here. It takes hard work. It takes negotiation. It often takes those intangibles too—like comic relief. So enter Senator INHOFE. I am really going to miss the JIM and BARBARA show when it comes to an end next year, especially after such a storied run over at EPW. One day, she is the boss; the next day, it is he. They are the best of pals; they are the fiercest of rivals. They work together on everything; they agree on almost nothing. It sounds like the premise for some buddy comedy from the 1980s, but here is what it really is: a political masterstroke.

This unlikeliest of partnerships led this year to the first significant environmental reform law in decades. It also led this year to Senate passage of a waterways infrastructure bill that will support important projects across our country. And while some may refer to BOXER and INHOFE as the "oddest of Senate odd couples," here is what I would call them: pretty smart.

I remember Senator INHOFE always telling me how much he enjoyed working with Senator BOXER and how there

were things they could actually agree on, so I made a note of it and kept an eye out for an opportunity of my own. It finally happened in this very Congress. Senator BOXER and Senator INHOFE and I worked together to pass the longest term highway transportation and infrastructure bill in nearly two decades. This isn't something the critics thought could be done. We each harbored our own doubts. Yet, a bill that repeatedly threatened to come apart actually never did. As Senator BOXER put it, it was "the impossible dream." And it succeeded because we worked in good faith, because we came together, and because we focused on the areas where we did agree and not just the ones where we didn't.

That is what happens around here when the Senate is working the way it should. We see colleagues from opposite sides working through political differences and coming together on solutions for the American people. Perhaps that is one reason why nearly a quarter of a century later, Senator BOXER says she is leaving the Senate with a full heart. I know she is leaving with the respect of many of her colleagues, too, including some she might not have expected when she first came.

Let me finish with some advice BARBARA MIKULSKI gave to young BARBARA BOXER as she contemplated her first Senate run. "If you run," Senator MIKULSKI said, "it will be the toughest thing you will ever do," but, she added, it will also be "the best thing you will ever do." I think this is something we can all relate to regardless of which party we belong to and regardless of which State we come from. At the end of the day, we all came here to accomplish things for the people we represent, even if we have different ideas on how to do them.

So, thankfully, there should be no disagreement over this next task. I ask all Senators to join me in recognizing our colleagues for their service and to join me in wishing them good luck as they begin the next chapters of their lives.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Mr. REID. Madam President, I apologize to Senator BOXER and Senator MIKULSKI. They are going to give their final speeches, but I would like to have this opportunity to speak a few words about President Obama. Of course I will be here for their full speeches.

It is hard to imagine today, but it wasn't that long ago that Barack Obama was a little-known Illinois leg-

islator with a very unusual name. I still remember the first time I heard that name. I was in the House gym, where Members congregated, and one of the people I shared the room with was Abner Mikva, a longtime Illinois Congressman, an appellate court judge, and President Clinton's chief legal officer.

I had known that Republican Senator Peter Fitzgerald decided not to run for reelection after one term. Judge Mikva turned to me and said he knew the perfect person to fill that open seat.

I said: Who could that be?

He said: Barack Obama.

I said: What?

He said: Barack Obama.

I said: Who? What kind of a name is that?

He said: He is one of the most talented people I have ever met in all of my years.

That said a lot to me, even though at that time I smiled and left the room.

It didn't take long, though, before I understood what Abner Mikva said to me. Barack Obama won that election in the Senate. He came from nowhere, a man with an unusual name, but once he was here, it was obvious he was the real deal. His ability to communicate was, and is, stunning. I can remember one of the first floor speeches he gave here in the Senate on George Bush's policy regarding the Middle East war. It was eloquent, thoughtful, powerful. I was so impressed that following his speech—there had been a quorum call—his seat was way back there, and I walked up to him and I said—he was sitting, I was standing looking over him, and I said: Senator, that was really terrific. That was really good.

I will never forget his response. Without hesitation, without any braggadocio, no conceit, but with humility, he looked up to me and said: I have a gift.

It wasn't a boast; it was a fact. I have never met anyone with the ability to communicate as well as Barack Obama. Whether it is in his writing, speaking to huge crowds of tens of thousands of people or small crowds, or someone on a one-on-one basis, he is without equal when it comes to communicating.

His reputation was well known even before he came to the Senate. He had written a book—a bestseller called "Dreams from My Father"—a decade before arriving here in the Senate. Like his 2006 book—also a bestseller—called "The Audacity of Hope," this book was full of lyrical and insightful writing.

In "Dreams from My Father," he outlined the remarkable story of his life we have all come to know. Born in Kenya in faraway Africa was his father. His mother was from Kansas. He was raised by his grandparents in Hawaii. His mother and grandparents set positive examples for him. They pushed

him to always do better, to be the man he was born to be. That upbringing would serve him well.

Barack Obama went to some of the most elite schools in the world. He was an undergraduate at Columbia, where, of course, he was an honor student, then Harvard Law School. He graduated with distinction. He made history as the first African American to be elected president of the Harvard Law Review. Just to be a member of the Harvard Law Review—having gone to law school myself—is significant, but he was the No. 1 guy in that very prestigious law school. Even then, his reputation for bringing people together and his gift of communication were renowned.

He continued to excel after law school. He became a professor of constitutional law at one of America's great law schools. He became a community organizer, as he has spoken about a lot. He became an Illinois State senator before giving one of the most dramatic convention speeches in American history at the 2004 Democratic Convention in Boston.

Throughout it all, his ability to communicate and connect with people fueled his ascendancy. Those skills made Barack Obama a terrific Senator, and they have greatly benefited our country over the past 8 years.

In just a few weeks, Barack Obama will finish his term as the 44th President of our great country. He will be leaving office. I don't know if I am leaving with him or if he is leaving with me. I guess I leave a few days before he does, but we are leaving together. I cannot think of a better person with whom to leave public service than Barack Obama. For 8 years I was his point man, and it has been an honor and an effort of pleasure.

What this man accomplished, despite unprecedented obstruction from the Republicans, is remarkable. History will remember President Barack Obama's many accomplishments. I don't want to get the Presiding Officer in trouble, but it was because of her and two other Republican Senators that his first congressional session was remarkably historic. We wanted to do more, but this good woman presiding over the Senate today said: Enough is enough. We had to retract some of the things we wanted to do. It was hard, but I do say this: It would not have happened but for the Presiding Officer.

President Obama saved the country from economic collapse, ushering in a new era of growth. Since 2010, the economic recovery has added more than 16 million private sector jobs. Median household incomes have risen significantly. The unemployment rate is now 4.6 percent. In some States, like the State of Nevada, it is more than 14 percent. President Obama brought the American auto and manufacturing industries back from the brink of col-

lapse with unique programs—Cash for Clunkers—and more than 800,000 new manufacturing jobs since 2010. The auto industry has added almost 700,000 jobs since 2009. Domestic production of automobiles doubled from below 6 million units per year to 12 million per year in 2015.

President Obama brought health care to tens of millions of Americans through the Affordable Care Act. Every day, we learn how important this bill has been. We heard from the very conservative American Hospital Association today that doing away with ObamaCare would bankrupt the hospital industry. We would lose over the next few years almost \$200 billion. Through the Affordable Care Act, 21 million more Americans now have affordable health care. The uninsured rate is at an all-time low, and 92 percent of Americans now have coverage. Insurance companies cannot deny coverage and charge more to cover people with preexisting conditions.

How many of us have gone out to our home States and had people with tears in their eyes say: You know, Debbie has been sick since she was a little girl with diabetes, and now, for the first time in her life, she can have health insurance.

Insurance companies can't discriminate anymore against anyone because of their gender. All women were discriminated against before. Every American with insurance has access to preventive care without cost sharing. That means no copays for immunizations, cancer screenings, contraceptive coverage for women, diabetes screenings, or blood pressure and cholesterol tests.

President Obama held Wall Street accountable. He signed into law the most comprehensive Wall Street and financial reform legislation since the Great Depression. His administration established a new watchdog to help protect consumers from unfair financial practices. He signed legislation into law that protects homeowners from mortgage fraud.

President Obama took more action to protect our planet from a changing climate, including the historic Paris Agreement.

I met yesterday with Native Alaskans. It was scary to talk to a Native Alaskan woman. In her town of 800, people are having trouble getting in and out of the town. She told me the animals are confused because the seasons are changing.

The caribou have traveled for 20,000 years, we believe, 3,000 miles to migrate every year. They walk in single file, not in large herds jammed together. She said they are having such difficulty. They used to be able to walk over the ice. They can't. There is no ice. They have to swim.

President Obama made the largest investment ever in renewable energy.

He tripled wind power and increased solar power by 30 times, creating more than 200,000 jobs in solar alone, with hundreds of thousands more jobs in the next few years.

President Obama protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters. That includes more than 700,000 acres in Nevada with one order that he signed called the Basin and Range National Monument, a place where John Muir came looking around for special places in America. He camped in hills in the Basin and Range. Hopefully, some day every Senator can go to this magnificent place in the desert. It has taken 40 years to build. One man has done it, a famous artist by the name of Michael Heizer. It is called the City. It is stunning. When I talk about 40 years, it wasn't work done on weekends. It was days, weekends, overtime, and large contingencies of people he directed. This magnificent thing in the middle of the desert is now protected forever.

President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama have made our Nation's children a top priority. In 2010, President Obama signed a bill into law to fight child hunger and improve school meals to ensure children receive the nutrition they need to have healthy, successful futures.

President Obama made strides on education. Our Nation's high school graduation rate is the highest in the history of our country. He reformed student loan programs, increased Pell grants, made student loan repayment more affordable, and expanded loan forgiveness for graduates who enter public service professions.

President Obama granted deferred action to immigrant youth who would have qualified under the DREAM Act, bringing nearly 800,000 young people out of the shadows.

President Obama made our country more inclusive. He signed the repeal of don't ask, don't tell. He signed Executive orders protecting LGBT workers. Americans are now free to marry the person they love, regardless of their gender.

As Commander in Chief, President Obama brought bin Laden to justice.

These are just a few aspects of President Obama's storied legacy, and it is still growing—what a record. It is a legacy of which he should be satisfied. America is better because of this good man being 8 years in the White House.

I am even more impressed by who he is as a person than who he is as President. He is a man of integrity and honesty. I have learned so much from him. I have never heard Barack Obama denigrate anyone, ever. There have been times he could have. Perhaps, I thought a negative word should have been said and I suggested that to him, but he would never take it. No, he wouldn't do that. That is Barack Obama.

Above all, I admire the attention he has given his family. He may be President of the United States, but nothing gets in the way of his family. He is a terrific husband to Michelle and an outstanding father to Sasha and Malia. He arrives home for dinner with his family virtually every night he is in Washington. He goes to their plays and games. President or not, he is a husband and a father.

His devotion extends to his staff as well, and he has had a terrific staff working for him. I can't mention all of them, but I will mention his present Chief of Staff, Denis McDonough. He and I have a very close relationship. Close relationships come with a lot of difficulty sometimes. It has been tough, but we tried to work through it together.

Pete Rouse is one of the nicest people I have ever known. He also worked with the President very closely. He was his chief of staff as Senator, and, of course, a chief adviser when he was in the White House.

Rahm Emanuel, now the leader of Chicago, IL, was former Chief of Staff, and is currently mayor of Chicago. He is a man known for his bluntness and his productivity as a Member of Congress and as Chief of Staff.

Alyssa Mastromonaco was former Deputy Chief of Staff and I hope that I had something to do with the romance that wound up with her marrying my chief of staff, David Krone.

These are just a few of the incredible people I have had the pleasure of working with. They are all wonderful.

Then there is President Obama's Cabinet—a Cabinet of quality. That includes my friend, Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar, a wonderful man and a terrific public servant, a man of substance like no other ever known.

After 8 years leading the country, President Obama is leaving office on a high point. When he first took office, our country was in an economic free fall and hemorrhaging jobs. Now the country is experiencing the longest streak of private sector job growth ever. We have the lowest unemployment rate in nearly a decade.

After 8 years of President Obama, we are now as a country on a sustainable path to fight climate change and grow renewable energy sources. We are more respected around the world. We reached international agreements to curb climate change, stop Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, and we are on the path to normalizing relations with our neighbor Cuba.

Our country has made significant strides in nearly every way. There is no doubt that the United States is better now than we were 8 years ago, and we have Barack Obama to thank for that.

Thank you, President Obama, for being the person you are.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

TSUNAMI WARNING, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 34, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 34, an act to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with McConnell amendment No. 5117, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5118 (to amendment No. 5117), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, this is a moment for me that, I think it is fair to say, I will never ever forget.

I am so honored. I am so honored to have members of my family here, staff from past and present from both my personal office and committee, extraordinary colleagues whom I adore and love, whom I worked with, fought with and debated. I am so honored that Senator MCCONNELL and Senator REID have said really nice things about me. I think, in Senator REID's case, we go back so long, and I will talk a little bit more about that. In Senator MCCONNELL's case, we didn't talk for a long time, and then we did get together and we did some great work together. But I think he was here just to make sure I am leaving. My leader over in the House is here—NANCY PELOSI. I will talk about her more. My colleagues from the House came over in the midst of all their work. I love them. I have enjoyed working with them.

I look around this Chamber, and I realize the reason I am able to actually leave is because I know each of you and your passion to make life better for people, and that is what it is all about.

When I decided not to run for reelection, you know how the press always follows you around. They said: "Is this bittersweet for you?"

My answer was forthcoming: "No way is it bitter. In every way it is sweet."

Why do I feel that way? It is because this has been a dream, to be in a profession that I think is noble, no matter how beaten up it gets, for 40 years—for

more than half my life—and I was able to do every day what I always wanted to do, which is simply to make life better for people. I didn't always succeed. Were there frustrations? Yes. Were there disappointments? Yes. Were there defeats? Yes, many, but every morning when I woke up, I knew I had a chance to do something good.

As a first generation American on my mother's side, and, most particularly, as a woman, I never in my wildest dreams imagined that I could be in the U.S. Senate. It was an uphill battle, and I know I speak for a lot of people sitting right here who know what I am talking about.

When I first ran for the Marin County Board of Supervisors in 1972, it was a Republican landslide year. It was more than tough. I will never forget one woman I spoke with after knocking on her door. I introduced myself and said, "Hi, I am Barbara Boxer. I am running for county supervisor."

She greeted me by saying, "I never thought you would be so short." Then, she said she wasn't supporting me because, quote, "You have four kids, and you are going to neglect them if you are elected."

Well, never mind that this was a part-time job just a few minutes from the house. Never mind that the man I was running against had a family and a full-time job. Never mind that I actually had two kids, but she insisted. She said, "I know you have four kids because I read it in the newspaper."

I said, "Lady, when you give birth, you never forget it, and I did it twice."

Well, I lost that seat, but two things helped get me through it. The first was an article by Gloria Steinem, who essentially said women tend to take losses too personally. We have to understand that we could be just a little bit ahead of our time, and we can't give up.

Second, my son Doug, only seven at the time, ignored any attempts to cheer him up by saying, "Mom, can you make me a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for lunch?"

The point is that life goes on no matter how deep the disappointments. You pick yourself up, and you keep fighting because this is your country. It is our country, and it is worth fighting for. I ran again four years later and won. I was eager to get to work on issues such as:

Afterschool for kids.

Protecting the natural beauty of my county.

Ensuring that a child walking to school would be safe. I put up so many stop signs to protect kids that I soon became known as the "Stop Sign Queen."

It was local government, and the world was changing. The Vietnam War was raging. The women's movement was ramping up. The oil companies wanted to drill off the pristine coast of

California. Even from my position as a local county supervisor representing only 40,000 people, I was exposed to these national issues that would soon require all of my attention.

Tip O'Neill, one of NANCY PELOSI's great predecessors, was known for his saying that "All politics is local," but the global became local when Marin County got a Federal grant saying the threat of nuclear attack is real, and you have to have a plan to evacuate the county in case there is a bomb dropped in San Francisco. This was in the 1980's.

The Reagan administration, I think, missed the obvious. Getting in a car on a narrow road to evacuate to Napa or going under your desk was not going to protect you, so all five supervisors—three Republicans and two Democrats—rejected the grant. Instead, we mailed an informational booklet to every household, telling them there was no way to evacuate from a nuclear bomb; you have to prevent it in the first place.

During that same period, James Watt wanted to drill off the coast of California. We put together business people, environmentalists, farmers, and we said no. The tourist industry joined us, and we stopped it.

That was my first attempt at very broad coalition building. As national issues unfolded before my eyes, I had to do more if I really wanted to stay true to making life better for people.

When John Burton's seat for Congress opened up in 1982, I jumped in. It was a long shot. And I will always be grateful to the people who brought me to that dance: working people, environmentalists, children's advocates. They put me over the top.

After I won this election, I began hearing about the mysterious disease that was stealing the lives of so many in my congressional district. I remember feeling so helpless because we didn't know what it was and what caused it. One thing was clear: AIDS was devastating, and too many in Washington were not taking action.

When we found out it could be transmitted sexually, I had to go up against the far rightwing who didn't want to provide any information about the disease. Yet here I was, a middle-aged mother of two from the suburbs, talking about condoms. It was uncomfortable, but this would become my way. In the face of a crisis, never look away, never back down, and never be afraid.

In the case of AIDS, I got to work with the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, a southern gentleman. He had never heard of AIDS. He said to me: "If people are sick, then we must help." We got the first double-digit Federal AIDS funding, and we established an AIDS Task Force and brought in people such as Elizabeth Taylor and Elizabeth Glaser, and we fought back. We took it under our wing

to solve this crisis—both adult AIDS and pediatric AIDS.

By that time, I had an extraordinary new partner in the House, NANCY PELOSI. We immediately bonded. I was so impressed with her passion and her energy. We remain the dearest of friends to this day. I am so proud of her. NANCY has changed the face of politics in America, and she will go down in history as one of the most influential leaders of our time.

Recently—on a recent issue—I was expressing deep disappointment, and NANCY told me: "Don't agonize. Organize!" This was two nights ago. She is right. When things get tough, that is what you do.

Over the years, the issues kept coming my way and came the way of a lot of people in this room: the Violence Against Women Act, LGBT equality, protecting a woman's right to choose, workers' rights, protecting the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Those are all examples. These fights continue, and they keep coming whether you are in elected office or not. They come to you if you are a single parent trying to raise a child and struggling to make ends meet on a minimum wage that is not fair. They come to you if your kid gets asthma. They come to you if your job has been outsourced and you have nowhere to turn. They come to you when college tuition gets out of reach.

Whether it is happening to you or someone else, the great thing about our participatory democracy is each of us has a chance to make a difference. You can make a difference by holding an elected office or working for someone who does. You can make a difference by working for a campaign. You can make a difference by starting a business and employing good people to help you build it. You can make a difference by becoming a teacher, a nurse, a firefighter or a police officer.

There are so many noble ways to make a difference in America. The one thing you cannot do, even when it is tempting: You cannot turn away—never. The forces and the people who shape you cannot be ignored. I say to everybody within the sound of my voice that you have it within you to step out and make your mark.

A lot of young people come up to me and say, "I would love to do what you do. How do I become a U.S. Senator?"

I am sure a lot of us get that question.

I always say, "It is not important to be something; it is important to do something."

If you choose my path and the path of many in this room, I want to be clear: You will need mentors and you will need friends like two of mine—John Burton and BARBARA MIKULSKI. John encouraged me to run for the House, where he had always been a fighter for those without a voice.

BARBARA had been my friend in the House and encouraged me to run for the Senate. When I went to see her, she said, very simply: "Go for it." That and \$40 million—that was good advice. And I did. Senator MIKULSKI is everything a Senator should be. She is intelligent, caring, always focused, and as an added bonus, she can have you in stitches. I am so grateful for her guidance and, most important, her friendship.

I launched my campaign for the Senate. It was very difficult. No one predicted I would win. I was less than an asterisk in the polls. I was filled with doubt. Coming to my aid was my senior Senator, DIANNE FEINSTEIN. She stood by my side, even though it could have cost her votes. I will never, ever forget that. Thank you, DIANNE.

I also need to pay tribute to Anita Hill because without her, I never would have been elected to the Senate. Anita Hill courageously told her story to the all-male U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, breaking the silence on this painful issue. In addition, people saw there were only two women in the Senate.

Anita Hill, you showed us all that we must never be afraid to take on the powerful. It certainly isn't easy, but if you learn to be tough in the right way, you can find the sweet spot, even in this atmosphere where the parties have grown so far apart. This is one of my biggest regrets—how far the parties have grown apart, especially when it comes to the environment.

Remember, Richard Nixon created the Environmental Protection Agency. He signed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. George H.W. Bush signed the extension of the Clean Air Act. Many Republicans led the charge for environmental protection. Now, unfortunately, protecting the environment has become a divide where we truly duke it out.

As I leave here, I intend to do everything in my power to work to bridge that divide because we all live on one planet. It doesn't matter what party we are. We all breathe the same air. We all want our families to be healthy and live on a planet that can sustain us and all of God's creations. In this time of deep division, we have to find areas to work together.

I think I found a proven formula in my relationship with my friend and chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator JIM INHOFE. We never surprise each other, even where we disagree—ever. Our word is our bond to each other. We found that we could work as a winning team to build and strengthen our Nation's infrastructure, and we have made incredible progress for the American people on those issues—long-term highway bills, long-term water bills

and the first update on the Toxic Control Act. That was a doozy for us. I will never forget that battle.

Transportation turned out to be a sweet spot between Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL and me. We hadn't talked seriously for 20 years because of the Packwood case. It was: Hello, hello. That was it. But we did come together to save the Highway Trust Fund at an urgent time.

Our work together surprised so many of our colleagues, but I think it surprised the two of us more than anything else. But it worked because we set aside all of our past legitimate divisions in order to rescue America's transportation system. We took a risk, and the risk paid off. And, of course, all of my colleagues helped make that possible.

Also, I want to mention my Republican counterpart on the Ethics Committee, Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON, because when it comes to ethics, we have proven there is no room for partisanship. All we want to do is make sure the Senate is a respected institution. Friendship and trust with Members on both sides and in the House of Representatives—I am so proud so many of you are here—that is the only way to get things done.

Having a leader who has your back is essential. A good leader knows and understands each member of his caucus and where they draw the line. HARRY is so humble. Whenever you talk about him, he puts his head down.

HARRY, could you just look at me for a second?

A good leader knows when to speak up and when to listen. A good leader knows when to pick up the gloves and fight like hell. That is what HARRY REID has done. He is not a show horse; he is a workhorse.

He is a soft-spoken man. How many of us have to say: HARRY, could you speak up? He is a soft-spoken man of a few words, but he chooses his words wisely, and he chooses his fights wisely. He doesn't seek the spotlight. When it comes to standing up for what is right, he is right there when others try to slip out of the room.

HARRY has not only been an extraordinary leader and colleague, he and his wife, Landra, have been close and treasured friends of me and my husband, Stewart. I call him the brother I never had, and he calls me the sister he never had. He treats me like a sister; he always hangs up on me when I call him. And he never calls on me when I madly wave my hand at caucus. You know, I am like a sister. You don't have to worry, the love will be there. I am forever grateful for his leadership and his friendship.

Another quality of HARRY REID is that he encouraged women to run for the Senate. Once we got here, he made sure we had major responsibilities. HARRY, you will go down in history for that.

I am, of course, ecstatic that my successor is Kamala Harris, who served as attorney general for my State with great distinction and who will continue the tradition of having a strong, progressive woman in this seat.

Kamala, you heard it here—a strong, progressive woman in this seat is what we need.

As I wind down my remarks, I must be completely honest about my broken heart. I worked hard, along with so many millions of Americans, so that we would have our first female President. It was not to be this time, but we made history with Hillary Clinton, the first female nominee of a major party, who, I might add, won the popular vote by millions and still counting. She truly shattered the glass ceiling and showed that women had the ability to take it on the chin again and again.

My message to everyone who supported Hillary is, the work goes on. Yes, you build on success and you learn from failure, but you never stop working for human rights, civil rights, women's rights, voting rights, children's rights and the environment. I certainly don't plan to stop.

I am not only fortunate to have had this extraordinary career, but I am also so fortunate to be going home to a State that stands for everything I believe in.

I wish to thank every one of my staffers—those who worked for me in Washington, either on my personal staff, committee staff, those who worked for me in the State, and those who helped me get elected. A lot of them are here today. Without them, I never ever could have done my job, and I never could have accomplished the things I have accomplished that I am proud of.

I also wish to thank the floor staff. The floor staff never gets thanked enough because they deal with us when we are very nervous. They have to deal with us when we are about to have an amendment come up or about to vote on something and need to understand the rules and our rights.

To Gary and his team, Trish, Tim, and all of you—thank you.

When I look back on everything I fought for, there are more than a thousand accomplishments, and I am certainly not going to talk about all of those, but I am going to, briefly, very fast, go through 10 of my favorites. The first afterschool programs that were funded by the Federal Government, covering more than 1.6 million kids every day; 1 million acres of California wilderness preserved; the first-ever comprehensive combat casualty care center in California for our most wounded warriors; ensuring that our transportation programs remain in place for years to come with millions of jobs protected; upholding our landmark environmental laws, and I hope that continues, but I will not go off on

that; setting clean drinking water standards to protect pregnant women, children, and other vulnerable people; the dolphin-safe tuna label; protecting victims of rape in the military from irrelevant, harassing questions that have already been barred in civilian courts; establishing the first-ever subcommittee to oversee global women's issues, which JEANNE is going to carry on; recommending a diverse group of supremely qualified judicial nominees who are carrying out our laws in California's Federal courts. There are many more I could talk about, and we all know this because each one of them is like a child to us and we remember how hard it was to get it done, but let me be clear, you don't get anything done here unless your colleagues help you from both sides of the aisle.

My biggest regret is that I couldn't end the war in Iraq. It hurt my soul. I came down to the floor every day and read the names of fallen soldiers. I was accused of being too emotional. I asked probing questions in committee to expose the fact that we were in the middle of a civil war. Day after day I made my case, but the war went on and on. It took President Obama to finally end that war, and I will always be grateful to him.

Of course, there is unfinished business, and I know my colleagues are going to carry on. We must restore the Voting Rights Act. We need to restore trust between our communities and law enforcement. We have to continue to protect and provide affordable health care. We must take action on climate change or we are in deep trouble as humankind. We must protect the DREAMers and immigrants who contribute to our communities every day. We must raise the minimum wage and ensure equal pay for equal work. We must protect reproductive freedom and work across party lines for a safe world.

I have often joked about some of the things that have been said to me over the years that are too colorful, in a negative way, to repeat here, but I want everyone to know, whether friend or foe, whether critic or admirer, I do appreciate the fact that you let me know how you felt about my work one way or the other.

To close, I will read a handwritten letter I received in October from one of the greatest jazz musicians in our country, Sonny Rollins, into the RECORD. He was recently honored at the Kennedy Center. He wrote in longhand the following:

Greetings—so so sorry that we are not going to have you for us anymore. I've always been interested in politics, marching as a 6 year old with my activist grandmother for civil rights. It has been such a joy and inspiration knowing that Barbara Boxer was there for us.

God bless you, your family, and loved ones—And thank you.

You will be missed and we all love you.

Have a beautiful life, just like you have made life beautiful for so many citizens.

I wish to thank Sonny Rollins. I don't know him personally. I met him once, but what he said is all I wanted to do—make life beautiful for people. I didn't always succeed. I didn't always prevail. I felt the pain of losing many times, but I can honestly say I never stopped trying. I was able to do it because of the love, understanding and support of my husband of 55 years, Stewart, who is here today. He gave me so much, including the best political name ever. I did it because of my son Doug, my daughter Nicole, my daughter-in-law Amy, my son-in-law Kevin, and four incredible grandchildren, Zach, Zain, Sawyer, and Reyna, and because of the people of California who sent me here time and time again—10 years in the House and 24 years in the Senate. I had the opportunity to never stop trying. I had the opportunity to speak out, and no matter how many times I had to try, I did. Here is the thing. I have this platform, which is an extraordinary honor. This is a sacred position, and I say to my colleagues that no matter who says what about it, it is a sacred position. Hold your head high.

So many here have fought the good fight and will continue to fight the good fight, and I will always treasure my time serving the people. They gave me a purpose in my life that I will always cherish. They made me a better person. They made my life more beautiful than I ever could have imagined, and for that I am forever grateful.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The Senator from Oklahoma.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, that was a very emotional and heartfelt speech. As I look around, I know there are a lot of people who want to respond and be heard, but I grabbed it first. This will be real short.

I believe it was the majority leader who gave me a quote this morning. He made the comment that the two of you agree on nothing, but you get everything done.

Mrs. BOXER. That is right.

Mr. INHOFE. There is a reason for that. If you stop and think about it, we came to the House and Senate at about the same time. There are no two people in this body who are further apart from each other than BARBARA BOXER and JIM INHOFE. Yet we have something beautiful. I hesitate to show this AP picture of our embrace, but it has to be in the record here somewhere.

For 12 years, we swapped—back and forth—being chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. I always remember when the Republicans were in the majority back in—let's see. We lost it in 2006. I remember

seeing BARBARA, Al Gore, and all these other people danced in and out the door saying the world is going to come to an end unless we do all of these things.

At that time, she said something very profound that I never forgot, and I thought about it for the next 8 years. She said that we look at things differently. We had an election and elections have consequences. Remember that elections have consequences. Well, 2 years ago, the Republicans took over, and I gave her a T-shirt that said: "Elections have consequences." During all that time, we didn't really change in terms of what we were doing together. I have a list of the things we have done that I left someplace, but, nevertheless, we did the highway bill in 1998 and 2005. All of the things we did actually worked. I remember when we had a news conference on TSCA. When I looked around, I saw all of my very liberal Democratic friends and me, and I thought: Wait a minute. How did this happen?

We have been able to work together and get things done, and I have been very proud of that. In fact, I shouldn't say this because I am going to divulge our confidence, but we have meetings just as Democrats have their meetings. All the chairmen get together, and when it was my turn to make a statement, I said: Now, from the committee that gets things done. Anyway, that is the way it has been.

I disagreed with Senator BOXER on a lot of the regulations, and I have told her many times she has every right to be wrong.

Mrs. BOXER. You do.

Mr. INHOFE. But on the things that were really important, we did manage to get things accomplished. There is an awful lot of hate around here, and it is so unnecessary. You can disagree with someone and love them anyway. I have to say that confession is good for the soul, but I want my good friend to know I am truly going to miss her around here.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Senator from Oklahoma so much.

Mr. INHOFE. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the relationship we felt was based on trust and honesty. We never ever misled each other. I just love the Senator's staff. I really do. Our staff developed the same type of relationship that we developed—disagreeing on many things but understanding that we can work together and find common ground. I just hope, as I step out the door—Lord knows when that will be, given this place—that others will form this type of bond across party lines because without it, things just don't work right.

I want my friend to know it has been a great pleasure to work with him in every way, shape, and form. One of us

is from Venus and one of us is from Mars, and that is just the way it is. We just see the world differently, but it hasn't stopped us from putting aside those disagreements. We were never bitter with each other.

We had a pretty big divide. One person said climate change is a hoax and the other said it is the biggest threat we have to deal with, but we knew there was no way we could come together so we kind of put it aside and didn't let it spoil our friendship or our ability to work together in any way.

So I think it is a very important message to many chairmen and ranking members that if there is honesty—set it aside if you can't work together, but where you can find those sweet spots, do it because everyone wants—they are cheering us on from the outside. I can't tell you how many people at home tell me: We don't know how you do it, but it is great what you and INHOFE get done.

Fortunately, we never lost an election over our friendship, which could have happened, you know. They could have said: I am not going to vote for him; he talks to her. But we were able to prove that we can do it.

So, JIM, I am honored that you came down to the floor. I am honored that Senator MCCONNELL said such nice things. I am so honored that so many came to the floor to hear my farewell remarks.

Again, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, it is with deep gratitude that I rise today to address my Senate colleagues and members of my staff with whom I have had the privilege of serving over the last 6 years.

First and foremost, I want to thank the people of New Hampshire for giving me the extraordinary opportunity to serve them. From Nashua to Newport, to the North Country, they have inspired me. The people of our State are hard-working, caring, compassionate people with grit. They have a fierce sense of independence that I respect and admire. That spirit has guided me during my time here, and it has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve them.

I want to thank my family—my husband Joe, my wingman. Joe is a patriot with a heart of service. That is why he served our country as a fighter pilot in the Air Force and why he has been my biggest supporter during my service not only as New Hampshire's attorney general but as a Senator. We are so proud of our children, Kate and Jake, who are now 12 and 9. My family has sacrificed so that I could serve the people of New Hampshire, and I am grateful for their patience and love. I also thank my mother Kathy, who is and always has been my mentor and No. 1

cheerleader. I could not have done it without her help and that of my stepfather Jim, my uncle Jack, my aunt Jane, and all of our extended family who have done so much for us. They made it possible for me to serve, and there are not adequate words to express how much their love and support means to me.

I also thank my wonderful and hard-working staff in New Hampshire and Washington, whose dedication, work ethic, and talent are unparalleled in the Senate. I am especially fortunate that some of the members of my staff have served by my side since I was first sworn in 6 years ago. My staff is dedicated, creative, tireless, and compassionate. I am so proud of our team and all we have accomplished together. I am confident that they will continue to work to create a brighter future for New Hampshire and for our country.

I ask unanimous consent to have a list of their names printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CURRENT STAFF

Kristine Adams, Erica Andeweg, Daniel Auger, Camden Bisson, Bradley Bowman, John Chambers III, Ryan Clark, Frederick Dressler, Adam Hechavarría, Kelsey Keegan, Shaylyn Kelly, Marne Marotta, Myles Matteson, Richard Murphy III, Kayla Nations, Gabriel Noronha, Taylor Reidy, Samantha Roberts, Chloe Rockow, Bethany Scully, DeWayne Thomas, Elizabeth Johnson, Gene Chandler, Jerome Maslan, Cynthia Woodward, Jane Bosse, Christopher Connelly, Joseph Doiron, Orville Fitch, Michael Garcia, Eric Hensel, Stephen Monier, John Pearson, Neva Varsalona, Gretchen Wade, Lauren Zelt, Matthew Bartlett, Brenda Kittle, Anne Warburton, Kathryn Sullivan.

FORMER STAFF

Kelcey Raymond, Nathanael Anderson, Robin Anderson, William Ardinger, Christin Ballou, Benjamin Bradley, Gwendolyn Cassidy, Thomas DeRosa, Virginia Demers, Dennis Deziel, Elizabeth Drumm, Danielle Duchesne, John Easton, Robert Fraser, Robert Ganim, Elliot Gault, Claire Gimbastiani, Jeffrey Grappone, Elizabeth Guyton, Timothy Hefferan, Brian Hodges, Kathryn Horgan, Debra Jarrett, Alison Kamataris, Sean Knox, John Lawrence, Andrew Leach, Emily Lynch, Cathy Myers, Francys Nichols, Margaret Ouellette, Irina Owens, Kelsey Patten, Brianna Puccini, Matt Reeder, Wade Sarraf, Michael Scala, Robert Seidman, Lauren Spivey, Alexander Stanford, Susan-Anne Terzakis, Simon Thomson, Linda Tomlinson.

Ms. AYOTTE. I want to take a moment to thank the Capitol Police, who devote themselves to keeping us safe each and every day and who have become friends to my staff and me over the years. I am so grateful for all of our first responders who put their lives on the line each and every day to keep us safe. I also thank the Senate floor staff, the pages, and everyone who works so hard behind the scenes to make our work possible here.

During the past 6 years, I have traveled throughout New Hampshire talking to people from all walks of life, listening to their ideas and learning from their experiences. I have met so many hard-working people in our State who have, in turn, inspired me to work hard on their behalf. True to the nature of our great State, they have never been shy about letting me know what is on their minds, whether it was at one of the 50 townhall meetings we held or in the grocery aisle at the Market Basket. They sent me to the Senate with a sense of purpose. It has been an honor to fight for them and their families every single day.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my time in the Senate has been standing up for those who put their lives on the line for our country—our veterans and our men and women in uniform and their families. Today, we mark the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. We are reminded once again of their selfless service and sacrifice on behalf of our great Nation.

I was honored during my time here to lead the charge to repeal unfair cuts for our military retirees and to help make progress toward improving access to local health care for veterans in New Hampshire, who for far too long have been forced to travel long distances to receive care from a VA facility because we don't have a full-service hospital, unfortunately, in the State of New Hampshire. Too often, our veterans are not treated as they should be, and this has to change. They have sacrificed so much for our freedom and deserve only the best from us.

As the wife of a combat veteran who served in Iraq, nothing has been more important to me than keeping our country safe. That commitment is deeply personal to me. One of the greatest privileges I have had as a Senator is to visit with members of our New Hampshire National Guard and our men and women in uniform who serve overseas and are there now as we are here today. We pray for their safe return. They make us so proud. They represent the very best of our State and our country.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I have been proud to advocate for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the skilled workers there who make vital contributions to our national security. This has been a team effort between New Hampshire and Maine. I thank my colleagues—Senator SHAHEEN; Senator COLLINS, whom I see here today; and Senator ANGUS KING—for their incredible work in supporting the shipyard.

I especially want to thank Senator SHAHEEN for all the work we did together on important issues for our State. Whether it was advocating for the shipyard, for Pease and the 157th Air Refueling Wing to receive the new tanker, for our National Guard, or for

our veterans, we always looked for ways to come together for the people of New Hampshire, and I appreciate her dedication and service.

Since I first came to the Senate, one of my top priorities has been reversing the Obama administration's misguided policy to empty and close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. Each year I have led efforts to prevent the transfer of terrorists to the United States, to our soil here, and to urge the administration to be transparent with the American people about these dangerous detainees.

As I have called for previously, I hope the new administration will immediately halt the dangerous policy of releasing Guantanamo terrorists to other countries where they even rejoin terrorist activities, and finally establish a commonsense detention policy that keeps terrorists off the battlefield and protects American lives and our national security.

We made progress in saving taxpayer dollars at the Pentagon—and I know there is more work that needs to be done—by ending wasteful programs, such as the missile to nowhere, and passing the Never Contract With the Enemy legislation that cut through redtape and helped prevent tens of millions of dollars from ending up in the hands of our enemies.

Working with Chairman MCCAIN, I was proud to help lead the successful effort to help prevent the premature retirement of the A-10 aircraft, ensuring that our ground troops continue to have the best close air support possible to keep them safe.

During my time on the committee, I have had the privilege of working closely with Chairman JOHN MCCAIN and Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM to ensure that America maintains the strongest and best military in the world and to ensure that our country continues to be the greatest force for good in the world. There are no stronger voices in this body for America's leadership in the world, nor fiercer advocates for our men and women in uniform than Chairman JOHN MCCAIN and Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM. Now more than ever, we need their leadership, expertise, and passion for keeping this country safe with the challenges we face around the world. I am honored to have worked with them and, most of all, to call them my friends.

Serving on the Armed Services Committee has been one of the best experiences I have had in the Senate. I want to express my gratitude to all of my fellow committee members because it has truly been a bipartisan effort each year to ensure our troops have the resources they need to do their jobs.

I see Senator MCCASKILL, the Senator from Missouri, here. I have deeply appreciated the work we have done together on behalf of our men and women in uniform. Thank you.

Going forward, it is critical that Congress and the next administration work together to reverse the harmful cuts to our military and to ensure that we have a defense budget based on the threats we face around the world right now, which are unprecedented.

Another issue that has been near and dear to my heart is addressing a devastating epidemic that is facing the State of New Hampshire; that is, the heroin and prescription opioid epidemic that is taking a devastating toll on our State. I have met so many people in New Hampshire who are hurting because of this epidemic—mothers and fathers who have lost children, brothers and sisters who have lost siblings. Many of the families who have been affected have become my dear friends, like Doug and Pam Griffin of Newton, NH, who lost their beautiful daughter Courtney, who had so much potential. They lost her to an overdose.

The Griffins, like so many other families in New Hampshire I have met, have turned their pain into passion to save our families. I have learned so much from their experiences. They inspired me to work with a group of great Senators and my colleagues: Senator ROB PORTMAN, who I know is here today; Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE from Rhode Island; and Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR from Minnesota. The four of us came together and worked on what is called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. This bill will provide a much needed framework for addressing this epidemic through prevention, treatment, recovery, and support for our first responders, who are doing so much for this epidemic. As a bipartisan team, we worked on this legislation for more than 2 years. Our bill passed the Senate overwhelmingly and was signed into law earlier this year.

CARA will focus on the best programs to help State and local efforts in turning around the tide of addiction that is facing so many in this country. CARA is an important first step, but there is so much more work that needs to be done. I am encouraged that because of our efforts, this body has recognized the seriousness of this crisis.

I was particularly glad to advocate for \$1 billion in funding to address the heroin epidemic being included in the 21st Century Cures Act, which we are expected to pass and send to the President this week. I thank Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER for his incredible leadership in getting this important public health bill passed. The funding in the 21st Century Cures bill goes hand in hand with the important policy provisions in the CARA bill and will help save lives in New Hampshire and across this country.

Finally, I would like to return to the reason I ran for the Senate back in 2010: to make sure we leave New Hampshire and our Nation stronger and better off for the next generation. As the

mother of two young children, I was increasingly concerned that, left unchecked, our skyrocketing national debt would ultimately burden future generations and diminish their opportunities.

I ran because I believed it was time for New Hampshire to bring some of its common sense here to Washington to deal with our Nation's spending habits. On every committee I served on, we looked for ways to cut wasteful spending and fought to hold the government accountable for the way it spends our hard-earned taxpayer dollars. It is my hope that this issue will be at the top of the agenda of the incoming Congress and the new administration. If there is anything I have learned in my time here, it is that it takes cooperation from both sides of the aisle to get things done.

It has been a privilege to serve with so many in this body who care about our country deeply and work tirelessly each day on behalf of their constituents.

I am so honored as I see my colleagues who are here today, because I know how hard you work every day. I want to thank you for what you do on behalf of the people of this country. I am humbled by what I have learned from each of you and from each of my colleagues in the Senate and for the opportunity to serve with so many good people on behalf of our great Nation. I thank each of you for your dedicated service and, most of all, for your friendship.

Without leadership here, things just don't get done. I especially want to thank Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL for his commitment to making the Senate work and to making sure we are doing the people's business.

On a personal note, I have deeply appreciated his mentorship and his friendship.

Working with our new President, the Senate has a fresh opportunity to create a better quality of life for all Americans in this great country. That means elected leaders will need to work together and put aside our partisan differences.

During this election, we heard the frustrations of the American people with their government. They rightly expect this body to move forward in solving the significant challenges facing our Nation, such as getting our fiscal House in order, ensuring that families can afford quality health care without Washington between them and their doctors, reforming our broken Tax Code so we can keep and grow jobs here in the United States of America, and foremost, keeping America safe in a dangerous world.

My hope is that the Members of this body will appeal to the better angels of our nature, put partisanship aside, and focus on the challenge of building a more perfect union because the chal-

lenges before us are great and we cannot hope to overcome them unless we do so working hand in hand. I know my Senate colleagues are people of great character, and they are up to this challenge. I wish them the very best as they continue their very important work on behalf of the people of the greatest Nation on Earth.

To the people of New Hampshire, Joe and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the greatest honor of a lifetime, for serving you and for the privilege of serving in the United States Senate with so many good people.

Mr. President, I thank you, and I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from New Hampshire.

TRIBUTES TO KELLY AYOTTE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am pleased that I could be here for Senator AYOTTE's farewell address and honored to have had the opportunity to serve with her over the past 6 years. Six years ago, I stood on this floor to recognize another departing Senator from New Hampshire, Judd Gregg. I said then about my relationship with Senator Gregg something that is also true about my relationship with Senator AYOTTE: that we always managed to disagree without being disagreeable. I am grateful to Senator AYOTTE for this, and I am proud that we have been able to maintain that civility and bipartisanship even in the course of two very close and very tough election cycles. That is the New Hampshire way—putting partisanship aside whenever possible and seeking practical, pragmatic solutions to address people's critical needs.

As she said, time and time again, Senator AYOTTE and I have teamed up to advance legislation of special importance to the Granite State, including strongly advocating for veterans, for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and for the New Hampshire National Guard and that new KC-46 tanker. Together, we fought to secure more resources for law enforcement and treatment professionals who are on the frontlines of the opioid crisis, including this week important new funding in the 21st Century Cures Act.

I want to publicly express my gratitude to KELLY for her dedicated service to the people of New Hampshire and, more broadly, the people of the United States. Over the last 6 years, Senator AYOTTE has earned respect on both sides of the aisle in this body and in New Hampshire. I know that her husband Joe and their two wonderful children, Kate and Jacob, are very, very proud of her service in the Senate. Looking to the future, there is no question in my mind that she will continue to serve the State and the country she loves.

KELLY, I wish you and your family all the best in the years ahead. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to my dear friend and colleague, the Senator from New Hampshire, KELLY AYOTTE. I first met KELLY in 2010 when I joined her for a townhall meeting in Nashua, NH. My affection for the State of New Hampshire dates back to my bid for President in 2000, so it was a familiar setting to join so many old friends in support of her campaign for the U.S. Senate. I was impressed with Senator AYOTTE's deep understanding of the top challenges facing the country, the seriousness with which she approached her work, and the ease with which she engaged with members of the audience, gracefully handling spirited debates and sparring matches with voters—a staple of the townhall meetings in New Hampshire I always admired. I knew then we would be fast friends.

In the Senate, Senator AYOTTE brought the same tenacity to her work, distinguishing herself as a rising star in the Republican Party and a leader willing to work across party lines to get things done. Senator AYOTTE has approached every issue candidly and pragmatically—something that is all too often lacking in politics today. “I call them like I see them,” she once said. “And that means not just with the opposing party, but with my own party.” Senator AYOTTE took this mantra on the road, continuing the tradition of the New Hampshire townhall meetings by holding more than 50 townhall meetings in small towns and cities across New Hampshire, where she spoke directly with her constituents about the issues impacting their families.

But, in my view, Senator AYOTTE's best work lies in her contribution to defense and national security as a member of the Armed Services Committee. Coming from a military family, her commitment to strengthening our Armed Forces is deeply personal. That has contributed to her tireless advocacy on issues important to New Hampshire, to Pease Air National Guard Base, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and to all military and civilian personnel supporting our national security who call New Hampshire home.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness, Senator AYOTTE has called attention to the dangerous readiness crisis and has been a consistent advocate for making sure the men and women of our Armed Forces have the resources they need to defend the Nation. She has authored numerous legislative proposals to eliminate wasteful and duplicative spending in the Department of Defense so that we can reinvest the savings in rebuilding our mili-

tary. She passed legislation to save over \$1 billion in the Pentagon's budget and to keep U.S. tax dollars out of the hands of America's enemies. She has been a leading advocate for repealing arbitrary budget cuts and the mindless mechanism of sequestration which continues to weaken our military and puts the lives of our servicemembers at greater risk.

Senator AYOTTE's fight to prevent the Air Force from mothballing the A-10 Warthog attack planes showed the very best she has to offer. As the wife of a retired A-10 pilot who flew combat missions in Iraq and an expert in defense policy, Senator AYOTTE understood the critical role this aircraft plays in providing close air support for our fighting men and women. Year after year, she led the fight to prevent the Obama administration from following through on its plan to retire that fleet, pushing through measures in annual Defense authorization bills that would prevent any premature divestment of this aircraft. At the end of the day, she was right. The Air Force conceded to this aircraft's value and reversed its decision, delaying any divestment until at least 2022.

Anyone who has watched Senator AYOTTE question a witness in the Armed Services Committee will not be surprised to learn of her background as New Hampshire's first female attorney general. I have been a fortunate observer of more than one occasion in which a bureaucrat withered under skilled cross-examination by Senator AYOTTE. She takes her oversight role extremely seriously and believes in holding our Nation's leaders accountable.

In every way, Senator AYOTTE rose to meet the responsibilities and opportunities of her office. There are many qualities that are important to being a good Senator, but none, in my opinion, is more important than standing firm for what you believe. That is what Senator AYOTTE has done. She has never wavered in her commitment to principle, and this body is better for it.

On a more personal note, I have cherished the friendship and partnership of Senator KELLY AYOTTE. The kindness and courtesy she has extended to her colleagues has made this institution a better place, and her principled leadership has served as an example to all of us. In KELLY, you could always find a warm smile that served as a reminder that serving here is truly a joy and a privilege.

While I will miss KELLY's presence in the Senate, I will continue to rely on her wise counsel and friendship, and I am confident our Nation will continue to benefit from her talents for many years to come. With this in mind, I thank my dear friend and valued colleague, Senator KELLY AYOTTE, for her service to the Nation and this body. And until the Nation calls on her

again, I wish her and her husband Joe and their children, Katherine and Jacob, fair winds and following seas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I don't have eloquent prepared remarks, as the chairman just delivered, but I will tell you this: I have been lucky enough to be in the trenches with KELLY AYOTTE, and when you are in the trenches with KELLY AYOTTE, there is something about her demeanor that lifts you up. It was a tough fight where we were outnumbered, particularly by our fellow women Senators, and it was hard. It was really hard and emotional, and every time I would walk up to KELLY in full-blown panic mode, this smile would radiate; the reassuring pat on my shoulder that we have the facts on our side, that the emotional arguments might be on the other side but the facts were on our side. It kept me strong and it kept me focused.

I will tell you three things I know in my heart about KELLY AYOTTE: She is a warrior, she is a class act, and she is my friend.

Thank you, KELLY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Thank you very much.

Mr. President, I just want to attest to CLAIRE and KELLY—if I go to war, I want to go with you all because when the bullets fly, you get tougher. I love all my colleagues, but sometimes the stress of the debate wears you down pretty quickly. The more contentious, the better you were.

So, KELLY, the best way we can pay you back is to keep up the fight and make sure that we have a fair military justice system and that commanders are accountable but they are still in charge.

An observation: For people with young kids, this has to be a tough job. I don't have any children, but I can't imagine the schedule if you have young kids. I have gotten to know KELLY, Joe, and Kate and Jake, and I can only imagine what it is like for Joe to be a single parent 3 days a week, running a business, trying to get kids off to school. I can tell you from being KELLY's friend—and JOHN and I have traveled all over the world with KELLY—that was a constant strain for her. I am sure it is true of every young mother in America doing any job, but having to be gone and having to balance the needs of her kids and being a mom and a wife and all that good stuff—all I can tell you, for you and Joe—if you meet Kate and Jake, you all did good. If you meet these kids, it has been an enriching 6 years. They are full of life. I think you both handled it very well.

You should be proud of the long list of things you have accomplished. But I guess what I saw in you and what I wish more of us would embrace is an

attitude that nothing is too hard, nothing is too challenging if you really believe you are here for a purpose.

You didn't talk about immigration. I don't blame you. The immigration fight is one of the hardest fights I have ever been in, particularly on our side. It is not easy on your side, but on our side it is really tough. KELLY was there pushing over the line a bill that I think made a lot of sense.

The debt. Everybody talks about it, but nobody wants to do anything about it. We have had a couple of sessions with 10 and 20 Senators trying to find a way to get more revenue and do entitlement reform, something like Simpson-Bowles. If you don't do that, the country is going to become like Greece. Every time we had a meeting, every time we had a session about doing hard stuff, KELLY was there.

I remember sequestration. JEANNE SHAHEEN and KELLY AYOTTE were two of the six Senators trying to find a way to set aside these defense cuts in a balanced approach without destroying the military.

I think what you should be most proud of is that you served for 6 years and your kids are great, that you made a lot of friendships that will last a lifetime, and that your best days are yet to come.

You can tell the people of New Hampshire—or I will tell them for you if they can understand me. Apparently they couldn't because I didn't do that well when I ran for President. The bottom line is that KELLY never blinked. She went into the sound of gunfire. She took on the hardest challenges. She did it with style and grace, and everybody in this body is better off for having met KELLY AYOTTE.

I look forward to working with you for years to come. The three amigos are now two, and there will never be a third amigo like you.

I yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, we have heard a lot of wonderful things about KELLY AYOTTE today and all are deserved. You notice they have come from both sides of the aisle, and they come from Members who were talking about her expertise on national security—as JOHN MCCAIN did eloquently—and homeland security.

I certainly have worked with her on those issues. I was with her on the Armed Services Committee when I first came to the Senate, and we are on the Homeland Security Committee now. She has been a champion for those issues, there is no question about it. She has helped to keep our country safer, and legislation that she has championed will help to make it safer for our kids and grandkids.

I have also worked with her on other issues, and I wish to talk about that for a second. One is this way in which we

as a Chamber can ensure we are creating more jobs, being more energy independent, helping the environment, and that is energy efficiency. She has been a leader on that issue.

JEANNE SHAHEEN and I have legislation that we are still working to get all of it done, but we have gotten some of it done, and KELLY AYOTTE was a huge part of that. In fact, her legislation on Tenant Star is now law of the land. It is helping to make commercial buildings and office buildings, more energy efficient. Again, it has the added benefit of creating jobs and making the economy stronger while improving our environment. That is what she has led on as well.

I have also worked with her on issues you would expect someone who is a national security expert to lead on. Iran sanctions, she has taken the lead on some of the issues that resulted in the incredible vote we had on the floor of this Senate just a few days ago when virtually every Senator voted to extend those sanctions, but I have worked with her on another issue that has nothing to do with our national security; it has everything to do with our family security. It has to do with ensuring that people have the opportunity to achieve their God-given purpose in life. It has to do with stopping the deterioration of our communities, families being torn apart, and the enormous impact we have seen of the opioid epidemic. Starting often with prescription drugs, often leading to heroin—now synthetic heroins such as fentanyl, carfentanil, and U-4, these are very difficult issues.

I have seen no one in this Chamber who has a greater passion for this issue than KELLY AYOTTE, and it comes out of experience. It is borne of experience of walking around New Hampshire communities with families who have lost a loved one. Earlier she talked about befriending a family who had lost their beautiful daughter to this horrible epidemic. It comes from going to the treatment centers and seeing the people who are in the trenches, saving lives, and improving lives. It comes from talking to those who at one point had great promise in their lives and got off track, seeing those people in a detox unit as she has done or seeing them in a treatment center or, promisingly, seeing them now in recovery and beginning to get their lives back together.

This is not an issue of Republicans or Democrats. It is not an issue that is political. It is an issue that is in the heart of KELLY AYOTTE because it affects the communities she knows in New Hampshire, the people she loves in New Hampshire, and now, sadly, our Nation.

On that issue, she has led, not just to draft legislation—and she talked about the CARE legislation which is going to change the dynamic and get the Fed-

eral Government to be a better partner with State and local and begin to turn this tide—not just the Cures legislation, which does have funding for the next 2 years to try to stop some of this horrible growth in addictions, overdoses and deaths, but she has done this house-to-house, family-to-family, person-to-person back home to give people hope and to help gather the support in communities around New Hampshire to fight back. She will continue to do that. She is not doing it as a U.S. Senator. After all, she is doing it as a mom, she is doing it as a citizen.

I am looking forward to continuing to work with her on that issue as well as the other issues we have talked about today. Her public service career is not over; in a sense, it is really just beginning. I know she will be active on the national security issues, on fighting against the heroin epidemic, on ensuring that we continue to have a safer and stronger country. I, for one, look forward to working with her on that.

I thank her for her service. I thank her, her kids, and Joe for their sacrifice because this isn't an easy job. It does take you away from your family. Yet, in 2009, she decided she was going to serve her country because she was worried about the direction it was going. She did that, she did it valiantly, and she deserves our praise today.

KELLY, we are going to miss you, but we also look forward to continuing to work with you on all of the issues that were talked about today. Thank you for your service.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I am very pleased to be on the floor with my colleagues today and most especially pleased to be here to honor my good friend KELLY AYOTTE as she leaves the Senate but does not leave public service.

Believe it or not, I first met KELLY on the softball field when we were on the Congressional women's softball team. I was in the House, and KELLY was the cocaptain in the Senate. We raised money for young survivors of breast cancer. I knew then I wanted to get to the Senate to be good friends with KELLY because when you talk about being in the trenches, she was such a competitor.

When you think about a team, a baseball team or a softball team, who is the toughest person on the team? Everybody wants to say the pitcher. In my view, it is the catcher. Guess who our catcher was. KELLY AYOTTE was and is, and so we became good friends then.

We found we have a lot of love for physical activities. We are both runners. We have run a couple of times together. We participate in the 3-mile

run that we have every May that determines who is the fastest male Senator, who is the fastest woman Senator. Well, guess who the fastest woman Senator is. You got it. She just blew right by me every year so I might have hope next year. I don't know. I will have to check out the newcomers. But KELLY was always such a great competitor on the softball field, running in 5Ks, and just being around in general.

As we have heard from everybody, you have served your State with integrity and passion. I know it is tough on your family. I see Joe in the Gallery. I have met your beautiful children, Kate and Jake. I have heard you on the phone planning daycare while the rest of us are figuring out how we are going to get home that night or what we are doing in our committees. As a young mother, KELLY is still trying to make the ends meet. I have such admiration for that as a mother myself. I know how difficult it is, but I know the three of them know that no matter if you were here figuring that out, they were always No. 1 in your heart. I think that is a real tribute to you.

We have heard all of the issues she has been so out front on. Particularly as I am from a State like West Virginia—the opioid issue has really impacted our rural areas. When I visited KELLY twice over the last 6 months in New Hampshire, it was the same kind of impact. It is small towns, families, people who know each other. It hurts everybody. KELLY, thank you for your leadership there. That is going to make not just a mark in your State but across our Nation and in my State in particular.

We traveled to Gitmo together. I had never been to Gitmo before. To have an expert such as KELLY explain to me and to hear her question what is going on there and how important it is and was, she continues to be in the fight that she led to make sure we don't have terrorists on our own home soil. The fact that Gitmo is still open and is still functioning to keep those very dangerous folks off of our shores I think is a tribute to KELLY's leadership.

In terms of New Hampshire, as you move away from here, I know you are going to realize how you have impacted the people where you live and in your home State, but just kind of multiply that all over the Nation. We have a huge debt of gratitude to you and your family for being here for 6 years, but as I have told you repeatedly since the election, this is not the last time we are going to hear from KELLY AYOTTE or about KELLY AYOTTE. To me, that is a very strengthening thing when I talk about my friend.

I am not going to say goodbye because I don't think we will be saying goodbye. I am going to say Godspeed, good luck. You will land on your feet because you always do. Keep running, I will keep running, and maybe I can

keep running and improve my time so I can at least see the backs of your feet as you are running past me.

It has been a real privilege to serve with you. It has been great to be your friend, and I look forward to keeping our relationship very viable and alive as the time moves on.

Thanks, KELLY.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, like my friends on both sides of the aisle, I, too, come to the floor to say a few words about my friend and mentor, Senator KELLY AYOTTE. I use the word "mentor" in actually an official capacity. When you come to the Senate—and like you, Madam President, I am part of the new class of 2014. When you come to the Senate, you are assigned a mentor. I think the idea is that you come in, you are clueless, you don't really know what is going on, and so you have somebody who is smart and experienced to mentor you. Everybody gets a mentor.

I was very fortunate to have KELLY AYOTTE as my mentor. I certainly learned a lot from her. She took the time to help me understand how this important body works. We talked about things like work life balance—with somebody such as KELLY who has kids.

It wasn't just those kinds of issues. I had the great opportunity to serve on a couple of very important committees with Senator AYOTTE—on the Armed Services Committee, on the Commerce Committee—and like my colleague from Missouri, I really learned a lot watching her in action. She was always prepared, always engaged, and always tenacious when it came to certain witnesses. Of course, like a lot of us, we shared certain passions for our country—certainly a strong national defense.

My State, like a lot of States such as New Hampshire, is suffering from the opioid crisis. Watching her and Senator PORTMAN literally lead the country on this issue was so important.

I end by saying what I really learned from my mentor was from watching the way she dealt with other people, the way she always treated people with respect, with class, with optimism, and with dignity. That is probably more important than anything, not only in the U.S. Senate but in our country.

I thank KELLY as a mentor. She was a great role model not only for me but all of the 13 Members of the class of 2014. I know she will be serving her country and her State in a lot more ways. I look forward to watching that and continuing to call her my good friend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Maryland.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to take the floor for what I call my

summing-up speech. It is not my farewell speech because I have the honor and privilege of being the ranking member and former chairman of the Appropriations Committee. I will speak later on this week when we move the continuing resolution.

It is the practice and the tradition of the Senate that when a Senator is departing the Senate, they give what they call their farewell address. Well, mine is not going to be as memorable as when George Washington resigned his commission or other memorable speeches, but I do want to say words about how I feel today about having the great opportunity to serve in the Congress.

I have spent 30 years in the Senate, 10 years in the House of Representatives, and, yes, 5 years in the Baltimore City Council. I have served in elected public office for 45 years. More than half of my life has been in elected public service but, at the same time, all of my life has been focused on service.

I rise today to thank the people of Maryland. I rise to thank them for their vote of confidence. When people vote for you, it is not only that they are sending you to Washington or sending you to city hall. They are giving you a vote of confidence that you will be their voice, that you will be their vote, that you will be at their side and on their side, and that is what I want to be able to talk about today.

The people of Baltimore gave me my first shot at running for the Baltimore City Council. When I beat the political bosses, when running for political office as a woman was considered a novelty, they said: You don't look the part. But I said: This is what the part looks like, and this is what the part is going to be like. Along the way, so many people helped me. Behind "me" is a whole lot of "we."

I got started in public life because of volunteers and activists who, on their own time and on their own dime, volunteered themselves to not only help me get elected but to be involved in their communities, to be civically engaged, to make their community and their country a better place. These are the people who were behind me. Well, guess what. No, I was behind them, because they certainly have led the way.

Along the way, there were people who also not only helped me get elected, but they helped me govern—people who, again, volunteered their own time. I had a wonderful service academy board that helped me pick the best and the brightest to serve in our military academies—people with distinguished careers in either the military or in education. I had a judicial appointment advisory board that made sure I helped nominate the best people to serve in the Federal judiciary. Also, I had a veterans advisory group that brought to me what was really happening to the veterans, not what was in

the press releases from the Veterans' Administration. Of course, I had a fabulous strategy group that functioned as a kitchen cabinet. It was a kitchen cabinet. We spent a lot of time cooking things up to try to make our country and our communities better places. So I thank them all for what they did.

But, when we come here to try to serve the people who sent us here, we cannot do it alone. So we have a fabulous staff, both that serves us in Washington and serves us in our State. I wish to thank my current staff: my chief of staff, Shannon Kula; my deputy chief of staff, Rachel MacKnight; my State director, Nichelle Schoultz; my legislative director, Brigid Houton; my communications director, Matt Jorgenson; my scheduling director, Catie Finley; my office manager, Josh Yearsley; my appropriations staff director, Chuck Kieffer; and my appropriations deputy staff director, Jean Toal Eisen; and of course, all of my staff in my State office who helped me.

There is also the support staff who made sure that the phones got answered. You didn't get one of those "call 1, call 2, press 7, press 184," et cetera. Also, there are the people who answer the mail, whether it was snail mail, which so much of it was when I came, or email, because we really believed that we needed to be here for the people.

I called their names, but there are also others who filled those jobs throughout my time in public office. They worked very hard to make sure that we could represent the people of Maryland and to be on their side.

After 45 years, though, it is time for me to say goodbye to elected office, but not to service.

I have the high privilege of being the longest serving woman in congressional history. But I say it is not how long you serve but how well you serve. For those who know me and have been to rallies and so on, they know that I say: "I am here to work on the macro issues and I am here to work on the macaroni and cheese issues"—to work on the big picture, to make sure that the people's day-to-day needs were converted into public policy or, while we are working on public policy, to try to help our communities.

We also have to remember in our own States that we have constituent service issues. One of the things I am really proud of is my constituent service staff, where if you were a veteran and you needed help or you had a Social Security or Medicare problem, you could call Senator BARB and you didn't feel that you had to go to a \$100 fundraiser or know somebody who had connections. The only connection you needed was a phone. You didn't even need Wi-Fi. You could just call me. Summer, winter, spring, or fall, they had Senator BARB. I tried to be of service because service was in my DNA. I was raised to think about service.

My mother and father ran a small neighborhood grocery store in one of Baltimore's famous row house neighborhoods. Every day they would get up, and they would open that grocery store and say to their customers: Good morning. Can I help you?

Now, in running that business, they also wanted to be sure that they were connected to the community. We weren't a big-box shop. We were a shop for the little people. If anybody was in difficulty, my father was happy to extend credit. It was called: We will write your name down in a book. Pay us when you can. Don't worry that you got laid off at Bethlehem Steel. We know that your wife had a difficult childbirth and needs this extra stuff. We are here to help.

My father would say: BARBARA, deliver those groceries. Take it down in that little red wagon I got for you. With my little red wagon, I would maybe take orange juice down to a shut-in, but my father would say: Don't take a tip. But the tip he gave me was to always be of service and to treat people fair and square.

The other place where I learned so much about service was from the nuns who taught me. I had the great fortune to go to Catholic schools. I was taught by the Sisters of Notre Dame and the Sisters of Mercy. These wonderful women, who led the consecrated life, taught us not only about reading, writing, and arithmetic, but they taught us religion and emphasized the Beatitudes. If anybody reads the Scripture, if you go to Matthew 5 and you go to the Beatitudes, you know what has shaped us. One of them is this: Blessed are those who are meek at heart. I had to really work at that one—really, really work at that one. At the same time, there were those who said: those who hunger and thirst after justice. That is what motivated me. It was focusing on the values of faith, like love your neighbor, care for the sick, and worry about the poor.

I was also inspired by a motto from something called the Christopher Movement, where you would help carry the burden. It said: "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." That is what was motivating me to service.

You see, we really believed in America in my family, and we really believed in it in my community. When my great grandmother came to this country from Poland in 1886, she had little money in her pocket, but she had big dreams in her heart. Women didn't even have the right to vote. One hundred years to the year that she landed in this country, I landed in the Senate. That is what opportunity means in the United States of America.

I never thought I would come into politics. Growing up in Baltimore, my family wasn't involved in politics. My family was involved more in church

work, philanthropy, doing good works in the way they did their business. In Baltimore in those days, there were political bosses—guys with pot bellies who smoked cigars and did deals, et cetera—and that wasn't going to be me. I thought I would go into the field of social work.

But I got involved because they wanted to put a 16-lane highway through the European ethnic neighborhoods of Baltimore and not even give the people relocation benefits, and they were going to smash and bulldoze the first African-American home-ownership neighborhood in Baltimore, in a community called Rosemont.

I said: Look, we can fight this. We just have to give ourselves a militant name.

I helped put together a group called SCAR, or the Southeast Council Against the Road. Our African-American neighbors were on the other side of town, and they had a group called RAM, or Relocation Action Movement. Then the citywide coalition had a group called MAD, or Movement Against Destruction. So you see, I have always had a certain flair about these things.

So we did take on city hall. But the more I knocked on doors—and our community did—we weren't heard. So I decided: the heck with it. If I knocked on a door and I wasn't going to be heard, I was going to knock on the door to get elected, and that is what I did—knocking on doors, putting together a coalition, defying the odds, defying what people said: You can't win. No woman can win in an ethnic, hard-hat neighborhood. No woman can win who isn't part of the political machine. And no woman could win who had been active in the civil rights movement. I said: Guess what. We defied the odds, and we denied the odds, and that is how I came into public office—a champion on behalf of the people.

I wanted to come to be an advocate for people to have better lives, to have better livelihoods and better neighborhoods, to be able to save jobs and to do what I could to be able to help them. I knew that to do that I had to show up, stand up, and speak up for my constituents, staying close enough to the people so they wouldn't fall between the cracks and meeting their day-to-day needs and the long-range needs of the Nation.

When I came to the Senate, I was the very first woman elected in her own right. Though I was all by myself, I was never alone. When I came, there was only one other woman here—the wonderful and distinguished colleague from Kansas, Senator Nancy Kassebaum, a wonderful colleague. When I say I was by myself as the only woman in the Democratic caucus, I say I was never alone because of the great men that we could work with in the Senate.

Now, I have had the privilege to work with two of the best men in America.

Senator Paul Sarbanes, who was my senior Senator when I came and who certainly was my champion, helped me to get on the right committees and convinced everybody that my name was BARB MIKULSKI and not Bella Abzug. But I was a little bit of both. As to Senator Sarbanes and now, of course, Senator BEN CARDIN, who also has been at my side, we have worked together on issues related to Maryland both large and small.

But there were others who taught me, like Senator Byrd, Senator Kennedy, and others. What it was all about was being able to work for jobs and for justice.

Though I was the first Democratic woman, I wanted to be the first of many. I wanted to help women get elected to the Senate and do what I could to be able to help them to do that. It has been just wonderful to see that now there are 20 women who are currently serving in the Senate. One of the great joys has been to work to help empower them so that they can be a powerhouse. That is why we have those power workshops that struck fear into the hearts of the guys—not to worry about us but to keep an eye on us.

I have been proud of what I have learned, taking the values that I had growing up and trying to put them in the Federal lawbooks, because, for me, no issue was too small to take up, and no cause was too big for me to not take on.

I firmly believe that the best ideas come from the people. That is where some of my greatest accomplishments came from. One of the things I loved the most was being in Maryland, moving around the State, going to all of the counties in the State. I loved my Mondays in Maryland, where I could meet and go into unannounced places like diners. A lot of people like to do townhalls, and they are terrific, but I like to show up at a diner, go from table to table and not only eyeball the french fries but listen to what the people have to say.

The other thing that I really liked was roundtables—absolutely those roundtables—where you could engage in conversation with people and listen to them, not show off how smart or cool you were. I really loved doing that. Out of it came some of my first big accomplishments.

When I came to the U.S. Senate, my father was quite ill with Alzheimer's. My father was a wonderful man. He worked hard for my sisters and me so that we would have an education. He saw his role as a protector and provider, and by providing us an education, we could always take care of ourselves.

When he became so ill and went into a nursing home, I listened to other families who would come to visit people in long-term care. We saw that the very cruel rules of our own government

were forcing people to spend down their entire life savings and put in their family home or their family farm as an asset base. Well, listening to them, BARBARA MIKULSKI said this: Family responsibility—yes, you need to take responsibility for your family, but the cruel rules of government should never push a family into family bankruptcy. So I crafted something called the spousal anti-impoverishment rules that enable elderly couples to keep their assets and keep their home. AARP tells me that since that legislation passed over 20 years ago, we have helped 1 million seniors not lose their homes or their family farms because one becomes too ill because of that dreaded A-word or Parkinson's or others. That is what I mean about the best ideas coming from the people.

Then I also listened to women who worked hard every single day yet weren't getting equal pay for equal work. Of course we heard it from Lilly Ledbetter, but we heard it from lots of Lillies, and we heard it from lots of Roses and lots of Marys and lots of Otanias and lots of Marias. That is why we worked hard to pass the equal pay for equal work act.

Working together with Senator Nancy Kassebaum, Olympia Snowe, our friends over in the House, Connie Morella, Pat Schroeder, we also found that women were being excluded from the protocols of NIH. The famous study to take an aspirin and keep a heart attack away was done on 10,000 male medical students, not one woman. So Olympia, Connie, Pat, BARB showed up at NIH and pounded the table and said: Let's start practicing good science instead of bad stereotypes and make sure we are included where we should be in a legitimate, scientific way. Out of that came the appointment of Bernadine Healy as the head of NIH; out of that came the Office of Research on Women's Health at NIH; and out of that came the famous hormone replacement study that Dr. Healy championed. Then Tom Harkin and Arlen Specter helped us get money in the Federal checkbook.

One study changed medical practice and lowered breast cancer rates in this country by 15 percent. Wow. That is what working together does—to try to save lives a million at a time. That was on women's health.

Then we saw growing concerns about the issue of the high cost of college. The first mortgage many of our kids are facing is their student loans. Working together with the other side of the aisle, we created AmeriCorps, making sure we enabled people to be able to be of service to our country and earn a voucher to pay down their student loans.

Then there was a roundtable where I met with parents of special needs children, and a mother asked me to change the law from "retardation" to "intel-

lectual disability" because she was being bullied. Well, I came back here and drafted legislation. Again, on the other side of the aisle was MIKE ENZI, who worked with me to pass that.

Rosa now is a member of the Special Olympics. She wins medals. She was Person of the Week on TV. That is what Mondays in Maryland means. It is worth everything to do things like that.

In Maryland, we worked along with Senators Sarbanes and Hardin to clean up the bay. We worked to make sure our port was viable. We worked not only on our Port of Baltimore for ships of commerce, but also we worked on the space community at Goddard. I am so proud of the fact that I worked very hard to save the Hubble Space Telescope. That Hubble Space Telescope turned out to be the richest contact lens in world history. But again, with astronaut Senators Jake Garn and John Glenn working together, we did it, and it ensured America's premier leadership in astronomy and in space for years and for several decades.

Over the years, though, I could go through accomplishment after accomplishment, but one of the things I have learned as my lesson in life is that the best ship you could sail on in life is something called friendship. It is friendship that makes life worth living. It enables life to have the value of giving. That is what friendship is. When I think about the friends along the way whom I have met both in my hometown and my State, there are also those who are here, people who on both sides of the aisle are absolutely so important to me—and the fact that we have worked on both sides of the aisle.

I spoke about Senator CARDIN and Senator Sarbanes. But also on the Senate Appropriations Committee, it was Senator SHELBY and Senator Kit Bond; we could actually work together. We put our heads together to try to come up with real solutions for real problems, and we could do that.

The other is not to judge one another because we have a party label. I am so darned sick of that. In the year of the women, so many came—like BARBARA BOXER and PATTY MURRAY and DIANNE FEINSTEIN, also Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, who came from Texas. I got a call from Senator Hutchison one day, and my staff said: Ew, she wants to work with you on something. Ew, ew. She is a conservative from Texas and she wants to do something for women.

I said: How about if we listen? Could we start with listening? Could we start with just listening?

Senator Hutchison had a fabulous idea on IRA contributions. In those days, if you were in the marketplace, you could put in \$2,000, but if you worked full-time at home, you could put in only \$500. What Senator Hutchison wanted to do was to make it have parity—that old word, "parity." I

said yes. Our staffs told us not to work with each other, but we were going to forge ahead.

We went out to dinner to talk over strategy, but we talked together about our lives, how she got her start, obstacles she faced. We had such a good time that we said: Let's invite other women. Well, that became the famous dinners—the famous dinners that the women of the Senate have. We knew we would never be a caucus because we were not uniform in our views or the way we voted, but what we wanted to be was, No. 1, a zone of civility where we would treat each other with respect, our debates would be observed with intellectual rigor, and when the day was over, the day would be over. Those dinners have now stood the test of time, and I am so proud of them.

I have been so proud to work with my colleague, the senior Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS, who has been such a friend and such an ally. Though we are not a caucus, we are a force when we can come together. We have made change, and we have made a difference. That doesn't go down in the roll books, but I think it certainly should go down in the history books.

So as I get ready to leave the Senate, what will I miss? Well, I will never have another job as consequential as this. This is pretty consequential. The fate of this country, and maybe even the world, lies in the hands of the Congress of the U.S. Senate.

I will miss the people in the Senate the wonderful professional staff, but I am also going to miss the doorkeepers, the elevator operators, the cafeteria workers, the police officers who say: In helping the one, we help the many. We learn so much from them; I have learned so much from them.

I learned a lot from the elevator operators. One was a lady of very modest means who every day would say to me and to all of us, "Have a blessed day." What a great gift she gave us: "Have a blessed day."

Another elevator operator, who himself has recovered from very challenging health issues, always cheerful, asks, "How is your day?" The last thing you could do is to not return a smile. Those are the kinds of people whom I will always remember, all those helping hands.

So I say to my colleagues now that I will never, ever forget you. Helen Keller, though she was blind, was a great visionary, and she said that all that you deeply love you never lose. And all whom I have ever met have become a part of me; each and every one of you have become a part of me. Everybody I met along the way, whether it was at roundtables or the elevator operators, have become a part of me. You shaped me, and you have helped me become a better person.

So when I wrap up and people say "Well, what do you think you are going

to do, Barb," I will say my plan is not a job description but a life description. Every day I am going to learn something new. Every day I am going to give something back. Every day I am going to do something where I keep an old friend or make a new one. I want to thank God that I live in the United States of America, which enabled me to do this.

In conclusion, George Bernard Shaw—I don't know how he would have felt about me, but he wrote this, and I think it is pretty good. He said this:

I am [of the opinion] that my life belongs to the [whole] community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

For the harder I work, the more I live. I will rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no "brief candle" to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

God bless the United States Senate, and God bless the United States of America.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

TRIBUTES TO BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, yesterday I had an opportunity on the floor to talk about Senator MIKULSKI, but I just want to take 1 minute—because I know a lot of my colleagues want to speak—to thank her on behalf of the people of Maryland.

Yesterday I was with Senator MIKULSKI at the inauguration of Catherine Pugh, our new mayor of Baltimore. As is the tradition on programs, the senior Senator speaks and then the junior Senator speaks, so I had the opportunity to speak after the dynamic remarks of Senator MIKULSKI. That has been a burden that I have had now for 10 years. As I pointed out to the people of Maryland, we are losing one of the great giants and advocates for our State, and that is going to be a great loss. The only benefit I can see is that I will not have to follow Senator MIKULSKI on the program in the future.

We are living part of a legacy, and we know that. We know that what we do here in the U.S. Senate one day will be recorded in the history of our country. I know that Senator MIKULSKI will be mentioned frequently for her incredible accomplishments here in the U.S. Senate.

On a personal basis, I just wanted to express that my life in the U.S. Senate has been special. For all of us, being in the Senate is special, but my enjoyment, productivity, and life in the Senate has been made so much greater because of my seatmate and friend, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, it is with deep affection, admiration, and appreciation that I rise today to offer

my heartfelt congratulations to our colleague and my dear friend, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, as her service in the Senate comes to a close. As the longest serving woman in the history of the United States Congress—30 years in this Chamber, in addition to 10 years in the House—she has earned the gratitude of the people of her beloved Maryland and of the entire Nation. That gratitude is based on much more than simple arithmetic, much more than just how many years she has served here, impressive though that is. In reflecting on her service, it is difficult to decide where to begin—her accomplishments, her vision, or her complete dedication to the people she serves, the dedication that began in that neighborhood in Baltimore that she describes so passionately today. No matter where we begin, we end up in the same place—it is all about her character.

Perhaps the best way to describe Senator MIKULSKI's character is by noting that she is not only officially the longest serving woman in the history of the Congress, but she is also unofficially the dean of the women in the Senate. That title perfectly demonstrates the trust and respect she has earned her from her colleagues. As a brandnew Senator in 1997, I was one of those tutored by this accomplished and experienced dean. At that time, Senator MIKULSKI had already been in the House and the Senate for a combined 20 years. She didn't know me from Adam—or perhaps I should say from Eve—yet, despite the difference in our seniority, our States, and our parties, she took me under her wing. She was one of the first people who called me after I was sworn in as a new Senator. I was so grateful for her kindness and her wisdom. She invited me to a power workshop in her office, along with Mary Landrieu, the other woman who was elected that year. She taught me the ropes of the appropriations process and instituted regular bipartisan dinners for the women of the Senate.

In the years since then, I have come to know her as a fighter, a trailblazer, and a person of such integrity.

Maybe it is all those years with the nuns that taught you that.

It has been a privilege to work with her on such vital issues as home health care, maritime issues, higher education, pay equality, and an issue near and dear to both of us, Alzheimer's research. Serving with her on the Appropriations Committee, I have witnessed firsthand what an extraordinary leader she is—fair, openminded, yet with firm expectations and a clear sense of direction.

Senator MIKULSKI is, above all, a hard worker. Growing up in East Baltimore, she learned the value of hard work in her family's grocery store, as we have heard today. Her commitment to making a difference in her neighborhood led her to become a social worker,

helping at-risk children and our seniors. The statement she made sums up her approach to serving in Congress: "I was a social worker for Baltimore families. Now I'm a social worker building opportunities for families throughout America."

Two years ago, I was honored to stand alongside Senator BARB to accept Allegheny College Prize for Civility in Public Life. We were representing all of the women of the Senate for our leadership in bringing an end to the devastating government shutdown of 2013 and working together on so many other issues.

With our dean setting the example, we have always rejected the idea of a women's caucus because we, like the men in the Senate, span the ideological spectrum. Who would expect otherwise? We have worked together across party lines to serve all Americans. As Senator MIKULSKI puts it "It's not about gender, it's about the agenda." In fact, all of us have our favorite sayings that the Senator from Maryland has taught us, and we will miss her way with words so much.

When Senator MIKULSKI reached her Senate longevity milestone 5 years ago, she surpassed my personal role model in public service, the legendary Senator from Maine, Margaret Chase Smith. Just as the great lady from Maine inspired me and countless other young women of my generation to serve, the great lady from Maryland inspires the young women of today, always encouraging them to go for it.

Throughout her life in public service, she has lived by one guiding principle: to help our people meet the needs of today as she helps our Nation prepare for the challenges of tomorrow.

What an honor it has been to serve alongside Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI. I have learned so much from her. I will never forget the day she told me I had the soul of an appropriator, which I knew was the highest compliment she could give me. And she was right. We have worked on that committee to get so much done.

I wish her many more years of health, happiness, and, most of all, that most important "ship," friendship.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, before Senator COLLINS leaves the floor, I want to thank Senator COLLINS for her beautiful remarks about BARBARA MIKULSKI. As I leave here, I have said publicly—the press has asked: What is your hope?

I often say: My hope is with the Senator from Maine, Senator COLLINS, to bridge some of the partisan divides.

It has been an honor to serve with you. I know you have a lot on your shoulders as we move forward.

Senator MIKULSKI, I want to take a few minutes to talk about you. Some

Senators have focus and drive. Some have compassion. Some have empathy. Some have sharp negotiating skills. Some have a quick wit. Some are great students of history. Some are champions for the least among us. Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, you are all of these things. You are everything a Senator should be and more. As my mentor, as my treasured friend, you have been a major influence in my career. Honestly, I can say I would not be here as a United States Senator without your guidance.

One of my favorite things about BARBARA is her wonderful sense of humor. It is legendary. She is hilarious when she wants to be.

When I was in the House of Representatives, I was fighting to integrate the all-male House gym. The room to which they had assigned the women was about 6 by 6, and it had showers and hair dryers. You know the big hair dryers that come over your head like that? It had no exercise equipment. It had no space. It was the size of a shoebox. We women decided we needed some exercise, so we packed into the tiny room.

There was then-Congresswoman MIKULSKI, Congresswoman Ferraro, Congresswoman Schroeder, Barbara Kennelly, Olympia Snowe, who looked like she had just stepped out of *Vogue* magazine. I was in my sweat suit, and so was BARB. The teacher was leading us in an aerobics class, and she said: Put your hands above your head. We did it. She said: Put your hands out on the side. We did it. Then she said: Put your hands on your hips and bend at the waist. And with that, BARBARA yelled: "Look, if I had a waist, I wouldn't be here." That is my BARB. She can use laughter to defuse any situation. I will always love her for it.

When I started thinking about my own long shot bid for the Senate—and it was worse than a long shot—the first person I went to after my family was BARB. It was a few years after she had made history by becoming the first Democratic woman ever elected in her own right to the U.S. Senate. She got right to the point: "How old are you, Babs?"—using the nickname she calls me to this day. I told her I was almost 50.

God, that sounds so young, BARBARA.

I told her I was almost 50. I explained it was going to be a tough fight. I was up against two powerful male opponents in the Democratic primary, and I was an asterisk in the polls. What was her response? She looked at me and she said: "Go for it. It's worth the fight you'll have to wage to get here. And it will be a fight." And it was.

In 1992, four new women came to the Senate, and who was waiting for us with open arms? Senator MIKULSKI. And this is what she said: "Some women stare out the window waiting for Prince Charming. I stared out the

window waiting for more women Senators—and it is finally happening!" That is who BARBARA is. She never set out to make a name for herself. She wanted to blaze a trail that was wide enough for all of us to follow.

Just days after I won that first Senate race, she sent all the new women Senators a guidebook she herself had written about how to get started in the Senate, how to get on committees. She invited us to her office for lessons on Senate procedure and how to set up our offices. She had covered everything.

In the years since, as you have heard, she has hosted regular dinners for all the women in the Senate—Democratic and Republican alike. We reach across party lines and come together because of her. We talk about our work, our families. We share our struggles and our triumphs. What is said there stays there.

Senator MIKULSKI has led us by example, showing us how to build coalitions, how to bridge the partisan divide, which includes strong partnership with our male colleagues, whom she calls "Sir Galahads." She has also shown us how to stand up and make our voices heard. As she says, go "earring to earring" with our opponents and "put on our lipstick, square our shoulders, suit up and fight." Legendary Mikulski words.

To me, Senator MIKULSKI is the whole package—a skilled, intelligent negotiator, a Senator who fights for the people, and a woman who helps other women. She is our cherished leader, and that is why she will always be known as the dean of the Senate women.

When BARBARA announced she would be leaving the Senate, I wrote her a rhyme. I love to write rhymes and lyrics. I wrote her the following rhyme:

Before Mikulski won the day,
A guy would have to pass away,
And then his wife would take his place.
Finally, a woman in a Senate space.
But Barb she got there in her own right.
First Democratic gal to win that fight.
She won the race and joined the misters.
But finally NOW she has nineteen sisters!

BARBARA, next year, because of what you started, because of the people you encouraged, there will be 21 women in the Senate—a record. Sitting here in my chair, my seat, will be an incredible woman.

Senator MIKULSKI, BARB, my treasured mentor, my dear friend, thank you for everything. We have been through battles together. I am forever grateful to you, and I will always treasure our friendship.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I thank the gentlelady from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I like "gentlelady."

Ms. MIKULSKI. That is the way we talk here. I thank the gentlelady from California for her kind words. We have

been together through thick, thin, and the attempt to get thin, and that story about bending at the waist is a true one.

I am not the person with the best hairdo or sleek or chic, but one of the things I have so admired about my friend is her authenticity. We first got to know each other in the House, and then I encouraged you to come to the Senate, which certainly was the right thing to do. You are yourself. You are true to yourself, you are true to your beliefs. You are true to your constituents, and you are true to the Constitution. You are such a true, blue person. There are many words to describe you, such as outspoken, feisty, and all of that, but I would say the word that describes you best is "authenticity." You are who you are. The people of California have loved you for it and sent you to the Congress.

We started out together basically in city council roles, sometimes called the pothole parliament. It has been a pleasure to serve with the Senator from California. I have watched you stand up for your beliefs, and along the way, as you stood up for your beliefs, you made believers of us all.

Godspeed to you, BARBARA. We are friends forever.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I wish to speak about Senator MIKULSKI and then also Senator BOXER, the two great Senator BARBARAS who have been such giants in the Senate. We are so grateful to both of them.

BARBARA MIKULSKI

Madam President, I do have to say that among the many things with which I have been honored and have appreciated was when Senator MIKULSKI accepted my offer to stay at the Stabenow bed and breakfast after long session nights and days when the Appropriations Committee was negotiating and doing the incredible work that had to be done. I had the honor of being able to put up a plaque in my home that says: Senator BARB slept here. I will always be honored to have had that opportunity on top of all of the other ways we have worked together.

It really is an honor to stand here. I can't imagine the Senate without Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BOXER. I can't imagine the Senate without the incredible service of my dear friend and colleague, who is our dean in every sense of the word—the senior Senator from the State of Maryland. For over 30 years she has worked tirelessly. We know that. We hear it every day. We know what the people in Baltimore, the Chesapeake Bay area, and all of Maryland care about. She has been fighting and standing up for them every single moment of every single day. I so admire that, and I am so grateful. She has been a wonderful in-

spiration and mentor to me. We have all heard about our dinners and the power briefings on appropriations. She has been a continual source of inspiration and a mentor to me.

She reached out to me, as she does to all of our colleagues, when I was first elected. She welcomed me and showed me what it meant to be a good Senator representing my State of Michigan and how to get things done. Senator MIKULSKI has always been willing to lend a helping hand and has never given up when it comes to fighting for the people she represents and being a trailblazer.

I came into the Senate with a master's degree in social work. Senator MIKULSKI has often said that we are the two official do-gooders in the Senate. We have taken our interest from helping people individually to another level by becoming policymakers, thereby giving us the opportunity to touch more lives by using our skills and our background in education as well.

We all know—but I think it is important to remind ourselves—that she was only 26 when Senator MIKULSKI talked about the highway proposal that would have destroyed a neighborhood full of working people. She spoke up. She was noticed, and she wasn't afraid to say exactly what she was thinking. She was and is absolutely fearless in every good sense of that word. She brought that fearlessness to the Senate. That fearlessness made her the first woman to serve as chair of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate. It doesn't get more important than that in setting policy and having an impact on people's lives in our country by prioritizing the interests of the American people in every funding decision. That fearlessness was on display when she helped bring us closer to the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, making it closer to having equal pay for equal work than it has ever been before.

Senator MIKULSKI fought for health care. I was proud to join her in making sure that women could receive preventive care without a copay. She made sure that women were truly represented and that our needs were met in health care reform, and that will continue to impact all of the lives of women across the country.

When she turned her eyes to the stars, wondering what was up there, she made sure that the Goddard Space Flight Center was a leader in exploring the unknown. Like the supernova named after her, she has absolutely astonished us with her brilliance, and nothing will be quite the same after she leaves here.

Her work in the Senate has made it possible for so many women and girls across America to put their hat in the ring and say: I want to run for office, and I can do it.

Senator MIKULSKI said it best—there are so many wonderful quotes I will al-

ways use—when she said: Put your lipstick on, square your shoulders, and suit up. Go into the fight and get things done. That has become a mantra for us in working together.

I thank Senator BARB. You will be greatly missed, but I know you have so much more to give. I know you will always make a difference in people's lives in every single thing you do every single day, and we will be forever grateful.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, again, I thank the gentledady from Michigan. We both have master's degrees in social work. I joke, but I am actually serious when I say we are certified do-gooders. When people hear about social work, they sometimes think it is about giving money away, but it is really about trying to help people build lives, build families, and therefore build the Nation. The Senator from Michigan's championship in that area has been amazing to me.

I am so glad my friend from Michigan is here in the Senate, whether she is standing up for the people in Flint, MI, so they have safe drinking water, or standing up for those who need help in the area of food and nutrition so there aren't food deserts in communities. That is one of the biggest public health initiatives. If you are a diabetic, you can't comply if all you can get is fast food and french fries. If you are a child, you need good food and good nutrition. My friend knows more than anybody that you need to feed the body, the mind, and the spirit, and she has certainly done that. It has been great being your pal and partner.

Many people don't know this, but Senator CARDIN and I commute every day. When those appropriation cycles got pretty late, after midnight, the gentledady from Michigan offered her home to me. We had a saying: Stop whining and have a glass of wine. There was nothing like being able to talk about your day with a colleague who will offer inspiration and encouragement at the end of the day. My friend offered her home, but she has really fought for so many people to have a home and a community in order to have what they need so they can learn and prosper in this country.

I just wish you so much and wish you all the best.

Thank you very much.

BARBARA BOXER

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, as her name suggests, Senator BOXER has always been a fighter, a champion for the people of California, and a good friend.

Though Senator BOXER began her life in Brooklyn, California has always been her home.

It is where she got elected to the Marin County Board of Supervisors, becoming the first woman to hold the board's presidency.

It is where she first got elected to the House of Representatives, where she

quickly rose and became a leader we could all aspire to be.

And as Senator, she has worked tirelessly for families, children, consumers, everyone in the State of California and Americans everywhere.

Senator BOXER has always been a wonderful mentor to me, and she has been relentless on moving forward on some of the most critically important issues of our time.

As the first woman to chair the Environment and Public Works Committee, she has provided the support that has kept America's air and water safe and to fight climate change. She defended mercury and lead standards and installed choking warnings on packages.

I will personally always be grateful for her tireless advocacy and support for the 100,000 Flint citizens who have been poisoned by lead in their water.

We have her to thank when we know that children and families all over the country can be safer and more secure in their own neighborhood.

She has been an incredible supporter of transportation, extending the highway trust fund, helping protect over 1 million jobs. Or her Mat Map-21 Transportation Bill, which modernized Federal highway, highway safety, and transportation programs.

And she has fought for children and families, her work in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act—providing extra services for young adults under 21 and helping some of America's young people who need it most.

On a personal note, I have greatly enjoyed sharing a love of music with my friend, BARBARA. Her creativity and passion for song has been a special part of who she is.

Her retirement, while well earned, will be a loss for all of us.

Thank you so much for your service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I wish to offer a few brief comments, if I might, so I may thank and congratulate Senator MIKULSKI for her tireless contributions to the State of Maryland and the whole country.

As many know, she is a passionate, capable, effective champion for people of all backgrounds, and she got her start in local government. One of the things we have in common is that I, too, started in a very humble office as a county council member in my home community of New Castle County, DE.

The way I first met BARBARA MIKULSKI and first saw her toughness, grit, passion, and determination was in a fight over a program she helped give life to, the national service program known as AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps is a fantastic national program that partners with the Federal Government, State, and local governments, the private sector, and nonprofit volunteers.

She has been a tireless champion for AmeriCorps over many years and has made a lasting difference in its areas of focus and work.

During my short 6 years here, she has been a great friend and a mentor to me and to so many others on both sides of the aisle. JOE BIDEN, our Vice President, has often said: Show me your budget, and I will show you your values. As leader of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator MIKULSKI helped to lift up our values and helped to make sure we invested in effective programs that made sure we fed the hungry, housed the homeless, fought for manufacturing, and ensured that Federal workers who lived in Maryland and Federal agencies that were rooted, not just in Maryland but around the country, had the resources, support, and capacity to make a lasting difference here in our region and for the entire country.

I just wanted to add my voice to colleagues who stood here on the floor and said: We are so grateful to Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI for her decades of service to Baltimore, to Maryland, and to our country and for all she has done to lift us up together.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, this Saturday, December 10, marks the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate. I am very proud to be the chairman of that committee—the first chairman who is not a lawyer, I might add—and I will be submitting a resolution, along with some other committee members, to commemorate this 200th anniversary.

Madam President, 200 years ago, the Senate established 11 original standing committees. Today, although there are many committees, the Senate Judiciary Committee is one of four original committees that still meet today. During the past two centuries, some of the most vital and important questions facing the Nation have come before the committee. For example, during the Civil War, the committee ensured that President Lincoln had the emergency powers he needed to pursue the Civil War effort, and in 1864, the committee took a critical step in ending slavery in the United States when it reported the 13th Amendment of the Constitution.

The committee has jurisdiction over issues that directly impact American lives and is on the forefront of deciding important policy issues, including immigration, civil liberties, criminal laws and the protection for victims, and, of course, civil rights. In addition, the committee examines those nominated for lifetime appointments to the Federal bench.

Over the years, the committee has reported legislation that has been vital

to the safety and protection of the American people. I don't have time today to discuss all the committee has accomplished over the last 200 years, but I do want to take a minute to recognize this important anniversary. I am very proud of the committee's storied history. Today, I celebrate these accomplishments and will follow that up with the submission of a resolution. I am truly humbled today to be its chairman.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I rise again to speak about the Dakota Access Pipeline issue in North Dakota. Again, I want to emphasize that we need to focus on the facts and understand what is really going on there. On Saturday, the Obama administration announced its refusal to issue the final easement for the Dakota Access Pipeline to cross a narrow section deep underneath the Missouri River.

This easement is required to finish the 1,172-mile-long pipeline which is already 98 percent complete in North Dakota—98 percent complete in North Dakota—and 86 percent complete overall. As I have indicated before on the floor, it runs from the Bakken oilfields in North Dakota, moving North Dakota light sweet crude all the way to Patoka, IL, so oil can go into all of the refineries along the eastern part of the country and the eastern seaboard.

In fact, our light sweet crude oil competes with OPEC. If they are not using our light sweet crude, they are bringing in oil from places like Saudi Arabia for these eastern refineries. So very important in terms of energy independence for our country, but as I said, this pipeline is 98 percent complete in our State. Now, again, the Obama administration is delaying it.

Unfortunately, this latest Obama administration decision fails to follow the rule of law, it fails to resolve the issue, and it perpetuates an extremely difficult situation for North Dakotans. Furthermore, it is estimated that over 5,000 protesters are still unlawfully gathered on Federal or Corps of Engineers land in our State. They are there in direct violation of the Army Corps' December 5 eviction notice, as well as an evacuation order from North Dakota's Governor.

However, now that the Obama administration has made its decision, protesters should move from their unlawful site on the Army Corp of Engineers' land. Even Standing Rock Chairman

David Archambault has finally said that protesters need to leave and return home. Let me repeat that. Even Standing Rock Sioux Chairman David Archambault has finally said protesters need to leave and return home. He is the tribal chairman. The Obama administration needs to do the same. The administration needs to call on the protesters to leave this illegal site as well.

As I said, the Dakota Access Pipeline issue has been difficult for the people of North Dakota. In recent months, protesters have trespassed on private property, they have blocked state highways and damaged bridges, they have committed acts of vandalism to construction equipment by cutting hydraulic hoses, breaking windows, filling gas tanks with gravel, and setting equipment on fire.

Protesters have blocked intersections in Bismarck and Mandan. They have disrupted area businesses, and farmers and ranchers in the area have reported instances of trespassing and butchered livestock. The rule of law matters in this country, but by committing acts of lawlessness at this construction site as a proxy for changing broader environmental policies, the rule of law is undermined.

Just as the pipeline company must follow the law, the protesters themselves need to follow the law as well. By continuing to remain in the camp, the protesters are defying Federal and State orders to leave. They are subjecting residents in the area to additional weeks of disruption and hardship. They also require our law enforcement to continue their around-the-clock presence, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The protesters need to follow the law, just like everyone else. I repeat, it is time—past time—to leave this illegal camp. I would like to address the dedication of our State and local law enforcement officers—the professionals who make up the North Dakota Highway Patrol, our sheriffs, and our deputies around the State and from other States who have come in to assist us.

Members of the North Dakota National Guard and other first responders have acted with professionalism and diligence to maintain peace and order under very difficult circumstances. They continue to protect the public, especially now with the onset of challenging winter conditions. In my 10 years as Governor of North Dakota, I spent a lot of time working with our law enforcement officers to prepare for weather emergencies. I know the preparations these situations require.

Even today, our law enforcement and State Department of Transportation crews are working to keep evacuation routes open, rescuing people stranded on the highways and providing assistance to many from outside North Dakota who are unprepared to deal with

the recent blizzard we had in North Dakota.

The men and women in law enforcement are doing their best to protect everyone, including the protesters. We owe our law enforcement a debt of gratitude for their diligence, for their dedication, and for their professionalism, but North Dakota's law enforcement resources are severely strained. I have repeatedly called on the U.S. Department of Justice to provide additional funding and law enforcement officers to ensure public safety.

Our State has requested Federal assistance and was assured—was assured—by the Attorney General that we would be given expedited consideration, but that has not been the case. Our Byrne grant application for Federal assistance has still not been approved by the Attorney General. I will continue to call on the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Corps to provide additional Federal resources, including funding and law enforcement personnel to assist our State and local law enforcement officers and ensure public safety.

As I have said before, everyone has a right to be heard, but it must be done lawfully and peacefully, whether that is during the permitting process, with its opportunities for public comment, or through the court system. I emphasize through the court system. That is the established method in our country for dispute resolution. So it is time—it is past time—for the protesters to stand down and to recognize that the courts and the next administration will resolve this issue.

It is also important to recognize that this pipeline is not unique or unusual as an infrastructure project. There are more than 38,000 crude oil pipeline river and water body crossings in the United States—more than 38,000—and more than 1,000 in my State of North Dakota alone. This is one more. These crossings range from rivers, streams, and lakes to ponds, canals, and ditches. Also, it is important to understand the oil is already being transported across a river on rail and across bridges.

Once again, I just want to show—this is the network of oil pipelines in the country. They cross many bodies of water. We are doing it one more time with the latest, greatest technology. The pipeline does not go in the river in any way, shape or form. It is about 100 feet underneath the river. So even if there was a leak, somehow that oil would have to come up through bedrock to even get into the area.

In other words, it is the latest, greatest technology. This oil is already moving to market. It is already crossing the river on rail and on truck. If we don't build this, we are relying on the old infrastructure, which is less safe and less environmentally sound, in-

stead of building the new, latest, greatest infrastructure with the technologies that will be more efficient, more safe, more environmentally sound. That is what makes sense. Again, it is not unique.

Additionally, the pipeline company has modified its route on its own 140 times in North Dakota to avoid any important or cultural resources. So they have modified the route to avoid any cultural resources 140 times just in our State.

In July 2016, the Army Corps issued its final environmental assessment, which concluded with the finding of "no significant environmental impact" and "no historic properties affected." These determinations have been upheld not once but twice by the Federal courts, including a judge appointed by the Obama administration—a Federal district court judge here in Washington, DC.

As for the way forward for this difficult issue, we need to look at the facts at hand. In the midst of the ongoing news coverage, it can seem that heated rhetoric leaves little room for good-faith efforts to find common ground, but I want to highlight that there continues to be attempts at finding consensus among the stakeholders, even as recently as last Friday.

To that point, in a meeting I had yesterday with the Army Corps' Northwestern Division Commander, BG Scott Spellman, he stated that last Friday, on December 2, the Army Corps' Omaha district commander, John Henderson, convened representatives from the pipeline company, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and Army Corps officials. They met in Bismarck for 5 hours. The meeting included tribal staff and the company's engineering and technical experts who came together for the sole purpose of reviewing Standing Rock's 19 specific safety and environmental concerns raised in the tribe's October 2016 letter to the Corps.

In this meeting, the pipeline company, tribe, and Army Corps discussed all 19 concerns raised by the Standing Rock, and they considered 36 potential terms and conditions that could further reduce the risk of a spill or pipeline rupture. Again, let me repeat that. In order to directly address the river crossing concerns raised by the tribe and the protesters, the pipeline company was willing to consider more than 36 additional safeguards for this crossing.

Friday's meeting actually resulted in a revised proposed easement, which was presented to the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Jo-Ellen Darcy, the next day, on Saturday, December 3—last Saturday. However, the following day, on Sunday, December 4, Assistant Secretary Darcy promptly rejected the revised easement and instead required more "broad public input and analysis."

Clearly, the Obama administration is not interested in finding a way forward based on the merits of the project, even in light of two Federal court rulings upholding the Army Corps' reviews and even with subsequent attempts by the company to specifically address the tribe's remaining environmental concerns.

In recent days, I have met directly with President-Elect Trump's transition team and conveyed the importance of bringing this situation to a resolution. I have also spoken directly on the matter to Vice President-Elect Mike Pence and to the next Attorney General, JEFF SESSIONS.

President-Elect Trump has now publicly communicated his support for the project, as well as for providing Federal assistance, including additional resources and law enforcement personnel. This project should be decided on the merits and in accordance with the law. Failure to do so will cast new uncertainty on all future infrastructure projects, from pipelines that carry oil and gas and other liquids to transmission lines carrying both traditional and renewable energy.

If companies and individuals cannot rely on a system that follows the rule of law, nobody will risk making future investments in our country's vital infrastructure. That will make our Nation less safe, less secure, and less competitive. As I said a minute ago, think about it. If we can't build new infrastructure, then we will continue to use the old infrastructure, which is less safe and less environmentally secure.

To avoid this situation in the future—the kind of standoff we have with the Dakota Access Pipeline—we need to focus on ways to improve the permitting process. We need to improve the process so we can make sure all people's voices are heard and provide regulatory certainty to companies willing to invest in large infrastructure projects. This should be done prospectively, not retroactively—looking for ways to better streamline procedures, reduce duplicative hurdles, and improve methods for public input.

This pipeline can be built safely and include necessary protections for both the tribe and everyone else downstream. The fact is that our country needs energy, and we cannot have it without energy infrastructure—pipelines, transmission lines, roads, rail, and bridges—to move both traditional and renewable energy from where it is produced to where it is consumed. Move it both safely and efficiently. Let's all work together to make that happen.

With that, Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I rise to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

For the people of Hawaii, it started as an ordinary sunny Sunday morning in December. Families were getting ready for church; others were preparing breakfast. It was quiet. It was peaceful.

Just before 8 a.m., the first wave of Japanese warplanes started their coordinated surprise attack on the island of Oahu. Bombers attacked aircraft clustered wing tip to wing tip at Wheeler and Hickham Airfields, making it too easy for Japanese pilots to destroy their targets. By the end of the attack, Japanese forces sunk four of the eight battleships at Ford Island. Another battleship intentionally ran aground in the harbor to avoid blocking the channel. Three destroyers and seven other ships were sunk or severely damaged. It was the worst disaster in U.S. naval history. There were 2,403 servicemembers killed or mortally wounded, and 1,247 servicemembers were injured. Fifty-seven civilians were killed.

Across Oahu, people watched as smoke and fire blackened the sky over Pearl Harbor. Among those were two 17-year-olds, Daniel K. Inouye and Daniel K. Akaka. Like many others that day, they were called to duty. Senator Daniel Akaka, then an ROTC student at the Kamehameha School for Boys, grabbed a rifle and guarded the hills above the school from potential Japanese paratroopers. Senator Inouye, then a volunteer medical aid, reported to Lunailo Elementary School, where for a week he tended to the wounded.

In the weeks that followed, the shipyard was back to work repairing vessels raised from the harbor. Incredibly, all but two ships returned to service in just 2 years. The *Nevada* went on to support the invasion of Normandy. Five other ships damaged at Pearl Harbor later met Japanese forces in the Philippines. That "Day of Infamy" and the events that followed would ultimately galvanize more than 12 million Americans to serve in uniform during the Second World War. We remember the men and women who left their homes to fight an enemy they did not know in places they had never heard of. They said goodbye to their families to protect their neighbors—foreclosed the promise of their own dreams to protect our freedom. We know well the stories of courage and devotion: the Tuskegee Airmen, the 442nd Infantry Regiment. We remember the ingenuity and heroism of Doolittle's Raiders, the Navajo code-talkers, and Nisei translators.

The war in the Pacific lasted 2,194 days. When American occupation forces landed 4 years later at the end of the war, Japan was in ruins. But instead of turning our backs on the people of Japan, we extended a hand. We

chose to turn an enemy into an ally. American occupiers immediately set out to transform Japan into a peaceful democracy, implementing land and economic reforms, improving working conditions, and granting women the right to vote. The United States sent billions of dollars in economic aid to rebuild Japan. Most of that assistance was delivered as food, for even several years after the surrender, there was widespread starvation in Japan. It is hard to forget someone who sends you milk for hungry children, as Prime Minister Abe recently told Congress.

The attack on Pearl Harbor set in motion a chain of events with painful consequences for our two countries, but the decision we made to partner with, rather than punish, Japan helped to forge between our two countries what Senator Mike Mansfield described as "the most important bilateral relationship in the world, bar none."

Today, Japan is a leader in the Western world. We cooperate as partners to maintain regional peace. Our countries work together to stop the flow of extremism and arms in the Indian Ocean. We work side by side in humanitarian relief missions and to defend against ballistic missile threats. Our relationship has never been stronger. President Obama's trip in May to Hiroshima and President Abe's trip to Pearl Harbor demonstrate the endurance of this friendship and the importance of reconciliation.

So as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, we remember the service and sacrifice of the men and women who lost their lives on that day in December. In remembering them and the service of those who fought, we know that their sacrifices were not in vain. America and Japan are forever joined in history. We move forward together, in the memory of those who sacrificed for a better world and for peace.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). The Senator from Mississippi.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I rise to compliment and congratulate my good friend and colleague, the senior Senator from Maryland, BARBARA MIKULSKI, on her decision to retire from the U.S. Senate. We are going to miss her very much. She has been a very effective Senator in speaking not only as a representative for the State of Maryland but also for the entire country on so many different issues and Federal responsibilities of our government. She has been very successful in every way—serving as chair of the committee on Appropriations, where it has been my pleasure to work closely with her as the vice chair when the Republicans were in the minority, and then coming to chair the committee, with her as the ranking Democratic member during other periods.

It has been a distinct honor to serve with her on the Appropriations Committee. In 2012, she became the first woman to chair the committee. She has also served as vice chairwoman for the past 2 years. I am pleased that we have been able to work together to report bills that reflect our shared commitment to national security, scientific research, education, and economic development. Senator MIKULSKI has been a very valuable partner throughout. Her approach to funding decisions as chairwoman and vice-chairwoman highlights the importance of the constitutional role of Congress to be good stewards of taxpayer money.

I congratulate BARBARA MIKULSKI on her distinguished career representing the people of Maryland which reflects great credit on our U.S. Senate. Best wishes to her.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise to discuss the National Defense Authorization Act. After several months of debate and negotiation, the House and Senate Armed Services Committees have arrived at a completed conference agreement. This will be the 55th consecutive time that we pass a National Defense Authorization Act, which sets national security policy and provides important authorities to the Department of Defense.

I want to begin by thanking Chairman McCAIN for his leadership during the course of this year. At his direction, the Senate Armed Services Committee undertook a robust review of how the Department develops strategic guidance and executes their business processes to help the Department operate more effectively and efficiently. I commend the chairman for making this effort a priority for the committee, and I appreciate his willingness to work in a bipartisan fashion on this important endeavor.

The conference report we are considering today includes many Senate reforms, including efforts to improve the defense strategy documents produced by the Department and reorganizing the Office of Acquisition, Technology and Logistics to ensure that the Pentagon emphasizes research and innovation in support of our warfighters.

In particular, one of the most important reform efforts included in the final conference agreement is a Senate provision that would create cross-functional teams. This is a new tool for the Secretary of Defense to manage the formation and implementation of policies and solutions for complex problems that inherently cut across the many stovepiped functional organizations in the Department of Defense. The private sector has pioneered and mastered this highly effective integration mechanism for a generation, and

business schools and business consultancies have championed its use for decades. I consider this provision to be one of the most important reform initiatives in this bill. None of this would have happened without the leadership, guidance, and constant urging of the chairman, Senator McCAIN. Once again, I commend him for his extraordinary efforts.

As these reforms are introduced, it is imperative that we continue to collaborate with the Department of Defense to ensure that these reforms contribute to our national security and do not create unnecessary and detrimental consequences. This will be a partnership going forward to ensure that these reforms are adequate, appropriate, and work for the benefit of the men and women in uniform, and that is a process in which we will all be engaged.

With respect to the budget, the conference agreement we are considering today authorizes a total of \$619 billion, which includes \$543.4 billion in base budget funding for the Department of Defense and certain security activities of the Department of Energy and \$67.8 billion in overseas contingency operations, or OCO, funding.

This OCO amount includes \$5.8 billion in supplemental funding requested by President Obama for operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, as well as an additional \$3.2 billion above President Obama's budget request for base budget requirements primarily devoted to increased end strength. I have serious concerns about increasing OCO funding above the President's budget request without a corresponding increase in domestic spending. While the OCO account is exempt from budget caps, the purpose of the Budget Control Act was to establish proportionately equal caps on defense and nondefense discretionary spending to force a bipartisan compromise on the budget.

During consideration of the NDAA, the House and Senate had different approaches on how best to fund these base budget requirements and ongoing military operations. However, after a robust debate, we reached an agreement on a modest increase in OCO to fund increased end strength and to replenish depleted munitions inventories.

With respect to Afghanistan, the conference agreement supports our military operations. Specifically, the bill authorizes approximately 8,400 troops in Afghanistan in 2017, including fully funding the Afghan Security Forces Fund at \$4.26 billion to continue support to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces. Likewise, the bill contains \$814 million to enhance the capabilities of the Afghan Air Force and begin a transition from Mi-17 to the UH-60 helicopters.

Also—and this is an issue that I support very strongly after a recent trip to Afghanistan—it accelerates the Af-

ghan Aviation Initiative, which is designed to build greater rotary wing capability and fixed-wing capabilities in the Afghan Air Force. This is a critical battlefield advantage that the Afghan forces will have over the Taliban.

With respect to Europe, we have fully funded the President's request of \$3.4 billion for the European Reassurance Initiative. This funding will support critical investments that will increase rotational U.S. military presence in Europe, improve key infrastructure, and enhance allied and partner military capabilities to respond to external aggression and preserve regional stability. The agreement also includes an authorization of \$350 million for the Ukraine training assistance initiative, to continue and expand security assistance and intelligence support to the Ukrainian security forces to protect their sovereignty and encourage a continued focus on robust defense reform efforts.

With regard to our special operations forces, they are at the forefront of our fight against ISIL, Al Qaeda, and other terrorist groups. The bill also includes important reforms designed to improve the oversight and advocacy for their important efforts by enhancing the role of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict. I think those reforms will be something we watch and encourage.

With respect to other aspects of our security programs, the conference agreement includes a comprehensive reform of Defense Department security cooperation programs. This is the first time such a reform has been undertaken, and it is an effort to ensure there is unity of effort across our government in the security assistance arena.

Likewise, the conference agreement includes a provision that would enhance the scope and authority of the Global Engagement Center. For too long we have been losing the information space to our adversaries—both state and nonstate actors. It is my hope that by providing this critical center at the State Department with a powerful mandate, we can begin to improve our efforts in the information space.

The bill also supports modernization efforts of many different weapons platforms. I am particularly pleased to see that we are continuing two-per-year construction of the Virginia-class submarine. It also supports additional requests for advance procurement to keep this production on track. Furthermore, it authorizes \$1.9 billion for the Ohio-class replacement, including the first strategic nuclear submarine procurement funds, to begin the process of reinvigorating and rebuilding our underwater nuclear deterrence through the Ohio-class replacement.

In addition to modernization of our underwater forces, we are also looking

at modernizing our triad of air, sea, and ground delivery platforms for strategic deterrence. This is the beginning of a multi-decade effort involving three major acquisition programs: our ballistic missile submarines—as I have mentioned, the Ohio-class replacement—long-range penetrating bombers, and also the land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles. Most importantly, we will be modernizing their command and control systems to ensure that our President always has positive control of these forces. As I have stated many times, modernization is critical in light of the increasingly belligerent actions by Russia, which conducted a nuclear exercise immediately after invading Crimea as a form of nuclear intimidation.

In the area of technology and acquisition, I am pleased the conference report takes a number of important steps to help DOD maintain its technological superiority. We continue to build on past work on acquisition reform undertaken by the committee, as well as the successes of Defense Secretary Carter and his colleagues, including Under Secretary Kendall, in controlling the costs of major weapons systems procurement programs.

The agreement includes a number of steps to improve defense acquisition processes, including strengthening the acquisition workforce, simplifying and streamlining regulatory and bureaucratic burdens on the government and industry, making it easier for DOD to work with innovative small businesses and commercial companies, and promoting the use of prototyping and rapid fielding to speed the development and deployment of advanced new systems.

In the area of technological innovation, I hope that reconstituting the position of Under Secretary of Research and Engineering will help promote connections with innovators both inside and outside of the government and ensure that the policies and practices governing our R&D programs, our defense labs, and our engagements with universities and industry are optimized to promote the most efficient and effective development of new systems and technologies.

Finally, I think the conference report includes important provisions designed to streamline and modernize Pentagon management processes. The bill supports efforts to develop and execute the modern management techniques and practices modeled on private sector best practices, including the use of big data to improve Pentagon business processes. I believe that refining Pentagon management practices will result in cost savings and efficiencies, freeing up funds for other critical needs.

I note that the conferees did not include several provisions regarding the application of Obama administration

Executive orders related to labor, safe workplace, and LGBT issues. Many of these are very problematic. I hope we continue to work to ensure the Department engages with fiscally and socially responsible and effective contractors to the best benefit of warfighters and taxpayers alike.

Of course, one of the key issues for the committee was the readiness of troops. I am pleased the conference report includes significant resources for the military services' unfunded requirements, with the goal of restoring full-spectrum readiness as soon as possible. For example, the bill includes additional funding for Army units to conduct additional home station training in order to prepare them for future combat training center rotations, as well as additional flight training for the other services.

We have also included significant resources in order to provide additional depot maintenance to repair our military aircraft, ships, and combat vehicles. There is also additional funding to better sustain our military installations, specifically in the facilities restoration and modernization accounts.

In the area of military personnel, the conference agreement accomplishes much on behalf of our servicemembers and the Department of Defense because we owe them much. It authorizes a 2.1 percent pay raise for all servicemembers, supports requested increases in the housing benefit, and reauthorizes a number of expiring bonus and special pay authorities to encourage enlistment, reenlistment, and continued service by Active-Duty and Reserve component military personnel.

Unfortunately, the bill does not include the provision in the Senate-passed bill that would have required women to register for the draft to the same extent men are required. I continue to believe this is the right policy for the Nation and the military. If we are going to have a draft, women must share equally the burden and privilege of service. We must be able to take advantage of their extraordinary talents because without those talents our military today could not function as it does.

However, the bill does establish an independent national commission on military, national, and public service to study the need for a military selective service process, including whether the Nation continues to need a mechanism designed to draft large numbers of replacement combat troops; whether women should be required to participate equally in the process; the means by which to foster a greater attitude and ethos of service among the United States' young men and women, including an increased propensity for military service; and how to obtain military, national, and public service individuals with skills for which the Nation has a critical need. This commis-

sion could provide valuable insight on how we should proceed, particularly in a state of national emergency, in pulling together the best of our young people to serve the Nation.

With respect to health care, the bill contains a robust package of health care reforms that will bring the military health care program in line with the best practices in the civilian health care industry. This is something we have to continue to emphasize—the ability to care and treat all of our personnel and retirees with respect to their health care.

I think we have done a lot of important work in this legislation.

Let me conclude, as I began, by thanking Chairman McCAIN and my Senate colleagues on the committee for their thoughtful contributions to this process. I also thank my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee, Chairman MAC THORBERRY and Ranking Member ADAM SMITH. They did a superb job, along with their staffs. This was truly a thoughtful, bipartisan process that resulted in a bill that I believe will receive overwhelming support on the floor of the Senate, as it did in the House.

Finally, of course, this agreement would not have been possible without the extraordinary work of the staff. I thank so many, but I particularly thank Chris Brose, Steve Barney, and all the majority committee staff for their hard work.

On the Democratic side, I thank my staff director, Elizabeth King. I also thank Gary Leeling, Creighton Greene, Carolyn Chuhta, Maggie McNamara, Jonathan Clark, Jonathan Epstein, Ozge Guzelsu, Jody Bennett, Mike Kuiken, Kirk McConnell, Mike Noblet, John Quirk, Arun Seraphin, and Jon Green.

I deeply appreciate all of their efforts. They have made this bill possible.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I come to the Senate floor to thank Chairman McCAIN for his efforts on the National Defense Authorization Act. Yesterday I was here talking about the Cures Act, and I know that is the business of the day, but I also want to recognize the importance of the NDAA

and its assumed or hoped-for passage today or this week. I appreciate Senator McCAIN working with me and supporting my amendment to remove language that would allow the administration to expend taxpayer dollars on plans to close Guantanamo Bay detention facility.

As in previous years, the NDAA continues to prohibit the closure of Gitmo and the transfer of detainees to U.S. soil. Fort Leavenworth, in my home State of Kansas, has been a site under this administration's consideration. This administration and foreign countries have lost track of numerous detainees, which escalates the risk for military men and women if the detainee is returned to the battlefield. With the total reengagement rate at Gitmo detainees returning to that battlefield at more than 30 percent, this provision is a life-and-death matter.

This Defense authorization also halts troop reduction and increases end strength across our Active, National Guard, and Reserve Forces. In every Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee hearing this past year with Department of Defense officials, from service chiefs to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, I received answers that concluded our Armed Services would welcome more forces, not less.

I introduced the POSTURE Act, S. 2563, with my colleagues Senator BLUNT and Senator PERDUE, to reverse these force reductions, increase end strength in the Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve, and specifically increase levels for our ground forces in the Army and Marine Corps. I am pleased this defense legislation—the one we are considering this week—reflects the objectives of the POSTURE Act by stopping force reductions and increasing end-strength levels across the Armed Services.

There are many unknowns around the world, and to reduce the size of our defense force would be a mistake. We have been impacted already by budget decisions rather than based upon what our Armed Forces need to defend America. Readiness is paramount, and this NDAA allows for increased funding to make certain we are training, equipping, and readying our forces as challenges around the world unfold. As Chief of Staff of the Army GEN Mark Milley has repeatedly said, "Readiness wins wars."

The Big Red One—the Army's 1st Infantry Division located at Fort Riley in Manhattan, KS, near Junction City, KS, has deployed its headquarters to Iraq for a second time in less than 2 years. That kind of turnaround requires the highest levels of readiness.

This bill also authorizes critical military construction funding for Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, and McConnell Air Force Base, helping Kansas remain a stronghold for our military training and power.

As we head into the holidays, I am pleased that servicemembers and their families will receive, with the certainty of the passage of this bill, benefits which they have earned and that they deserve, which includes a 2.1-percent pay increase, which is the largest increase in 5 years.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

As we pass this defense legislation to support our military men and women, those who serve our Nation, we must take a moment to also reflect upon the significance of this day—December 7, 1941—that horrific attack on Pearl Harbor 75 years ago. That day forever changed our Nation and our national defense. We should never forget those who perished in that attack, as they made that ultimate sacrifice: 2,008 naval men, 109 Marines, 218 Army men, and 68 civilians.

Shortly after I was elected to the U.S. Senate on December 7, 2010, I had the distinct opportunity to present service medals to Kansans who had served and survived the attack on Pearl Harbor. It took us 69 years after they survived that attack, but I was honored to bestow U.S. Navy veterans Arthur Dunn and Paul Aschbrenner with their much deserved commendations. It was a special moment I will not forget.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS LEGISLATION

To honor those who perished that day as well as those who survived, like Arthur and Paul, we must care for the 21.8 million veterans who live among us today and who deserve the best our Nation can offer. We have an opportunity to better care for our veterans with the passage of H.R. 6416, the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016, which has passed the House and is coming to the Senate.

This legislation includes 76 bipartisan provisions to improve VA health care, streamline disability compensation, and address other benefits and services that must be reformed to better serve our veterans. I thank the chairman of my committee, the Senator from Georgia, for his leadership in this regard.

I am particularly pleased that this legislation includes legislation that I, along with Senator BLUMENTHAL, have diligently worked on for over the last several years. It is sponsored by 48 of our Senate colleagues. It is the Toxic Exposure Research Act. This legislation takes a significant step toward researching the potential health effects of toxic exposure to veterans and their descendants. To send a strong message to our veterans, we must pass this legislation.

I often meet with World War II veterans at the memorial that was built in their honor on the National Mall. The message I try to convey is one that I

also shared with my dad upon my first visit to the memorial. I stepped away and called my dad at home in Plainville, KS, and I said: Dad, I should have said this a long time ago, but I thank you for your service, I respect you, and I love you. That, we do again today. On this significant day in our Nation's history, with the passage of veterans legislation, with the passage of NDAA, we certainly can tell our service men and women and our veterans, those who served our country so diligently and so faithfully, that we thank you for your service, we respect you, and we love you.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I rise to talk about the ongoing discussions about the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. I basically want to make the case that this repeal, without a replacement being known, would be malpractice for the health care of millions of Americans as well as malpractice for the American economy. Before I talk about why, I just want to tell two stories.

On Monday of this week, I visited Neighborhood Health, which is a community health center in Northern Virginia that serves 14,000 patients. It is not a walk-in clinic; they are sort of a medical home for 14,000 low-income Northern Virginians, mostly working people. Community health centers in Virginia, West Virginia, and in every State are a critical part of the health care safety net. In Virginia, they serve about 300,000 patients and millions nationally.

They are medicine with a mission. They don't deny anybody primary health care services because of inability to pay, and residents have equal access regardless of where they live, their culture, their gender, their race, or resources.

Many centers, including the one I visited just 20 minutes from here, were centers that were able to build or expand because of the Affordable Care Act. Facilities have gotten better in communities across the country because of the Affordable Care Act. That visit made powerfully clear to me how much every ZIP Code in this country has been affected by the Affordable Care Act because of these centers and other services that are provided.

The second story is a story from my recently completed, 105-day, unsuccessful venture as part of a national ticket. I was at the Iowa State Fair. A grandfather was carrying a little boy who looked to be about 3½ years old. I said: Tell me this youngster's name. The grandfather said: This is Jude. Of course, I said: Hey, Jude, and I said: Tell me about Jude. The grandfather and now the father walked over and started to talk to me, and what they said is this: Jude is 3½ years old and he

has already had five open heart operations at the Omaha Children's Hospital, which is just across the river from Western Iowa, in Nebraska. They looked at me and they said he couldn't have had these operations had it not been for the Affordable Care Act. Had it not been for the Affordable Care Act, he now would have exceeded his lifetime limit of any policy he could ever get, and he also would have a pre-existing condition because of his heart condition that would render him unable to get insurance for the rest of his life. They looked at me, and—the father especially is a pretty big guy—and they asked: Will you do all you can—will you do all you can to make sure that this act is not repealed? You can strengthen it, you can improve it, but will you do all you can to make sure it is not repealed? I looked at them and I said—because I believed this even before they asked me the question: I will do anything to my last breath to make sure that we improve this but that we don't get rid of it. That is why I stand on the floor today.

Since the Affordable Care Act was passed in March of 2010, 20 million Americans have health insurance and many of them for the first time in their life. That is, I think, the combined population of about 14 or 15 States, having health insurance for the first time in their lives.

Now, when you have health insurance, it is not only that you can get care for an illness or an accident, even when you are healthy, you can go to bed at night with the knowledge that if something happens to my wife tomorrow, if something happens to me tomorrow, if something happens to my child tomorrow, they will be able to receive care.

The percentage in the Nation of people who were uninsured when the Affordable Care Act was passed was 16 percent. One in six Americans was uninsured. Now it is down to 8.6 percent. That is the lowest level of uninsured we have had probably since we have measured it. In Virginia, the drop has been from 13 percent—we were a little better than the national average—and we have dropped down to 9.1 percent uninsured. We are a little higher than the national average now because my State does not accept Medicaid expansion, but the difference in 6 years is 327,000 more Virginians have health insurance in 2015 than had it in 2010. That is a powerful thing.

In addition to having health insurance, families are protected because they can't get turned away because of preexisting conditions, they can't get turned away because they have reached lifetime limits in terms of their medical care, as Jude would have reached by age 3½. Children can stay on family policies until age 26. Women cannot be charged different health care premiums than men. Insurance companies are re-

quired to rebate excess premium payments back to consumers if they overcharge.

It is not just about the millions who have health insurance who have never had it before, there are also millions and millions more to receive protections they have never had before. These are important provisions.

There has been discussion that I have been reading and following that what some want to do is just repeal the Affordable Care Act, with a vague promise that something will happen down the line. Of course, those who want to repeal the Affordable Care Act who voted against it in March of 2010 have had 6 or now nearly 7 years to come up with what they think would be better, and there has been no consensus about what they think would be better. So the notion of we are going to repeal it and don't worry, we will come up with a better alternative, rings pretty hollow to a family like Jude's parents and grandparents who have a three-and-a-half-year-old-boy who needs open heart surgery. The notion that don't worry, we will find a replacement, we will find a fix—I think we could forgive somebody like Jude's family for not having a lot of confidence in that.

If, in fact, we are serious about finding a fix, why don't we go to work finding a fix before we pass legislation to repeal the law.

I have said I think it is health malpractice and economic malpractice. Let me start with the economic malpractice. The worst thing Congress can do for the economy is to inject uncertainty into it. I have been a mayor and I have been a Governor and I am a certainty fanatic. What I have learned about the economy is that our strong and resilient business sector—if you give them certainty, they can plan. They may not like a policy, they might not like a budget number, but if you tell them this is the way it is going to be, the ingenuity of our private sector is significant. They are going to be able to plan, they are going to be able to make the best of it, they are going to be able to figure it out, but if you provide uncertainty and don't tell people what you are going to do, that is very devastating.

I am on the Budget Committee. I came into the Budget Committee in the Senate, and I told my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: I am a certainty fanatic. We should be doing a budget. We shouldn't be doing a continuing resolution right now. We should be doing appropriations bills because when we tell both our own planners in our own departments and also the private economy: This is what it is going to be for the next year, they can figure it out, they can adjust, and they can do well. When we instead deliver a message that we don't know what we are going to do—oh, there will be a fix, but it will be a few years from now, we can't tell

you what it is going to be now, and really we can't even promise we will do it since we haven't done it in 6 years—you inject uncertainty into the economy, and that is the worst thing we can do.

I have made the argument that the recovery we have been on economically—which is not a robust recovery, but it is a steady recovery—the principal reason it has been steady but not robust is because of uncertainty, and the principal generator of uncertainty in the United States is this body, Congress. Congress's inability to do budget in regular order, Congress's inability to tackle priorities, Congress's inability to work on big picture fiscal issues generates uncertainty.

So now we are talking about a repeal of the Affordable Care Act, the single largest sector in the American economy. One-sixth of the GDP of this country is health care. If you tell the entire American economy we are going to go into the largest sector in the economy, we are going to repeal it, and don't worry, we will get to something down the road as a replacement, you will inject uncertainty into an economy in a degree that has never been done by this body that I think will have catastrophic economic consequences even beyond health care.

It is also malpractice in the health lives of Americans. The Urban Institute has come out with a study today, an update of a study they did a year ago. There was a proposal a year ago to repeal the Affordable Care Act that President Obama vetoed. They did a study about what would repeal mean. This is what repeal means to the American public as we get ready to celebrate the holidays, a time when we are mindful of the needs of others:

The number of uninsured people in the United States, if the ACA is repealed, would rise from its current 28.9 million to 58.7 million, an increase of 29.8 million uninsured in this country. The share of nonelderly people without insurance would increase from 11 percent to 21 percent.

Of the 29.8 million newly uninsured as a result of the repeal, 22.5 will become uninsured as a result of eliminating premium tax credits, Medicaid expansion, and the individual mandate, and the additional 7.3 million would become uninsured because of the near collapse of the nongroup insurance market, and 82 percent of the new 29 million who will become uninsured are working families, 82 percent; 38 percent would be ages 18 to 34; 56 percent would be non-Hispanic Whites; 80 percent of adults becoming uninsured are adults who do not have college degrees. There will be 12.9 million fewer people with Medicaid or CHIP coverage in 2019 if the Affordable Care Act is repealed, and nearly 9.5 million people who have received tax credits to help them purchase private nongroup health coverage in 2019 will no longer receive that

assistance. This is catastrophic to tens of millions of Americans.

I will tell a third story that is a story about me. I have to have the healthiest family in the United States, my wife and I and our three children. The only hospitalizations we have ever had, until my wife recently broke a bone, was for three child births. Our kids are 27, 24, and 21. We are the healthiest family in the United States. I was required once to go out right after the Affordable Care Act passed to buy health insurance on the open market. I didn't have an employer who could cover it. Two insurers turned me down because they said: We can't write a policy for your whole family because of a preexisting condition. One insurer turned me down because of something about me, and one insurer turned me down because of something about one of my children. Again, we are the healthiest family there is.

We were able to say: Wait a minute. The Affordable Care Act just passed. You are not legally allowed to do that now. You have to write a policy for the whole family.

The insurance agent who dealt with us on the phone said: Let me talk to my supervisor, and then called back and said: You know, what. You are right. We have to write you a policy.

This is a law that not only provides health insurance to 20 million people who never had it before but for even healthy families like mine provides benefits to protect against some of the worst and most predacious behaviors of insurance companies. If the act is repealed, this all goes away.

Americans agree, repeal is not the answer. A Kaiser Foundation poll that was done in the last 2 weeks showed that only 26 percent of Americans support a repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Of the other 75 percent, some think it should stay the same, some think it should be tweaked backward a little bit, some think it should be advanced, but only one in four Americans believe we should repeal this law. Overwhelmingly, what the American public is telling us is, we should improve the law. That is what we should be about in this body.

When I was the Governor of Virginia, I noticed at the end of every legislative session there would be 1,100 bills on my desk for me to review, sign, veto, or amend. Of the 1,100 bills, pretty much every year 200 or 300 would be new, but 800 would be improvements to existing law. The job of a legislature is more about taking existing laws and reforming and improving it than repealing or doing something brand new. That is what puzzles me. Why aren't we doing that? Clearly, there is no rush. There is no rush because the discussions are, we would repeal the Affordable Care Act with a promise we will find a replacement in 2 or 3 years. So if the notion is we are going to work for 2 or 3 years to

find a replacement, there is no rush, and if there is no rush, why aren't we sitting down right now? Instead of repealing the law, why aren't we sitting down right now? Let's sit down around the table, let's talk about what we don't like, let's talk about what we do like, let's talk about what it means to have 20 million people in this country with health insurance, many for the first time in their lives, and what they might think. Let's get the perspectives of hospitals. Let's get the perspectives of insurers, of doctors, and other medical professionals. That is what we should be doing. What is the rush?

I fear the rush is for one reason: a desire to do something before this President leaves office that can be a little bit of a poke in his eye, but it is a poke in his eye politically in a way that takes families like Jude's family or the families I saw at the neighborhood health center in Alexandria and puts deep fear and uncertainty in their lives and also puts uncertainty into one-sixth of the American economy.

I know we will be having this discussion in earnest, I suspect a little bit over the next couple of days but more when the year begins, just as we are going to be having discussions about Medicare and Medicaid, with 1.3 million Medicare enrollees in Virginia as of 2015. The CHIP and Medicaid Programs in Virginia have an additional 970,000 enrollees. I read dramatic discussions about these programs as well, these basic safety net programs.

I will conclude and say there is no reason we shouldn't be able to sit down around the table and talk about improvements. What I might call a reform somebody else could call a replacement. I don't care about the label, but what I do care about is repealing a law that provides millions of people the confidence that they have health care for the first time in their lives, doing it and having the discussion during the holiday season, doing it in a way that will hurt working people, will hurt working people who don't have high school degrees, doing it in a way that will hurt people who are already sick, who are already dealing with illnesses in their families.

I am a student of this body. I am not a historian. I am a student of this body, but my prediction would be this: If this body goes down the path of repealing this important law that provides important protections to millions with no idea about what the replacement is, I think it will be a day we will look back on and those who care about this body will look back on, probably in the not-too-distant future, and will say this will be one of the low moments in the history of the United States Senate. There is no need for it because there are people of good will in this body who are willing to sit down and find solutions and find improvements and find reforms, but nobody seems

willing to have that discussion. Let's have that discussion rather than the repeal discussion, and we will serve our constituents better.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote on significant legislation—a bill that aims to make it easier for innovative medical treatments to be approved, while investing over \$6 billion in medical research and combating the opioid crisis. The bill also takes an important step toward improving our mental health system, specifically by strengthening our parity laws to ensure mental health treatments are covered by insurance companies.

Medical research holds tremendous promise, but our commitment to this funding has not kept pace with what is needed to make more breakthroughs with diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's. In recent years, Congress has supported increased funds for medical research, but these increases have come at the expense of other important domestic programs. We can and should do more.

In October, Vice President BIDEN joined me in Vermont to discuss the future of cancer treatment. We learned that we are on the cusp of so many developments in fighting the disease, but that more research is needed to get there. This bill contains \$1.8 billion dedicated to Vice President BIDEN's cancer moonshot and another \$1.4 billion in precision medicine to help target treatments to individual patients. It also includes \$1.5 billion for President Obama's BRAIN Initiative, to expand brain mapping technologies that help scientists understand brain disorders and diseases affecting the central nervous system. Since the BRAIN Initiative was established in 2013, it has already made significant advances in medical knowledge, including improving artificial limb technologies and discovering more links between brain chemical functions and depression.

I am also pleased that this bill finally fulfills our commitment to fund efforts to combat the opioid crisis. This is especially critical since Congress failed to include necessary funding resources when the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act passed earlier this year. This bill contains \$1 billion to combat the opioid crisis, with the first half of the funding to be dedicated this fiscal year. Each day, 129 people die from drug overdoses in this country. Vermont and many other predominantly rural States have been hit particularly hard by this epidemic. I suspect that almost every Vermonter knows someone who has been impacted by addiction. It is something I hear about regularly when I am home in Vermont. This is not the future we want for our children, for our grandchildren, or for our communities. I am

hopeful that the funding included in this bill will help States move people into treatment to eventually stop the tragic cycle of abuse.

While I strongly support this funding, in addition to the bill's expansion of medical research and mental health parity, this bill is far from perfect. Whereas the bill contains \$6.3 billion in upfront cuts to offset funding for its many efforts, these funds are not in fact guaranteed each year. Rather, the Appropriations Committee must act each year to "unlock" the funding. Republican leaders assure us that this funding will go out the door, and as the incoming vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I intend to hold them to that promise.

I am also concerned that the bill includes provisions to fast-track prescription drug approval through the Food and Drug Administration, FDA. We all want to ensure that patients have access to medications, but we must also be sure those treatments are both safe and effective. I have concerns that this bill may weaken the standards by which the FDA can review certain medications, for example, by allowing the agency to use existing data from different drug trials to prove the safety of new medications that include similar drug compounds.

Furthermore, while the bill makes it easier in many cases to get drugs approved, it does nothing to address the unreasonable price hikes we have seen in some prescription drugs. I filed an amendment with Senators GRASSLEY, KLOBUCHAR, and LEE that would address some of the anticompetitive behavior many drug companies are engaging in to help drive up the cost of their drugs. For example, in order to delay approval of generic drugs entering the market, some drug companies withhold drug samples or refuse to enter into shared safety agreements with generic manufacturers—both of which are necessary for FDA approval. Our amendment, which mirrors our CREATES Act, would close this loophole and help generic drugs come to the market faster.

Unfortunately, the Senate will not have the opportunity to consider this improvement to the bill or any others before we vote on the bill's passage. I am frustrated that a bill of this enormity—that has never been considered by the full Senate—is being placed on the calendar at the end of a session with no opportunity for amendments. I hope the Senate leadership will promptly schedule floor debates on this and other improvements to this package early next year.

Nevertheless, improvements were made to this bill before it was considered by the House last week. For example, the bill no longer includes a provision that would weaken the disclosure requirements for physicians receiving gifts. The bill also now clearly directs

opioid funding to States that have been hit hardest by the crisis. Lastly, more of the funding for medical research is set to go out this fiscal year, which will have an immediate impact on improving the important work of the NIH and our overall medical research community.

On balance, this is an important piece of legislation that offers a great promise to move the bar forward on medical research, while also providing critical relief to families suffering from opioid addiction. I believe these strong investments will benefit us for generations to come, and I will support the passage of this bill.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I am pleased to support the 21st Century Cures Act, which includes a number of critical mental health provisions, much needed funding for medical research and innovation at the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration, as well as funding to help combat the opioid crisis in our country.

First, I would like to highlight division B of this legislation, the Mental Health Reform Act. The Mental Health Reform Act represents years of work in Congress across party lines to improve the quality of and access to mental health and substance abuse treatment, such as training more behavioral health workers and strengthening parity for mental health and substance abuse treatment. This bill also includes my legislation, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Reauthorization Act, which supports youth suicide prevention grants for schools—elementary schools through college where children and young adults spend most of their time—to be able to reach at-risk youth. I am especially pleased that, for the first time, this bill will allow funding to be used for mental health treatment on college campuses, the most effective way to prevent suicide. I have worked with advocates across the mental health community for the better part of the last decade on this effort, so I am pleased to see this come to fruition.

This legislation also includes an infusion of funding for National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration—\$4.8 billion over the next 10 years, including \$1 billion to be concentrated over the next 3 years for the Cancer Moonshot initiative. I commend Vice President BIDEN for his work to spearhead the Cancer Moonshot initiative over the last year, and I think it was a fitting tribute that the Senate agreed unanimously to rename this title of the bill after his son, Beau Biden, who tragically lost his life to cancer last year. The remaining funding will be used to support key efforts at the NIH, such as the Precision Medicine Initiative, the BRAIN Initiative, and regenerative medicine using adult stem cells. In addition, the bill con-

tains \$1 billion in funding for States to respond to the ongoing opioid epidemic. Earlier this year, passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act was an important first step in addressing this crisis, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle voted against efforts to fund the legislation and provide access to treatment in our communities. I am pleased that we will finally have real funding going to communities this year to provide this treatment.

However, I am disappointed that this bill does not make this funding mandatory. We will still have to rely on appropriations in the future to ensure that this funding goes out as intended. I am also concerned about the cuts in this bill, which many of my colleagues have spoken about at length during consideration of the bill, and I would like to echo those comments. For example, this legislation cuts the Prevention and Public Health Fund by \$3.5 billion, to the detriment of worthy and vital efforts such as youth suicide prevention, immunizations, and lead poisoning prevention.

While I have these reservations, I am pleased that the Congress is able to support bipartisan reforms to our mental health system, as well as funding for medical research and the opioid response. I hope that we will be able to work on a bipartisan basis to ensure that these efforts continue to be funded over the next several years.

Mr. BURR. Madam President, I am pleased to rise to talk about the 21st Century Cures bill we have before us today.

At the beginning of this Congress, my good friend Senator ALEXANDER and I issued a report entitled *Innovation for Healthier Americans* in which we asked a simple, but critical, question: how can we do it better? Chairman ALEXANDER and I asked this question because we must do it better for our constituents and their loved ones who are battling devastating diseases—diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, and rare pediatric conditions—for which we have no treatments today, but hope that we will in time to help the courageous individuals with these diseases to win their fight. I commend Chairman ALEXANDER for his resolute focus on this critical work and for his leadership in bringing forward the bill we have before us today.

For decades, our Nation has led the world in medical innovation, but the challenges to maintaining this global edge have never been greater. We recognized that our Nation's biomedical discovery and development must work as well as possible to ensure that Americans are able to benefit from the most cutting-edge medical innovations in as timely a manner as possible. We are at a tremendously exciting era in medicine that will be defined by innovation. Innovation holds great potential. Our ability to respond to public

health threats, including those that pose a direct threat to our national security, will in large part be defined by whether or not we embrace innovation. In other words, the stakes could not be greater and innovation will be the key to our success in these endeavors.

The bill before us today reflects a tremendous amount of bipartisan work and covers many areas of health care. I want to take just a few moments to highlight a handful of provisions on which I have partnered with my colleagues and that I believe answer the question of how we can do it better.

I am pleased that the final Cures bill includes the Advancing Targeted Therapies for Rare Diseases Act, legislation that will help advance the development of targeted drugs for patients with serious or life threatening rare genetic diseases. Each of us has met constituents facing a difficult diagnosis, and these cases are particularly devastating when the patient is a young child who should have a lifetime ahead of them, but for which we have no treatment to offer them. These are the patients who move us to bring an unapologetic urgency to our work on these issues. The choice between nothing and nothing is not a choice. And so I want to thank my colleagues, particularly Senator BENNET, Senator HATCH, and Senator WARREN, for their work on the Advancing Targeted Therapies for Rare Diseases Act. Developing drugs for rare diseases is particularly difficult, but as our genetic understanding of rare diseases increases, there will be new opportunities to pursue treatments for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, and certain cancers, and these provisions will help to pave the way for these therapies to reach patients sooner. With these opportunities will come renewed hope for the children, adults, and families battling these conditions.

I am particularly pleased that the final Cures bill also includes the Advancing Breakthrough Devices for Patients Act. This legislation builds on the Advancing Breakthrough Therapies for Patients Act, which was enacted 4 years ago and has been very effective in helping to bring forward breakthrough therapies for patients. I want to thank Senator BENNET and Senator HATCH for their collaboration and partnership on these breakthrough bills. Like our 2012 bill, these provisions will ensure an all-hands-on-deck approach, this time for devices, with the goal of expediting the development and review of breakthrough technologies. These provisions are appropriately focused on what these technologies will mean for patients. In order to qualify for FDA designation as a breakthrough device, a device must provide more effective treatment or diagnosis of life-threatening or irreversibly debilitating diseases or conditions. These devices must represent breakthrough technologies,

have no approved alternatives, offer significant advantages over existing approved alternatives, or their availability must be in the best interest of patients. These devices might be the next technology that better prepares us to respond to needs in a disaster or life-threatening situation or the innovation that improves the manner and quality of an individual's episode of care. In other words, bringing forward these breakthrough devices will improve health care.

The timely and predictable review of medical products is key to promoting and protecting the public health. The FDA Modernization Act I authored in 1997 sought to modernize the agency in a way that supported regulating in the least burdensome manner, while ensuring that innovative products would reach patients in as timely a manner as possible. The FDA Device Accountability Act's bipartisan provisions included in the final Cures bill build on these efforts. I want to thank Senator FRANKEN for his collaboration on this legislation, which will ensure that FDA eliminates unnecessary burdens when reviewing devices. It will also permit more efficient device clinical trials. In addition, the bill will require FDA to update guidance on certain tests performed in doctors' offices to ensure that the guidance on this matter aligns with the FDA Modernization Act's intent that, if the results by trained and untrained users are comparable, a test is considered to be accurate for CLIA waiver purposes. If we are going to ensure devices are able to reach Americans in as timely a manner as possible, we need to focus on what is necessary to know to meet FDA's gold standard for approval. What might be nice to know is not necessarily central to what FDA needs to know to make regulatory decisions. These provisions will help provide needed regulatory certainty and focus when it comes to FDA's review of medical devices.

As we worked on the Cures bill this Congress, we have been reminded of the need to be prepared for the full range of public health threats that may present themselves, whether naturally occurring, like the Zika virus, or the result of a deliberate attack. I want to thank Senator CASEY for his partnership in making sure we are as prepared as possible for these threats. The final Cures bill includes provisions from our bipartisan bill, the Medical Countermeasures Innovation Act, which will encourage the development of the medical products needed to protect the American people in the event of a global pandemic or biological weapons attack. Cochairs of the Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense, Joe Lieberman and Tom Ridge, wrote that this legislation would further strengthen the underpinnings of biological preparedness by creating new incentives for public-private partnerships; clari-

fying and streamlining contracting processes at the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority; and ensuring that our Nation's health care providers have the guidance they need to use medical countermeasures in an emergency. The Alliance for Biosecurity has said that the medical countermeasure priority review voucher provided for in our legislation, and the final Cures bill, would be a game changer for investment in biodefense. Researching, developing, and getting a medical countermeasure across the approval finish line to market is a long, difficult, costly, and very risky but necessary endeavor. The priority review voucher for medical countermeasures will help to invigorate partnerships to ensure we have the medical countermeasures we need against the most serious identified threats—threats that have been found to affect our national security. We have heard that this program will benefit not only our civilian needs, but those of our Nation's warfighters, and, in doing so, better protect the American people. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to ensure we fully leverage this provision, including ensuring that partners and innovators in this space have the certainty of knowing the Federal Government is committed to seeing this work through and not undercutting it by stopping our work on these fronts before we are fully prepared to protect the American people from these serious threats.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Senator CASEY for working with me in our annual efforts to advocate for the National Institutes of Health having the robust resources it needs to advance its lifesaving work. In addition to the funding increases the NIH has been provided through the appropriations process, this legislation will give NIH a meaningful booster shot in dedicated funding to enhance its work in promising areas.

While passage and enactment of this legislation is a significant step, it is by no means the last. I will continue to hold the NIH and FDA accountable for their work on behalf of America's patients, and I look forward to continuing to partner with my colleagues on these important issues. As I have said before, the day-to-day actions—and, in many cases, inaction—at the FDA has a profound effect on our Nation's patients. It also directly impacts our economy, as FDA-regulated products account for about 25 cents of every dollar spent by American consumers each year. The importance of holding the agency accountable for its actions and inactions—all the way from front-line reviewers to the Commissioner—has never been more important.

The former FDA Commissioner, Dr. Andy von Eschenbach, once wrote that government policy can either inhibit or accelerate the next revolution in

science and technology. We must continue to advance and see through policies that spur, foster, and support the innovation and regulatory pathways necessary to realize cutting-edge treatments. Like the FDA Modernization Act in 1997, the bill before us today represents a remarkable opportunity—the opportunity to embrace innovation for healthier Americans. The director of the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill summed it up well when he wrote to me and said that passage of this legislation will not only touch lives, it has the potential to save them. Therefore, it is my strong hope that the tools provided by this legislation will be leveraged and the medical products our constituents are counting on accelerated. This will be good for America's innovators, North Carolinians, and our Nation.

Mr. KAINÉ. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WICKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, at 2 p.m., the Senate will move to a final passage vote on legislation we call 21st Century Cures. It has been called by the majority leader the most important piece of legislation the Congress is likely to act on this year.

The House of Representatives added to the bill a Mental Health Reform Act—actually three separate bills that Senator MURPHY, Senator CORNYN, and Senator CASSIDY worked on especially here, which is the most important reform of many mental health programs in more than a decade. It is very important to one out of five adult Americans who have a mental illness.

It caused me to think this: This is Pearl Harbor Day. Pearl Harbor Day is a day when we remember the terrifying attacks on the American military that killed more than 2,000 and launched us into World War II. We also remember it as a day that began to create and define what we now refer to as the “greatest generation”—the generation distinguished by the men and women of that era, the era of Bob Dole, George H.W. Bush, and men and women now in their nineties and late eighties. They were defined by being willing to work hard on behalf of the entire country, put their differences aside and work for the greater good; to recognize that our diversity is important, but what is more important is the fact that we are all Americans.

There have been some other times in our recent history when we have been reminded of that, and 9/11 is the most

important of those. I remember how I felt after 9/11. I watched President George W. Bush speak, and I thought he spoke eloquently, as did Al Gore at that time, about the principles that unite us a country.

Celebrating our diversity is a good thing. Celebrating our oneness is more important, and it is harder work. What we are doing today is a more modest—much more modest—example of the same sort of spirit. I do not want to suggest that passing a bill in Congress equals going to war or running into a burning building in New York City after it has been attacked, but it is the same spirit. I don't have any apology for suggesting that. It is a spirit of facing up to a big issue, a complex issue that affects lots of people, about which there are lots of legitimate differences, and working hard to resolve those differences so that we are not celebrating those differences, we are celebrating the fact that we came together and—as we did in the House of Representatives last week 392 to 26 and as we did on Monday in the Senate with 85 votes in favor of 21st Century Cures—we moved toward a solution that we all can support.

Sometimes we govern by Executive order in Washington, and Executive orders can be repealed by any new administration. Sometimes we have partisan exercises, as we did with Obamacare 6 years ago, and we have been like the Hatfields and McCoys ever since, shooting each other until we forget what we are arguing about. We actually remember, but it makes it much more difficult than to come together and get a consensus.

Other examples are the civil rights bill of the 1960s, the Medicare bill, and the bill last December that President Obama called a Christmas miracle when we fixed No Child Left Behind and came forward with a piece of legislation about which there was a consensus not just to fix it but on how to fix it, a consensus supported by Governors as well as teachers unions, classroom teachers as well as school boards. On that bill, there will not be a movement in Congress to repeal it because everybody voted for it. So those who are teaching in our classrooms in our 100,000 public schools and those who are working in State departments of education and the parents will know that for the foreseeable future, there is a consensus and stability about elementary and secondary education.

We hear every day that we have a fractured country, that we have so many differences of opinion, we can't operate. Well, there is one institution in the country that is an institution that is capable of leading the country toward consensus on important issues, and it is the U.S. Senate. Sometimes we are able to do that. We were able to do it last year. As the President said—he called it a Christmas miracle. We

fixed No Child Left Behind. We are able to do it today on mental health legislation, which had to navigate its way through gun issues, funding issues, and a whole variety of other issues. We are doing it on 21st Century Cures, which, as I and the majority leader have said, is the most important piece of legislation we will act on.

It is pretty rare that we have legislation that the President of the United States says is an opportunity we just can't miss and the Vice President of the United States is telephoning Senators before they go into their caucus meetings to urge them to support it. At the same time, the Speaker of the House, a Republican, is saying: This is part of my agenda for the future of our country. And the majority leader is saying it is the most important bill we will act on.

It still wasn't easy to pass because we are dealing with a lot of life-and-death issues: How rapidly can we move treatments and cures through the Food and Drug Administration and make sure they are still safe or how slowly can we do it and run up the cost so high that nobody can afford these treatments? How long can we take so that everybody is dead by the time the medicine is ready? We don't want that to happen. Those were the issues we had.

What kind of incentives can we give to drug companies so they can tackle rare diseases in children like the ones at St. Jude whom we see from Mississippi, Tennessee, and across the country? They have rare cancers and other diseases. Nobody is making medicines for those diseases because there is no incentive in the marketplace for it, so we give some incentive in the marketplace for such things.

Electronic medical records have been a real burden to doctors. We spent 30 billion taxpayer dollars, and they were in a ditch. This legislation moves it out of the ditch.

Francis Collins, the distinguished head of the National Institutes of Health, says that in the next 10 years, we will be able hopefully to prevent Alzheimer's or to identify it before symptoms, an artificial pancreas for diabetes, a vaccine for HIV/AIDS, a vaccine for Zika and a universal vaccine for flu, which killed 30,000 last year. According to the Mayo Clinic, regenerative medicine is a game changer—using our own stem cells to restore eyesight or to restore our damaged hearts. There are provisions in this legislation to move that ahead. There is \$4.8 billion in funding for the National Institutes of Health. The bill includes the EUREKA Act, sponsored by the Senator from Mississippi, which is so important. The funding includes money for the President's Precision Medicine Initiative, for the Vice President's Cancer Moonshot, and for the BRAIN Initiative. There is an additional \$500 million for the FDA and \$1 billion for

State grants over the next 2 years to fight opioid abuse.

As the President says, this is an opportunity we cannot miss. It is an opportunity we cannot miss and we are not going to miss. We are going to have this bill down to the President very shortly, and he will have an opportunity to be presented with another Christmas miracle.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD following my remarks today's editorial from the Wall Street Journal, which says:

Cures is a stride toward a more rational and humane drug development system, and legislation is about compromise. The bill could become a useful precedent for successful progress as the 115th Congress starts to take shape next year.

On Pearl Harbor Day when we celebrate the "greatest generation" and the contributions they made by remembering that while diversity is important, our oneness is more important, this is a much more modest example but a very important one of the same spirit, one that affects virtually every family in America.

I would like to extend my deep thanks and sincere appreciation to the dedicated staff who worked on the bill. We talk about that a lot here, but every one of us who is a Senator knows how crucial that is. We have worked for 2 years on the bill, numerous hearings, numerous discussions. It passed the House of Representatives twice. It came through our committee, the Senate HELP Committee, in the form of 19 different bipartisan bills. Every one of those bills, by the time it passed, was the largest number of recorded votes against each one of those 19 bills.

The staff did a tremendous job on that. I want to especially thank David Cleary, who is my chief of staff, and Evan Schatz, Senator MURRAY's chief on these issues, for the remarkable way they are able to work together with both Senator MURRAY's staff and my staff.

On Senator MURRAY's staff, John Righter, Nick Bath, Andi Fristedt, Wade Ackerman, Remy Brim, Colin Goldfinch, Madeleine Pannell, Julia Tierney, Kalah Auchincloss—I thank them very much for their passion for the issue and their willingness to work toward a result.

On our staff, in addition to David, I thank Mary-Sumpter Lapinski, Lindsey Seidman, and Grace Stuntz, who did an enormous amount of work, as did Laura Pence. I thank Brett Meeks, Kara Townsend, Melissa Pfaff, Liz Wroe, Margaret Coulter, Curtis Vann, Kathryn Bell, Andrew Burnett, Bobby McMillin, Lowell Schiller, Jim Jeffries, Liz Wolgemuth, Margaret Atkinson, Taylor Gaulsee, Alicia Hennie, and Jamie Garden.

We have had an unusual opportunity in this to work across the aisle with Chairman UPTON, Representative PAL-

LONE, Representative DEGETTE, and others in the House of Representatives and their staffs. I want to especially thank Speaker RYAN and Senator MCCONNELL. Speaker RYAN did a triple somersault to try to find a funding mechanism that would satisfy both Democrats and Republicans, and Senator MCCONNELL made time on the floor for it. Not everyone is satisfied with the funding mechanism, but we are all voting for it because this is such an important bill.

On Chairman UPTON's staff, I would like to thank Gary Andres, Paul Edattel, John Stone, Carly McWilliams, Adrianna Simonelli, Katie Novaria, James Paluskiewicz, Josh Trent, and Clay Alspach.

On Ranking Member PALLONE's staff, I would like to thank Tiffany Guarascio, Kimberlee Trzeciak, Megan Velez, Waverly Gordon, and Arielle Woronoff.

I would like to thank the hard-working staff of our Senate HELP Committee members, who played important roles in reaching this agreement, including Liz Schwartz with Senator ENZI, Anna Abram and Angela Wiles with Senator BURR, Jordan Bartolomeo with Senator ISAKSON, Natalie Burkhalter with Senator PAUL, Olivia Kurtz and Amanda Lincoln with Senator COLLINS, Chelsea Holt with Senator MURKOWSKI, Cade Clurman and Andrew Vogt with Senator KIRK, Claire Brandewie with Senator SCOTT, Matthew Richardson and Stuart Portman with Senator HATCH, Emily Mueller with Senator ROBERTS, Robb Walton and Brenda Destro with Senator CASSIDY, Jean Doyle with Senator MIKULSKI, Sophie Kasimow with Senator SANDERS, Sarah Mabry with Senator CASEY, Beth Wickler with Senator FRANKEN, Rohini Kosoglu with Senator BENNET, Jennifer DeAngelis with Senator WHITEHOUSE, Kathleen Laird with Senator BALDWIN, and Joe Dunn with Senator MURPHY, and Beth Pearson with Senator WARREN.

From the Senate Finance Committee, I would like to thank Kim Brandt, Jennifer Kuskowski, Erin Dempsey, Brett Baker, Chris Campbell, and Jay Khosla.

I would also like to thank much of the hard-working staff from the White House and Department of Health and Human Services who provided great help in getting this bill completed.

From the White House, I would like to thank Chief of Staff Denis McDonough and Kate Mevis.

From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, I would like to thank Secretary Sylvia Burwell, NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins, Dr. Kathy Hudson, FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf, Dr. Janet Woodcock, Dr. Jeffrey Shuren, Dr. Karen Desalvo, Acting SAMHSA Administrator Kana Enomoto, Sara Singleton, Jill Adleburg, Dayle Cristinzio, Jennifer

Tomasello, Rachel Stauffer, Maren McBride, Karson Mahler, Lauren Higgins, Adrienne Hallett, Laura Berkson, Ned Culhane, Patricia Brandt-Hansberger, Dena Morris, Miranda Katsoyannis, Brian Payne, Brian Altman, and Peggie Rice.

We always rely on the experts at the Congressional Research Service to give us good information in a timely manner, so I extend my thanks to Andrew Nolan, Maeve Carey, and Wendy Ginsberg.

The Senate and House legislative counsel staff worked long hours on the many drafts of this bill, so I would like to extend my thanks to Bill Baird, Jessica Shapiro, Kim Tamber, Katie Grendon, Warren Burke, and Margaret Bomba.

From the Congressional Budget Office, I would like to thank Chad Chirico, Holly Harvey, and Ellen Werble.

On Senator MCCONNELL's staff, I would like to thank Scott Raab.

On Speaker RYAN's staff, I would like to thank Matt Hoffman.

Finally, I would like to thank all the patients, doctors, researchers, innovators, thought leaders, and experts who dedicated time and expertise to helping us come up with this legislation.

I see my colleague, the Senator from Washington, on the floor. I once again thank her for her strong leadership in helping create the environment where 21st Century Cures and the mental health legislation can succeed.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Dec. 6, 2016]

CONGRESS'S CURES BREAKTHROUGH

Medicine moves faster than government, thank goodness, but every now and again government tries to catch up. After years of thoughtful bipartisan work, Congress is now poised to pass the 21st Century Cures Act, a bill designed to accelerate the development of new medicines and modernize a malfunctioning corner of the regulatory state.

The sweeping measure cleared a Senate procedural vote 85-13 on Monday night and passed the House 392-96. These margins are testimony to renewed self-confidence in U.S. innovation and health-care progress, not much expressed in Washington until recently. A few dead-enders like Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren are denouncing Cures for its lack of pharmaceutical price controls, which might have become a reality had Hillary Clinton won on Nov. 8.

Cures includes a \$4.8 billion infusion for the National Institutes of Health for basic research. The bill funds the NIH's neurological program on diseases like Alzheimer's, Joe Biden's "cancer moonshot" and rare diseases, while one encouraging earmark is for "high risk, high reward" studies that might not be financed by the private economy.

By the way, these new dollars are roughly offset with budget cuts elsewhere, which exposes the liberal claims of crisis if every program doesn't last forever. Congress is supposed to set priorities.

Perhaps the most promising component of Cures is a new regulatory model for Food

and Drug Administration approvals. The FDA remains fused to an outdated clinical model that is too slow, costly and arbitrary. The FDA was not designed to govern an era of genomics, biomarkers, systems biology, artificial intelligence and other advances, not that its own inadequacy has prevented it from trying.

Thus Cures encourages the FDA to supplement classical randomized clinical trials with more information, such as adaptive trial designs that target patient sub-groups who are more likely to benefit. This would allow research to succeed or fail faster at some fraction of the current expense. The agency is also ordered to consider "real-world evidence" in approvals outside of trials.

What the FDA calls "RWE" is controversial because the agency is preoccupied with "proving" how a medicine will perform. But modern trials are so tightly controlled that the results are often artificial, or irrelevant to how a medicine will be used and refined in actual medical practice. In any case, debates about drug approval are never about "proof," but how to interpret evidence of benefits and risks.

The main limitation of Cures is that the problems at FDA aren't due to a shortage of laws. They flow from the agency's institutional culture of control, delay and abuse of regulatory discretion. Cures requires the FDA merely "to evaluate the use of real-world evidence," and this wouldn't be the first political instruction that the bureaucracy has defied.

Still, Cures is a stride toward a more rational and humane drug development system, and legislation is about compromise. The bill could become a useful precedent for successful progress as the 115th Congress starts to take shape next year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of our colleagues in the House and the Senate who worked so hard to make this bill the best it could be for the patients and families we serve. In particular, I want to express my appreciation to Vice President BIDEN for his leadership, vision, and determination. I especially want to thank the chairman of the HELP Committee, Senator ALEXANDER, for his work and his leadership on this bill, as well as Energy and Commerce Chairman FRED UPTON, Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE, and Congresswoman DIANA DEGETTE.

I would like to reiterate my gratitude to our staff on both sides of the aisle who put in very long hours and weekends and more to get this legislation finished.

As a result of a lot of strong bipartisan work, we are now sending a bill to the President's desk that will invest in tackling our hardest-to-treat diseases, put real dollars behind the fight against the opioid epidemic, and make badly needed changes to mental health care in our country. I am particularly thankful for the strong bipartisan work of Senator MURPHY and Senator CASSIDY, as well as Congressman MURPHY.

I am confident that I am not alone in saying that I have heard from so many

people in my home State about each and every one of these challenges. There are patients and families waiting and hoping for new cures and treatments, people from every walk of life who make clear that the opioid epidemic has cost too many lives and torn too many families apart, and families who have struggled to get loved ones the mental health care they need, and our broken mental health care system got in their way, rather than helping.

I listened to these stories in my home State of Washington. I brought them back and told them here on the Senate floor, and now I am very proud to be taking bipartisan steps to help give patients, families, and communities the relief they need in response to some of the biggest challenges in health care of our time.

Thank you again to all of the Senators who worked on this and all of our colleagues in the House for this bipartisan effort.

I want to thank the Congressional staff from both Houses and both parties who worked so hard over the last 2 years on this legislation.

From my staff, Wade Ackerman, Kalah Auchincloss, Nick Bath, Jane Bigham, Remy Brim, Andi Fristedt, Colin Goldfinch, Megan Howard, Madeline Pannell, Melanie Rainer, Julie Tierney, Elizabeth Wagner, Eli Zupnick, Helen Hare, Evan Schatz, John Righter, Aravind Sreenath, Natalie Kirilichin, and Kate Blizinsky.

From Chairman ALEXANDER's staff David Cleary, Margaret Coulter, MarySumpter Lapinski, Brett Meeks, Laura Pence, Melissa Pfaff, Kara Townshend, Curtis Vann, Lindsey Seidman and Elizabeth Wroe.

From Representative PALLONE's staff, Eric Flamm, Waverley Gordon, Tiffany Guarascio, Rachel Pryor, Kim Trzeciak, Arielle Woronoff, and Megan Velez.

From Chairman UPTON's staff, Paul Edattel, Adrianna Simonelli, John Stone, Carly McWilliams, JP Paluskiewicz, Adam Buckalew, Jay Gulshen and Josh Trent.

Thank you to the staff from all our committee Democrats who worked so hard on the package: from Senator MURPHY's staff, David Bonine and Joe Dunn; from Senator WHITEHOUSE's staff, Jen DeAngelis and Anna Esten; from Senator BALDWIN's staff, Kathleen Laird and Jasmine Badreddine; from Senator CASEY's staff, Sara Mabry and Doug Hartman; from Senator FRANKEN's staff, Beth Wilder and Rachel Cumberbatch; from Senator BENNET's staff, Rohini Kosoglu and Rina Shah; from Senator MIKULSKI's staff, Jean Doyle, Jessica McNiece, and Amanda Shelton; from Leader REID's staff, Kate Leone and McKenzie Bennet; from Senator SCHUMER's staff, Veronica Duron; from Leader PELOSI's office, Wendell Primus; from Representative HOYER's office, Charlene MacDonald.

Thank you to the tireless staff of the Senate legislative counsel: Kim Tamber, Bill Baird, and Katie Grendon; and Holly Harvey, Ellen Werble and Julia Christensen of the Congressional Budget Office.

At the White House, let me thank Amy Rosebaum, Jeanne Lambrew, Carole Johnson, and Kate Mevis. Each of the agency heads played a crucial role in pushing this bill forward: Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell, National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Francis Collins, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf, Principal Deputy Administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Kana Enomoto, and National Coordinator for Health Information Technology Dr. Vindell Washington and his predecessor Dr. Karen DeSalvo. The staff of each of these agencies did invaluable work over a long period of time: Andrea Palm, Jim Esquea, Sara Singleton, Jeremy Sharp, Dayle Cristinzio, Rachel Sher, Sara Walinsky, Adrienne Hallett, Laura Berkson, Lauren Higgins, Alex Khalife, Rachel Stauffer, Maren McBride, Steven Posnack, Karson Mahler, Tom Coderre, Brian Altman, Brian Payne, Peggie Rice, and Jon White.

I thank Senator ALEXANDER, who has worked diligently across the aisle to get this done.

My sincere thanks to you today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, the Senator from Washington knows how much I appreciate her leadership and enjoy working with her, and I think we all respect the fact that she enjoys getting results that help the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT
NO. 5117

Mr. ALEXANDER. I move to table the motion to concur with the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to table.

The motion was agreed to.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 34.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 157 Leg.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Fischer	Murray
Ayotte	Flake	Nelson
Baldwin	Franken	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Bennet	Gillibrand	Peters
Blumenthal	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Reed
Booker	Hatch	Reid
Boozman	Heinrich	Risch
Boxer	Heitkamp	Roberts
Brown	Heller	Rounds
Burr	Hirono	Rubio
Cantwell	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Schatz
Cardin	Isakson	Schumer
Carper	Johnson	Scott
Casey	Kaine	Sessions
Cassidy	King	Shaheen
Coats	Kirk	Shelby
Cochran	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Corker	Manchin	Thune
Cornyn	Markey	Thomson
Crapo	McCain	Tillis
Cruz	McCaskill	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Vitter
Durbin	Mikulski	Warner
Enzi	Moran	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Feinstein	Murphy	

NAYS—5

Lee	Sanders	Wyden
Merkley	Warren	

NOT VOTING—1

Cotton

The motion was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany S. 2943, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

Mitch McConnell, Deb Fischer, Thom Tillis, Daniel Coats, James M. Inhofe, John Hoeven, Cory Gardner, Orrin G. Hatch, Mark Kirk, Tom Cotton, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Mike Rounds, Lisa Murkowski, Dan Sullivan, John McCain.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the conference report accompanying S. 2943, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 92, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 158 Leg.]

YEAS—92

Alexander	Feinstein	Murray
Ayotte	Fischer	Nelson
Baldwin	Flake	Perdue
Barrasso	Franken	Peters
Bennet	Gardner	Portman
Blumenthal	Graham	Reed
Blunt	Grassley	Reid
Booker	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heinrich	Roberts
Boxer	Heitkamp	Rounds
Brown	Heller	Rubio
Burr	Hirono	Sasse
Cantwell	Hoeven	Schatz
Capito	Inhofe	Schumer
Cardin	Isakson	Scott
Carper	Johnson	Sessions
Casey	Kaine	Shaheen
Cassidy	King	Shelby
Coats	Kirk	Stabenow
Cochran	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Collins	Lankford	Tester
Coons	Leahy	Thune
Corker	Manchin	Tillis
Cornyn	McCain	Toomey
Crapo	McCaskill	Udall
Cruz	McConnell	Vitter
Daines	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Moran	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Murphy	

NAYS—7

Gillibrand	Merkley	Wyden
Lee	Paul	
Markey	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—1

Cotton

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 92, the nays are 7.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the conference report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany S. 2943, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators who wish to speak in honor of the Presiding Officer be recognized in the following order for up to 4 minutes each: me, the majority leader Senator MCCONNELL, the minority leader Senator REID, Senator SCHUMER, Senator HATCH, Senator LEAHY, Senator MCCAIN, Senator DURBIN, Senator ISAKSON, Senator MURRAY, Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator COLLINS, Senator MIKULSKI, and Senator CARPER.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Delaware amend his request so that Senator MCCONNELL and I will use our leader time. That will not count against his hour.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Delaware.

TRIBUTES TO VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Mr. COONS. Mr. President—and it does bring me some joy to call you Mr. President. I am honored to be here today with so many of our colleagues, and I am grateful to Majority Leader MCCONNELL and Leader REID for their enthusiasm in pulling together this bipartisan tribute. I am honored to be joined by my senior Senator from Delaware, TOM CARPER, who will make closing remarks this afternoon.

Before I begin, I would like to remind my colleagues that there will be a reception for the Vice President in the Mansfield Room, after we conclude here, beginning sometime after 4. We have many Senators who wish to speak so we will move quickly through the order. I encourage my colleagues to submit their remarks for the RECORD, those who are not able to speak in the next hour. Their remarks will be combined with all the other remarks given on the floor, and the resulting speeches printed, bound, and presented to the Presiding Officer.

Mr. President, in a place known these days for some disagreements, my colleagues—our colleagues, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—are all here today because we agree on one powerful and simple thing: our deep gratitude for the difference you have made in your decades in public service.

The greatest honor of my life is to serve in the seat that you held for 36 years—and not just literally this seat in the Senate but also a seat on the 7:15 Amtrak train down from Wilmington every morning. You logged over 2 million miles on Amtrak and millions more traveling around the world fighting for our country, and as long as I have the privilege of representing our

State in the Senate, I will be humbled by the challenge of living up to your legacy of fighting for and making a real difference for the people of our shared home.

Like so many Americans, I have long been inspired by your loyalty to your family, and I am so glad to see so many familiar faces in the Gallery today. This job requires a strong partner and teammate, and to Dr. Biden, Jill, your unwavering support for your family, for Delaware, and your country is something for which we are all deeply grateful.

As a son of Delaware, and of Catherine Eugenia and Joe Senior, you have never forgotten from where you came or for whom you are fighting. Even as Vice President, our fellow Delawareans have the blessing of a surprise visit week in and week out, to see you at the Columbus Day breakfast or Return Day or St. Anthony's Procession.

Whether meeting personally with world leaders you have known for decades, whether chairing the Judiciary or Foreign Relations Committees or just stopping by a Claymont diner, there is universal agreement about what you have brought to this work—your passion, your heart, your character, and your integrity. That is because you genuinely listen to people, you ask them questions, and then you lift them up. We know that when you give us your word as a BIDEN, you mean it, and you will keep it.

Your service as a Senator stands as a model for all of our colleagues and for me. Through challenging times, you always worked across the aisle, through eight Presidents. You were willing to reach across to anyone willing to roll up their sleeves and get to work for the American people.

So many families across Delaware and this country and I, myself, as we have struggled with loss—maybe the loss of a job or loss of hope or the impending loss of a loved one—have experienced the incredible personal comfort and power of a call from you. When it comes to providing advice and inspiration that touches our hearts and makes a real difference, no one—no one—is better than you. We know you will share our challenges, you will give us meaningful comfort and encourage us, and you will fight for us.

As we look ahead to next year and beyond, I know you and Jill have so much more great and good work to do, starting with the fight to cure cancer through the Cancer Moonshot. This next chapter will be every bit as exciting and meaningful as the life of service you have led for 44 years. What an honor to see you in that chair earlier this week as the majority leader led the Senate in a unanimous vote to rename a title of the 21st Century Cures cancer initiative after Beau. That bill, which we passed finally just an hour ago, would not have happened without your leadership.

Now, let me close with a line you know all too well, a line you shared countless times in this Chamber, sometimes from this very desk. As the Irish poet Seamus Heaney once wrote, "History says, don't hope on this side of the grave. But then, once in a lifetime, the longed-for tidal wave of justice can rise up, and hope and history rhyme."

No one, sir, no one has done more to make hope and history rhyme than you. Thank you, Mr. President, for your service, your counsel, your advice, your friendship, and your leadership.

It is now my pleasure to yield to the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL of Kentucky, who has been so generous with floor time and support this afternoon.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is great to see the Presiding Officer back in the Senate. It is good news for everyone he is in the chair. Good news for him because, as Senator COONS said, the rest of us have to call him "Mr. President." Good news for the rest of us because he has to let everyone else talk.

The amazing thing is, the man we honor today wasn't always a talker. He suffered from a debilitating stutter for most of his childhood. He was teased for it, but he was determined to overcome it, and so he did—with hard work, with determination, with the support of his family. It is classic JOE BIDEN. He has never stopped talking since.

He cites overcoming that stutter as one of the most important lessons in his life. It led him down a path few might have foreseen: winning election to the county council, securing an improbable victory for the U.S. Senate, becoming our Nation's 47th Vice President.

Now, the Presiding Officer would be the first to tell you that he has been blessed in many ways. He has also been tested, knocked down, pushed to the edge of what anyone could be expected to bear, but from the grip of unknowable despair came a new man—a better man: stronger and more compassionate, grateful for every moment, appreciative of what really matters.

Here in the Senate he heeded the advice of Mike Mansfield. Here is what Senator Mansfield had to say:

Your job here is to find the good things in your colleagues. And, Joe, never attack another man's motive, because you don't know his motive.

Look for the good. Don't attack motives. It is the basis of a simple philosophy and a very powerful one.

Vice President BIDEN says he views his competitors as competitors, not enemies, and he has been able to cultivate many unlikely friendships across the aisle—with Jesse Helms, with Strom Thurmond, with me.

Over the years, we have worked together on issues of mutual interest,

like Burma—and regarding the vote we just took a few moments ago—21st Century Cures, and the Cancer Moonshot.

We have also negotiated in good faith when the country needed bipartisan leadership. We got results that would not have been possible without a negotiating partner like JOE BIDEN. Obviously, I don't always agree with him, but I do trust him implicitly. He doesn't break his word. He doesn't waste time telling me why I am wrong. He gets down to brass tacks, and he keeps in sight the stakes. There is a reason "Get JOE on the phone" is shorthand for "time to get serious" in my office.

The Vice President is a likeable guy too. He has a well-developed sense of humor. He doesn't take himself too seriously either. When The Onion ran a mock photo of him washing a Trans-Am in the White House driveway, shirtless, Americans embraced it, and so did he. "I think it's hilarious," he said, but "by the way, I have a Corvette—'67 Corvette—not a Trans-Am." So you see what I mean.

JOE BIDEN may exist in the popular imagination aboard an Amtrak, but this son of a used car salesman will always be a muscle guy at heart.

And what a road he has traveled, from New Castle to the Naval Observatory, from Scranton to the Senate. His journey in this body began by the side of those who loved him; hand on the Bible, heart in a knot, swearing the same oath he now administers to others. It is a journey that ends now by the side of those who care about him still—those like his wife Jill, who understands the full life he has lived.

Here is a man who has known great joy, who has been read his last rites, and who has never lost himself along the way.

"Champ," his father used to say, "the measure of a man is not how often he is knocked down, but how quickly he gets up." That is JOE BIDEN right there—unbowed, unbroken, and unable to stop talking.

It is my privilege to convey the Senate's warm wishes to the Vice President on this Delaware Day as the next steps of his long journey come into view. There are many here who feel this way in both parties.

I am reminded of something the Presiding Officer said when he addressed the University of Louisville several years ago. It was one of the McConnell Center's most popular lectures ever. And as I sat beside him, he offered his theory as to why that might be: I think you're all here today—remember, these are young people, students. He said: I think you are all here today because "you want to see whether or not a Republican and Democrat really like each other," he said. "Well," he continued, flashing a smile, "I'm here to tell you we do." It was true then, and it is true today.

I hope the Presiding Officer won't mind if I conclude with some words directed to the Chair.

Mr. President, you have been a real friend, you have been a trusted partner, and it has been an honor to serve with you. We are all going to miss you. Godspeed.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The minority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, to everyone listening, JOE BIDEN's life has been the material of which movies are made.

JOE was born in Scranton, PA, to Joe and Jean Biden, the first of four children. As a young man, as we have heard about today—once in a while, though not very often, Senator BIDEN talks about his stammering. He didn't get any professional help, no therapy. He did it on his own, long hours of reading, mostly poetry. He would stand in front of a mirror and recite poetry time after time after time, watching himself to make sure he didn't contort his face when he stammered or stuttered. This wasn't easy for a young man. People made fun of him, but he knew he could do it on his own. He felt that, and he did it. He worked hard. He developed a rhythm and a cadence of speaking that helped him overcome his stammer to become one of the United States Senate's all-time great orators, without any qualification.

JOE was an outstanding high school running back and wide receiver. His coach said he had never seen anyone with such hands. His coach saw in JOE what we all see, a hard worker who refuses to fail. His coach said:

Joe was a skinny kid. But he was one of the best pass receivers I had in 16 years as a coach.

In college, JOE continued to display his athletic prowess, playing football for the University of Delaware.

This is quite a story. During spring break, his junior year—JOE and I were traveling from Indianapolis to Reno, NV, and he talked to me about this, just the two of us. I will never forget that conversation. He and one of his college buddies had gotten a tax return, and they were going to take a little vacation away from the cold of Delaware. They went to Florida. Frankly, they didn't like it. They had a few dollars left over from their tax returns, and I believe they went to the Bahamas. They got an inexpensive hotel. I was going to say "cheap," but I will say "inexpensive" hotel.

Right next to them was an exclusive hotel, and they noticed when the people came out of the fancy hotel off that private beach, many times they would lay their towels on the fence. JOE and his pal said: Well, those towels aren't even wet. They went down to that private beach, and it was there that he met a young woman by the name of Neilia, Neilia Hunter. I am sure that, just like Jill, she must have been a knockout to look at. She went to the

University of Syracuse. She was on the dean's list. She had been homecoming queen.

That was the beginning of the relationship that they had. JOE had been smitten. After graduating from the University of Delaware, he enrolled in law school in Syracuse to be closer to her.

The story of his and Neilia's relationship is stunning. I repeat, it was something that movies are made of. Without being too personal, I will say it the way it is because it is a wonderful story, and I can identify with it so well because of Landra and me. There came a time when her father came to her and said: You know, he is not that much. He comes from a family that is not like ours. And she said: Dad, stop. If you make me choose between you and JOE, I am going to choose JOE.

So that was that relationship. I repeat, Landra and I understand that story quite well. They were married a short time later. They had three children, Beau, Hunter, and Naomi.

After starting his law practice and serving as city councilman in New Castle, DE, JOE stunned and embarrassed a few of his friends and relatives by saying he was going to run for the Senate.

You will run for the Senate against a two-term incumbent, Caleb Boggs?

I think I can do it.

I am sure he said to himself: A lot of people said I couldn't overcome certain things, and I did, and I am going to do my best to overcome this race I am in. I am starting way behind.

JOE and his family went at this as hard as they could. They canvassed the entire State. They pulled off an incredible upset. JOE Biden was elected to the U.S. Senate. In every respect, JOE's life has been unique. It has been special. His election to the Senate was no different.

The great Constitution that leads this Nation stipulates that the person must be 30 years old to be elected to the Senate. JOE was 29 on election day. He turned 30 2 weeks after the election. Just a few weeks later, tragedy struck and struck really hard. Neilia and their three children were in a terrible car accident just days before Christmas. He had not been sworn in as a Senator yet.

His wife was killed, their baby girl was killed, and Beau and Hunter were grievously injured—hospitalized, of course. To say JOE was grief-stricken is an understatement. How can you describe how he felt? I am sure, as I have heard, he didn't know what to do. He had two boys to raise. He wasn't a man of great means. He strongly considered: I shouldn't be sworn in to the Senate; I can't do this.

He had friends, people who didn't know him who were Senators, who treated him as fathers. Without the help of Valerie, his sister, JOE BIDEN's life may have been completely different because with the support he got

from her, the encouragement he got from Democratic and Republican Senators, and the fact that she moved in, took care of Beau and Hunter to replace their mom—she was there for 4 years helping with those boys.

JOE is a remarkable man. When I was in the House of Representatives, he agreed to come to the house in Nevada for me. It was a big deal to get this senior Senator to come to Nevada. He came. Every place he traveled, he had one of his boys with him.

With the support of his sister and other members of his family, JOE embarked on a long, storied, 36-year career that was productive and unsurpassed in the history of the Senate.

That was not the end of JOE's difficulties. JOE is, as you can see now, a very well-conditioned man. He always has been. As a Senator, he suffered a massive bleed on the brain, and he was hospitalized for a long time. He didn't come to the Senate for a long time. When I got hurt, one of the first people to call me was JOE. He said: Look, the fact you are going to be missing a little time in the Senate doesn't mean you can't be a good Senator. That was the example that JOE BIDEN set.

He recovered, and he became chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Foreign Relations chair, author of many pieces of legislation—Violence Against Women—too numerous to mention.

In a love story unsurpassed, he also met a woman who has been by his side for 40 years, Jill Biden. It is an incredible love story. JOE says it was love at first sight. It was the same for his boys. JOE remembers the day that Beau and Hunter came to him with the recommendation: "Daddy, we were talking and we think we should marry Jill," not he should marry Jill. "We should marry Jill," a direct quote.

JOE and Jill were married, and before long, Beau and Hunter had a new sister, Ashley, and a new mom. There is not a family that I know of who is any closer, more tight-knit than the Bidens. JOE BIDEN loves his family above all else. He is a good Senator, a terrific Vice President, but he is a family man.

For the last 8 years as Vice President, he has traveled the world, meeting with dignitaries in trouble spots on behalf of this country, oftentimes at the direction of President Obama. He has done it with dignity—more than a million miles.

As we have heard from the junior Senator from Delaware, that pales in comparison to the miles he has traveled on Amtrak. He has traveled more than 2 million miles on Amtrak. He took the train home every night to Delaware. If we worked late, he would go to a hotel here. If it had been necessary, he would have gone more than 2 million miles to take care of his boys and to be with Jill.

Vice President BIDEN's time serving at President Obama's side has been historic. He has been the President's rock, his confidant, and his friend. I have been told that not by JOE BIDEN but by the President. JOE has had a stellar career as Vice President of our great country. He has used his skills and his experience to help shape American diplomacy.

Vice President BIDEN is helping lead the quest for a cure for cancer. His Moonshot initiative is the most ambitious plan ever to accelerate cancer research. I say, through the Chair, to my friend LAMAR ALEXANDER, that this would not have happened but for the good man from Tennessee.

We know that JOE and Jill know firsthand the pain and heartache caused by cancer and the toll it takes on families. Tragically, just last year, Beau was diagnosed with terminal cancer, which took his life. He was somebody I knew well. He was an Iraq veteran. He didn't have to go to Iraq, but he did. He was attorney general of the State of Delaware.

Beau was a light to everyone who knew him but especially to his family. Beau's passing broke JOE's, Hunter's, and Jill's hearts and, of course, their sister's. As with all the other heart-breaking challenges and setbacks, JOE BIDEN continues his life's work. He is still the same kid that his coach praised. His No. 1 asset is that he works hard; he does the best he can.

JOE BIDEN continues to serve his country, and he will continue after January 20. He continues to do what is right. And above all, he continues to love and take care of his family.

I have been gratified to call Senator BIDEN a man of the Senate, Senator BIDEN, Vice President BIDEN, JOE. He is an awe-inspiring man, so Steven Spielberg, Hollywood, you should be listening. JOE BIDEN's life is that which movies are made of.

I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it is such a pleasure and honor to rise to recognize a great son of Scranton—sitting next to me, another son of Scranton—a grandson of Ireland—sitting in this Chamber are many grandchildren of Ireland—and a Syracuse University graduate. How many others in the room can say that? More importantly than any of those, he is one of the most dedicated public servants, one of the most successful public servants I have ever had the pleasure to serve with during my time in Washington.

Everyone knows JOE is proud of his ancestry. His ancestors came from Ireland, as many millions have. He is deeply proud of being an Irish-American. Like so many others from the Emerald Isle, our Vice President inherited the gift of gab, and thank God for that because he has used his booming voice to speak out on so many issues.

We have only a little time today. I know my colleagues are eager to speak, so I will just focus on one of the issues that Senator BIDEN led the charge on and changed America. I worked with him on the Assault Weapons Ban and the Brady law when he was a Senator and I was Congressman and we were each head of the crime committees. But maybe the thing he was proudest of was the Violence Against Women Act. It sounds like a different world, but a few years ago, a few decades ago, rape and domestic violence and abuse were considered in many ways lesser crimes—crimes in which the victim was as much at fault as the perpetrator. It was disgraceful. If you were beaten, abused, sexually assaulted, you faced a hostile, skeptical criminal justice system. That got at JOE BIDEN and his sense of justice, so he exploded the myths behind domestic violence.

I remember hearing the speeches against sexual abuse and put together the strongest ever violence against women law on the books. Not only did the law make women safer; it made men better. It moved our society forward.

Our work on these issues is not nearly over, but I am certain there are literally millions of women who have avoided pain and suffering—both physical and mental—because of the courage, the steadfastness, and the legislative brilliance of the then-senior Senator from the great State of Delaware.

I could go on and on and almost write a book on accomplishments like that where JOE almost singlehandedly changed the world. He was also a great friend and leader to so many of us.

I will conclude with one little story. I was elected to the Senate after 18 years in the House, and an issue I wanted to get going on was college affordability. I had run for the Senate on the promise of making college tuition tax deductible. So I get to the Senate, introduce my bill, make my speech, and get ready to lead the way on what I thought was my issue. We have all experienced this. A call comes into my office from JOE's chief of staff. Of course I spoke to him. "Mr. Biden has been working on this issue for 10 years. Go work on something else." That was the nice version. Naturally, me and my brandnew office were in a panic. I was chastened. I didn't know what to do. I am sitting on the floor and feeling really forlorn. Why did I even come here? I was a senior Member of the House. I feel an arm on my shoulder, and I look up. There is the revered and exalted Senator JOE BIDEN. He says to me: I understand you have your college tuition tax deduction bill. Go ahead, take the issue. I know what it is like for new Senators to carve their own path.

How many times can any freshman say any senior Senator has said that to them? They can't because he is unique. Not only is he a towering figure and su-

perb man, but he has a good heart and looks out for the Members of this body. He always has, does to this day, and always will because I know in JOE's heart, with all of his accomplishments, he is still a Senator—our Senator.

Mr. President, I say to Mr. Vice President, thank you. Thank you for your heart and passion, thank you for bringing every ounce of yourself to public service, and thank you for that lesson of humility and leadership you taught me when I first came to this Chamber.

I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, it is an honor for me to rise and talk about our friendship and what you have done for this country.

I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant, distinguished leader, and dear friend, Vice President JOE BIDEN.

For more than three decades, I had the distinct privilege of serving alongside JOE in the U.S. Senate. As anyone who worked closely with JOE can tell you, he was no ordinary Senator. He had boundless energy and undeniable charm. He paired an unmatched work ethic with a disarming smile that dared you not to smile back. JOE's innate ability to befriend anyone—and I mean anyone, including his fiercest political opponents—was critical to his success as a legislator. His genuine sincerity endeared him to all, and his gregariousness transcended partisan boundaries.

Even in the most polarizing debates, JOE never let politics stand in the way of friendship. One minute JOE could be scolding you from the Senate floor, and the next minute he could be hugging you in the hallway, cracking jokes and asking about your grandkids. I am, of course, speaking from plenty of personal experience. It is no secret that JOE and I often found ourselves on opposite sides of almost every major issue—that is not quite true. We agreed on a lot of things. In countless legislative battles, JOE proved himself to be a worthy political opponent and an able sparring partner. Whether on the Senate floor or in the Judiciary Committee hearing room, JOE and I locked horns on a number of occasions, sometimes on a daily basis. Indeed, we were at odds about as often as we were on C-SPAN.

At the end of the day, I couldn't help but admire the man. You see, JOE BIDEN was beloved by everyone in this Chamber, even those he drove crazy from time to time, and I count myself among that group. Through his ability to forge friendship even amid conflict, he embodies the ethos of a noble generation of legislators—a generation that embraced the virtues of comity and compromise above all else. I believe this body—indeed, this Nation—

could learn from JOE's example of kindness, courtesy, and compassion.

For 17 years, then-Senator BIDEN served as chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, overseeing some of the most significant court appointments of our time. Chairing the Senate Judiciary Committee is no easy task. I know because I have been there. The committee boasts some of the biggest egos on this side of the Potomac—or this side of the Milky Way, for that matter. It takes a certain kind of political genius to navigate the assertive personalities and lofty ambitions of its members, but JOE was more than up to the task. As both chairman and ranking member, he was tough and tenacious but also decent and fair. Through his trademark work ethic, he won the respect of every member of that committee.

JOE also served admirably as the chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee. In this capacity, he played an indispensable role in shaping American foreign policy. When President Obama tapped JOE to be his Vice President, the Senate lost a seasoned statesman, but our Nation gained a wise and capable leader with unparalleled experience in public affairs.

JOE was the administration's bridge to Congress, often serving as an intermediary between the President and legislators. On more than one occasion, his close relationship with lawmakers and his deft negotiating skills helped our Nation to overcome some of its greatest obstacles. He was the President's trusted emissary and an invaluable asset in helping Congress resolve the fiscal cliff dilemma in late 2012—something I wasn't sure we could resolve. He was also a brilliant ambassador for our country, leveraging his foreign policy expertise in meetings with leaders across the world.

I am deeply grateful for my friend JOE BIDEN. I have long admired his devotion to his family, as well as his grace amid suffering, and he did suffer, and I know it. I was here. Having experienced tremendous loss in his family life, he draws from a rich reservoir of empathy to connect with everyday Americans. Ask anyone Vice President BIDEN has served: When you speak, JOE listens. He loves, and he cares. He is perhaps the most personable public figure in American politics today.

In the nearly 8 years he has served as Vice President, JOE BIDEN has become a fixture of American public life. Today, I wish to join my colleagues in thanking Vice President JOE BIDEN for his dedication to the American people. Although his tenure as Vice President is drawing to a close, I am confident that his service to our Nation will only continue. This is said by a Republican who loves JOE BIDEN and believes he is one of the truly great people who served here in this body.

I just want JOE BIDEN to know that we all respect him, and I think most all of us love him. Those of us who have worked with him really appreciated how he would from time to time put his arm around us, put politics aside, and speak the truth.

JOE BIDEN is a wonderful man. I wish him the absolute best as we go into the future, and I will be there to help if he needs it.

God bless JOE BIDEN.

I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I enjoy calling you by that title. I hope you do, too—because you know that you could easily hold that title as President of this body or President of the United States—you have shown your qualifications for either one.

But let me speak about your role as President of the Senate. It makes you a Member of this body, a body that can be, and on some occasions has been, the conscience of the Nation. You have served longer in this body than any other member here. The fact is you came here 2 years before I did, so as the other longest serving member, I look at you as my senior Senator, and I am delighted to be your junior.

I think back to some of the things we did together, Mr. President. I remember when I was running for the Senate in Vermont in 1974, and people told me I was far too young to get elected to the Senate at 34 years old. My predecessor was somebody who had been elected here when I was born and served there until I arrived. You put your arm around me and you said, it would be nice to have an older person that I could look up to. I believe you were 32, and I was 34. But that helped.

Of course, little did I know until I came here how closely we would work together. We served on the Judiciary Committee throughout that time. We worked on such duties as Supreme Court nominations, civil rights, and the criminal justice system. Then, when you were chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and bringing the rest of the world American values—which happened to be JOE BIDEN values—how I enjoyed traveling with you.

I think of the time, Mr. President, when you and I, and our wives, Jill and Marcelle traveled together. We had been good friends throughout all of that time. I will take the liberty of telling one story. When the four of us were in Paris, we had gone out to dinner. It was a cold, winter night. We were coming back. I think Marcelle mentioned that the Eiffel Tower lights up on the hour. You and Jill stood on a bench and were hugging each other, the Eiffel Tower behind you. I snapped a picture. Now, we had a close friendship. We never lied to each other, but that was one time I lied to you because

you asked me, "Where is the picture?" I said, I think I lost it. I apologize. We were conspiring to print out that picture, and I know your wonderful wife gave it to you for a wedding anniversary present with words to the effect that you "light up her life."

Well, you lit up many, many lives. I think of our Irish bond of friendship, stories I can't tell. Some of those closed-door sessions with other Irish-Americans, such as Pat Moynihan, Chris Dodd, and Ted Kennedy, when we would have some holy water together. Somehow it came from Ireland. It was usually at least 12 years old. And we would tell Irish stories. And after 42 years here, I know the rules well enough, I can't repeat any of those stories here. But they were good ones because it was a friendship and we worked together. We learned how to bring in others from both parties.

And, Mr. President, I remember you and others showing all of us how to find common ground, and we did things together. And I respect you so much for that. I must admit, I learned something else on the Judiciary Committee. I learned the Amtrak schedule because, if we had a meeting that was going on a little bit long, we were reminded what time the train was going to Delaware. I know you kept in good shape because you could run to the station in 3 minutes and get on the train, where you would go home to Beau and Hunter and, later, Jill and Ashley—because even though you were a leader in the United States Senate, and later Vice President, you were, first and foremost, a father and a husband.

You and I and Marcelle talked about that this summer, when you came to Vermont for the Cancer Moonshot. I told you what an important part of our lives you have been. You have gone through tragedy and glory, but you have remained yourself throughout all of it.

And the memories of those evenings when you let this Irish-Italian boy come in and sit as a member of the Irish—we would speak of our values, we would speak of America, we would speak of friendship. That is why I admire you, Mr. President, and I am glad to be here on the floor with you.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues today in addressing a few thoughts directly to the occupant of the chair, to commend his long and honorable service to the United States and to thank him for his friendship. Mr. President—I know how much you enjoy my calling you Mr. President—you and I have served together in this body for three decades. We have been friends for almost 40 years, since I was the Navy Senate liaison and used to carry your bags on overseas trips.

I joked recently that I resented it ever since. But that was part of my job

description—escorting and handling logistics for Senate codels, including making certain everyone's luggage arrived at our destinations. Back then, some Senators, unlike the 100 egalitarians who occupy the Senate today, could be a little haughty and high-handed. A few held an exalted opinion of themselves that exceeded the esteem with which their colleagues and constituents held them in. If they paid any attention to staff, it was only because we had annoyed them somehow.

But not my friend JOE BIDEN—he was fair and courteous to everyone, even people who did not always deserve it. He is always an example of how a powerful person with character and class treats anyone in a subordinate position. He treats them with humility, as God's children, with dignity equal to his own.

In the book "The Nightingale's Song," the late journalist Bob Timberg wrote about one military liaison officer, escorting a codel to Athens, who joined some of the Members in a tavern for a little after-hours merriment and was later observed dancing on a table-top with Senator BIDEN's lovely wife, Jill.

I don't recall witnessing such an event myself, and I can't testify to it having actually happened. Neither can I imagine the temerity of that rascal, whoever he was. He was lucky the Senator whose spouse he made endure awkward moves he euphemistically called "dancing" was JOE BIDEN. Few other Senators would have seen the humor in it.

Many years have passed since we shared those adventures, and many events have transpired, personal and public, that enriched our lives with the rewards and disappointments, blessings and challenges. We were still young when we came to the Senate. We are old men now. Although you can't tell from looking at us, the Vice President is actually a little younger than me, though we both passed the Biblical threescore and ten.

This place, the Senate, has been central to both of our lives. Here we work together on our country's challenges. Here we fought and argued over the country's direction. Here we compromised and joined forces to serve the public interest. Here we watched history made and made our small contributions to it. Neither of us is the shy and retiring type. We both have been known to hold a strong opinion or two. When circumstances warrant, we would rather make our points emphatically than elliptically. I know that JOE appreciates the adage that I have tried to follow in my public life: a fight not joined is a fight not enjoyed.

When we have had differences of opinions over the years, we have managed to make our positions crystal clear to each other, perhaps in the persistent triumph of hope over experi-

ence. We both still cling to the expectation that we can persuade the other that he is mistaken. I think deep down we probably know better.

In addition to being regularly mistaken, here is what I have also known about my friend and occasionally sparing partner. He is a good and decent man, God-fearing and kind, a devoted father and husband, a genuine patriot who puts our country before himself. I know, too, that it has been a great privilege to call him my friend.

Mr. President, if I haven't made clear to you over these many years how much I appreciated your friendship and have admired you, I beg your forgiveness. We both have been privileged to know Members of this body who were legends in their own time and are remembered as important historical figures. But I haven't known one who was a better man than you. You are an exemplary public servant, a credit to your family, to the Senate, and to the country.

On behalf of the country and the Senate, thank you for your lifetime service to America. Thank you for your example of how to represent your constituents with honor and humility and how to remain the same good guy that you were when you first got here. Thank you, most of all, for your friendship. My life and the lives of many have been enriched by it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there is a story about an Irishman walking down the street. He passes two guys who are fighting. He asks them: Is this a private fight or can anybody get into it?

Well, you know a little bit about that; don't you, Mr. Vice President? For 40 years or more, you have always been ready to fight for those who needed a champion and never walked away from a good fight for a good cause. Your public career has been marked by so many amazing victories but also by unbearable losses and sorrows. You have had joys and passions, determinations and immense accomplishments.

The list of your legislative achievements has been recounted on the floor today. One of them I am sure you are most proud of is the Violence Against Women Act. You made a big difference in the lives of so many people whom you will never meet, in protecting them and giving them hope in a hopeless circumstance.

Between 1993, when your bill was passed, and 2010, the rate of violence against intimate partners—almost all women—declined by 67 percent in the United States. We often wonder here, when bills we take to law are passed and signed by the President, whether they can make a difference. We know that your unsparing effort when it came to violence against women made a significant difference.

I had that in mind 9 years ago when I was riding around Florida in a recreational vehicle. It was with my fellow Senator from Illinois by the name of Barack Obama. He was running for President, and we were in the back of this RV as he was cruising through Florida. We were talking about potential running mates, someone who could be his Vice President.

We went through a short list. We came to your name, and I said to the soon-to-be President, then Senator and my colleague: You couldn't pick a better choice than JOE BIDEN. I know him as a person. I know him as a fellow Senator. I know his heart. You would be blessed to have him on your team.

He made that choice, even though at the beginning, I am sure both of you wondered: Is this going to work? It did. It did for your purpose and for his and for America's. I am reminded of that famous poet Seamus Heaney. He wrote:

History says, Don't hope
On this side of the grave,
But then, once in a lifetime
The longed-for tidal wave
Justice can rise up,
And hope and history rhyme.

Obama-Biden—hope and history certainly did rhyme. The things that you have been able to achieve with this President have made a difference in America to millions of lives. Whether we are talking about coming out of a recession where we were losing 800,000 jobs a month, making sure that Wall Street didn't make the same mistakes again at the expense of businesses and families across America, or making sure that some father did not face the heartbreak of a sick child with no health insurance. You made a difference in their lives.

Just this week, there is the Cancer Moonshot. Who knows, Mr. Vice President, what will happen as a result of that investment in your son's name. But I sense that something good is going to happen for a lot of people around this country. I am glad that the BIDEN name is closely associated with it.

Mr. President, there is an old story—a joke—about the Pope. The story goes that the day came when he said to his driver: You know, I haven't had a chance to drive the car in a long time. Why don't you sit in the back and I'll drive.

The story goes that the Pope started driving the car and started speeding and got pulled over. This policeman looked inside the car, then looked out again, and looked back and said: Excuse me. He got on his cell phone and he called the police station. He said: I have an extraordinary circumstance here. I have just pulled over a car with someone very important in it.

They said: Well, who is it?

He said: I don't know who he is, but he has the Pope for a driver.

The reason I remember that story is that one time I was on Air Force Two

with Vice President JOE BIDEN. We flew you home to Delaware. I was going to catch an Amtrak train at Wilmington, and I asked you to drop me off.

You said: No, I'm going to take you up to the train.

So we get up to the train, and the train is pulling in the station. You look at what I have for a ticket and you said: That ticket is not good. You need a real ticket. I will get it for you.

You grabbed it and took off running, with the Secret Service trailing behind you as the train pulled into the station. I am thinking: Am I going to make this train? Is he going to make it back? You came running up the steps with the Secret Service trailing behind you while the train was stopped. All of these passengers were looking as the Vice President of the United States ran up to me, handed me a ticket, and said: Go ahead and get on the train.

Now, the people on the train had no idea who I was, but they knew if the Vice President was carrying my ticket, I must be somebody important.

Let me say one personal word. You and your wife Jill really embody what I consider to be the best of public life—not only your commitment to people who are less fortunate around the world but your genuine sense of caring and your good heart, both of you. I recall when my colleague Marty Russo of Illinois had a son who was sick with cancer. There was one person who called every day to make sure that he was doing well.

Well, that is the way you not only build a friendship but you build a reputation as not just a glad-handing politician but someone who really, really cares. I have been honored to count you as a friend. I am honored that the President whom I love chose you as his Vice President. I am honored that we have served in the Senate together and that I can tell my kids and grandkids. I wish you the best whatever life brings you next.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a person who has had a tremendous impact on my life and my career in the Senate and also a tremendous impact on my country, the United States of America. I still remember to this day the date and time MITCH MCCONNELL called me in 2007 and said: Hey, we have an opening for a Republican on Foreign Relations and nobody will take it. Will you take it?

I did not know if that was a benefit—a perk or whoever—but I said: Anytime you are offered a gift, don't look a gift horse in the face. So I did it.

Two days later, JOE BIDEN saw me at the committee and said: I am glad you joined our committee. I am glad to have you. I have an opening on the Africa Subcommittee. I can't get a Republican to take it. Will you do it?

I said: Mr. BIDEN, I have never been to Africa.

He said: Well, you will soon. How about taking it?

I did. I have been to Africa 12 times since. It has become a passion in my career, and I give Vice President BIDEN a lot of credit for the influence he had on that. I also remember the day when the mock swearing-in took place down on the second floor, and I had my nine grandchildren here to watch me being sworn into the Senate.

At the mock signing ceremony, JOE stood there, and we all raised our hand, and we repeated the ceremony that we had done on the floor. Then JOE greeted each one of my grandchildren one by one as they walked by. When little Jack, who was then 7 years old, stopped, JOE BIDEN said: Jack, what do you like about the Capitol?

Jack said: Well, Mr. Vice President, there is no Lego store.

JOE BIDEN said: The next time you come here, there will be one.

I want to tell the Vice President that he is coming on January 2 to see me sworn in again. I have already bought the Lego box. It is on the desk in my hideaway, and I am going to tell him that Vice President JOE made sure he had Legos when he came back to the Capitol. You know the real character of a man and the real credit to a man is what influence he has on children. I can tell you from that story, it is just one of many that JOE BIDEN has had.

On me, personally, I will never forget the day JOE BIDEN called me as Vice President of the United States and said: JOHNNY, I have got the mayor of Baltimore and the mayor of Philadelphia going with me to Panama City next week to look at the deepening of the Panama Canal. I know Savannah's port is important to you. I know you have been fighting with us to get the authorization you need to deepen the Port of Savannah. How about flying with me down there and let's take a look at it and let's do a press conference together. And I did and he did and we did, and today the Port of Savannah is being deepened to 47 feet. Panamax ships will be sailing through it in 4 more years. I am convinced it would not have happened at the level of the administration had it not been for JOE BIDEN, the Vice President of the United States but more importantly my friend.

JOE, I don't have the words to adequately tell you how much I appreciate you as a person and as a leader, but there is a little poem I know that says more about what you really are than anything I could say.

I'd rather see a good person
Than hear one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me
Than merely show the way.
For my eye's a better pupil
And more willing than my ear,
Fine counsel is confusing
But example's always clear;
And the best of all preachers
Are the ones who live their creeds,

For to see good put in action
Is what everybody needs.
I soon can learn to do it
If you'll let me see it done;
I can watch your hands in action,
But your tongue too fast may run.
And the lecture you deliver
May be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lessons
By observing what you do;
For I might misunderstand you
And the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding
How you act and how you live.

JOE, you have lived the life of a patriot and you act like a gentleman. You are my friend, and may God bless you and your family and thank you for your service to the country and your friendship to me.

I yield back.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President—and it is a pleasure to say that. Some may know him as “the guy in the aviators” deboarding Air Force Two or the man in the 1967 Corvette in the viral Internet video, gleeful, as he had the rare opportunity to drive himself around in his favorite car.

Mr. President, it is so clear that the American public has embraced this grinning, approachable, unstoppable life force known as Vice President JOE BIDEN, but little do many Americans know of the heart of our Vice President. They have caught glimpses of it in 1972, when his wife and daughter were killed in a terrible car accident and his two sons severely injured. It is hard to imagine that kind of devastation, and JOE picked himself up and was sworn in to his first term in the U.S. Senate from his son's hospital room.

Maybe they saw it last year when JOE's son Beau, following in his father's footsteps to be an extraordinary public servant and, more importantly, a wonderful father, lost a long and hard-fought battle with cancer. I know as a mother and grandmother myself that I will never understand what JOE went through.

Mr. President, again, JOE picked himself up and continued to serve our country as a strong, dedicated Vice President in the midst of a raucous election season when Americans needed him the most. JOE BIDEN's commitment to his family, his struggles, and his service encompass what it means to be not just Vice President and a brilliant husband and father but an American.

JOE grew up in a middle-class family who worked hard for everything they had. He was just 29 years old when he ran for a seat in the United States Senate.

Mr. President, you might have been young, but you already saw what divided people in Delaware.

He also knew that people across the State also held the same hopes for

themselves and their families, and he believed he could work through those disparities. In an upset victory, he won a seat in the Senate in November of 1972.

Since his swearing in, JOE has worked every day on behalf of families in Delaware and for the entire country, especially the last 8 years.

When JOE lost his son to cancer, he launched a Moonshot for this generation to end cancer as we know it today. He is now working on behalf of every family whoever lost a loved one to cancer to push forward on medical innovations and discoveries. I am so proud JOE's Moonshot is included in the final Cures bill we just voted on this afternoon and even more so that the Senate renamed the provisions to support cancer research in that bill to honor Beau in calling it the Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot. We will now use those investments to fight to cure cancer so we can look forward to a world where no family has to go through what the Bidens did and the devastation that millions of other Americans have experienced after being touched by cancer.

Mr. President, back when I was serving with the Presiding Officer, JOE, my friend, in the Senate in 1994, I had the pleasure of working with him to pass the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, as we know it. It was a landmark piece of legislation that changed the way our country responded to domestic violence and sexual assault. JOE has come out as a strong advocate for ending violence against women through his campaign, "It's On Us," spreading awareness and working to help reduce dating violence and sexual assaults among students, teens, and young adults. And his "It's On Us" campaign has been a wake-up call to the epidemic of campus sexual assaults across the country. Women are safer today in America than they were 20 years ago due in part to JOE's fearless leadership on these issues that affect too many in our Nation.

Despite everything he has been through or maybe because of everything he has been through, he gets back up and he fights on and he fights on behalf of every family in our country, and that is heart. That is heart, the way he always wants to make people happy, no matter what the circumstance.

Last time he was in Seattle, he brought a little stuffed animal—a little dog—to give to my granddaughter. Now, she is very shy, but the second he smiled and handed her that little dog, she became his best friend ever, and she keeps it by her side, JOE. That is why he is going to be missed, by his colleagues and by the entire country, because of his humanity. That is the JOE BIDEN I know and I want everyone else to know that too.

It has been an honor to call JOE a fellow Senator, Mr. Vice President, but mostly a great friend.

I want to thank JOE for what he has taught me and all of our colleagues through his service and thank him for his extraordinary and inspiring leadership throughout his life in the best of times and in the worst. JOE—and his aviators—will be sorely missed.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Thank you, Mr. President.

In 1974, a freshman Senator from Delaware named JOE BIDEN was identified as one of Time magazine's "200 Faces for the Future." That prescient prediction anticipated the more than four decades of contributions and accomplishments that followed. JOE BIDEN served six terms in the U.S. Senate and became Vice President of the United States, but he is exactly the same person today as he was when more than 40 years ago he took that first train trip from Wilmington to Washington to be sworn in as a United States Senator. He is everybody's friend—but nobody's fool. And while JOE BIDEN changed Washington, Washington never changed him.

It is an article of faith among those of us who know and love JOE BIDEN that nothing is more important to him than family. It is, therefore, a cruel irony that this good and decent man has faced so many family tragedies during his long and fruitful career in public service.

Although he has been sorely tested by several wrenching losses, Vice President BIDEN's irrepressible spirit has never been broken. He is as optimistic about his country today as he was in 1972, when as a county councilman he defeated a long-serving Senate incumbent and began the journey that ultimately led him to the second highest office in the land. With his Cancer Moonshot Initiative, JOE BIDEN once again has turned personal tragedy into a public cause that undoubtedly will save lives.

To know JOE BIDEN is to admire him, his warmth, his devotion to friends and family, his commitment to all things Delaware, and his fierce loyalty to his party that somehow never alienated those of us on the other side of the aisle. Perhaps that is due to the many thoughtful gestures the Vice President demonstrates every day.

How well I remember bringing my younger brother to the White House holiday party one year and running into the Vice President just as he was leaving after a long day of work. He instantly stopped and asked if we would like for him to give us a personal tour of the West Wing of the White House. For the next 45 minutes, instead of being driven home, the Vice President of the United States took my brother and me on the best tour of the White House that anyone could ever have. I still remember the shocked look on the

face of the marine at the situation room when we arrived there.

Another wonderful memory that I have was of the time JOE BIDEN and I were named Irish Americans of the Year by the American Ireland Fund. I thought it was so telling that both of us brought our family members to the celebratory dinner, and both of us talked about our Irish mothers. Now, I do remember that JOE's speech was considerably better than mine, but mine was much, much shorter.

In a time of almost suffocating partisanship, JOE BIDEN is a breath of bipartisan fresh air. People may disagree with JOE on 1 or 2 or even 10 issues, but nobody finds him disagreeable. It is often said that if you don't love JOE BIDEN, it is time for some serious introspection. You may have a serious problem.

No one can say with certainty what lies ahead for Vice President JOE BIDEN, but this much is certain: He will face the future with unbridled enthusiasm, extraordinary energy, and an unwavering commitment to his family, his friends, and his country.

I thank the Vice President for his outstanding service to our country, but most of all I thank him for his extraordinary friendship to me. I wish the Vice President and his wonderful family all the best.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Thank you very much, Mr. President and Vice President.

Well, Mr. President, we all take pleasure in calling you that. Mr. Vice President, Senator, foreign policy guru, the Senator who was tough on crime but a soft touch when it came to compelling human need, a longtime colleague, but most of all, I know you as my friend JOE. My friend JOE. It is not only that I know you as my friend JOE, the people of Delaware know you as "my friend Joe." The fact is, your colleagues, both present and past, here feel the same way about you and so do the American people.

You have a unique ability to make a visceral connection to people. You actually connect to them, not only on the abstraction of big ideas, of which you were more than capable, but I think your connection was hand to hand, heart to heart. I think when you talk with people, that is why you have this visceral connection.

Sure, you can debate the great ideas, whether it is national security or economic growth, but it is that heart connection you are able to make that I think has been one of your great, great signatures.

We in Maryland know you as a neighbor, the Delmarva gang from Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. We also know you as "Amtrak Joe." I think that is so fitting because not only have you

been a champion of Amtrak and ridden the train so faithfully—which has now become the stories of fact and fiction—but also Amtrak JOE is right because, really, in the way you have lived your life, conducted yourself in public service, you have kept America on track and going in the right direction because you knew what your destinations were. I salute you for that. You have done a great job in everything you have undertaken.

I know you because while others just go for the pomp and they love the policy—if I hear one more “I’m going to dive deep in policy,” I am going to shake my head.

I am like you. I believe that we do need policies that help people, keep our Nation strong and safe, help our people be able to help themselves, and make sure there is an opportunity structure here. But we are here to be champions of the people. That is what you have been, a champion of the people, and you have been a steady friend.

When I arrived in the Senate, I was the only Democratic woman. I have often said that, though I was all by myself, I was never alone. I was surrounded by the good men in the Senate, and particularly the Democrats reached out their hands and helped me.

Of course, my very good friend Paul Sarbanes, who is here today, was my senior Senator when I came and was my colleague and my champion, but you were right up at the top of the list too. I call the men who were so incredibly helpful to me, Galahads. You help me in every way you can.

In my time in the Senate, when I reached out to you, you were always there. When I reached out to fight for women to be included in the NIH protocols, you were there to help me. When I reached out to fight against the skimpy and spartan money for breast cancer research, you were there to help me. When we organized the women of the Senate, the Democratic women, to fight then-Bush on the privatizing of Social Security, when we said we shouldn’t rely on the bull of political promises while we fear the bear market, you joined right there with us, side by side, shoulder to shoulder. Whether it was equal pay for equal work or so many issues, you were always there when we called upon you. You were always such tremendous help.

I was also there to try to help you. I remember a day in the mid-1990s when I got a call from you. Maybe you remember that, but I remember it. You said you really wanted to stop violence against women. You knew of my social work background, my advocacy for what was then called battered women. You said: Can you help me kind of go over this legislation to make sure that the money goes to people who will help those women and not to people who just want to get grants?

So we worked together. We talked about the need for shelters. We talked about the reform of police, courts, and so on. Then you came up with that fabulous, fabulous idea to have a hotline. So it didn’t matter whether you lived in Delaware or in Des Moines or in San Diego, there was always help on the other side of that line.

I was so happy to work with you and to support you as you led that battle through—as only a good man could—to stand for women who were being battered in their own homes and facing danger.

Lately I checked on the statistics on that hotline. JOE BIDEN, since that hotline legislation passed, over 1.5 million have called that hotline. Many of them were in lethal danger—lethal danger. Because of you, JOE BIDEN, there are thousands, if not tens of thousands, of women and children alive today because you had the foresight and the fortitude to create this legislation. That in and of itself would have been enough for a career. But, oh, you did so many other things.

Now we know you are advocating the national Cancer Moonshot, but you have been a champion on finding the cure for cancer for a long time, whether it was for women with breast cancer or others. I am so pleased that in that cloture vote we are going to include \$352 million for that. So on issue after issue, we were there.

I know you have been a great leader, but I also know that behind great men there are also very terrific women. I think we owe a salute to Jill. She is a wonderful woman, a leader in her own right, with a belief in higher education, a belief in working at the community college level so people who had big dreams in their hearts but not a lot of money in their pockets could be able to go on to college. What a champion she has been there and also what a champion for our veterans and for our wounded warriors. Wow, she is just terrific. I know she has been at your side.

There are so many stories I could tell, but I want to wrap up with one. I met your mother. She was spunky. She was feisty. She was a delight. If there is anything spunkier, feistier, or more delightful than an Irish mother, it is a Polish mother. I wish you could have met mine. Those two would have been kindred spirits.

Do you remember when the Pope came to Baltimore? The Pope was coming to Baltimore, and I told my mother I wanted to greet the Pope in Polish. My mother’s response was: Oh, my God.

I grew up in a family that before World War II was bilingual. I was bilingual as a child, but during World War II we stopped speaking all foreign language, so my pronunciation is really awkward. My mother made me practice Polish words, how to say hello to the Pope and how to say goodbye to the Pope.

You and I were at the Baltimore-Washington airport. There goes the Pope in his popemobile. He is heading up, he is getting on “Shepherd Two,” and you are saying goodbye: Goodbye Your Holiness.

I say: No, say it in Polish. You have a large Polish community.

I taught you how to say one simple phrase, “sto lat.” In the tongue of my ethnic heritage, when you say “sto lat” to someone, you say may they live 100 years.

So, JOE, sto lat.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the presence in the Chamber of five former Senators—Senators Bayh, Harkin, Kaufman, Salazar, and Sarbanes—and to thank many Senators who have asked that their comments be placed in the RECORD.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD, given the lateness of the hour, the lengthy and moving remarks that former Senator and now Secretary of State Kerry has provided.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY
STATEMENT ON JOE BIDEN
DECEMBER 7, 2016

Mr. President: Almost four years ago this winter, after almost 29 years serving in the Senate from Massachusetts, and after five times the people of Massachusetts voted to send me to Washington—my Senate colleagues were kind enough to vote to send me away, but not far away, just up the street to the State Department.

So, as a prodigal United States Senator, I am especially grateful to Senator Coons for the privilege to share some thoughts about my colleague of a quarter century in the Senate, and my colleague of the last four years in the Obama Administration—the Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden. That Senator Coons—who sits in the Senate seat which Joe held for almost thirty seven years—organized this remarkable tribute says something about Delaware—a small state where politics is personal, where courtesy is still the currency—but it says much more about the kind of friend and mentor Joe has been to Chris, and to so many of us who have known the Vice President. It is, simply, the right thing to do—but the kind of thing that doesn’t happen enough these days in Washington, in politics, or in the institution which Joe reveres, the U.S. Senate.

I first heard the name “Joe Biden” about 38 years ago. 1972—The first year Joe and I ran for national office. We shared a set of friends and political teammates in progressive politics, friends Joe and I have shared to this day—and they shuttled between Wilmington, Delaware and Lowell, Massachusetts, trying to help both us to victory. In that improbable year, I lost and Joe won—and weeks later tragedy intervened and changed the trajectory of Joe’s life not as a Senator, but as a father and a person. I won’t forget reading his words back then: “Delaware can find another Senator, but my boys can’t find another father.” We are all grateful that Joe was persuaded not to give up on

public service, but to be sworn in, and to rely—as the Bidens do in their remarkable way—on the closeness of family—of Val and Jimmy in particular—to help him be both a remarkable father and a remarkable public servant.

Twelve years as Joe was elected, I finally arrived in Washington—a junior Senator, second to last in seniority—and one of the first people to pull me aside and offer himself up not as a generational rival, but as a slightly older big brother ready to show me the ropes was the then, senior Senator from Delaware—two years older than me, Senator Joe Biden.

I loved serving with Joe—and I don't just mean we served contemporaneously; we were friends and partners in so many efforts—environment, civil rights, the empowerment of women, foreign policy—and always—always with Joe Biden, whether you agreed or disagreed with him, no matter where you were from in the country or where you stood ideologically, you knew exactly what you could expect: a person of conviction, a person of character, a person who studied the issues and never cut corners—and a Senator in the best tradition whose word was his bond.

For Joe, that's a quality that's deeply personal. The Vice President lives by a very old-fashioned code of loyalty: You always tell the truth, you never forget where you came from, and your word is your bond. And I can't tell you how many times in the Senate when I was listening to Joe negotiate or we were working on something he would say, "I give you my word as a Biden." And you knew you had a very special commitment that would not be broken. That never changed when he became Vice President.

That code also guided his approach as a legislator—not just in how he worked with his colleagues, but to how he approached the issues. I'd been a prosecutor back in the days when some people still argued that violence against women wasn't crime—but it was Joe Biden who was far, far ahead of the curve in the Senate—throughout the 1980's and 1990's—beating the drum on the Judiciary Committee to pass a Violence Against Women Act because there was no crime comparable, as he saw it, in robbing a human being of two things to which everyone is entitled, two words Joe talks about often: dignity and respect.

That is why he was so outspoken about the horrors happening in Bosnia and Kosovo—thousands of miles from our shores—and why as one of those most powerful voices on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee he stood up to Slobodan Milosevic, looked him in the eye, and called him a war criminal. That's Joe Biden—on issues of moral clarity, you know exactly where he stands. It is no surprise to me then that long before he served in Iraq, his beloved son Beau volunteered to go to Kosovo and do legal work helping victims find justice, helping victims reclaim dignity through the judicial system. For the Bidens, this was an article of faith.

Over the years, I had the privilege of traveling with Joe overseas—often with Chuck Hagel and Lindsey Graham. I saw firsthand that when Senator Biden traveled overseas, it wasn't government tourism, whether the Administration was Democratic or Republican, Joe always traveled with a constructive purpose in mind: To learn first-hand about foreign leaders and other perspectives—to forge relationships—and to advance America's cause. In long flights and long meetings headed into places like Afghanistan and Pakistan, again and again I saw someone who leads by listening, who leads

by learning, and who speaks with conviction—wherever the place, whatever the language.

Joe's leadership as Vice President has been a terrific asset on domestic issues, and his fluency in the ways of the Senate a special tool called upon at many key moments by Leaders McConnell and Reid. But as Secretary of State I've been particularly grateful for the role he has played on foreign policy. Joe believes to his core that American diplomacy isn't about admiring problems—it's about solving them. When thousands of unaccompanied children showed up on our southwestern border, Joe Biden worked with Congress to provide funding to help Central America's leaders make the difficult reforms and investments required to address the region's multifaceted challenges—because he knew the security and prosperity of Central America are inextricably linked with our own. As the conflict in Ukraine has pressed on, Joe has worked hard—not only to keep the Minsk deal in place, but to encourage and help the government of Ukraine take on corruption and make necessary economic reforms that will help Ukraine flourish and thrive in the years to come. And again and again, in our breakfasts at the Naval Observatory and in phone calls from far flung places, he always encouraged me to keep pressing—to speak up and speak out, and to fight—even inside the Administration—for the policies I believed in, even when he didn't agree. That's Joe Biden.

We still joke about a trip that we took with Chuck Hagel to Afghanistan back in 2008. We went up to a forward operating base up in Kunar province. And our helicopter, on the way back, got caught in a snow squall in the mountains. And our pilot found himself effectively snow blind, and suddenly we were banking and heading down and braced for an emergency landing on this snow-covered road high in the mountains near Bagram Airbase. And Joe Biden turned to Hagel and me and he offered an alternative. He said, "Maybe we could keep the helicopter aloft if the three of us just started to give a speech." But laughter aside, on that frozen mountain-top, as we waited to be rescued, you learn the measure of a person. And throughout that time, what Joe kept coming back to was the gift of family, and the privilege of public service.

America has known Vice President Biden in moments of great triumph and also on occasions of immeasurable pain. We revere the dignity with which he carries himself through all of it. We admire him. We love him. And above all, we thank him—a great Vice President, a "Senate man" still to the core, and someone I know I can call on and count on as a friend long after we both leave office on January 20th. Thank you, Senator—Mr. Vice President—"Joe"—and I know you will carry on in contribution to the cause of country.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor JOE BIDEN, the 47th Vice President of the United States.

After I came to the Senate in 1992—known as "the Year of the Woman"—then-Senator JOE BIDEN invited me to lunch at his office in the Russell Senate Office Building. We sat at small table in his elegant office and discussed the importance of having a woman on the Judiciary Committee, of which he was chairman at the time.

This was in the wake of the Anita Hill hearings, and there were no women

on the committee. It was a real honor when JOE BIDEN asked me to join. He then asked Senator Carol Moseley Braun to join, giving the committee two women for the first time.

Serving on the committee with him, I noticed immediately that he had a commanding presence. As I watched him chair the committee, I was impressed by the passion he displayed while working to slow the drug trade, protect women from domestic violence, and help advocate for a ban on assault weapons. These were issues that I, along with millions of other Americans, felt strongly about, and we had a champion in JOE BIDEN.

During discussions about a proposed crime bill in 1993, I told JOE I was working on an assault weapons ban. This was in the wake of a mass shooting in San Francisco that shocked me. I told JOE we had at least 48 votes and I wanted to introduce it as an amendment to the crime bill. He laughed—a big raucous laugh—and said, "Well, you're just a freshman. Wait till the gunners get to you."

He may have had his doubts, but he was a staunch supporter of the amendment, and with the help of President Clinton and CHUCK SCHUMER in the House, we were able to secure bipartisan support and pass the amendment. It was a proud day for me when it was signed into law.

JOE was right about the gunners, though. The gun lobby did come after us, and they continue to oppose commonsense gun laws today.

During that debate and in every fight since then, JOE BIDEN has been staunch, impassioned, and a committed partner.

That crime bill was a monumental piece of legislation. In addition to our assault weapons ban, it put 100,000 more cops on the street, protected children from dangerous predators and included a very important piece of legislation: the Violence Against Women Act.

It has been two decades since JOE introduced the Violence Against Women Act. In that time, domestic violence rates have decreased by 64 percent, conviction rates for abusers increased, and 3.4 million women and men have been helped by the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Beyond the numbers, JOE changed the debate around domestic violence with enactment of this bill. States and localities changed outdated laws. Victims were given courage to speak out and seek help, and millions of women felt empowered knowing that in America, they had the right to be free from violence and free from fear.

JOE's legacy as chair of the Judiciary is matched by his time leading the Foreign Relations Committee. From atop the committee, he was a forceful advocate for peace and stability around the world. He called for strategic arms limitations with the Soviet Union, helped

secure peace in the Balkans, helped bring former Soviet bloc states into NATO, called for U.S. action to end the genocide in Darfur, and spoke out against failed policies in Iraq.

He was also a critic of the CIA's detention and interrogation program and backed our efforts to release the torture report. During heated debate, JOE made the argument simple and easy to understand: America will be stronger by saying the following: "This was a mistake, we should not have done what we've done and we will not do it again."

He was right, and our Nation is stronger for having the courage to admit that.

JOE BIDEN's willingness to speak the truth is one of the many reasons President Obama tapped him to be his running mate. The President knew JOE would discuss every issue with the same frank honesty—whether he was offering counsel in the Oval Office or chatting with someone on the train ride back home.

President Obama relied on his Vice President to oversee the recovery after the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. He was tasked with implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Ready to Work Initiative and to chair the Middle Class Task Force.

JOE BIDEN was the perfect choice for the job. He is the product of his Catholic faith and the values instilled in him growing up in Scranton. Those same values that he carried throughout his career in Delaware and into the Vice Presidency.

He is a tough individual who has faced adversity that would knock a lesser man down; yet through it all, JOE never wavered from his commitment to serving others.

To those of us who have had the pleasure of working with him and to millions of Americans, JOE BIDEN is a good and honest man who simply wants to make the world a better place.

After 44 years in this Chamber, the last 8 as the President of the Senate, JOE can leave knowing he has accomplished just that. The world is a better place thanks to you, and it is grateful for your service, JOE BIDEN.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, for more than 30 years, Vice President JOE BIDEN has held a big place in my heart. Through thick and thin, he trusted me to be his partner in so many fights, and I will be forever grateful to him.

JOE first impressed me after he took a stand against the Reagan administration's support of South Africa when it was still in the depths of apartheid. So when he asked me to help organize women for his 1988 Presidential campaign, I was all in.

While that race wasn't meant to be, I fell in love with JOE's vision of "reclaiming the idea of America as a community" and his beautiful, persistent

optimism and hope—qualities we all still love him for today.

I cherished our time serving in Congress together, and I was so honored that he asked me to carry the Violence against Women Act in the House. JOE was determined to put the spotlight on this quiet epidemic—and he has been doing just that ever since.

I took 5 years, but President Bill Clinton finally signed VAWA into law in 1994. It was one of JOE's many monumental achievements.

By then, I had won election to the U.S. Senate where JOE played a major role in one of my own biggest personal accomplishments: the Dolphin-Safe tuna label law. Well, if I am being honest, it was his then 8-year-old daughter, Ashley, who got him involved.

Schoolchildren across the country were boycotting their tuna fish sandwiches after learning that dolphins could be killed as tuna was caught, and Ashley was begging her father to take action.

I was so proud that JOE chose to partner with me on a bill that required companies that sell dolphin-safe tuna to prove that dolphins were not hurt in the fishing process. Like any good father, JOE wanted to show Ashley that he would come through for her—and he did.

Our bill became law in 1992, and it is estimated that it saves tens of thousands of dolphins every year.

JOE also served as an extraordinary chairman on the Foreign Relations Committee, where I am a member. He was gracious and respectful, listening to every viewpoint, but he also wasn't afraid to speak up and take charge. I thought he was very courageous to point out a better way to solve the civil war in Iraq, and I was so proud to stand with him.

For all of these reasons, and so many more, it is no surprise that President Barack Obama chose JOE BIDEN to serve as his Vice President.

And it is no surprise that JOE will go down as one of the most effective Vice Presidents in history because of his warm, open relationship with President Obama. They have spent a great deal of time together, exchanging thoughts and ideas, and JOE was one of the key advisors who influenced President Obama as he successfully confronted horrific challenges, such as: two wars; the worst recession since the Great Depression; and rising violence in our communities.

Who could ever forget JOE BIDEN's immense respect and gratitude for our men and women in uniform and their families and his determined fight to bring them home safely?

Who could ever forget how he shepherded the Recovery Act through Congress—a near impossible feat in this polarized political climate?

Who could ever forget his long history of fighting for community polic-

ing and to strengthen the bonds between police officers and their communities?

No one has fought harder for the things he believes in than JOE BIDEN—no one—and there is nothing that he will not do for the country he so deeply loves.

Love of country is second only to the love JOE has for his beautiful family. When he talks about his incredible wife, children, and grandchildren, you know they are his guiding star.

It is because of this love that we have all come to know and adore JOE, and for that same reason, it is why our hearts broke for him over the profound, unspeakable loss of his son, Beau. All of America mourned with JOE.

He had every right to stay down, but JOE is as resilient as they come. He likes to tell the advice that his father gave him as a child: "Champ, when you get knocked down get up. Get up."

Well, JOE always gets up. He gets up again and again and again.

And we are all so fortunate that he does because, from the U.S. Senate to the Office of the Vice President, JOE has never stopped fighting for the things he believes in—for civil rights, women's rights, worker's rights, economic fairness, a world-class education for our kids, health care for all, and a safe and peaceful world.

JOE has taught me so much, and I am so proud to call him my forever friend.

Many of you know that I love to rewrite song lyrics.

This is what I wrote for JOE:

Joe is a many splendored thing.
He is tough and smart and strong and wise.
Winter, fall and spring.
He's for kids and health and child care.
Our Joe will always be there.
A smile, a glow,
It's not for show, it's true.
Joe worked with us for years and years,
And there is no sleep for our busy Veep.
He has hope not fears.
Whether guy or gal,
Joe is our pal.
And this we know is true,
Joe Biden, colleagues,
All love you.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I join my colleagues today in honoring you and thanking you for the incredible devotion you have shown to the United States Senate and to express my deep respect for you—respect that I know the people of Michigan share.

You have been a longtime friend to me and to the people of my home State. One thing we have always had in common: our parents were both in the automobile industry. As of course you know, your dad was a car salesman, and my father owned an Oldsmobile dealership.

So we have both known, from the very beginning, how critically important American manufacturing is for so many people in Michigan and across the country.

We worked together, both when you were the Senator from Delaware and

then as the Vice President of the United States, to save the auto industry back in 2008.

You know that the only way we succeed is if we do everything we can to support and grow America's middle class, which you have done your entire career.

There are countless instances over your 40 years of service when you were on the right side of history: when you led the passage of the Violence Against Women Act; in your work as the chair of the Judiciary and Foreign Relations Committee; through your wise counsel as Vice President and your ability to work with us to get so much done over the last 8 years; with Dr. Biden, who is here today, for your work supporting Michigan's military families and community colleges; and now in your effort to cure cancer through the Cancer Moonshot.

Early on in your career, you said that the work that we do here allows us to "literally have the chance to shape the future—to put our own stamp on the face and character of America, to bend history just a little bit." I would believe, as every one of my colleagues does, that you have done more than bend the future of America "just a little bit."

You have changed this Nation and you have changed this Senate for the better.

There is a great quote from a poet I know that you admire very much, William Butler Yeats.

It is a piece of advice that he gave out frequently to young writers. It goes: "Think like a wise man but communicate in the language of the people."

Yeats—like you Mr. President—understood that the best way to reach people is by appealing to their heart, meeting them where they are.

And I think, moving forward, we have to remember that we all have to reach people's hearts and strive to serve as well as you have.

Thank you for your service to this Senate and to the American people.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, it is fitting that JOE BIDEN ascended from Senator to Vice President—or as the office is known around here, President of the Senate.

JOE was elected to the Senate as a very young man. We have heard JOE talk about how hard it was after losing his wife, Neilia, and baby daughter, Naomi, in an automobile accident, just weeks before he was to be sworn in, to come to Washington and assume his duties. He credits his older colleagues like Mike Mansfield, Ted Kennedy, Danny Inouye, Hubert Humphrey, Fritz Hollings, and Rhode Island's Claiborne Pell, who opened his Washington home to the young Senator, with convincing him to stick it out, just for a few months.

Well, he did more than stick it out. He dove in. The Senate saved his life,

he has said, in that time of grief. And in return, he gave his life to the Senate, serving the people of Delaware for more than three decades.

JOE BIDEN presided over Supreme Court nomination hearings as chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He shepherded the assault weapons ban and the Violence Against Women Act. He served also as the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, facing down dictators and championing nuclear nonproliferation.

He is, of course, recognized in Senate lore as a particularly strong speaker and debater. From his familiar perch in the back row of the Chamber, JOE would hold forth on the merits of legislative proposals and the positions of his colleagues. If the Chamber was empty of Senators, he would even turn and deliver his speeches to the captive audience in the staff gallery behind him.

But JOE can always be counted on for telling it like it is. Not long ago, he was in my home State of Rhode Island to tout needed infrastructure projects. Now, Rhode Island has one of the highest rates of structurally deficient bridges in the Nation, and my senior Senator, JACK REED, and I have worked hard to bring Federal resources to bear in addressing that need. But JOE put it no uncertain terms. Standing under the East Shore Expressway Bridge on Warren Avenue in East Providence, the Vice President cried, "For 10 years you've had Lincoln logs holding the damn thing up! No, I mean go look at it. The press went and looked at it. If everybody in Rhode Island watched the news tonight and saw that, they'd try to go around the damn bridge!"

Whatever his style or accomplishments, JOE will always pin his success in the Senate on the personal relationships he forged so deeply and so sincerely, with ideological allies and strange bedfellows alike. "Every good thing I have seen happen here, every bold step taken in the 36-plus years I have been here, came not from the application of pressure by interest groups, but through the maturation of personal relationships," he said in his 2009 farewell speech. "Pressure groups can and are strong and important advocates. But they're not often vehicles for compromise. A personal relationship is what allows you to go after someone hammer and tong on one issue and still find common ground on the next."

That is why JOE BIDEN was uniquely well suited for the one job in this country with one constitutional foot in the executive branch and the other in the legislative. He was at the center of a number of high-stakes compromises between the White House, Congress, and the two parties. And every once in a while, he still got to vote.

"Except for the title 'father,'" he said, "there is no title, including 'vice

president,' that I am more proud to wear than that of United States senator." JOE BIDEN is a great father to Hunter and Ashley, and to Beau, whose passing last year was felt by the entire Senate family. He served honorably as Vice President. But he will always be the pride of the Senate.

I thank him for his faithful service and for his enduring example. And I wish him and Jill great happiness in the adventures to come.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Vice President JOE BIDEN, a man who has dedicated his life to serving our country, working across the aisle whenever he can, and always doing his best to get things done for the American people.

I am proud to have known and admired JOE a long time. I first met JOE toward the end of his first campaign for the Senate, in the fall of 1972. My father, Stewart Udall, had been called to Delaware to help the young Democratic candidate with environmental issues. I tagged along with my dad and spent a day on the campaign trail with a man who would come to spend 36 distinguished years in the Senate and become our 47th Vice President.

The following summer, I worked as a staffer in his Senate office—writing constituent letters, researching policy issues, preparing press materials. That was my first job in the Senate.

In so many ways, JOE Biden is the same person now as then—caring, passionate, energetic, tenacious, and ready and able to get things done.

JOE gave me my first Senate job, and this January—44 years later—he swore me in for the 114th Congress.

I note that Senators from across our country—from both parties—have lined up to speak to JOE's character and accomplishments. We respect him as a colleague, and we love him for his passion and commitment to public service.

JOE has never forgotten his blue collar roots. He has never forgotten our country's working class. JOE has fought all his life to make sure the working class gets a fair shake. He sounded the clarion call in the last months and weeks of the Presidential campaign—that we not forget working families and, more broadly, America's middle class.

In his words, "The middle class is not a number; it's a value set. It's being able to own your house and not have to rent it; it's being able to send your kid to the local park and know they'll come home safely. It's about being able to send your kid to the local high school and if they do well they can get to college, and if they get to college, you can figure out how to [pay to] get them there, and when your mom or dad passes away, you can take care of the other who is in need and hope your kids never have to take care of you. That's JOE BIDEN's definition of the middle class, and the middle class has been clobbered."

JOE championing the working and middle class helps my State of New Mexico, helps all of our States.

His policy expertise is broad and deep but maybe in no area as much as foreign policy. He has spent decades working on international matters—as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as the committee's chair or ranking member, as President Obama's foreign relations troubleshooter.

From my service on the Foreign Relations Committee, I have a keen appreciation for the complexity of foreign policy matters in today's world.

JOE's foreign policy is at once pragmatic and sophisticated. He has stalwartly promoted peace and non-proliferation. But he understands the need for military force when national interests are at stake, diplomacy is not an option, and such action will bear intended results.

JOE recently summed up what can be called the Biden Doctrine in Foreign Affairs. He identifies the broad themes of Obama foreign policy strategy and advises the next administration. The essay should be required reading for anyone serious about foreign policy, and I hope the new administration takes his advice to heart.

While JOE's legislative accomplishments are too many to list, I would like to underscore one achievement that has made a difference in my home State of New Mexico—The Violence Against Women Act.

As chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, JOE drafted VAWA and led the charge for enactment. Passed in 1994, VAWA reordered how the Federal criminal justice system handled rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence cases. VAWA gave victims needed protections and strengthened prosecutors' tools.

I was attorney general of New Mexico in 1994. In the wake of VAWA's passage, I formed the Violence Against Women Task Force. We got strengthened antistalking laws passed in the New Mexico Legislature in 1997.

While VAWA was easily reauthorized and strengthened during the 2000s, reauthorization became difficult in 2012. As Vice President, JOE was instrumental in breaking impasses.

VAWA represented a sea change for how our society addresses violent crime against women.

The law was reauthorized and strengthened in 2013, and now extends protections to gay and transgender persons, immigrant women, and on-reservation Native Americans.

Like JOE, I am a husband and father of a daughter. I am proud to have voted in favor of reauthorization.

We all know that JOE has faced deep, personal tragedies. But he has confronted tragedy with courage and love for his family and with an unimaginable determination to keep working

for the American people—turning his own losses into ways to help others.

JOE and his equally capable, determined, and indefatigable wife Jill have brought new energy and urgency to the fight to cure cancer. The Cancer Moonshot has already had many successes. JOE turned the premature death of his son into actions to help others with cancer.

This week, the Senate that JOE gave so much to gave something back, sending the 21st Century Cures Act to President Obama for signature. The \$1.8 billion cancer initiatives in that bill are the direct result of Vice President BIDEN's Cancer Moonshot initiative.

It is fitting that we named the cancer initiatives in the Cures Act after Beau Biden.

JOE BIDEN leaves the Vice Presidency, but he will never leave the fight for all Americans—Black, Brown, White, poor, working class, middle class, gay, straight, Muslim, Christian—everyone—fighting for what is right, fighting to make sure we all have a fair shot.

JOE's heart is as big as they come. I honor his decades of work, commitment, and accomplishments, and I look forward to JOE continuing being JOE—the same guy I met in 1972—working hard every day to make a difference in the lives of all Americans.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the contributions and the long and colorful career of Vice President JOE BIDEN—the pride of Scranton, PA—and of Wilmington, DE—and the pride of the entire United States.

JOE BIDEN lived, learned, and grew up among hard-working Americans in the 1950s and 1960s, when everything in America seemed possible—and it was. Remarkably, this gifted orator grew up with a crippling stutter—a challenge which he overcame through determination and perseverance. He displayed that same uncommon strength after he lost his wife and daughter in a horrific car accident just weeks after being first elected to the United States Senate.

Vice President BIDEN considered giving up his seat to tend to his injured children. It is one of this country's great fortunes that JOE BIDEN decided against that. Scarred by the tragedy and by a close brush with death himself and more recently by the loss of his son Beau, the Vice President has shown us the power of and the comfort derived from a deep personal faith.

When he was first elected to the United States Senate in 1972, he was only 29 years old. And in a Senate career spanning 36 years, Senator BIDEN left behind a legacy as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Perhaps his greatest achievement was his tireless advocacy for civil rights, especially the protection of women and

children from domestic violence. The passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 is an enduring Biden legacy which we will continue to build upon for years to come.

And now, even as he is about to retire from political life, Vice President BIDEN has taken on a new cause: to find a cure for the disease which has claimed too many millions of Americans, including his beloved son, Beau. The Cancer Moonshot has refocused and reinvigorated our Nation's efforts to eradicate this devastating disease, and I was proud to support renaming the legislation to honor Beau Biden.

Vice President BIDEN is as honest and authentic a person as you will find, providing a welcome dose of humanity and authenticity to the business of governing. And he has served with great honor and humility.

I recall a dinner the Vice President attended at my home where, before he greeted a single guest, he made sure to spend time with my children—greeting them and engaging them in a real conversation. They have never forgotten that.

And, as the meal was ending, the Vice President said he wanted to hear from each of our guests. Now, this may come as no surprise to those of you who know JOE BIDEN, but he actually spoke at some considerable length about how important he thought it was to hear from everybody who was there. Two and a half hours into a dinner scheduled to last just 90 minutes, I think one guest got to ask the Vice President a question.

I know Vice President BIDEN and his exceptional partner, Jill, will continue to be engaged in the life of our Nation, so I will simply thank him today for four decades of public service—and pledge my continued respect for his many contributions to this great Nation which he loves so completely.

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I want to join in honoring Vice President BIDEN's lifetime of service and sacrifice to our country.

Throughout his career, Vice President BIDEN has carried out his work with a sense of humility, integrity, and authenticity that often seems missing in today's politics.

He served as either chairman or ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 17 years. In this capacity, he crafted the Violence Against Women Act, which provided critical new protections to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The landmark bill also supported local law enforcement to help increase prosecutions and convictions of abusers. He has continued this legacy by serving as the White House Adviser on Violence Against Women.

Most recently, he led the White House's efforts on the Cancer Moonshot initiative, which seeks to hasten our

advances in cancer research, prevention, and treatment. Earlier today, the Senate passed a bill to help make the Cancer Moonshot initiative a reality, which is a further testament to the Vice President's leadership and character.

The Vice President's involvement in the Cancer Moonshot initiative was born out of the death of his son, Beau, who lost his battle with brain cancer last year. The Vice President also grappled with tragedy at a young age when his first wife and his 13-month-old daughter were killed in a car accident. The poise, dignity, and humility that the Vice President has been able to maintain in the face of these tragedies speaks to his strength and his character. Through all this, he has continued to serve the American people with the utmost integrity and authenticity, which have undoubtedly contributed to his successful career in public service.

The Vice President has also consistently advocated for the leadership role the United States plays in the world. Over the years, Vice President BIDEN has lent his diplomatic hand to U.S. engagement in development and security in places like Eastern Europe and the Northern Triangle countries of Central America. He has worked tirelessly to strengthen our partnerships across the globe, in places like Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, in an effort to further U.S. interests and the values upon which our Nation has thrived.

When he was in Denver this past September to speak at the Korbel School, the Vice President warned against "turning inward." JOE has no capacity to turn inward in any walk of life. His career is characterized by reaching outward to the American people and to the world, working to listen, collaborate, heal, and serve. We can all learn a lot from that open and inclusive approach.

We are grateful for the Vice President's leadership and example. I thank him and his incredible family for their service to our Nation.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to an incredible leader, public servant, mentor, and friend.

It seems impossible to place a period on the public service career of JOSEPH ROBINETTE BIDEN, Jr.

So perhaps this is just an ellipsis.

For 36 years, JOE BIDEN was a towering presence in this body. As a member, ranking member, and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, he dove headfirst into the most challenging issues in a volatile world, shaping a generation of U.S. foreign policy. He tackled arms control issues, stood up directly to Slobodan Milosevic, fought against apartheid in South Africa, and strongly advocated for NATO bombing of Serbia in the 1990s. He once called his contribution to ending the

Yugoslav wars one of the "proudest moments" of his political career. For years, he worked to shape our policy in Iraq and the Middle East. He did so not just from his Washington office, but through regular visits to warzones, where he met face to face with military leaders and enlisted men and women, alike. This is JOE BIDEN's legacy.

As a member and chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator BIDEN spearheaded the Federal assault weapons ban, presided over Supreme Court confirmations, and—in perhaps his most significant legislative triumph—authored the Violence Against Women Act.

For generations, violence against women was a private matter—a tragedy suffered over and over by women with no recourse against abusive partners. VAWA brought this scourge out of the shadows and into the open, affirming that domestic violence survivors would NOT also be victimized by the system that was supposed to protect them. Because of VAWA, which Senator BIDEN helped reauthorize three times, 3.4 million women and men have called the National Domestic Violence Hotline and gotten the support they need. From 1994, when VAWA became law, until 2010, the rate of domestic violence in the United States has fallen by 64 percent. These are real accomplishments and real people—not just statistics. This is JOE BIDEN's legacy.

And, as everyone knows, he did it all commuting daily from and to his beloved Delaware.

Then he got a job that included accommodation in Washington, DC.

JOE BIDEN has transformed the job of Vice President. A key liaison to Congress because of his years of relationships on the Hill, JOE BIDEN stood shoulder to shoulder with President Obama and brought our economy back from the brink. Vice President BIDEN was tasked with implementing and overseeing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which laid the foundation for a sustainable economic future we are experiencing today.

He also tackled longer term economic challenges, traveling the country in support of American manufacturing jobs and working tirelessly to rein in the exorbitant cost of college and spiraling student loan debt. JOE BIDEN believes in his bones that all Americans deserve a fair shot.

That is why he was an early advocate for marriage equality. He accelerated change, forcing a conversation that, at its heart, was about love and the simple premise of all men and women being equal.

His belief in a fair shot for all is why Vice President BIDEN devoted incredible energy after the Sandy Hook shooting to sparing other families the heartbreak felt by too many in Newtown. Some of the most challenging days of the Obama administration were days of mass shootings.

Aurora, San Bernardino, Orlando, Fort Hood, Charleston, Tucson, and of course Newtown—to anyone who has been active in the push for common-sense gun safety measures—as I have—the Vice President's steady hand, commitment, and leadership in this space have been obvious. Along with the President, he has comforted families, devoted countless hours to healing, and contributed energy and ideas to a years-long push that will eventually affect real change and keep the most lethal weapons out of the hands of the most dangerous people.

And that will be JOE BIDEN's legacy.

Vice President JOE BIDEN was taught early on by his parents that hard work mattered, that how you treat others matters, and above all else that family matters most. Throughout his career, he had a rule in his office: if one of his children, his wife Jill, or a sibling called, staff was to pull him out of a meeting so he could take the call. The same rule extended to staff. He never wanted to hear that someone had stayed at work instead of making it to a graduation, Little League game, or school play.

That, laid bare, is JOE BIDEN. He came to Washington on the shoulders of his family, which fanned out across Delaware and knocked on doors until there were no more doors to knock. When tragedy struck—between his improbable election victory and his swearing in—and he suffered the unimaginable loss of his wife and infant daughter, his family pulled him closer. He stayed by the hospital beds of his two sons, Beau and Hunter, and nursed them back to health, questioning all along whether he would ever serve in the Senate.

But this body—this Senate—pulled him closer, too. Senators Inouye, Mansfield, Humphrey, Hollings, and Kennedy all pleaded with him to give the Senate a chance: "Just six months, JOE. Just stay six months."

He stayed 36 years. And he learned lessons about character and motives—lessons we are all still learning today. He learned from Mike Mansfield never to question another man's motive—question his judgment but never his motive. It was a lesson that bridged divides that too often keep us apart. The lesson made for lasting friendships with Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond—whose eulogy he delivered.

JOE BIDEN arrived in the Senate after a 1972 campaign heavy on civil rights. Years later, the centerpiece in his Senate office was a large table that had belonged to Senator John Stennis, around which Senator Richard Russell and Southern segregationists had planned the demise of the civil rights movement. In 2009, JOE BIDEN became Vice President to our first African-American President.

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it does indeed bend toward justice.

We have not seen the end of JOE BIDEN. Just this week, he presided over this body as we took an important step toward realizing the dream of the Cancer Moonshot—an ambitious project to end cancer as we know it.

It is another effort that has profound personal meaning to the Vice President, who lost his son Beau to this horrible disease. It is also a place where JOE BIDEN's work will have lasting, indelible effect on Americans—indeed all of humanity—if he is successful.

And that is JOE BIDEN's legacy.

He brought people together. He tackled the impossible. He overcame obstacles. He bridged divides. Tireless and fierce, JOE BIDEN put family and country first. We cannot ask for more than that.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues to pay tribute to Vice President JOE BIDEN.

JOE has made countless contributions to our country throughout his more than 40 years in public service and six terms in the U.S. Senate.

Whether it was passing the Violence Against Women Act, leading the congressional opposition to apartheid South Africa, or advocating for Amtrak, JOE honored the Senate with his service.

This year, after the loss of his beloved son Beau, JOE harnessed his grief to spearhead a new Cancer Moonshot initiative to accelerate finding cures for cancer.

This past Monday night, with JOE presiding, we named this initiative in memory of Beau.

After Monday's vote, JOE said that it made him realize all of the support he has had since Beau's passing.

In the face of his own loss, JOE has supported countless other families in similar situations.

I will remember JOE for this incredible empathy.

This year we lost our colleague and friend Congressman Mark Takai of Hawaii.

I affectionately called Mark my younger brother, and his passing was a shock to many of us.

JOE joined us to honor Mark at a memorial service here in the Capitol.

Reflecting on his own life, JOE spoke directly to Mark's wife, Sami, and his children, Matthew and Kaila:

I promise you that the day will come when Mark's memory brings a smile to your lips before it brings a tear to your eye.

My prayer for you and your family is that they come sooner rather than later. But I promise you. I promise you it will come.

Like so many times in his life, JOE's words spoke to our hearts.

From his own experience, he comforted the Takais and so many of us who knew Mark.

That is who JOE is—a man of empathy and soul, who always had a kind word, and who will leave a legacy of commitment to doing the right thing, and a legacy of hope.

JOE, you will be missed.

Mahalo for your service.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I would like to join with my colleagues to honor Vice President JOSEPH R. BIDEN.

Though I did not have the privilege to serve with Vice President BIDEN while he was a Member of the Senate, I have long admired JOE and his sincere commitment to the people of this country and especially to those in his beloved home State of Delaware.

The details of JOE's early years are well known to this body and to the Nation, but because they are so central to his character, they bear repeating. After an upset win of a U.S. Senate seat at just 29 years old, JOE experienced a tragedy that most of us cannot even begin to fathom—the death of his wife, Neilia, and his young daughter, Naomi, in a car accident just weeks before he was set to take office. A now-iconic photograph shows a young JOE being sworn into office at his sons' hospital bedside.

A tragedy of that magnitude, so early in JOE's career, would have been reason for most to put on hold—or even end—a promising future in public service. Indeed, no one would have faulted JOE had he decided that the demands of the work he was set to undertake were not worth pursuing after the unimaginable loss he had just experienced. But, from the depths of his sorrow, JOE summoned the courage to press forward, committing himself to his two sons and to his work fighting for Delaware in the U.S. Senate. Committed to caring for his young family in the wake of such loss, JOE would take the train from Wilmington to Washington each day the Senate was in session.

During his 36 years as a member of this body, JOE distinguished himself as a thoughtful, principled leader on a number of critical issues. JOE's leadership on the Senate Judiciary Committee put him at the center of some of the most consequential debates in recent years, from passage of the 1994 Crime Law to the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act. In his role on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, JOE garnered the respect of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle as he helped to shape U.S. foreign policy. His leadership in both of these areas, as well as the respect of his colleagues in Congress, made JOE a natural pick to join then-Senator Obama as his running mate in 2008.

As Vice President, JOE has been a trusted adviser to President Obama and has been tasked with overseeing significant initiatives within the administration. From his work on the economic stimulus package in 2009 to his continued leadership in the fight against sexual assault and domestic violence, JOE has brought to the White House his characteristic dedication and charisma. It has been a pleasure to ob-

serve the real friendship that the Vice President has forged with President Obama, one grounded in mutual respect and admiration for one another.

We saw again last year JOE's strength in the face of adversity when cancer claimed the life of his son, Beau. Like his father, Beau Biden was a gifted communicator, and the Nation mourned alongside JOE at the news of his passing. In the aftermath of Beau's death, JOE accepted the President's charge to lead the Cancer Moonshot initiative to accelerate cancer research—yet another shining example of JOE channeling his experience with loss into advancement for the public good. It is a fitting testament to JOE's leadership that the cancer provisions in the bill currently under consideration in the Senate, the 21st Century Cures Act, were renamed in honor of Beau. I know of few people who have endured the magnitude of loss that JOE has over the course of his life, and the fact that he carries on every day with a full heart and renewed dedication to fighting for the American people is an inspiration.

Beyond his accomplishments—which are many—JOE is perhaps best known for his good humor and genuine ability to connect with people. In a city associated more with political rancor than authenticity, JOE has long been a breath of fresh air, an homage to a more amicable past. His ability to get things done while making steadfast friends on both sides of the aisle is a model for all of us and an inspiration to me.

I wish JOE and his wife, Jill, nothing but the best as they move onto their next adventure. I know in times of trial, I will look to JOE's leadership and example for the wisdom to make the right decision.

Mr. Vice President, on behalf of the people of Maine, I thank you for your service to our country.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, today I join my colleagues in celebrating the many contributions of Vice President JOE BIDEN, a man who has spent his career fighting for working families.

For more than four decades, Vice President BIDEN has tirelessly served the people of Delaware and the United States. As many of my colleagues have already noted, he has been on the frontlines of some of our Nation's toughest battles—from steering the Foreign Relations and Judiciary Committees, to introducing the Violence Against Women Act and championing efforts to reduce gun violence in our communities. He takes on every fight with restless energy and relentless optimism.

I first met then-Senator BIDEN back in the 1990s when I was a law professor with no experience in the ways of Washington. We tangled over an issue, each of us laying into the fight with determination. Senator BIDEN won, and I lost. Years later, when I next saw

him, he held out his arms and shouted from halfway across the room, "Professor! Come here and give me a hug!"

He had not forgotten our earlier battle, but he made it clear that he continued to think and rethink issues about working families and that, even when we disagreed, we could respect—and even like—each other. And when I was later sworn into the United States Senate, I thought about the example he set to fight hard, but to treat each other with respect.

The Vice President has faced down hardship with exceptional grace and courage, and he continues to wake up every day with a steadfast commitment to ensuring that the voices of ordinary Americans are heard here in Washington. And for me personally, he has provided encouragement, wisdom, and good counsel, time and again—and for that, I am truly grateful.

So, Vice President BIDEN: those of us here in the Senate are fortunate to have had the opportunity to work alongside you. And I know I speak for millions of Americans when I say that we all are enormously grateful for your many years of service to this country. Thank you, and I wish you the very best as you begin the next chapter of your life and career.

Mr. COONS. We have five Senators remaining who have asked to speak briefly: Senator ALEXANDER, Senator CARDIN, Senator CASEY, and Senator KAINE. My senior Senator, TOM CARPER of Delaware, will conclude this session today.

I yield the floor to the Senator from Tennessee.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, knowing there is a reception coming, I will try to set a good example. After hearing a speech, my late friend Alex Haley, the author of "Roots," said: May I make a suggestion?

I said: Well, yes.

He said: If, when you make a speech, you would say "Instead of making a speech, let me tell you a story," someone might actually listen to what you have to say.

I have always remembered that, so let me tell one short story about a Vice President who knows how to get things done.

Nearly 2 years ago, you and President Obama invited Senator CORKER and me to go with you to Knoxville when the President announced his community college program. Before that, we had lunch privately, and we talked about many things, but the President talked about his interest in precision medicine.

I said: Mr. President, we are working on something we call 21st Century Cures. Why don't we fold that into your precision medicine interest, and we will do it together.

At the State of the Union address a year later, the President talked about

the Cancer Moonshot and announced Vice President JOE BIDEN would be in charge of that. So I talked to you and said: Well, we will just fold that in as well.

It wasn't moving along as fast as I would like because, as you know and as most people here know, it is full of difficult issues—FDA, safety, moving things though, drug companies' incentives, and then the funding issue on both sides of the aisle.

So I called you and I said: JOE, we are not moving as we should.

You said: Well, let me see what I can do.

And you held a meeting of the Democrats and Republicans in the House—Senator MURRAY and me—and you moved us along pretty well and off we would go. You didn't take credit for that; nobody knew much about it. You were the key to that.

Then it got stuck again. So I called you again. I said: JOE, I have the precision medicine, I have the Cancer Moonshot, we have the BRAIN Initiative, we have the opioids money, but I can't get a response. I feel like the butler standing with a silver platter outside the Oval Office, and no one will take the order.

You said: If you want to feel like a butler, try being Vice President.

Well, the fact was, you went to work again. The President called; he went to work. Speaker RYAN went to work, Senator MCCONNELL went to work, and today that legislation on which you worked so hard passed the Senate with 94 votes. That is an example of a man who understands the issues, who knows how to get things done, and who has the respect of everyone in this body.

This is Pearl Harbor Day. Pearl Harbor Day reminds us of the greatest generation of men and women who cared about the country, didn't care about the credit, resolved their differences, and realized that diversity is important but turning that diversity into one America is even more important. You are not of that generation, but you show the same spirit as that generation did. Your work on 21st Century Cures and the fact that the Cancer Moonshot section is not only something that is your initiative—is named for your son—is important not just to you but to all of us.

You are a friend of every single one of us. We honor you today. We are delighted you came down to let us tell a few stories about your effectiveness as Vice President of the United States.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I also wish to join in thanking you for your incredible service. Senator MIKULSKI talked about a lot of things you have done. The two of us represent the State of Maryland. Other than the two of us, there is no other Senator who has spent more time in Maryland than the Vice President.

Admittedly, most of that time was spent on an Amtrak train, but we consider you to be a resident of Maryland. We have tried to find a way to tax you, but we will let you get by. We very much appreciate your interest in our entire region and in our entire country.

When I was elected to the Senate in 2007, I talked to Senator Sarbanes—the person whom I was replacing in the Senate—about committee assignments, and we talked about the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He said: Get on the committee. JOE BIDEN is an incredible leader. Any time you can spend with him is going to be time well spent.

I talked to Senator MIKULSKI, and she told me the same thing. I was honored to be able to serve on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and saw firsthand your extraordinary leadership on behalf of our country. But bringing us together in that committee, you didn't know who the Democrats and who the Republicans were. We worked together in a unit in the best interests of our country. That really was a model for all of us in the service of the Senate and service on behalf of our people.

A little over 8 years later, I became a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and we had some extremely challenging issues that could have divided us. You helped me through that period. I really wish to thank you for that. Your extraordinary leadership in helping us resolve some very difficult issues, your openness, your willingness to listen, and your ability to find a way to go forward were incredibly helpful. I think it allowed the Senate to do the right thing on that issue—as well as the oversight. I thank you very much.

That wasn't your only opportunity to help us resolve issues. You have heard Members talk about the Violence Against Women Act and how important that was. The Cancer Moonshot is going to be incredibly valuable. Each one of our families has been affected by cancer. Through your efforts, we know we are going to find the answer to this dread disease. You have done this in so many different areas, law enforcement—the list goes on and on.

Last year I was in Central America. I think there you could easily run for office and have no problems at all. They know what you have done to give them a hope, to give them a future. You take an interest in an area and find a way to be helpful that I think has made our country stronger. You have given hope to people all over the world.

You have a love for people. You hear that. You hear that often. It was Will Rogers who famously said he never met a man he didn't like. That is true of JOE BIDEN. It is incredible.

I remember when I was being sworn in, in the ceremony in the Old Senate Chamber, you not only talked to Members of the Senate, you talked to every

member of our families. I don't know if you had the best staff work or not, but you knew every Member's family. To this day my grandchildren talk about the conversation they had with you during that swearing-in ceremony. You really care about people, and that really shows. This is a family here, and you have truly shown that to us. Myrna and I look at you and Jill as people who are part of our family.

I think you are, perhaps, the most ebullient politician in America. Horrific family tragedies and life-threatening cranial aneurysms severely tested, but ultimately didn't diminish, your faith in God or your love for the "retail" aspect of politics—meeting and greeting people, making those human connections.

Mr. President, for those who may not know your story, I would like to tell them part of it. JOE BIDEN was born in Scranton and raised there before his parents moved the family to Delaware. He was the first member of his family to attend college. He earned his B.A. from the University of Delaware and then went to law school at Syracuse University, during which time he married his college sweetheart, Neilia Hunter. They had three children—two sons and a daughter.

In 1972, just four years after JOE graduated from law school and when he was just 29 years old—he ran a bare bones, longshot campaign for the U.S. Senate against the incumbent, Caleb "Cale" Boggs, who had previously been Delaware's Governor and had served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. JOE's sister Valerie ran the campaign; most of the other "staff" were other family members. He demonstrated his extraordinary ability to connect with voters and won the election by 3,162 votes and became the sixth-youngest Senator in U.S. history.

Just a few weeks after the election, JOE's wife and their infant daughter Naomi were killed in a traffic accident; their two young sons, Hunter and Beau, were seriously injured. JOE was sworn in to the U.S. Senate next to his sons' hospital beds and steadfastly began commuting to Washington from Wilmington every day by train, a practice he maintained throughout his career in the Senate.

In 1977, Vice President BIDEN married Jill Jacobs. Jill has a Ph.D. in education and is a lifelong educator. Together, JOE and Jill had daughter, Ashley, who is a social worker.

JOE's affinity for the people of Delaware was reciprocal: he was re-elected to the Senate six times, including in 2008 when he was also elected Vice President.

In February of 1988, JOE was admitted to Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He had an intracranial aneurysm that had begun leaking. The situation was dire, a priest had actually administered last rites at the hospital. The

surgery was successful but he suffered a pulmonary embolism and had to undergo another operation, which was successful, in May 1988. Two brain operations might slow down most people, but not JOE. Two years after he nearly died, he won re-election to a fourth Senate term.

JOE's Senate career wasn't just long; it was distinguished. He became the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee in 1981. Three years later, he helped to steer the Comprehensive Crime Control Act to passage. It was the first of many major legislative accomplishments which included the Violent Crime Control & Law Enforcement Act of 1994. That bill contained the assault weapon ban and the Violence Against Women Act, and it established the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program.

JOE's accomplishments on the domestic policy side are impressive, but he also became a foreign policy expert. When Congress refused to ratify the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) II Treaty Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and President Jimmy Carter signed in 1979, JOE met with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. He was able to secure changes to the Treaty to overcome the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's objections. He has played a pivotal role in shaping U.S. foreign policy ever since. I was honored to serve on the Foreign Relations Committee for the last 2 years JOE served as Chairman. I have been honored to work with him in his current capacity as Vice President to expand the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, to include the former Warsaw Pact countries of Eastern and Central Europe and support a sovereign, democratic Ukraine. He is a champion of Israel and has been one of the principal architects of administration's rebalance to the Asia-Pacific. He has developed deep relationships with the world leaders by excelling at face-to-face diplomacy.

Mr. President, we were all devastated when your beloved son Beau lost his battle with brain cancer last year. Beau was just 46. It was a poignant moment on Monday when you were in the Chair, presiding over the Senate as we voted to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the House message to accompany H.R. 34, the 21st Century Cures Act. The bill contains provisions to implement the administration's "Cancer Moonshot"—yet another one of your sparking accomplishments. I want to commend Senator MCCONNELL and the majority for renaming that title of the bill the "Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot and National Institutes of Health (NIH) Innovation Projects". I know it means a lot to you and your family.

I have made my lifetime serving in public life. You have made that profession an honorable profession through

the manner in which you have conducted yourself, your integrity, who you are, and the way that you bring people together. I am proud to have served with you in this body.

Mr. President, you have been an extraordinary public servant for nearly half a century. You have also been a dedicated family man and a good friend. I said at the beginning of my remarks that you never met a man you didn't like. I don't think anyone who has ever met you didn't like you, too.

Congratulations.

THE VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, it is an honor to be here today. I was thinking about what I would say today and making it as brief and as personal as I could. I have to say that on a day like today it is difficult. We all have the privilege of being able to go to this floor on a regular basis to talk about issues, to talk about our country, and to talk about the world, but we also have one of the great privileges to talk about those with whom we have served and for whom we have great respect.

This is one of those moments. It is of great significance for me that I am able to stand on the floor of the Senate as a native of and as a resident of the city of Scranton in Lackawanna County to talk about a son of Scranton.

I know this is a pretty big day for Delaware—Delaware's No. 1 citizen and on this historic day for Delaware. But I have to say I am so grateful to be able to say on behalf of the people of Scranton and Lackawanna County in Northeastern Pennsylvania how proud we are today to be able to pay tribute to Vice President JOE BIDEN.

There is so much to say about that history, so much to say about what it means to be able to stand on the floor and talk about his record, his life, his achievements, but mostly to talk about who he is.

When I consider what he has contributed to our country, to his State, and to the world, it is difficult to encapsulate it. I tried to jot down a few notes to remind myself of how best to encapsulate that life.

I guess I would start with the word "integrity." It may be a word that we take for granted, but it is a word that has to be part of the life of a public official. I would say in the case of JOE BIDEN, he has the kind of integrity that is uncommon—uncommon not because it is a rare trait but uncommon because it is so much a part of his whole life. He was a public official with integrity, and we hope he is again when he might consider public office again. But he is also a person of great integrity when it comes to the fights he has had to wage on behalf of people without power, the work he has had to do as a public official infused with that kind of integrity and, at the same time, the same kind of integrity we expect from

a family member and a friend. So I would start with that word.

Certainly the word “compassion” comes to mind. Every one of us can tell a story. I was hearing stories just yesterday from a colleague about a phone call the Vice President made over the last couple of years to someone who was grieving, who was in the depths of the darkness of grief, and the phone call he made to that person.

I have heard stories over the years about not just phone calls but visits with people, stopping into a funeral home for a long lost friend who had lost a loved one, letters he has written. I know a personal friend who lost his wife and his sons had lost their mom and what the Vice President wrote to them just this summer. Over and over again, he has demonstrated that kind of compassion.

I can remember my own case in a very personal way. It was only an election loss. I ran for Governor of Pennsylvania in a primary. As many of my colleagues know, primaries are particularly difficult. I lost badly. No one called on Wednesday after Tuesday. One reporter showed up at my door, and I opened the door and I really couldn't say much to this reporter, but I was grateful she was there. But I got one phone call on Wednesday—maybe a couple of family members; I come from a family of eight. I think my wife was talking to me, but other than that, the only person who called me was JOE BIDEN. He made some kind of grand prediction—I thought he was just being nice—that I would somehow come back. But he was right. And he made me feel much better that day. He may not remember it, but I will remember that for the rest of my life.

I think certainly when we think about the Vice President, we could center on another one word: “justice”—an abiding and enduring commitment to justice. His whole public life could be summarized in that word and the commitment he has had to justice. We could quote from the Bible: “Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.” I am not sure JOE BIDEN has ever been satisfied yet with justice. He is always pursuing it, always trying to bring justice to a problem or to a situation or to the life of a fellow citizen.

We think of what Saint Augustine said about justice a long time ago, but it still bears repeating: “Without justice, what are kingdoms but great bands of robbers?” That is what Saint Augustine said hundreds of years ago. JOE BIDEN has lived his life as a public official and as a man, as a citizen, with that same burning desire to bring justice into the dark corners of our world. And he knows that without that justice, someone is, in fact, robbed of so much—robbed of their dignity, robbed of their safety, robbed of a full life.

But I think I would say that maybe the best line, with all due respect to

the Scriptures and to Saint Augustine, was one my father said. He wrote it down years ago, but he probably gave maybe the best description of what a public official should be about. I am not sure I have ever attributed this to anyone else but him. He said the most important qualities a public official can bring to their work are two things: No. 1, a passion for justice—which, of course, JOE BIDEN has in abundance—and a sense of outrage in the face of injustice; that if you have both of those, on most days, you are going to get it right. And his life as a U.S. Senator for 36 years, as Vice President for 8 years, and as a citizen for all of those years and more, has been about that passion for justice and a sense of outrage in the face of injustice.

We all know his record; we don't have to recite all of it. From the Violence Against Women Act, which we know is an acronym—VAWA—but it doesn't do justice to the name of what that meant. So many today have talked about how he saved the lives of women and families because of that legislation. So from VAWA to ARRA, as we call it—the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the act that helped dig this economy out of the ditch it was in and rescued this country and improved the lives of so many people—he not only worked to get it passed, but then he made sure it was implemented. It might be the most popular piece of legislation 25 years from now when people really appreciate what happened with the Recovery Act.

From diplomacy, to law enforcement, to not just supporting our troops, not just working on legislation and supporting them not only when his son was a member of our Armed Forces but long before that, to what he did very specifically to protect our troops—we know the scourge of IEDs, which was the No. 1 killer of our troops in Iraq and in Afghanistan. A lot of those troops' lives were saved because of JOE BIDEN up-armorizing vehicles and doing all the work he did to protect our troops.

So whether it was national security or security on our streets, whether it was protecting women who would be the subject of abuse or helping children or improving our economy—on and on—we could talk about that record. But just as you can't just list achievements in a record and encapsulate what it means, so the same is true of a 36-year career in the U.S. Senate and then 8 years as Vice President.

Lincoln probably said it best. Lincoln said, “It is not the years in your life that matters, in the end, it is the life in those years.” And that is, I think, true of JOE BIDEN as well.

Two more points. One of the best qualities of the Vice President as a man especially but also as a public official is his sense of gratitude. If you knew him for half an hour or for your

whole life, you know that almost always he is speaking about people in his life who made him who he is today, whether it is his mother and father or whether it is his whole family, including brothers and sisters and his sons and daughters and, of course, Jill. It is a reminder of how grateful we should be. In so many ways, when you hear JOE BIDEN speak, his speeches tend to be, on many occasions, a hymn to gratitude, and that comes through all the time.

We know how much he suffered with all of the losses he has sustained. I was talking to him recently at an event in Scranton about his son Beau and his life and what a patriot Beau Biden was. I think today we can say the following about the Vice President: This is a man who was a great, great Vice President. This is a man who was a committed and very effective U.S. Senator, but maybe most important, he has been a faithful son, a loving and proud husband and father, and a patriot.

Thank you, sir, and God bless you.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, these speeches were just supposed to go on for 1 hour, and we are already at the 2-hour mark, but perhaps, since we are honoring you, this is most appropriate.

I would say to our colleagues and our guests, you say the name among us of JOE BIDEN, and a smile automatically comes to our lips, and that is because the Vice President is a lover of people. That is true. We know it is true. And that is why today we have this genuine affection being expressed.

Since the hour is late, my remarks are going to be very short, but I just want to highlight that it is very true and it is very characteristic. I can even tell all of the stories of the Biden family because I have heard them so much.

It is also very true that if you are talking to JOE and suddenly your wife comes up or your daughter comes up, all of a sudden, JOE is not focusing on you, he is giving his total attention to the ladies present, and that is most appreciated. That, of course, is why he is such a big fan of the Nelson household, not only of Grace and Nan Ellen but also of Bill Junior. He always treats our children with respect and goes out of his way.

In Florida, fortunately we had the good fortune of seeing him a lot in his two campaigns as Vice President and then the campaign for the ticket in this last campaign. I can remember those days. It was so cold in a horse pasture west of Ocala. And I can remember recently just absolutely cooking in North Palm Beach on the stage in the hot sun, and JOE was always there making the case for whoever it was he was standing up for.

Of course, he always made you feel that you were welcome. I remember one time we got off an airplane, and he

was going to his limousine and I am going back to the guest van in the back. He motions, I am to come with him. I said, "Mr. Vice President, I never presumed that I should come here." He says, "I always want you here with me when we are traveling together." That is what makes him so special.

Finally, I want to comment about Moonshot. Why is the effort at cancer research called the Moonshot? It is because we achieved what was almost the impossible when the President said we are going to the moon and return safely within the decade, and America marshaled the will and in fact did that incredible accomplishment. That is why we are going to have the Moonshot for cancer.

We have already made so much progress; but now, with the former Vice President of the United States heading up all the efforts where we can keep the attention on NIH, so it doesn't go from a level rocking along about \$24 billion, \$25 billion a year, and the stimulus shoots it in the first 2 years of the Vice President's office up to \$30 billion a year, then it drops down to \$24 billion, \$25 billion, and Dr. Francis Collins has to cancel 700 of the medical research grants that he has already issued. Because we have the Moonshot headed by JOE BIDEN, we are going to find the cure for all those kinds of cancer. That is the great legacy that the Vice President of the United States will have.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise in honor of your service.

I just want to tell my favorite JOE BIDEN story. This is a story the Vice President has heard me tell, but I want it on the RECORD because everyone should know this story. It is the story of an interaction between our Vice President on one of the most important days of his life and a young man from Richmond, VA, my hometown, on one of the most important days of his life.

It was election day 2008, and I was Governor of Virginia. I was responsible for the running of the elections in my State that day when Senator JOE BIDEN was running for Vice President with our President, Barack Obama.

I received a call in the middle of the morning: There was going to be a surprise visit to a polling place in Richmond. After having voted in Wilmington, Senator BIDEN was going to make a stop in Richmond and wanted to meet some voters before he headed to Chicago to await the election results. We gave him the address of an elementary school polling place that was very near the Richmond Airport, and I raced there with my security detail to get there a few minutes before he arrived for a surprise visit with voters who were going to love having the

chance to meet the soon-to-be Vice President. I got there a few minutes before Senator BIDEN arrived, and I saw a friend who had come to vote. I asked how he was doing. He said: I am doing great. I am really excited about voting today. And it is also a special day because I have a nephew with sickle cell anemia and he is casting his first vote, but he is so sick, he can't even get out of the vehicle.

I watched the election officials at the polling place take a voting machine from inside the school into the car so that his 18-year-old nephew could cast the first vote of his life. I saw this young man, the nephew of my friend, and he was very ill.

I said to my friend and his nephew: Can you wait here for 5 minutes? Because I think we can do something really exciting.

What?

Well, just wait.

And they said they would.

Within 5 minutes, Senator BIDEN came up to meet voters and shook the hands of those in line. I said: Senator, there is a young man here, and just as this day is very important to you, because I think you are about to be elected Vice President of the United States, for this young African-American male, who is very ill but extremely excited even in his illness to get out of his house to come here and cast his vote to elect the first African-American President—he is sitting there in that vehicle. Will you go and visit with him?

I didn't even have to finish the sentence and put the question mark at the end before Senator BIDEN shot across the parking lot and went up to the vehicle. The press corps was following him. The young man was sitting in the back seat. JOE just jumped in the front seat, closed the door, rolled up the window so nobody could hear the conversation, and the press corps gathered around all four sides of the vehicle with their cameras taking pictures of Senator BIDEN in an extremely animated and somewhat lengthy conversation with the 18-year-old who had just cast his vote. To me, that will always be the quintessential JOE BIDEN story.

JOE BIDEN is the Irish poet of American politicians. He and I share a passion for the Irish poet William Butler Yeats. Yeats, like our Vice President, was not just a poet. He was a man of the public. He was a public official. People asked him to weigh in on political matters all the time.

Once, in the middle of the First World War, somebody asked Yeats to write a war poem. He wrote a war poem, and the poem was titled "On Being Asked for a War Poem." The poem says this:

I [often] think it better that in times like these
A poet's mouth be silent, for in truth . . .
He has had enough of meddling who can please

A young girl in the indolence of her youth,
Or an old man upon a winter's night.

The meaning of the poem is this: I may be a public figure. I may have a public job to do. I may be asked to do a public job and to claim upon matters of public importance. But sometimes even more than the matter of public importance is the ability to please a young girl or an old man—or an ill young man casting a first vote, an important vote.

The fact that you took your time on that day of importance to you to shed some light and offer some joy to someone who was struggling—that is the JOE BIDEN who has us here for 2 hours offering these tributes.

I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I never had the privilege of serving with you in this Chamber, but, like many of my colleagues, I have come to know you as a friend and public servant and a model and a mentor. I have barely enough time to say a few words of tribute here, but I will add more to my remarks on the RECORD.

What I want to say very simply is that you have inspired so many of us, beyond this Chamber, beyond the people whom you have known directly, and beyond the people with whom you have worked. Countless young people are involved in this noble profession because of your example.

At a time when public officials and politics are often held in little repute and often challenged in their integrity, you have given us a good name, you have given politics a good name, and you have enabled so many of us to serve with pride in a profession that is so vital to the continuance of our democracy. Beyond pieces of legislation, whether it is the Violence Against Women Act or the assault weapon ban or criminal justice—the list goes on—is that model of public service.

I want to close by saying that as long as I have known JOE BIDEN, I really came to know him through the eyes of his son. I had the honor of working and serving with Beau Biden when he was attorney general of the State of Delaware and I was attorney general of my State of Connecticut. My ambition in life is to have my four children talk about me with the sense of admiration and love and pride that Beau Biden talked about his dad.

I am very proud and grateful that we had the opportunity to vote today on a law that bears his name. As proud as his dad is of him, his pride in his dad is an example that all of us as parents hope our children have for us.

I am proud to be in this Chamber and to have been sworn in to this Chamber by you, Mr. Vice President. I hope our paths will continue to cross, as I know they will, with so many of us in this Chamber and in this country. Thank you for your service.

I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, me too.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, in 1972 I was a young man in my last year at Boston College Law School, and I decided to run for State representative. I had a cousin who worked at NASA, an older cousin, the smart one, the physicist. He said: Well, there is a young man in Delaware who is running for the Senate.

So what is his name?

JOE BIDEN.

From that moment on, I was following the career of this Irishman, this latter-day descendent of Hubert Humphrey, a happy warrior, the man who stands up for the common man and woman in our country.

In 1972 you had this great campaign team led by John Marttila—the great John—who captured your spirit, your soul, what you represented now in this half century of American politics.

In 1976, when I ran for Congress, just 4 years later—the same as you, age 29—saying “I think I can run,” I walked into the office of this man, John Marttila, in Boston, and it looked like a museum to JOE BIDEN with all the JOE BIDEN literature and messages on his wall. So from that moment on, from John Marttila, through Larry Rasky, through Ron Klain—through all of these people who worked for me and worked for you, I have been privileged to be able to chronicle your journey of work and inspiration for our country.

I think it is just perfect that you are the commander in chief of this rocket ship to the Moon to find the cure for cancer because that is a mission that has the right man who is going to be leading it. I think that each and every one of us out here knows that one of the reasons this bill is receiving such an overwhelming vote today is because of you, Mr. President. It is because of the respect we have for you. It is the knowledge that when you were negotiating this bill, at the end of the day, you were going to put the American people first, you were going to make sure that bill reflected the highest aspiration of every American.

So I want to speak briefly because there is a reception after this, and many people are still waiting to say hello to you. I think every Member wanted to come out here, and you inspired them to speak a lot longer than they may have intended on speaking, but it is because of the incredible respect and admiration they have for you. My best to you. My wife Susan's best to you. There has never been a better public servant in American history. All my best.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, on behalf of all the people in our great State—and our dear colleague Senator Bayh is here because of his love as well—we want to tell you how grateful we are for your services, for the extraordinary job you have done as Vice President for President Obama.

Everybody is telling stories. As you know, I had the privilege of having you put your arm around me, and when everybody said there was no chance I could ever win, you said: You and I are a lot alike and you can do this and you can win.

I came back, and they said: What advice did Vice President BIDEN give you?

I said: He told me that I could win.

They said: Well, he is right a lot; I don't know about that one.

You turned out to be right.

Then we were blessed that your sons, Hunter and Beau, often came to Indiana during the summers. You would then come out as well. I will never forget going to the coffee shop one Sunday morning. The lady at the coffee shop said to me: This has been an unbelievable day because the Vice President came in with all his grandchildren; and, by the way, JOE, he bought ice cream for everybody in the store, and you have never done that.

I said how sorry I was that I never did that.

She also said: This is one of the greatest days of my life, to meet somebody who has always looked out for working families, who has always looked out for us.

That is how we see you back home. You have always looked out for us. You have always cared about us. As a second-generation Irish immigrant, you have always been an example to all of us that we can accomplish anything we dream of.

God bless you and Jill and your whole family. We are so lucky to have been touched by you.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Vice President BIDEN, earlier Hubert Humphrey's name was mentioned. You know the great love the people of Minnesota have for you. Vice President Humphrey was your mentor when you first got to the Senate, where you didn't even know if you were going to last a few months here, and he was there for you. You have extended that kindness to so many since then.

Vice President Mondale, another Minnesotan, has great affection and love for you, and I will report back to him tonight that I was here with you today.

When I first got elected to the Senate and made one of my first speeches about police funding to a completely empty Chamber—and I thought even my mom wasn't watching on C-SPAN—I walked out of this place and I got a phone call on my cell phone and it was

JOE BIDEN, then a Senator, saying “that was a really great speech.”

When you came to my State and one of my best friends suddenly lost her husband and you heard about it, you did not know who she was, you just heard the story, and in 2 weeks, on her first day back at work, she was driving home and she got a call from you. You talked to her for 20 minutes. When you were done and had given her all this wonderful advice, you said: We are not done; I want you to write down my phone number.

She said: I am driving, Mr. Vice President; I can't do that.

You said: Pull over.

She wrote your phone number on her hand. You did that for her, Mr. Vice President, and you have done that for so many Americans. On behalf of our entire State of Minnesota that has loved you forever, thank you.

I yield the floor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, a few minutes ago, I sent up a note to you that I handwrote that said: “Flattery won't hurt you if you don't inhale, so don't breathe too deeply up there.”

I also recall walking into a hearing with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy not too long ago in the House of Representatives, a joint House-Senate hearing. A lot of people had been there asking questions, and she was in the seat for 4 hours. It finally became my turn to ask a question, and I said to her: Is there any question, Administrator McCarthy, that you have not been asked today? She said: I wish somebody had asked me if I needed a bathroom break.

There are 30 more Senators in the cloakroom who want to come out and speak. If you need one, let us know and one of the pages or somebody will take your spot up there.

It has been a joy to sit here and listen to all these stories. JOHN CARNEY, our Congressman, Governor-elect, has been here and come and gone. He has gone back to the House to go into session. He used to work for you, and you are one of his great mentors. He wants you to know he was here, in case you didn't.

I want to say to CHRIS COONS, who put this all together, making possible a wonderful tribute, this is the Senate at its best. It is wonderful to see some of our still young colleagues who have come back to visit us and to be with us on this special, special day.

Over the years, people have asked me why I have had some success in my life, and I say that my sister and I picked the right parents. My sister and I picked the right parents. JOE BIDEN and his brother and sister picked the right parents. I have had the privilege of knowing them both. When your dad was sick and in the hospital, I visited and spent time with him, just the two of us.

JOE, I want to say for those who maybe didn't know your parents, they valued education and made sure you got a good one, along with his brother and sister. Val is up there somewhere. I want to say hi to Val. They valued education and people of faith. I am Protestant, and JOE and his family are Catholic, but he doesn't wear it on his sleeve. I will tell you this, nobody believes in the Golden Rule of treating other people the way you want to be treated any more than JOE BIDEN.

Nobody adheres to Matthew 25, the "Least of These," any more than JOE BIDEN. Nobody does a better reading of James 2: "Show me your faith by your words, and I will show you my faith by my deeds." He doesn't just talk a good game. He doesn't talk a whole lot about his faith, but he sure lives it.

From his family—from his mom and dad—he learned the importance of family and the importance of loyalty to his family and, frankly, to his friends—his multitude of friends. He learned there is a difference between right and wrong and figure out what it is and do right. Do it all the time.

He learned a little bit about common sense. My dad used to say to my sister and me when we did some boneheaded stuff, just use some common sense. I think your dad said that to you once or twice as well. One of the things your mom used to say to you was, if you are knocked down, get up—the idea you just never give up. You know you are right, never give up. That is JOE BIDEN.

People say to us in this Chamber I am sure every day that they wouldn't want our job. I wouldn't want your job. I know you heard that a lot of times. I think we are fortunate to have these jobs and responsibilities to serve. An even tougher job is to be married to one of us. Several people talked about Jill and your bride—for how many years? Almost 40 years. Is that possible? I first saw Jill Biden when I was a graduate student when I was just out of the Navy. I was a graduate student at the University of Delaware. I happened to see her on campus. I thought then, and I would say now, one of the two loveliest people I think I have ever seen. The other being Martha Carper. Not only is she lovely—as JOE knows—on the outside, really lovely on the inside. She is a person with deep caring, a person with incredible warmth and compassion. She is a terrific educator. She taught in our State in public schools. She taught in a hospital for folks with special needs. She taught at Delaware Technical Community College when it was selected as the best technical community college in the Nation during the time that she was on the faculty there.

She continued as Second Lady to continue to critique, but she started off in a place called Willow Grove, PA. There is a naval air station there where I used to fly P-3 aircraft—mis-

sion commander—out of there. I retired as a Navy captain in 1991. She was just down the road, growing up with her four sisters, Jill Jacobs and the Jacobs girls. I am sure they broke a lot of hearts.

In the case of Jill Biden, she helped to mend one. As much as anybody, Val and your family are hugely supportive and helped you get through a terribly tough time, but I think Jill perhaps made you whole. She got her undergrad, I believe, from the University of Delaware. She has two master's degrees—a Ph.D. focused on how to increase retention in community colleges around the country. She got those advanced degrees while working and raising a family, three kids that any of us would be proud to claim as our own.

Last week, I happened to be in a classroom in a school where the Vice President probably has been before, Mount Pleasant Elementary School, right down the road from the high school. I was in a classroom of a woman by the name of Wendy Turner, who is the Delaware Teacher of the Year. I had a chance to be with her and her grade school kids. We all gathered around together, and I sat on a stool. They gathered around me. There were about 20, 25 kids. I said: Why is she such a great teacher? Talking about Wendy Turner, Teacher of the Year.

They said: She loves kids. She loves us. They said: She knows her stuff. She really knows what she is talking to us about. She knows how to make clear why it is important, like when we leave school, and why it is important we learn these things. She believes everybody can learn—everybody can learn.

I thought about her, and I think about Jill Biden today. She is that kind of educator as well, continues to be that kind of educator as well.

A lot has been said today of the Cancer Moonshot that JOE has been leading with great skill and success here, especially today. Before there was Cancer Moonshot, there was JOE BIDEN's breast health initiative, which helped thousands of young women to learn about the importance of early detection for breast cancer.

Beau went into the military, Delaware National Guard, deployed to Iraq. Some people would send cookies and packages to their kids and maybe write emails or Skype with them. Jill decided she was going to take that experience and create something with Delaware Boots on the Ground to look out for families. Later on, as Second Lady, working with Michelle Obama, she created something they called Joining Forces, which focuses on education for military families—education, employment opportunities, access to wellness services.

She even managed to write a book. She wrote a book from a child's point of view of having a loved one in their family deployed overseas in the mili-

tary. As I said earlier, she helped raise three terrific kids.

Sometimes I like to quote Maya Angelou, who sang at the second inauguration of Barack Obama and JOE BIDEN, and she passed away not long ago. Maya Angelou said something that I think is appropriate for all of us today when she said: People may not remember what you said, people may not remember what you do, but they will remember how you made them feel. One of the threads through everything that has been said here today really reminds me of what Maya Angelou said because people may not remember what we said. They may not remember what we do, but there are not just thousands, not just tens of thousands, not just hundreds of thousands, but there are millions of people in this country who will remember how you and Jill made them feel—cared for, important, loved.

I know our Vice President likes music, and as a Boomer he later on liked a British group. I forget what their Fab Four was called. I think it might have been the Beatles, and maybe the best rock 'n' roll album ever, "Abbey Road," ends with these lyrics—the last part of Abbey Road, side two, was largely written by Paul McCartney. The last words on "Abbey Road" were these words: "The love you take is equal to the love you make."

You are going to take a lot of love with you, and Jill as well, far from here and for the rest of your lives. God bless you.

Mr. President—I have always wanted to call you Mr. President. With that, Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I would like to invite all of my colleagues to join us in a reception in honor of the Vice President. I remind any colleagues who wish to speak who did not have the opportunity to submit their comments for the RECORD, and I very much look forward to our jointly presenting a bound copy to the Vice President.

Thank you for your service, and we look forward to hearing from you at the reception.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, this is one of those weeks where, every 6 years or 4 years or 2 years, we pause and pay tribute to those who have been elected to the Senate and have served with us and will be retiring or were possibly defeated in the last election.

KELLY AYOTTE

The first Senator I wish to talk about is KELLY AYOTTE, from the great State of New Hampshire. KELLY's departure from the Senate is a great loss for all of us. I remember the day KELLY AYOTTE became a rising star, not only on the horizon of Republican politics but more importantly on the horizon of the Senate.

During her campaign 6 years ago, we would get phone calls asking: Have you heard about KELLY? Everybody knew who KELLY was. She was the attorney general of the State of New Hampshire, running for the U.S. Senate, and she was catching fire. She did catch fire and won in convincing fashion. She is a great lady with a great family and has done a phenomenal job.

Our U.S. Armed Forces are better today because of her efforts and hard work. We passed the agreement to go to the final passage on the authorization of the military appropriations today, and in large measure, KELLY AYOTTE was behind that. When we were debating our policy on interrogation and torture, KELLY AYOTTE was on top of that. Every significant decision we have made in the last 6 months, whether it was our military, policies, or process, she has been at the forefront of those decisions and has done a phenomenal job.

I wish her the very best in her career and future, and I thank her for the service she has given to our country.

As a son of the South, in Georgia we love New Hampshire anytime we can get one, and KELLY is the best. They have the best lobsters, the best clams, and the best attorney general and Senator in KELLY AYOTTE.

God bless you, KELLY, and best of luck to you.

BARBARA BOXER

At this point, I wish to pause and pay attention to BARBARA BOXER from California. A lot of my colleagues will say: Wait a minute. Why are you talking about BARBARA BOXER? You are a Republican. She is an icon in the Democratic Party. She is a liberal, and you are a conservative.

She is a great Senator, and I will tell you why. BARBARA and I served on the Ethics Committee for the last 9 years. When I was asked to go on the committee, she was the chairman. Later on, I succeeded her as the chairman. I am the chairman today, and she is still a member until she retires.

The Ethics Committee is the one assignment nobody wants to get. But

when you get it, you want to have somebody who will do what is right. Regardless of their party, you need somebody who will do what is right for the Member, the institution, and will carry out their responsibilities under the Constitution, which all of us are obligated to do in the Senate.

In the last 9 years, I worked with BARBARA BOXER on any number of complaints, allegations, and cases against Members of the Senate for unethical conduct or conduct unbecoming of a Senator. We have admonished some, cleared some, and recommended the expulsion of some, and some have resigned because of our investigation. I take no pride in anyone leaving the Senate because of the actions of the committee, but I take great pride in the fact that no one in 9 years has questioned the integrity of the Senate Ethics Committee, the job it has done, or the final decision it has made, and I give most of the credit for that to BARBARA BOXER. She is a liberal Democrat, and I am a conservative Republican, but when it comes to calling balls and strikes in terms of ethics, we call them down the middle. That is a credit to the institution, a credit to her, and a credit to the Ethics Committee.

At this moment, I want to pause and say to my retiring friend BARBARA BOXER: Thank you for your service to the country, thank you for what you have meant to the State of California, and thank you for what you have meant to the institution of the Senate and the commitment to ethical behavior by our Members. Thank you for making it a standard that you and I stood for. It was a pleasure for me to serve with you and be called one of the members of the odd couple. ISAKSON and BOXER, the two Senate chairs that love our country, are committed to ethics and will always try to do what is exactly right.

God bless you, BARBARA. Best of luck to you.

I yield the floor.

HURRICANE MATTHEW RECOVERY

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, about a month and a half ago, I came into this Chamber to talk about the damage that occurred in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. It was actually 2 months ago to the day that Hurricane Matthew hit eastern North Carolina, and I don't think that many people, unless you have been down there—even in the State, it is hard to really conceive of the extent of damage that Matthew caused, even for people in my part of the State, the middle part of the State, Charlotte, so I know it is difficult for those who may be in other States and did not see the local news coverage. Matthew took 28 lives. It displaced tens of thousands of people in the near term, and now thousands of people are still without homes. It damaged businesses and infrastructure. Miles of Interstate 95 were underwater.

Bridges have been washed out. We have a lot of damage we have to recover from.

We have one community that was washed away by Hurricane Floyd and was washed away again just about 17 years later with Hurricane Matthew, neighborhoods completely underwater. I was in Fayetteville. There was a Habitat for Humanity neighborhood that had 90 homes. Six of the houses are uninhabitable now. They were in areas that were not flood plains.

This was a 1,000-year rain event, a 500-year flood event. In other words, this is not likely to happen again in our lifetime, maybe not even in the pages' lifetimes.

It was an incredible event that is going to take a lot of time and effort to recover from and a lot of resources to rebuild. We are still trying to tally the human and economic toll. It is going to take probably decades to fully recover from this disaster, as we are seeing with Floyd, but we will recover because that is what North Carolinians do. That is what Americans do.

To begin the long rebuilding process, though, we need Federal assistance. That is why Gov. Pat McCrory formally requested a disaster assistance package and why we very quickly got a team together—my staff, who led the effort, working with Congressman PRICE, members of the delegation, Senator BURR—to try to figure out what we need to do to provide assistance to North Carolina so that they can begin their recovery. Over the past weeks, we have worked very closely with the Appropriations Committee.

I want to particularly thank the leadership of the Appropriations Committee. They have done an extraordinary job of working with us, advising us on what we need to do to make our requests clear, to make it more likely that we would be able to get some resources for North Carolina.

I specifically want to thank two of my staff who have worked very hard. They were literally working on the disaster plan after the rains fell and before the rivers started cresting. I want to thank Towers Mingledorff and Kayla Dolan from my office. They did extraordinary work. I am proud of the work they have done on our behalf and on behalf of North Carolinians. At the end of the day, we now have a continuing resolution as a result of their hard work and cooperation with the Appropriations Committee. We have a provision in the continuing resolution to allocate some \$300 million to North Carolina for immediate needs to assist in recovery efforts. This is a beginning. We will continue to work with the Federal agencies which that money will be directed to and then ultimately down to the State so that we can find out what additional needs are there.

I think it is extraordinary that 8 weeks to the day, we were able to work

together, get the support of the Members of this body, and get the support of the Appropriations Committee to at least begin the process. We have to help these North Carolinians get back to their normal lives. We have to put people back in their homes. We have to allow businesses to recover and bring people back in and let them go back to their daily lives and working. We are going to do it.

We also need to help the farmers. There are thousands of acres of land that were affected by the floods. In some cases, the flooding was so extensive that these farms—many of them were already ready for next year's crops. Some of them still have crops in the field, covered by sand and sediment. They will need to be cleared.

In other cases, there are washed-out bridges, and there are ditches and drainage areas that will all have to be cleared out so that we can get the ninth largest agriculture State in the Nation ready to produce crops next year.

I know we will do it. I know we will do it because we have the support of this body, and we are going to be able to start sending that money and that desperately needed support to North Carolina. But in the coming weeks and months, we will also spend time figuring out what more we can do. In the meantime, I want to let everybody in North Carolina know that if they need help, they should contact my office. They can reach me online at tillis.senate.gov. We will do everything we can to help them recover and to get back to their daily lives.

Again, I thank the Members of this body who have supported our efforts to provide this much-needed aid.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to introduce the Senate to a young man I met last Friday. His name is Luke Hwang. Luke was born in Korea. His parents brought him to the United States when he was in the fifth grade. They took him to New Jersey. Luckily he had taken some classes in Korea and was able to speak English. He grew up in Palisades Park.

He said:

It didn't take me long to adjust and assimilate because my elementary school offered bilingual classes. . . . This is the kind of America I have known and experienced—not just mundanely accepting diversity but going above and beyond to serve the unique needs of a diverse community.

This is an amazing young man. He started off with a passion for science. He was accepted into the math and science magnet school called Bergen County Academies, ranked by Newsweek as one of the top five public high schools in the United States. At Bergen County Academies, Luke won several

awards at regional science fairs. He volunteered as an emergency medical technician in the local ambulance corps as a high school kid.

Because of his academic achievements, Luke was accepted as a university scholar in the Macaulay Honors College at the City College of New York. In 2013 Luke graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's of science in chemistry. He received an award for the highest grade point average of any chemistry major in the school.

This brilliant young man is currently a Ph.D. candidate in chemistry at the University of Chicago. He works as a researcher at the university. In his spare time, he volunteers for the Chicago Korean American Resource and Cultural Center, an organization that tries to help poor people in that community.

Here is the kicker: Luke is undocumented. He was brought to the United States in the fifth grade and turned out to be one of the smartest chemistry students in his high school, in his college, and now in his graduate program.

When I met him last Friday—he is a very quiet fellow—I said: What do you want to do, Luke?

He said: I want to teach. That is what I would like to do, research and teaching.

Well, here is the problem: He is undocumented. He is not legally in the United States of America. His family brought him here. They did not file the papers, or if they could have, they did not file the papers. Whatever the case, this young man grew up here in the United States, took advantage of the best schools in New Jersey, and now is going to one of the best universities in the United States and is destined to do great things in his life. Maybe he will teach. Maybe he will start a company. Maybe he will just come up with some breakthrough achievement in chemistry that will change the lives of many people.

What are we going to do with Luke Hwang? Well, there are 744,000 people just like him. These are young people who are undocumented, whom President Obama gave a chance to stay here in the United States after they went through a criminal background check, after they paid their filing fee.

He said: You can stay and study in the United States of America. We won't deport you. You can travel to another country and come back without being arrested. You can work in this country if you wish. You have a work permit.

There are 744,000 of them under what is called the DACA Program. Well, the new President says he is going to eliminate that program and eliminate the only thing that is keeping Luke Hwang in the United States; that is, the DACA Program protection against deportation. We can't let that happen. Why would we do that to this young

man who was brought here as a fifth grader? Why would we walk away from his talents? Why would we say: Despite all that you have achieved with the highest grade point average in chemistry, America does not need you, Luke. Of course we need him and many more just like him.

I am trying to find a way to give people like him a chance to stay in the United States without being deported, to continue their education in medical school, in law school, in graduate programs, and in so many other different fields. Well, there was a breath of hope today. The President-elect was interviewed for Time magazine. Here is what he said about DREAMers and people like Luke:

We're going to work something out that's going to make people happy and proud. They got brought here at a very young age, they've worked here, they've gone to school here. Some were good students. Some have wonderful jobs. And they're in never-never land because they don't know what's going to happen.

That statement by the President-elect gives me some hope that I can give Luke some hope and others just like him.

We can straighten out this immigration system in this country, but let's not do it at the expense of these young people. Let's do our job, but in the meantime, let's us protect them. Let's let them continue their education. Let's let them achieve what they want to achieve for themselves and for America. We will be a better nation for it.

Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and I are working on a bill. Whether you are for immigration reform or against immigration reform, join us in the basic proposition that we need to protect young people like this while we debate this important issue. I think that is the right to do. It is certainly the right thing to do for this young man. Some day, he is going to do something very important in this world. I would like to have it happen in the United States.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

REGULATORY REFORM

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the need for regulatory reform and also on the work that we have been doing and are doing in the Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight, of which I have had the great privilege to chair in the 114th Congress.

I would be remiss if I did not also recognize our ranking member from Massachusetts, Senator MARKEY, for his contributions to our oversight efforts.

As chairman, one of our main goals has been to conduct a thorough and systemic review of the regulatory process, focusing on the impacts of these regulations on citizens, businesses, and—most importantly—solutions to these problems. We have sought to make certain that Federal regulations are promulgated in a transparent, open process with adequate public participation. Our subcommittee has held hearings conducting oversight on various aspects of the rulemaking process. This includes the adequacy of the science the agencies rely on when promulgating regulations, the increasing number of unfunded mandates agencies impose on State and local governments, the impact of lawsuits on the rulemaking process, and the impact these regulations have on small businesses, State and local governments, and landowners.

Since I began working in the Senate nearly 2 years ago, it has become increasingly clear that economic growth, American innovation, and job creation are being smothered by heavy-handed Federal regulations imposed by Washington bureaucrats who think they know what is best for American families, States, local governments, and businesses.

According to the American Action Forum, since 2009 this administration has finalized 2,973 regulations at a cost of \$862.7 billion dollars as of today, December 7.

Of these, 179 regulations have come from the Environmental Protection Agency, costing American taxpayers \$342.5 billion.

Since writing this speech—or beginning to write it, about 1 week ago—10 more regulations have been finalized, with 5 of those coming from the EPA. EPA regulations alone make up nearly half of the cost of all the regulations finalized in the last 7 years.

As chairman of the EPW Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight, it has become clear to me that EPA is one of the most egregious government agencies in imposing burdensome Federal regulations on citizens, States, and businesses. We have found a failure to review the most current and important science the Agency supposedly bases its regulations on.

We have found that the sue-and-settle process utilized by special interest groups leads to a rushed and reckless rulemaking process that does not follow the proper regulatory process or allow for adequate public participation from those these rules will impact the most.

Further, the EPA regularly fails to take into account how their regulations will impact States and shows lit-

tle regard for how the States will use their limited resources to comply with these regulations, thereby issuing rules that impose Federal unfunded mandates on States and local and tribal governments.

From 2009 to 2015, the EPA issued a total of 19 rules that contained costly, unfunded mandates on State governments.

The Office of Management and Budget's 2015 report to Congress estimated that Federal regulations and unfunded mandates cost States, cities, and the general public between \$57 billion and \$85 billion every single year. State and local governments are then required to enforce these misguided regulations that have been promulgated by Washington bureaucrats who lack any understanding of the real-world consequences of their regulations or the unique characteristics of the various States.

Alarming, we have also found that the EPA regularly fails to conduct a thorough and accurate economic analysis, which should provide an accurate representation of the cost their regulations will impose on taxpayers and businesses.

This leads to grossly inaccurate economic analysis of regulations that affect huge swathes of the U.S. economy and thousands of U.S. businesses and American jobs.

A 2014 report from the Government Accountability Office found that on multiple occasions and with major costly regulations, the EPA did not provide the public with an explanation of the economic information behind its decisionmaking, despite its obligations to do so.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently issued the *Michigan v. EPA* decision, finding that the EPA unreasonably failed to consider costs when deciding to regulate mercury emissions from powerplants. This impacts the ability of our businesses to conduct business on a daily basis, to compete in a competitive global marketplace, and to employ Americans in steady, well-paying jobs. Notably, small businesses make up 99.7 percent of U.S. employer firms.

Federal agencies are required by law to examine the impact of their regulations and what it will have on small businesses. Throughout our oversight process, we found that the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy submitted comments to the EPA expressing concerns over a number of recent rulemakings, such as the waters of the United States rule and the EPA's greenhouse gas regulations.

However, the EPA moved forward with these regulations with little to no regard for their impact on U.S. small businesses. They are the backbone of the U.S. economy.

As a result, rather than creating jobs and focusing on growing their business,

U.S. small businesses are forced to use limited resources to comply with a myriad of costly and burdensome regulations.

This year alone, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals imposed a nationwide injunction on the waters of the United States rule, and the Supreme Court imposed a nationwide stay on the Clean Power Plan. While I applaud these decisions, we should not be forced to rely on the courts to prevent such regulations from taking effect.

I am also deeply troubled by the reports that the EPA and the Army Corps are illegally continuing to implement the Waters of the United States rule despite the court's nationwide stay.

During our subcommittee field hearings in Rapid City, SD, earlier this year, we heard from several witnesses about the difficulty and confusion landowners are facing with regard to the waters of the United States. I am concerned that, if this continues, it may get to the point where the property that is the subject of these burdensome regulations loses its value.

Make no mistake. I understand that rules and regulations have a place in society. We all want clean air, clean water, and safe chemicals, but there is a better way to achieve this without imposing burdensome regulations. These flaws in the EPA's rulemaking process have prevented agencies from making well-informed decisions. Even more troubling, the public, State and local governments, and American businesses are prevented from understanding the need, basis for, and the real impact of regulations.

This regulatory quagmire did not happen overnight. It comes from decades of increased Federal bureaucracy, out-of-control spending, and Federal agencies not being held accountable for their actions. Similarly, we will not come to a solution overnight. It will take a serious bipartisan effort to move the ball forward to address this problem. Throughout this Congress, the goal of our subcommittee has been to unify and lead an effort to advance meaningful regulatory reform in Congress.

We must make certain the regulatory process reflects transparency and sound science and is based on a realistic economic foundation and meaningful public participation that considers the multitude of facets of the U.S. economy.

With an ally in the White House next year who has committed to reducing burdensome regulations, I plan to continue this effort throughout the next Congress and beyond. The success of the U.S. economy and the creation of American jobs depends on Congress making a concerted effort to take back their authority and rein in the rulemaking process.

I thank you, and I yield the floor.

Mr. INHOFE. Will the Senator yield?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, if the Senator from South Dakota would rescind his request to yield the floor, I would like to share one thought.

First of all, I am honored to chair the committee of which you are a subcommittee chairman, and what a Godsend the Senator from South Dakota has been, I have to say to my friend. I was concerned, with this last election coming along, with what might be happening. I think people are aware of what has happened to our military. They are aware of what is happening with the debt going all the way up from \$10.6 trillion to \$20 trillion, the largest increase of all the Presidents, from George Washington, Bush 1, and Bush 2.

My concern was that people wouldn't realize what an impairment the overregulation has been to our businesses in how we are no longer competitive. I think the Senator really struck the note here that it had a lot to do with the awareness of the public.

The Senator knows how many hearings we had on the Clean Power Plan in our committee, and the Senator's subcommittee. We actually had 10 hearings and we had three oversight reports.

I have to say the liberals really like overregulation. Does the Senator know why? This is the question I want to ask the Senator because, generally, if you are of a liberal philosophy, you want to have as much control centered here in Washington, DC. However, when you get home and they get complaints about overregulation, what this is costing them, they then say: Well, that is not the case now because I had nothing to do with it. That was the regulation.

That is what we are in the midst of right now.

I have a friend who is the head of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau who came to me and he said: Have you seen this document that we have? This is true in South Dakota as well as Oklahoma, that the major problem with the farmers in America today is not anything that is found in the agriculture bill, it is overregulation, primarily by the EPA. The Senator from South Dakota struck a nerve when he spoke about the waters bill, the Waters of the United States. My State is an arid State, but they know full well if the Federal Government can take away from States that jurisdiction of regulating water, what will happen in my State of Oklahoma?

So I would ask my friend—I think a lot of what happened on November 8 has to do with overregulation, and I think we have devoted a lot of time to that. I would suspect the same thing is true in South Dakota.

Mr. ROUNDS. I thank the Senator for the question. The answer is, yes, we

have spent a lot of time not only because it is critically a very important item to address—because in the United States today we spend over \$1.9 trillion a year responding to the Federal regulatory morass that we have. That is one-half of a trillion dollars more than what we pay in personal income taxes on April 15.

For people who are producers and have to respond not only in terms of the cost of the regulations but in terms of requesting from a Federal agency the ability simply to mow the ditches, seems to me to be overreach that most people with common sense and the rest of America simply don't think is necessary.

Mr. INHOFE. And, too, I would say the wisdom of the statements brought out that if we stop and think about it, over half of the States had a lawsuit against the Clean Power Plan. That is 29 States. Of course, I am sure that had a lot to do with the U.S. Supreme Court putting a stay on this, and now of course we will have a different administration, but I guess maybe we missed the boat on that one.

Overregulation has been the problem. People have not been as aware of that as they are of other problems. I think that had a lot to do with what happened on November 8 and what is going to happen in the future, particularly in your subcommittee and my committee.

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I appreciate those comments, and I appreciate the facts that the Senator is bringing out here. This is something that cannot be done overnight; it has to be done in a businesslike manner.

The real challenge is to listen to the individuals who are impacted and to make reasonable regulations because we all want to make sure we have a clean America but also an America that can get back to business again employing people, putting them back to work. Then we can begin building the economy so we can afford to actually provide for the next generation so they don't have the problems we see right now with family income down over 6 percent in just the last 9 years.

So this is a part of it. It is a significant part not just in the cost but in the impact on our economy as well.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business, and I ask unanimous consent that our distinguished colleague from Colorado, Senator BENNET, follow my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAMILY FIRST LEGISLATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, right now, this evening, hundreds of thousands of vulnerable youngsters across

America are living in foster care, separated from family and growing up in a constant struggle instead of in a loving home. For years, this body has worked on a bipartisan basis to come up with an alternative—we call it the Family First legislation—in order to give new hope to our youngsters.

I am particularly grateful to Senator BENNET because he and I have teamed up on this with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, including Chairman HATCH, KEVIN BRADY—the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee—and Congressman BUCHANAN. We have had a bipartisan team working for this. Now, in the waning moments of this Congress, after the legislation passed the House unanimously, after there were a number of hearings in the Finance Committee, and after objections were raised when we used the process in the Senate called the hotline to see if Senators had problems with this legislation and three indicated they had concerns, and we resolved all of them—yet it looks like this Senate is going to go home and end up continuing a policy that causes so much pain to vulnerable children and their families.

What our bipartisan bill would do is to say that for the first time, foster care dollars could be used to keep families together instead of ripping them apart. For example, if in a family a parent has bumped up against substance abuse challenges or mental health services and a grandparent or an uncle would like to help out, that is exactly what could be done under our proposal.

Now, over Thanksgiving—and I truncated the description of what happened into just a couple of sentences—over Thanksgiving, the Family First Act was included in the 21st Century Cures package. The legislation passed earlier today. And all of us—Senator BENNET, Chairman BRADY—all of us said together that it sure looks like we are on our way.

After having months to come forward to work out concerns—and I will say to the distinguished Presiding Officer who has been kind enough to talk to me about this, we basically said that if a State is having problems meeting these kinds of opportunities—perhaps there aren't enough families—well, we just give them more time. In effect, we would say: OK. You have made a good-faith effort, we will give you a bit more time. But still, at the last moment, there was opposition that swooped in—opposition that really hadn't registered any specific concerns during those years and months in which we worked on this legislation. At the eleventh hour, the Family First Act was stripped out of the Cures package. That is why I voted no.

By dropping Families First, the Senate basically is sending a message today to the most vulnerable, neglected children in America that it is

just fine with us if they just wait a little bit longer. They probably are saying: Well, where else do we look for help? By the way, there aren't a lot of places because Chairman BRADY, Chairman BUCHANAN, Congressman LEVIN, the other part of the Capitol, did a terrific job coming together. So when those families who have been neglected go looking for somebody else to help, when the House has done its job and the administration is with you, there is only the U.S. Senate. I am curious whether anybody is going to come here tonight and say they are not on the side of the neglected youngsters and families whom Senator BENNET and I want to stand up for.

So I am going to just make a couple of additional comments and then turn this over to Senator BENNET.

The Family First Act reaches out to the families who are struggling with addiction to opioids or other substances, it helps with programs that fight child abuse and neglect, and it also makes it a special priority to set basic standards for foster care facilities and group homes. I want to emphasize that point just for a moment. Some troubled or abused youngsters have been through such severe trauma that they need the kind of help you can only get in a temporary, high-quality treatment facility. They are kids who are struggling with mental illnesses and behavioral problems, young people suffering from addiction, victims of sex trafficking. The support they need is unique and they need access to reliable care in a safe place.

But these kinds of placements shouldn't be a destination; they should really be an intervention. And whenever we can, we need to make it possible for the kids to have the opportunity to reunite with kin or join a foster or adoptive family.

For the first time, our bill laid down a roadmap so youngsters don't have to face the prospect of growing up in the kinds of struggling circumstances I have described. There would be standards guided by the States and laid out to protect the kids. They would raise the bar for group homes and make sure the kids aren't sent away and forgotten. In effect, the bill turns the system on its head. I think I shared that thought with the distinguished Presiding Officer. Instead of paying a dollar for families to be split up, the bill says let's find a way to use that dollar to help the families stay together. Let's see if the dollar can keep a youngster safe at home or with kin, where he or she is most likely to be healthy and happy and succeed in school.

The bill has 28 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate.

I also want to thank Chairman GRASSLEY because he has been in our corner, along with Senator BENNET and Chairman HATCH, month after month

after month. I hope we can work this out overnight so Families First can pass; if not tonight, in the morning. It is the right policy for vulnerable kids. It is the right policy for families, the right policy for taxpayers. What we are doing today isn't helping vulnerable kids and families the way it ought to.

Five hundred organizations, led by the pediatricians, nurse practitioners, the Catholic bishops, and the Children's Defense Fund, all agree with our basic premise: try to find ways to keep families together and only look for something else where you have those extraordinary circumstances where you need another kind of care. The status quo is not working, and it seems to me we have a choice. We have a choice tonight and in the morning, with the 114th Congress wrapping up, closing the books, packing up, heading home for the holiday season—let's make sure before that wrap-up is finished that we haven't forgotten vulnerable children and families.

With that, I yield the floor.

I note by virtue of unanimous consent that Senator BENNET has recognition. He has been an invaluable colleague, a terrific member of the Finance Committee, and I appreciate his leadership.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I will be brief.

I want to thank Mr. WYDEN, the Senator from Oregon and the ranking member of the Finance Committee, for his leadership on this bill. I thank, as he did, Senator HATCH for his leadership on this bill and Senator GRASSLEY for his leadership on this bill.

As the Senator from Oregon indicated, this bill passed unanimously in the House of Representatives. This bill passed with 500 groups supporting the bill from every geographic area in the United States. There are groups from Oregon. There are groups from Colorado. There are groups from the Presiding Officer's State that have weighed in on this and said we should have this legislation passed. We have had testimony in the Finance Committee from people who were foster children who came to the Congress to testify about what had gone wrong in their lives as a result of the system we have in place today, who still made the time to come here to advocate on behalf of children all over the country who are situated in the same way they once were.

Now, because of a disagreement in the Senate, this bipartisan bill that passed the House unanimously, that has almost 30 cosponsors in the U.S. Senate, a bill that was supported universally by the testimony we had in the Finance Committee, somehow can't get done before we leave for the holidays. That would be a terrible shame, a terrible stain on this Senate.

Tonight there are 5,000 children in Colorado who are in foster care. There are over 650,000 children in the United States of America. What we have heard from them, what we have heard from their advocates, what we have heard from people who serve them—Republicans and Democrats alike—is that the institutional settings that too many of them are consigned to because of the way the law is written today is not the best thing for foster children; that families who can support them and who can nurture them, when they get the benefit of some help, are a far better place for foster children to be than these institutions. When it comes to drug addiction, when it comes to graduation rates from high school, when it comes to attending college—all of these things are affected by the way the current law exists.

The Presiding Officer may know that half of the cases of foster children in the United States are related, one way or another, to the scourge of opium addiction that is happening in the United States. This bill allows us to recognize that. It allows the people who serve the children and the families best to be able to intervene in a way that can keep the families together longer. What we know from the testimony in the hearings is that is the best thing for foster kids, it is the best thing for our States, and it is the best thing for the country.

So I join my colleague from Oregon in saying we should not go home with this unresolved. We should not go home, with the kind of momentum that exists for this bill inside the Congress and, much more important than that, outside the Congress, without having addressed this vulnerable population of people who live in the United States.

It is my fervent hope that we in the Senate will find a way to come to our senses and do our job, just as the people who came here to testify did their job, expecting that the U.S. Congress would respond to their description of their life experience, and what went wrong in a foster care setting has been established by the U.S. Congress. It is up to us to fix it, and that is what we can do tonight or tomorrow morning, I hope, at the very latest.

With that, Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Oregon for his leadership on this bill. I thank, once again, the thoughtful chairman of the Finance Committee, ORRIN HATCH from Utah, for his leadership on this bill, and I hope over the next 12 or 24 hours we find a way to get this through the Senate.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PEARL HARBOR DAY AND FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, on this Pearl Harbor Day, we should learn the lessons of the past and seize new opportunities for America and Asia and beyond. The great lesson of Pearl Harbor—and more broadly World War II—was America's commitment to utterly defeat our enemies by whatever means necessary and then, when victory was secure, to bring them back into the community of civilized nations.

It was an extraordinary achievement. To think that if, on December 7, 1941, I were to tell you that Japan would be, on December 7, 2016, a staunchly democratic ally, a vital security and economic partner to the United States, you would have said that I was barking mad.

Here we are, three-quarters of a century later, and the day of infamy has become a day of remembrance, reflection, and above all gratitude—gratitude for that greatest of generations who answered the call to service after Pearl Harbor, who stood staunchly with our allies, looked the evil of the axis squarely in the eyes, and saved the free world. They are leaving us now, making it all the more important that we assure each and every one of them of our boundless thanks while we still can. Indeed, I would encourage each and every one of us to thank every veteran we know, every veteran we encounter, every man and woman serving this country who risks their lives to keep us safe.

We can also find much to be thankful for today as what had seemed unthinkable has come to pass. A nation that brutally attacked us 75 years ago today can now be a great and good friend. It is a tribute to both the Japanese and the American people that we have been able to not ignore or whitewash the past but to learn from it and come to the understanding that we are so much stronger as allies than as adversaries.

As a Texan, I am personally appreciative of the fruits of this alliance. We host a range of Japanese companies who have invested in our State, with Toyota, for example, building its new North American headquarters in Plano this year and creating some 4,000 new jobs, all in Texas. Also this year, the Lockheed Martin plant in Fort Worth has started to produce the F-35s that Japan is purchasing to bolster its defenses against increasing regional aggression from China and North Korea.

So against all odds, the attack on Pearl Harbor has been transformed, and as we face great challenges around the world, and particularly in Asia, we can be grateful today to have our Japanese friends standing by our side, which is yet another lesson from the

post-World War II era to be on the lookout not just for challenges and dangers but for unexpected opportunities. We might be forgiven as we contend with hostile nations with nuclear capability or intent—nations such as North Korea or Iran—to see a glass half empty and become consumed with fears of another Pearl Harbor-like attack potentially so much more catastrophic and deadly than the one in 1941.

That would be a mistake. As with some of the fortitude our parents and grandparents showed, we can now count new allies as our partners, not just Japan but also—and equally stunningly—Germany. The list does not end there. We have Israel, which had yet to be born in 1941, not to mention the eastern and central European countries that languished so long under Soviet domination but now are helping build enduring democracies, many of which have joined NATO.

That is simply amazing. If I had told you even 30 years ago that there would be a Czech Republic or a Republic of Poland that would be key NATO allies, I would have again been met with well-founded skepticism. But they are, and as we look forward to a new American administration, it is my hope that we can get off on a much better foot than the last one did in the region when they canceled the missile defense installations intended for those countries, squandering an opportunity to link them more closely to us.

I have to say I am encouraged in this department by the activities of the President-elect, particularly in terms of the congratulatory phone call he received last week from the President of the Republic of China, Tsai Ing-wen. The liberal foreign policy elites were, of course, shocked and appalled. How, they wonder, could the President-elect have committed such an appalling gaff? Wasn't he aware we had degraded our relationship with Taiwan for more than 35 years and no longer recognized this friendly, prosperous, and democratic country as a nation state? Compounding their consternation was the concern that the People's Republic of China might not like it. Quelle horreur. The Chinese might not like it.

Now, to be fair, given the flaming train wreck that is the Obama foreign policy writ large, our relationship with the PRC is, by comparison, a bright spot. All they have done is throw Mr. Obama's successor as Nobel Peace laureate, Liu Xiaobo, into prison, constructed 3,000 acres of weaponized artificial islands in the middle of one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, and utterly failed to contain North Korea, while dismantling the last vestiges of freedom in Hong Kong. Even so, I don't think our President-elect needs to clear his phone calls with Beijing. The phone call between President Tsai and the new American President was, in fact, an acknowledgement of a simple

truth: that Taiwan has become an important friend to the United States, even after Jimmy Carter downgraded them in 1979 in acknowledgement of the "One China" policy the elites are so eager to perpetuate.

That is another thing. Just because a policy is old doesn't make it sacrosanct. I don't think anyone here can honestly say our relations with the PRC is so fantastic that we shouldn't do anything to rock the boat. I don't think the Carter-era foreign policy was such a success that we should unquestionably continue it.

I hope the President-elect continues to make clear that while he understands the importance of China and looks forward to a positive relationship with Beijing, he is not going to ignore our friends in the region.

The call between President Tsai and the President-elect reminded me of another phone call which took place in September of 2013. At the end of that year's United Nations General Assembly in New York, while driving to the airport, the new President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hasan Ruhani, took out his cell phone and called President Obama. The Obama administration was in a tizzy of excitement over Mr. Ruhani's election, as they believed him to be a "moderate" who would be a good-faith partner in their planned and hoped-for negotiations over Iran's nuclear program. Even at this early day, the signs were not promising. Despite Mr. Obama's offers, President Ruhani had refused to have a face-to-face meeting at the United Nations, opting for a call instead. There were no preconditions placed on this first direct exchange between an Iranian and American leader since 1979, such as, say, demanding that the Iranians release their American hostages and acknowledging Israel's right to exist—steps that would have indicated a fundamental shift in Iran's virulent hostility to the United States and our allies and suggested we were truly on a new path.

We all know what has happened over the last 3 years as the Obama administration made concession after concession to get a deal—any deal—with Tehran. Even as Iranian belligerence and hostility had grown, as they have tested ballistic missiles, violated the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, detained our citizens, and repeatedly threatened to wipe Israel off the map, Mr. Obama has over and over again proffered his hand in friendship, even sending them \$1.7 billion in cash as a sweetener, all of which may well result, as I said earlier, in a terrible threat to the United States that could dwarf Pearl Harbor.

In closing, I want to leave you with a message of hope. Our friendship with Japan, as well as Germany, Israel, the Czech Republic, and Poland, makes me hopeful. There is a discrete reason

these nations are now aligned allies: the persistence and resolve of American leadership—leadership to discern moral from immoral, freedom from tyranny, right from wrong, life from death, and then to fight for the right. Such leadership has been sorely lacking in the past 8 years. Yet the past month affords ample reason for hope.

Quite frankly, I think talking to President Tsai and not to President Ruhani was a material improvement for the national security interests of the United States, and it demonstrates renewed resolve to once more assume the mantle of leadership. That is enough to make all of us hopeful.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 5456

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in a moment, I am going to ask unanimous consent to pass the bipartisan Family First Act, to help the hundreds of thousands of vulnerable children and their parents stay together and make the biggest improvement in child welfare policy in decades and decades in America.

Right now, Federal policy says taxpayer money can be used to split families apart and uproot the family home. With Families First, our bipartisan bill, terrific work has been done by so many Members on both sides of the aisle. Senator BENNET was here and gave an eloquent address about how important this is. With Chairman HATCH, Chairman GRASSLEY, and Chairman BRADY, this has been a bipartisan effort for months for a number of Members for close to 3 years.

With our reform, the Family First bill, families will finally see that they will get some assistance to stay together and stay together when it is safe to do so. If a parent can get a leg up with some help if they face a drug addiction or a mental health problem, everybody wins because the family stays together.

A grandparent can step in. One of the things I am proudest of is that I wrote the kinship care law as part of welfare reform when I was a new Member of this body. So we know that there are hundreds of thousands of grandparents out there who could step in in those situations, or an uncle, and they could get a little bit of help raising a youngster, again, keeping the family together.

Sometimes foster care is lifesaving. I think all of us have said that from the beginning. But it should not be the only option. That is what kids who

have been in the foster care system came to the Senate this week to tell us. It is our job as policymakers to protect the most vulnerable. Those kids don't have a powerful lobby. They don't have deep pockets.

It just seems to me, as we wrap up this session and everyone here goes back to their families and their holidays, that it is not in good conscience to turn our backs on the foster kids and allow this important bipartisan legislation to wither and to die in the last days of the 114th Congress.

So in a moment I will make this unanimous consent request. I ask that our colleagues end this standing in the way of providing a new measure of hope for vulnerable kids and their families and that we help lift the weight of this broken status quo—this broken status quo that falls heaviest on the hundreds of thousands of foster kids living in a quiet struggle every single day.

So at this time, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 527, H.R. 5456; that the Wyden substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no interviewing action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I was wondering if I could direct a question through the Chair to the Senator from West Virginia. I was curious as to whether or not the good Senator, my friend and colleague, intends to object to this measure.

Mr. MANCHIN. To this measure? No, sir.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I actually think Senator WYDEN has done some good work on this measure. I hope that we can get to a point where we can bridge the gap and address some concerns that some of the Members have in States that are concerned with unintended consequences. But at this time, and for reasons unrelated to this measure but to our inability to get other unanimous consents through, I am going to have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I will be very brief. As I have indicated to our colleague from North Carolina—and he is new to the Senate—he really brings a refreshing openness to these debates. I know this was a new topic for him. He has not had a chance to hear a lot about it over the last few years. He was concerned about what this would mean to group facilities and group homes in his State.

I said: Look, if there is a problem in North Carolina in terms of trying to

meet these measures, we said we will give States more time. We will give them more flexibility. I would just like to point out that there seems to be enormous support across North Carolina with respect to this bill because in North Carolina they seem to be saying that they understand that what this legislation is all about—what Family First is all about—is just getting high-quality care for these youngsters.

All of the providers would be eligible. It does not speak to the type of provider. It is all the providers. So I am just going to wrap up by a few quotes that came into the Finance Committee over the course of this legislation. From the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services, which, as I understand, is the association of entities that administer child welfare programs in the State of North Carolina supports the legislation, we have a letter that reads: “We go on record as supporting the act and respectfully request your support in passing this important legislation.”

The North Carolina Association of Social Workers supports the bill. They wrote: “The legislation would strengthen families so that more children could remain safely with their parents and family caregivers and avoid the need for foster care.” For the overwhelming majority of children, this North Carolina group says: This legislation could be a lifesaver.

The North Carolina Pediatric Society writes:

The bill is a pivotal opportunity for a major Federal policy shift away from placing children in out-of-home care and toward keeping families together. Congregate care remains one of the options on the continuum, and the bill doesn't impose time limits or restrictions on the use of these settings for children who need them. But the focus is on keeping families together. The only changes this bill makes for congregate care providers is raising the standards for quality so that all children-needs settings benefit from the therapeutic value of the best providers, of which we have several in North Carolina.

So the Children's Home Society of North Carolina, Children's Hope Alliance, the Exchange Family Center, Family Preservation Community Services, and FIRST North Carolina—a number of groups, all based there and serving in North Carolina citizens—have come out for this.

So I recognize that there has been an objection. It is my intention to keep working through the night, through the early part of tomorrow. I appreciate that this Senator from North Carolina has kept an open mind on this. He has indicated in our conversations that he understands that there is a lot of good in this bill, and for the reasons he has stated, he cannot support it tonight and I gather reasons unrelated to the bill.

I look forward to working with him. He has come to the Senate fairly recently, but I have found him open and

accessible. That is all you can ask of a colleague.

With that I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the Senator from Oregon. I may be new to the Senate, but I am not new to North Carolina. I was speaker of the house for 4 years, and I worked with a lot of the agencies that the Senator from Oregon referenced. But the fact of the matter is that the first time I heard that these agencies supported the bill was about 90 seconds ago.

This has not been fully vetted in the Senate. It sounds like it has a lot of merit, but even having said that, this is not why I am objecting to the bill. I am objecting at this time, in large part, because of a number of other objections we are receiving that are not allowing things that would otherwise move through unanimous consent.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2912

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, on that note, I ask unanimous consent that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2912, the Trickett Wendler Right to Try Act of 2016, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I will continue to object to any unanimous consent on legislation until the CR includes a permanent long-term solution for our miners' health care, as included in the Miners Protection Act, S. 3470.

So this is something that we have been talking about and working on for 2 years. That is all we have asked: Fulfill our promises as those representative of people who have given everything. So I will have to object for these reasons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I appreciate that, but the reason I directed the question about the objection to the motion of the Senator from Oregon is that there seems to be maybe selective application of a strategy that the Senator from West Virginia is trying to do to get a measure passed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3084

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, if I may move on. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 695, S. 3084, the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn, the Gardner

substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, we have heard a lot of talk during the election, since the election about communities like my hometown of Mansfield, OH, not far from where the Presiding Officer grew up—communities that have been ignored by their representatives in Washington.

A lot of politicians responded during the election, since the election. They pledged to do better. This is our chance to actually show that we mean it—with the work that Senator MANCHIN has done, and Senator CASEY, Senator WARNER, Senator PORTMAN in my State, a Republican, and Senator DONNELLY of Indiana—simply to take care of these mine workers.

Senator MANCHIN has been on this floor, as I have—but he has been on this floor even more times—talking about taking care of those mine workers, living up to the promise that Harry Truman made, extending their health insurance.

Instead, the only offer we have had from the majority leader, the one person—Senator TILLIS is not standing in the way. Senator SULLIVAN is not standing in the way. It is one Senator—the majority leader. For whatever reason he does not like the United Mine Workers union. I don't really care about what he thinks about the union. I support the union.

But I care about these workers. What they proposed is a 4-month extension, which means these workers, these widows, these retired workers got a notice back in the last couple of weeks saying they were going to lose their health care. We do 4 months, and they will get another notice—Senator MANCHIN, right?—in January.

We are going to make these retired mine workers, these widows who saw their husbands die from an accident in a mine or died from black lung disease or died from heart diseases every 3 months get another notice and then say: Well, we will extend it for 4 months. No, we have to make sure that we provide them—this is not giving them—the health insurance they have earned.

It is the right thing to do. It is the moral thing to do. For one Senator, who happens to be from Kentucky, of all places, who happens to also be the majority leader, to stand in the way—Senator WYDEN is on my committee and Senator HATCH, Senator PORTMAN, Senator TOOMEY.

We passed 18-to-8 a bipartisan bill to move forward on this and do this right. Senator MCCONNELL asked to go

through regular order. We have to do this right. Yet we are going to go home for Christmas. We are going to go home for the holidays. Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, we are going home for the holidays.

We are going to have fun with our families. These widows, these retired miners, well, it is not so much fun with their families because they don't know when their health insurance is going to run out.

Mr. President, we need to do this. We need to do it right. We need to do it today or tomorrow. We have no business going home before that. For these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the Senator from Ohio. I believe, if I have the facts correct, that it was the majority leader who pushed for the patch into the CR.

I am not quite sure I agree with some of the specifics that were put forth by the distinguished Senator from Ohio, but I would like to move on.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2763

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 654, S. 2763, the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016, with a committee-reported substitute amendment. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. DONNELLY. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, I rise today to discuss a crisis facing 16,000 retired coal miners and widows across the country. We made promises. Roughly 1,000 of these people are in my State. These retirees will lose their health insurance at the end of this year unless Congress acts.

My colleagues, Senators MANCHIN, BROWN, CASEY, and WARNER have spoken on this topic, and together, along with a larger bipartisan group, we pushed for months for the passage of the Miners Protection Act to guarantee pension and health benefits to hundreds of thousands of retirees.

We have a responsibility to enact this legislation to ensure that the Federal Government makes good on its promise—its promise to the miners. It wasn't a suggestion. It was a promise to these people who risked their lives to help our country meet our energy needs. In fact, many of us stood here together in June calling for action before it was too late.

Well, now it is almost too late. While Congress is in a rush to get out of

town, those 16,000 retirees are desperate for help. Their health needs are not dependent on our schedule. Their desire to be able to stay alive shouldn't be subject to our desire to leave town. They are praying this legislation is enacted so the health insurance is still there next month when they still need it.

It is inexcusable. It is beyond disappointing to learn that the bill we are set to consider to keep the Federal Government running includes only a scaled-down provision for our miners. Rather than guarantee the promised benefits, leadership chose only to include the bare minimum of a 4-month extension of health coverage through April without addressing the pension concerns.

I have seen leadership. That is not it. I will repeat once again: 16,000 mining retirees, 1,000 from Indiana, will lose their health coverage in 3 weeks unless Congress acts. For the health and the financial security of thousands of families, immediate attention is required. Kicking the can down the road for 4 months has never been a solution. Enrollment periods for other health plans end this week and next. These retirees are watching us closely and are already in the process of making painful and costly decisions.

This is about life and death for thousands of retirees across the country right now. They are praying that we will stand up and keep our word. We made a promise. The United States made a promise to our citizens, to our coal miners. The provision in the spending bill does not come close to meeting that promise that was made.

I urge the Senate to act immediately to consider a stronger measure that addresses this crisis facing thousands of retirees in my State and in so many other States across the country. These are not just numbers. These are our citizens. These are the people we represent. These are the people who dug the coal to keep the lights on in this building. Their ancestors dug the coal that helped win the war in World War II. We made a promise, and here we stand making a decision whether it will be kept or whether it will not.

This is about who we are as a country and who we are as Senators. Do we honor the word of the people before us?

Do we honor the coal miners with black lung, with broken kneecaps, with broken shoulders, with widows who are wondering if they are going to be able to make it alone?

I will continue to object to any unanimous consent request or legislation until the CR includes a permanent long-term solution for our miners' health care as included in the Miners Protection Act, S. 3470. Therefore, Mr. President, for these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, let me direct a question through the Chair to the Senator from Indiana.

I don't believe the Senator was in at the time that the Senator from Oregon offered his motion. Would the Senator have objected to that motion—Senator WYDEN's motion?

Mr. DONNELLY. I was not here to listen to what he said. I was elsewhere. So I cannot answer the question because I didn't hear what the Senator had to say.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3364

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3364, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to accept the donation of facilities and related improvements for use by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would like to explain why we are here and what is really happening, so people have a good grasp of things.

First of all, the Miners Protection Act—this protection act basically goes back to a commitment, a promise, and a transaction that we have done in Congress in 1946, under President Harry Truman. It is the Krug act. Basically, it was said that from that day forward, we are basically taking certain amounts of money from all the coal that is mined. This is not public funds. We are not asking for public funds. If we had done what we were supposed to do, we would have taken that money and put that money in the funds for the miners' protection of their health and their pension. They had nothing before that. They are the ones who basically gave us the energy that we had to win two world wars and become the super power of the West. All they asked for was that. It wasn't guaranteed by taxpayers going to pay it. It was going to come from the coal that was mined.

Now this same Congress comes back 20, 30 years later, and we changed the bankruptcy laws to allow companies now to declare bankruptcy and to shed their legacy costs. They don't have to pay it no more. So we are caught. Every promise we made now is this: Oh, I am sorry; we can't pay you.

So we did step in. We stepped in a couple of times—in 1993, in 2006. Congress has basically a history with this piece of legislation. So we are working now to shore it up.

AML means abandoned mine lands. That is money that goes from every

kind of coal into a reclamation fund that takes care of any reclamation that is needed from the mining process. As you are putting the mines back or putting the environment back and taking the environment and putting the land back, that money would be used for that. If there was not much reclamation or if that money accumulated, then we have a surplus. We have only asked for the surplus.

So we were all on the same page, and we have been negotiating back and forth. This is 2 years ago and up until present. We have been negotiating back and forth, up to 2 weeks ago. Two weeks ago we were told, and I have had good, honest, upfront negotiations with the majority leader. He said: I just don't think the pension is going to fly this year. I said: I understand it. I am still going to work my tail off for this thing.

I had to tell all the widows and all the people whom we represent—16,300 who were notified in October. They have to give a 90-day notification that you are going to lose your health care benefits. They gave that notification in October for December 31. That happened. I had to tell them now that we are not going to get the pension this year. We are doing everything we can, but I am almost positive we are going to get the health care because I was told we were going to get the health care. Not until 2 days ago did I have any inkling that now, all of a sudden—I am not blaming my colleagues here—the House said: Oh, I am sorry. We are only going to do an extension for the CR—the same extension for the health care.

I know that my colleagues would agree with this. Let's say it was your aunt or your grandmother or a retired person basically being paid those benefits. They were told in October. Now we are supposed to accept this CR coming over with this language that says: Ok, now let's tell Mrs. Smith again. We are basically going to say: OK, we gave you a 4-month extension, but we are going to notify you again in January that you are going to lose it again in April. They don't even have time to work with the deductibles to get any insurance—nothing.

Let me tell you how they were going to pay for it. This is what came from the House—not my colleagues here but from the House. The House says: OK, we are going to take \$47 million from the VEVA transfers. VEVA was money that was set aside for other bankruptcies. These were bankruptcies that were basically going to give people who were retired under those bankruptcies at least health care coverage until June. Those same people are going to lose theirs because it is going to take their money and they are going to lose theirs also. It is almost incomprehensible that they would give us something like this and think it is something we could do.

We got a bipartisan agreement here on this side, and we can't get just a consideration from our colleagues over in the House. So I just can't explain it. I can't go home and explain this. We are walking out of here, trying to get out this weekend because everybody wants to go home. That is wonderful. The only thing we have this time certain is December 31. They know they are going to lose everything—their health care benefits. It is in doubt that they will have their pensions taken care of, and we won't stay here because it is too much of an inconvenience. That is why we are prepared. We are going to stay. If they want to stay through Christmas, fine—through the New Year, fine. I think that they think: I know everybody wants to go home; so I am sure everybody will fold their hands and leave.

I want to thank all of you and all of my colleagues for jumping up here because you all have been helping us. They just have to get the message that we are sincere about helping these people.

Everybody is standing for the working person. Every campaign ad I saw this year said: We are all for the working man and the working woman. Well, you got a chance to prove it right now. You got a chance to show that I am for you, that I respect what you did, what your husband did, what your family has done for the country, and I am trying to help you.

What we are asking for is to give us a permanent long-term solution for the miners, included in the Miners Protection Act that we have been working on for so long, S. 3470. Reluctantly, therefore, for these reasons, I have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. TILLIS. Objection?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Senator from West Virginia, I believe, is trying to make a compelling argument. I understand that he feels very strongly about this. We feel very strongly about a number of these motions I am going to continue to make and hopefully not get objection.

Mr. President, I do want to remind the Senator from West Virginia that it was the majority leader who worked to at least get the patch in the CR, and like so many things around here, we wish we were working on longer horizons, but that seems to be the challenge we have to deal with and that we will have to deal with in the waning days of this session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1831

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 1831, the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act, and the

Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the Toomey substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Is there objection?

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I am a bit incredulous. I like the Senator from North Carolina. We sit across from each other in the Veterans' Affairs Committee. We have done at least 2 or 3 bills that reached the President's desk and were signed into law together.

But I think my Republican friends are kind of missing the point here—to give the majority leader credit for fixing this when, No. 1, he wouldn't do it, he wouldn't do it, he wouldn't do it, he wouldn't do it. Senator MANCHIN has asked him for weeks and months and months to take care of the pension and the health insurance, and the majority leader refused month after month after month.

The majority leader said: I need you to do several things. We need you to follow regular order. We did. We went through the Finance Committee, 18 to 8. Senator HATCH, the chairman, helped us. Senator WYDEN, the ranking member, was one of the strongest supporters, joined by Senators CASEY and WARNER, Finance Committee members who represent a lot of mine workers.

The Senate majority leader then said: You have to find a way to pay for it. We did it. We found a way to pay for it. It comes from the abandoned mine fund. There are no tax dollars involved in this. The majority leader still wouldn't do anything.

So finally, Senator MANCHIN comes to the floor, I come to the floor, Senator CASEY comes to the floor, and Senator WARNER comes to the floor over and over, and we say we are not going to agree to anything until you take care of these pensioners, until you take care of these miners' widows. Then, out of the goodness of the majority leader's heart, he gives these miners—these retired miners and widows—4 months. What does 4 months mean?

It means that these widows and miners—these retired miners and widows got a notice in the last couple of weeks saying their insurance will expire December 31. If we agree to the majority leader's bountiful offer, then they will get another notice in January or February saying: Oh, it is going to run out again in 4 months.

What is really interesting around here is, I hear Republican Senators day after day after day—whether it is the Affordable Care Act, whether it is Dodd-Frank—say: All we want is predictability. We want to be able to plan. Businesses can't produce jobs, can't create jobs, unless we have a path for-

ward, unless we can predict what will happen, unless we can have some certainty.

That is all right for corporate America. They want certainty. Corporate America wants to be able to plan. But it is not all right for mine workers' widows? It is OK to jack them around—pardon my language—it is OK for them to stumble around every 4 months and we renew their pensions, we renew their health care? Really.

This is so easy. Give us a year, and then we will be back next year and we will work on this. But, as Senator MANCHIN said, for us to go home for Christmas—whether or not you celebrate Christmas—and be with our families, which I really want to do—I have five grandchildren. I can't wait to get to spend time with them in the next 3 weeks. But we have to do our job. If we don't do it tonight, then we are going to be here tomorrow. If we don't do it tomorrow, we are going to be here the next day. If we don't do it at the end of this week, we are going to be here next week because we are not leaving. We are going to stay here as long as we need to, even if it means a session on Christmas Day, in order to get these retirees and their widows the pensions and the health care that they earned, not a little 4-month bump.

Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, earlier the distinguished Senator from Oregon said he recognizes that I am new to the Senate and there may be something different between what we would call a blanket position in the North Carolina House and a blanket position here.

Mr. President, I want to ask a question of the distinguished Senator from Ohio. I might add that I appreciate the kind comments that I think you were recently reported as saying. We are working together on veterans issues, and I look forward to continuing to work for you.

Mr. President, I would ask the Senator from Ohio, if he was in the Chamber at the time of the motion offered by Senator WYDEN, would he have been prepared to object to that motion being consistent with the position that they are having blanket objections to all motions?

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President—Senator TILLIS, I heard the tail end of it. I was in the cloakroom trying to find out exactly what the parliamentary procedure was going to be on this. I would be willing to say yes to a lot of these once we take care of the mine workers. This is a wide-open forum. Let's take care of the mine workers, and then we can consider each of these other bills. But none of these bills has the immediacy of thousands of mine workers, retirees, and their widows in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, and Indiana. None of them have the immediacy

of these mine workers' health care being cut off December 31.

These are important public initiatives. I can't think of anything that we are considering—I mean, I really want to get "Buy American" in the WRDA bill. We had it in the Senate bill. It was bipartisan.

Speaker RYAN—even though we tweeted the President-elect of the United States asking him to weigh in on "Buy American," saving thousands of dollars in Coshocton, OH, in Wheeling, and in other places all over this country, we couldn't get any response to that. I want to see us do that. I would like to stay and do that, but the immediate question is, How do we protect these miners and retirees and how do we protect these widows and widowers, for that matter, make sure their health care is protected? That is the fundamental question. I am willing to do a whole lot of other things. Do this first, and then the floor is open to do other things.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3286

Mr. TILLIS. In a moment, I will be making another unanimous consent request. I will give a classic example of the kinds of things I wish we could get done before we leave here.

The unanimous consent request I am about to make would encourage effective, voluntary private sector investments to recruit, employ, and retain men and women who have served in the U.S. military, with annual Presidential awards to private sector employers recognizing such efforts for their purposes.

This is an example of something that right now, today, without objection, we can get through.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3286, a bill to encourage effective, voluntary private sector investments to recruit, employ, and retain men and women who have served in the U.S. military, with annual Presidential awards to private sector employers recognizing such efforts, which was received from the House. I further ask consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, first, I say to my good friend from North Carolina, Mr. TILLIS, I have been in the Senate for 6 years, so I have never used this procedure—never believed it, never thought I would have to, never thought anything would be so direly needed that I would even have to stand here and object to all the good things we both have worked on. I have so many

good things on my side that I am not moving right now, and you have so many great things on your side that I would love to help you with.

But, sir, if you were in my position—let me go a little bit further because I don't think maybe I made it. If you want to add insult to injury to what has happened to our retired miners and all the people dependent on their health care benefits, the \$47 million that I told you they transferred—that is what they are going the pay for from the House, the VEBA—basically takes it from other bankrupt funds that were set aside. They are going to do that, and when all is said and done—and it has even been scored that Medicaid and Medicare would save so much because now they are paying for it out of the miners health care fund, and they are not going to have to. But on top of that, from the \$47 million they took, they are going to make \$2 million profit returned back to the Treasury. They are going to take \$2 million from money set aside to pay—that the bankruptcy courts put aside to pay miners because they will lose their health care by June. Now they are going to lose it by April, by this provision that has been passed by the House. And on top of that, they will have \$2 million in surplus.

I had a lady call me today. She said: You know, Senator MANCHIN, where I come from, they call that theft. They call that theft. And why would you all let them do that? If they don't do anything, some of our miners are, till June—16,000 of us lose. We don't want to punish them, but now you are punishing them. You are punishing them an extra 3 months. Why would you all do that?

I am not sure they really realize it on the other side.

Like I said, I am not at our colleagues here, my friends and Republican colleagues I have here, but why would the House send that to you, and why would you all accept it?

That is all we are asking for. We can all gather forces here and send a large message to them that we are not going to do this until they come to their senses and take care of the miners' health care benefits.

You know what. We can come back. We can let all of this—all of our UCs that have been worked on and that I think are so needed can go right through, we can all go home, and hopefully our miners know they have health care, we know we have done a lot of good for a lot of people, and hopefully everyone will have a better Christmas. So all I am asking for—until the CR includes that permanent, long term, I am going to have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—SENATE
RESOLUTION

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of a Senate resolution at the desk designating December 17, 2016, as "Wreaths Across America Day," submitted earlier today. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object. We can keep doing this. I think it is very clear what Senator MANCHIN and I are asking for. We are not asking for anything unusual; we are asking for the Senate to honor the pledge made by President Truman more or less seven decades ago to take care of the health care that mine workers earned.

Don't ever forget, we all work around here. We wear coats and ties, and our work might be stressful, sort of, but we are not likely risking our lives, we are not likely picking up occupational diseases from the work we do. But we are saying to these widows and mine workers and retired mine workers that I guess you don't matter very much because we are going to have our Christmas vacation and you are going to have to worry about your health care.

Their health care runs out December 31. Senator MCCONNELL, finally, after great pressure from constituents and mine workers and us, finally said he would give us 4 months. You can't run your life not knowing your health insurance is going to run out in 4 months or 8 months or 3 months.

So we shouldn't keep repeating ourselves, but Senator TILLIS keeps bringing up one issue after another. We are going to keep saying no until we get in this bill much more time for this health care for these retired mine workers and their families and their widows.

Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I just want to be clear that my friend from West Virginia, whom I actually consider to be one of my favorites, to be honest with you, since I have been here—I have loved serving with him on committees, and I serve with him on the Senate Armed Services Committee and Veterans' Affairs. I asked the Senator from West Virginia if he would have objected to the motion set forth by the Senator from Oregon, Mr. WYDEN, and the answer was no. So we have an inconsistency here.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—SENATE
RESOLUTION

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the

consideration of a Senate resolution at the desk honoring the individuals who lost their lives in the tragic fire in Oakland, California, on December 2, 2016, submitted earlier today. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would like to explain to my good friend, the Senator from North Carolina, that I have been deferring to you the pleasure of objecting, and that is the reason I didn't object to the Senator from Oregon. As you said, we can stay here. I think we all have a lot of appreciation for the situation.

With that being said, we have come to an impasse that if we cannot get the House, with the help of our Senate colleagues on both sides, to agree to a permanent, long-term fix and a solution for the miners' health care—and I would say to the Senator, we took off the pension; you heard me say that. We took the pensions off of that. We thought that might provide us a way to move forward. We thought we had a way to move forward.

With that being said, we stand here today objecting to things that we would all like to move forward on. It pains all of us to be in this position. Hopefully, you all can help us, talking to the House and basically asking them to come to their senses and, hopefully, take care of this.

So for that reason, until we have a long-term solution for our miners' health care as included in the Miners Protection Act, S. 3470, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I would like to direct another question through the Chair to the Senator from West Virginia. I just want to be clear that, hypothetically, if the Senator from Oregon were to come back to the Chamber and offer that motion, would the Senator from West Virginia actually object to that motion?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the Senator posing a question?

Mr. BROWN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, we may have that opportunity.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—SENATE
RESOLUTION

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of a Senate resolution at the desk recognizing the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the lasting significance of National

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day submitted earlier today. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I was incredulous at the beginning of the night, not quite believing that Senator MCCONNELL—I don't know what he is doing now—was sending his people to the floor and finding ways to push back against the mine workers in West Virginia and Ohio and Pennsylvania and Indiana and Virginia, not willing to help those pensioners and widows. Now we have this incredible coincidence that the last two resolutions—we are talking about mine workers—retired mine workers' health care; we are talking about widows of mine workers who have either died on the job or died perhaps from an illness that mine workers so often have—brown lung or some kind of heart disease. Instead, my friend from North Carolina has offered two resolutions, one to honor people who died in a fire—a tragedy—and one to mark the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, both reasonable things. But they are not resolutions to provide college to the children of the people who died in the fire, and they are not to increase benefits for the grandchildren of people who died in Pearl Harbor; they are resolutions that don't mean anything except they are nice. I am for these resolutions. I love to support anything we do to say something nice and pat somebody on the back. But we have these two resolutions saying aren't they nice, aren't we nice, compared to taking care of widows who are going to see their health care expire on December 31. I don't understand the equivalency.

I suppose we could go all night if Senator MCCONNELL were perhaps in his office or perhaps out to dinner or perhaps he went home. But it is ordering or asking or however we do things around here—Senators come to the floor and delay and delay and delay and try to change the subject so that people forget about these mine workers. Well, we are not going to let the Presiding Officer or Senator TILLIS or Senator MCCONNELL or Senator CORNYN or anybody else—we are not going to let you forget the mine workers. We are going to keep talking about this.

I don't mind working late tonight. I don't mind working late tomorrow. I would rather not work until December 24, but Senator MANCHIN said he will, and I will. My wife is not thrilled about it, and my children and my grandkids aren't thrilled about it. But these are thousands of people who are going to lose their health insurance on December 31, and all that Senator MCCONNELL can do, after huge pressure from mine

workers around the country and his constituents in Kentucky and from us—all Senator MCCONNELL can do is say, well, we can give you maybe 4 months, and that is supposed to satisfy us. It doesn't matter if it satisfies us; it matters that we take care of these retired mine workers and their widows.

For all of those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, the distinguished Senator from Ohio did mention a couple of resolutions, but I would add there was also the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act that we worked very hard on to provide much needed resources for a number of States, including Ohio. There are a number of other items, including I think hiring vets, providing programs or providing preferences and trying to do everything we can to get our veterans hired; preventing animal cruelty and torture I think is a worthwhile cause, and a number of other things.

But, again, the point here is that we are trying to move things that we generally have consent on, and for one reason or another—and I don't question the motives of the Senator from West Virginia—they are being held up. We kind of have a double standard in that some of these things do not rise to the same level as the unanimous consent request made by Senator WYDEN earlier.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 5456

So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 527, H.R. 5456; that the Wyden substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BROWN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection has been heard.

The Senator from North Carolina is recognized.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I am happy to yield the floor to the Senator from West Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina yields the floor to the Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. I just want to clarify. I think there is some confusion. It seems like everybody is in a hustle right now. I think they think we are being selective. I want to make it very clear. I have been very clear to everybody. I have had to object on everything. I have had to object on my own

pieces of legislation to stop everything. With that being said, I think I was asked about Senator WYDEN's request, and I said, no, I wouldn't at that time, and then I think at that time Senator TILLIS objected. For that you were asked did I object, and I said no.

With that being said, I would have objected to everything, and I think everybody knew where I stood in this body that I will and have to be reluctantly—I don't want to be in this position. I am so committed to fulfilling the promise and commitment we have made. That is all.

I am sorry if there has been confusion. I have to, for the position we have taken. I think the good fight that we have here—and, basically, what the House has done to us is not humane to the people we represent. That is all I said. I am sorry for that.

So if there is a motion on the table, I object to that too.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Reserving the right to object, but I withdraw my reservation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in 1922, Rebecca Latimer Felton was the first woman to sit in the U.S. Senate. She served in this body for only 1 day, but during those 24 hours she made a bold prediction for her time about the future role women would play in the Senate. She said: "When the women of the country come in and sit with you . . . you will get ability, you will get integrity of purpose, you will get exalted patriotism, and you will get unstinted usefulness." I will second that.

BARBARA and I served together in the House—and we have served together in the Senate for 20 years. And let me tell you, no one embodies Senator FELTON's prediction better than BARBARA BOXER.

Throughout the years, I have loved getting to know BARBARA as a colleague, but more importantly as a friend. Loretta and I joined BARBARA and her husband, Stu, on official trips, personal vacations and countless dinners. We have eaten, drank, joked, and bonded. And as her career in the Senate comes to an end, keeping those bonds of friendship strong as she heads west is one my life goals.

BARBARA made quite an impact on the Senate Chamber before she even entered this body. On October 9, 1991, the Senate Judiciary Committee was set to vote on the nomination of Jus-

tice Clarence Thomas to serve a lifetime appointment on the U.S. Supreme Court, without listening to Professor Anita Hill's allegations of sexual harassment. At the time, there were two women in the Senate, BARBARA MIKULSKI and Nancy Landon Kassebaum. Now, while this was going on in the Senate, the women of the House tried speaking out in that body. They were censured. And they had enough. So they marched out of the House and over to the Senate—29 women House Members, led by Congresswoman Pat Schroeder from Colorado and BARBARA BOXER from California. American politics has never been the same.

The following year, a number of esteemed women were elected to the U.S. Senate. Several reporters deemed 1992: "the Year of the Woman." Senator MIKULSKI, the dean of women, as she is often referred to, said: "Calling 1992 the Year of the Woman makes it sound like the Year of the Caribou or the Year of the Asparagus. We're not a fad, fancy or a year." She was right. But California made history. For the first time, one State sent two women to represent them in the Senate: DIANNE FEINSTEIN and BARBARA BOXER.

BARBARA often reminds me of the line from Shakespeare's—A Midsummer Night's Dream: "Though she be but little, she is fierce." In 1994, when Republicans took control of Congress, one of the first things they did was go after environmental regulations, including rules to limit the amount of arsenic in the drinking water. BARBARA immediately launched a good, old-fashioned, 3-day "Ms. Smith Goes to Washington" filibuster. And like most of the fights she takes on, she won.

BARBARA is a call-it-as-you-see-it kind of person. Maybe it is because she grew up in the no-nonsense, working-class town of Brooklyn. Or maybe it is because her parents and Jewish grandparents, who immigrated to this country from Russia instilled in her a deep love for America's Constitution and freedoms—a sense of obligation to give something back and a determination to fight for underdogs, truth and justice.

She has sponsored or cosponsored more than 1,200 pieces of legislation and helped lead the fight on issues ranging from women's rights to healthcare to protecting California's natural wonders to keeping lead and other potentially lethal hazards out of children's toys.

The vote that sealed our spiritual kinship took place in October 2002 when she and I voted against the Iraq war resolution. One of our dear friends, Paul Wellstone, also voted against the resolution. Paul was in a tough reelection fight that year. A reporter asked him if it was a hard choice to vote against the war. Paul said it was a risk, but not a choice. His conscience wouldn't let him vote any other way. It

seems to me that is how BARBARA BOXER approaches every one of her votes in Congress: It might be a risk, but it is not a choice. She listens to her conscience, and the people of California respect her for it. But let me be clear: that doesn't mean she will not work hard to find a compromise.

She proved that in recent years when she and JIM INHOFE—the unlikeliest of odd couples—worked together to pass important legislation updating regulations on toxic chemicals and shepherding through a surface transportation bill that no one thought could be done.

I will close with this. Early in BARBARA's political career, people used to come up to her and say: How did you get so strong, how did you get so tough? BARBARA would humbly respond: Oh, not tough. I am just an ordinary person, and I do what I think is right. I agree with most of that, but let me tell you—BARBARA is as tough as they come. She can't be bullied or intimidated, and she never loses her courage. I want to thank BARBARA for sacrificing so much time with her own family to make the families of America safer, healthier, and more hopeful. For that and a thousand other reasons, I will miss her in the Senate. But I know I can count on her to keep pushing those of us who remain to listen to our consciences—to fight for change and do the right thing.

MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS BILL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this past Thanksgiving marked the beginning of the holiday shopping season.

In an effort to find deeply discounted electronics, toys, and other Christmas gifts for family and friends, bargain-hunting shoppers searched for Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals.

While these deals provided great savings for shoppers, Main Street retailers and States did not reap the same benefits.

Because we have let another year and holiday season come and go without closing the online sales tax loophole, States missed out on millions of dollars in sales tax revenue owed to them from online purchases. And Main Street retailers continued to lose business.

However, this was not without trying.

Around this time last year, Senators ENZI, ALEXANDER, HEITKAMP, and myself opposed the air dropping of legislation in the customs conference report that would have taken away a State's right to collect taxes on accessing the internet unless we gave States the ability to collect taxes on internet sales that were already owed, and we leveled the playing field for brick and mortar businesses.

Despite our opposition, the customs bill passed, and Majority Leader

MCCONNELL promised to give us a vote later this year on the Marketplace Fairness Act or similar e-fairness legislation.

This would give House Republicans the opportunity to go through regular order, a process they said was necessary to address the issue.

Yet, unfortunately, here we are, at the end of the Congress, and House Republicans have still refused to act.

The Marketplace Fairness Act levels the playing field for retailers by allowing States to treat brick and mortar retailers the same as remote retailers in the collection of State and local sales and use taxes.

Internet retailers benefit under our current system with a 5–10 percent price advantage over their Main Street competitors.

This is because customers visit local retailers, browse goods, use their phone to take a picture of it, and go online to purchase the item tax-free.

Products sold online seem cheaper when sales taxes are not collected at the point of sale. But they are not because the tax is still owed, though not paid, by the customer.

This is not fair, and it is not right.

Thousands of Main Street businesses have worked hard to grow their businesses, but have become showrooms because of this price advantage, making it difficult, and, in some cases, impossible for them to compete.

I have come to this floor in the past to share the stories of Main Street businesses, such as Play It Again Sports in Naperville and Soccer Plus in Palatine, that have gone out of business due, in large part, to the unfair advantage of their online competitors.

Since then, Sports Authority has met that same fate, and many department stores and big-box retailers have closed a number of stores because of the increase in online shopping.

These are local jobs and community anchors that no longer exist.

There is nothing we can do now for these shuttered retailers. But we can, and should, still help thousands of retailers avoid the same fate by leveling the playing field for Main Street retailers.

For the first time in history, consumers said they made more of their purchases online than in stores.

This trend is evidenced by an increase in online retail spending, which grew 14.6 percent last year, to \$341 billion, and is projected to reach \$523 billion in 2020.

During the weekend following Thanksgiving—the biggest shopping weekend of the year—online retail spending was over \$9.3 billion, a 16.4 percent increase from 2015.

As online sales increase, the potential sales tax revenue that States lose increases.

The longer we delay in closing this loophole, the longer we perpetuate an

uneven playing field between local and online retailers that erodes the revenues needed by State and local governments to fund essential public services.

Despite the looming budget deficits State and local governments are facing and the competitive disadvantage experienced by brick and mortar businesses, House Republicans have refused to address the issue for more than a decade.

This year is no different.

Numerous requests to the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee to markup e-fairness legislation from the ranking member and other bipartisan members on committee, Main Street retailers, State and local governments, labor, and the sponsors of the Marketplace Fairness Act remain unanswered.

Instead, Chairman GOODLATTE drafted his own proposal that created more problems than it solved.

I didn't support the chairman's proposal, but I supported the process and his calls for regular order and encouraged him to work with his colleagues in the House to send us a bill so that we can resolve our differences.

We are still waiting.

The chairman has continued to refuse to work with us on reasonable compromise legislation that didn't turn 100 years of sales and use tax law on its head, even though he doesn't have the support of the majority of the House Republican Caucus on his approach.

It is apparent that these calls for compromise and regular order are nothing more than veiled attempts to delay and obstruct, which have so far been successful.

If Congress continues to ignore this issue and fails to act, the courts will.

Because States are missing out on an estimated \$23 billion a year in potential sales tax revenue, they are looking to the courts for a solution, heeding the call from Supreme Court Justice Kennedy to reexamine the Court's precedent on the issue.

This year alone, 16 States have introduced over 40 sales tax bills, and others have enacted legislation that have triggered legal challenges that would help States collect sales tax without congressional action.

This week, a Federal court in South Dakota will begin hearing oral arguments on a South Dakota law that requires remote retailers to collect and remit sales tax.

And we may know, as early as next week, if the Supreme Court will grant review of a law Colorado recently enacted that imposes reporting and notification requirements on remote retailers.

Let me be clear. This is not the approach I prefer. I would rather Congress do its job to pass a uniform, comprehensive Federal solution instead of the States moving forward individually so we don't have a patch work of laws that small businesses have to navigate.

But I understand that, in the absence of Congressional action, the States have no other options. They must either raise taxes or cut vital public services if Congress continues to sit on the sidelines.

As you can see, the States are no longer waiting for Congress to get its act together.

But there is still time for us address this issue.

And I hope my colleagues in the House will work with me to do that before it is too late.

ELECT AND FREEING OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE GAMBIA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in recent years, we have seen a troubling trend of democratic backsliding in several parts of the world, including Russia, Thailand, Uganda, Turkey, and Venezuela.

Even some parts of Europe and the United States have seen long established democratic norms challenged in deeply upsetting ways.

So imagine my great surprise late last week when the people of The Gambia peacefully voted for a new democratic government.

Many probably don't know much about The Gambia—a small West African nation whose uniquely odd colonial borders have it straddling the meandering Gambia River almost completely surrounded by Senegal.

Gambia is English speaking—Senegal speaks French—with several local languages shared between the unusual borders.

Some of you may remember The Gambia was the ancestral home in the novel and then-television miniseries "Roots."

Because of its strong ties to the U.S. and geographic location, for some time The Gambia also had a unique distinction of being an emergency landing spot for the Space Shuttle should one need to abort its mission early in the launch phase.

And until 1994, it had the proud distinction of being the longest postcolonial democracy on the African continent.

You see, for the last 22 years, The Gambia was ruled by a regime that took power in a coup, with troubling arrests and disappearances of journalists, activists, and opposition members.

I and several of my Senate colleagues raised a number of these cases over the years, most notably the 2007 disappearance of journalist Ebrima Manneh—for which I now hope there will finally be a fair and healing accounting.

And yet, last Thursday night, the people of The Gambia, voting with colored marbles placed in different containers to make it easier for illiterate voters, chose a new leader in a peaceful and democratic process.

And outgoing President Yahya Jammeh honorably conceded the election and agreed to a peaceful transfer of power.

He offered to help President-Elect Adama Barrow.

While we have had our differences, I want to acknowledge this important act of leadership and love of country by outgoing President Jammeh.

And not only has there been this notable peaceful transfer of power, but in just the few short days since the election, at least 18 political prisoners have been released from jail, including a key opposition figure.

So to the Gambian people, let me say congratulations on your important demonstration of democracy—a model for the African continent and the world.

I look forward to significantly improved relations between our two nations and working together on a host of shared concerns.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, history is dotted with the stories of trailblazers. People who shape the public discourse at a pivotal moment in time or change the direction of the debate. One of those trailblazers is BARBARA MIKULSKI, the longest serving woman in Senate history, the first woman to represent Maryland in the U.S. Senate, and the first woman to chair the Senate's Appropriations Committee. She is tough. She is direct. She is dedicated. She is a fighter. She is a leader.

BARBARA MIKULSKI has always fought for our families and our children. From her roots as a social worker and community activist to the levels of leadership in the Senate, she has held firm to her adage that she is not just the Senator from Maryland, she is the Senator for Maryland. From her first years in the Senate until now, she has promoted education, nutrition, healthcare, and gender equality in the Senate.

She led our historic efforts to pass the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act—shouting from the rooftops the simple principle that women deserve equal pay for equal work. She continued that legacy with the Paycheck Fairness Act. Wouldn't it be a fitting tribute if the Senate considered and approved that commonsense legislation before she retires?

Like others in this Chamber, she was a vocal and steadfast supporter of Violence Against Women Act and our most recent efforts to reauthorize and expand those lifesaving programs. She led the efforts to ensure that the Affordable Care Act made clear that no one should be discriminated against in preventive care. Who can forget her fierce advocacy to make the letter of the law clear that being a woman is not a pre-existing condition?

And when BARBARA assumed the mantle chairing the Appropriations

Committee, she brought with her the tough but fair grit that has been her hallmark in the Senate. When asked about earmarks, her retort was simple: "I've told senators that if you're opposed to earmarks, I'll honor that and won't include any for your state." You always know where you stand with BARBARA MIKULSKI.

Thirty years ago, when she first came to the Senate, women filled just two seats in this body. When the Senate convenes next year, there will be 21. I hope it won't be another 30 years for the Senate to be truly representative of the country we serve.

A lifelong Baltimore resident, "Senator Barb" has never forgotten her roots, probably because she never left. She remains a Marylander through and through, dedicated to her State and never forgetting that listening to your constituents is the most important job of all. When Senator MIKULSKI announced her retirement, she told her constituents that the question came down to whether she wanted to spend her time "raising money or raising hell to meet your day-to-day needs?" That is BARBARA. This rang through in her farewell speech today to the Senate.

We often talk of the lions of the Senate. BARBARA MIKULSKI ranks among them. I will miss her fierce advocacy, her counsel, her commitment, her tenacity, and her grit. I value her friendship, and we will miss her.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-31, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to

cost \$3.51 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,
JAMES WORM, Acting Deputy Director,
(For J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN,
Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-31

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$2.60 billion.
Other \$.91 billion.

Total \$3.51 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Forty-eight (48) CH-47F Chinook Cargo Helicopters.

One hundred twelve (112) T55-GA-714A Engines (ninety-six (96) installed, sixteen (16) spares).

One hundred sixteen (116) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS) Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) (ninety-six (96) installed, twenty (20) spares).

Fifty-eight (58) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (forty-eight (48) installed, ten (10) spares).

Forty-eight (48) M240H 7.62mm Machine Guns with spare parts.

Non-MDE: This request also includes the following Non-MDE: M134D Mini-Guns or equivalent type guns with support equipment and training; Aircraft Survivability Equipment (AN/APR-39A(V) 1/4, AN/AVR-2B, AN/ARC-231, AN/ARC-201D, AN/APX-123A, ARN-147 VOR/ILS, ARN-153 TACAN, APN-209, IDM-401 Improved Data Modem, and AN/ARC-220); Infrared Signature Suppression System (IRSS); Fast Rope Insertion Extraction System (FRIES); Extended Range Fuel System (ERFS); Ballistic Armor Protection System; facilities; air worthiness support; spares and repair parts; communications equipment; personnel training and training equipment; site surveys; tool and test equipment; Ground Support Equipment (GSE); repair and return; publications and technical documentation; Quality Assurance Team (QAT); U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (SR-B-ZAG).

(v) Sales Commission. Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex attached.

(vii) Prior Related Case, if any: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 7, 2016.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—CH-47F Chinook Cargo Helicopters

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested a possible sale of:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Forty-eight (48) CH-47F Chinook Cargo Helicopters.

One hundred twelve (112) T55-GA-714A Engines (ninety-six (96) installed, sixteen (16) spares).

One hundred sixteen (116) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS) Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI (ninety-six (96) installed, twenty (20) spares)).

Fifty-eight (58) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (forty-eight (48) installed, ten (10) spares).

Forty-eight (48) M240H 7.62mm Machine Guns with spare parts.

Non-MDE: This request also includes the following Non-MDE: M134D Mini-Guns or equivalent type guns with support equipment and training; Aircraft Survivability Equipment (AN/APR-39A(V)1/4, AN/AVR-2B, AN/ARC-231, AN/ARC-201D, AN/APX-123A, ARN-147 VOR/ILS, ARN-153 TACAN, APN-209, IDM-401 Improved Data Modem, and AN/ARC-220); Infrared Signature Suppression System (IRSS); Fast Rope Insertion Extraction System (FRIES); Extended Range Fuel System (ERFS); Ballistic Armor Protection System; facilities; air worthiness support; spares and repair parts; communications equipment; personnel training and training equipment; site surveys; tool and test equipment; Ground Support Equipment (GSE); repair and return; publications and technical documentation; Quality Assurance Team (QAT); U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total overall estimated value is \$3.51 billion.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner which has been and continues to be a leading contributor of political stability and economic progress in the Middle East. This sale will increase the Royal Saudi Land Forces Aviation Command's (RSLFAC) interoperability with U.S. forces and convey U.S. commitment to Saudi Arabia's security and armed forces modernization.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The proposed sale of the CH-47F aircraft will improve Saudi Arabia's heavy lift capability. Saudi Arabia will use this enhanced capability to strengthen its homeland defense and deter regional threats. Saudi Arabia will have no difficulty absorbing these aircraft into its armed forces.

The prime contractors will be The Boeing Military Aircraft Company, Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, and Honeywell Aerospace Company, Phoenix, Arizona. There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this sale will require up to sixty (60) U.S. Government and contractor representatives to travel to Saudi Arabia for up to sixty (60) months for equipment de-processing, fielding, system checkout, training, and technical logistics support.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-31

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The CH-47F Chinook Cargo Helicopter is a medium-lift helicopter equipped with the Common Avionics Architecture System (CAAS) cockpit, which provides aircraft system, flight, mission, and communication management systems, five multifunction displays, two general purpose processor

units, two control display units and two data concentrator units. The navigation system will have two Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS), two Digital Advanced Flight Control Systems (DAFCS), one ARN-149 Automatic Direction Finder, one ARN-147 Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range/Instrument Landing System (VOR/ILS) marker beacon system, one ARN-153 Tactical Airborne Navigation (TACAN) system, two air data computers, and one Radar Altimeter system. The aircraft survivability equipment includes the AN/APR-39A(V)1/4 Radar Signal Detecting Set, and the AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System.

The Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) is SECRET. The AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) is CONFIDENTIAL. Releasable technical manuals for operation and maintenance are SECRET. The AN/APR-39A(V)1/4 Series Radar Detecting Set (RDS) is SECRET. The AN/AVR-2B, Laser Warning Set is CONFIDENTIAL. Releasable technical manuals for operation and maintenance are SECRET. The AN/ARC-231 (V)(C) is UNCLASSIFIED. The AN/ARC-201D Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS), performance capabilities, Electronic Countermeasures/Electronic Counter Counter-Measures (ECM/ECCM) specifications and Engineering Change Orders (ECOs) are SECRET. The AN/APX-123A, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Transponder is UNCLASSIFIED. The AN/ARN-147, Very High Frequency Omni Ranging/Instrument Landing System (VOR/ILS) receiver is UNCLASSIFIED. The AN/ARC-220 is UNCLASSIFIED. The KN-77 is UNCLASSIFIED. The AN/PYQ-10 (C) Simple Key Loader (SKL) is UNCLASSIFIED. The TSEC KY-58 voice secure equipment is CONFIDENTIAL if software fill is installed. The TSEC KY-100 voice secure equipment is used with the FM Command Radio to provide secure two-way communication. It is Communications Security (COMSEC) Equipment and is classified SECRET if software fill is installed. The AN/AVS-67(V) is UNCLASSIFIED.

2. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce weapon system effectiveness.

3. A determination has been made that Saudi Arabia can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-62, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Qatar for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$700 million. After this letter is delivered to

your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES WORM, *Acting Deputy Director*
(For J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN,
Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-62

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Qatar.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE)* \$ 0 million.

Other \$700 million.

Total \$700 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE includes: Follow-on support for eight (8) C-17 aircraft, to include contract labor for sustainment engineering, on-site COMSEC support, Quality Assurance, support equipment repair, supply chain management, spares replenishment, maintenance, back shop support, and centralized maintenance support/associated services. Required upgrades will include fixed installation satellite antenna, Mode 5+ installation and sustainment, Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast Out, and two special operations loading ramps.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (QAI).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: QA-D-QAB.

(vi) Sales Commission. Fee. etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 7, 2016.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Qatar—Continuation of Logistics Support Services and Equipment

The Government of Qatar has requested a possible sale of continued logistics support for eight (8) C-17 aircraft which will include contract labor for sustainment engineering, on-site COMSEC support, Quality Assurance, support equipment repair, supply chain management, spares replenishment, maintenance, back shop support, and centralized maintenance support/associated services. Required upgrades will include fixed installation satellite antenna, Mode 5+ installation and sustainment, Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast Out, and two special operations loading ramps. The estimated total cost is \$700 million.

The proposed sale contributes to the foreign policy and national security of the U.S. by helping to improve the security of an important regional ally. Qatar is a vital partner for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East. The C-17 provides a heavy airlift capability and complements the normal, day-to-day operations of the Government of Qatar's C-130J fleet. Qatar will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale will enhance Qatar's ability to operate and maintain its C-17s, supporting its capability to provide humanitarian aid in the Middle East and Africa region and support its troops in coalition operations. Qatar's current contract supporting its C-17 fleet will expire in September of 2017.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be the Boeing Corporation of Chicago, Illinois. The U.S. Government is not aware of any known offsets associated with this sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this sale will require the assignment of approximately five additional U.S. Government and approximately 50 contractor representatives to Qatar.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness, as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-62

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex A Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. This sale will involve the release of sensitive technology to Qatar in the performance of services to sustain eight (8) Qatar C-17 aircraft. While much of the below equipment supporting the C-17 is not new to the country, there will be replenishment spares of the below sensitive technologies purchased to support the fleet.

2. The Force 524D is a 24-channel SAASM based Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, with precise positioning service (PPS) capability built upon Trimble's next generation OPS technology. The Force 524D retains backward compatibility with the proven Force 5GS, while adding new functionality to interface with digital antenna electronics, to significantly improve anti-jam (AJ) performance. The host platform can select the radio frequency (RF) or digital antenna electronics (DAE) interface. In the digital mode, the Force 524D is capable of controlling up to 16 independent beams. The hardware and software associated with the 524D receiver card is UNCLASSIFIED.

3. The C-17 aircraft will be equipped with the GAS-1, which is comprised of the Controlled Reception Pattern Antennas (CRPA), with the associated wiring harness and the Antenna Electronics (AE)-1, to provide AJ capability. The hardware is UNCLASSIFIED.

4. The KIV-77 is the crypto applique for Mode V Identification Friend of Foe (IFF). The hardware is UNCLASSIFIED and COMSEC controlled.

5. Software, hardware, and other data/information, which is classified or sensitive, is reviewed prior to release to protect system vulnerabilities, design data, and performance parameters. Some end-item hardware, software, and other data identified above are classified at the CONFIDENTIAL and SECRET level. Potential compromise of these systems is controlled through management of the basic software programs, of highly sensitive systems and software-controlled weapon systems, on a case-by-case basis.

6. Qatar is both willing and able to protect United States classified military information. Qatari physical and document security standards are equivalent to U.S. standards. Qatar has demonstrated its willingness and capability to protect sensitive military technology and information released to its military in the past.

7. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware or software source code in this proposed sale, the information could be used to develop countermeasures, which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of systems with similar or advanced capabilities. The benefits to be derived from this sale in the furtherance of

the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology, where revealed to unauthorized persons.

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Qatar.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,

*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-61, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Qatar for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$81 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES WORM, *Acting Deputy Director*
(For J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN,
Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-61

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Qatar.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE)* \$51 million.

Other \$30 million.
Total \$81 million.
(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Four (4) F117-PW-100 C17 Engines (spares).

Non-MDE includes: Quick Engine Change (QEC) Kits, Engine Transport Trailers, Engine Platforms, Engine Trailers, and other various support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (LAC).
(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: QA-D-QAB.
(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 7, 2016.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Qatar—Spare C-17 Engines and Equipment

The Government of Qatar has requested a possible sale of the following in support of its eight (8) C-17 Globemaster III aircraft procured under a Direct Commercial Sale (DCS): four (4) spare F117-PW-100 engines, Quick Engine Change (QEC) Kits, Engine Transport Trailers, Engine Platforms, Engine Trailers, and other various support. The estimated total program cost is \$81 million.

The proposed sale would contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the U.S. by helping to improve the security of an important regional ally. Qatar is a vital partner for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East. The C-17 provides a heavy airlift capability and complements the normal, day-to-day operations of Qatar's C-130J fleet. Qatar will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale would enhance Qatar's ability to operate and maintain its C-17s, supporting its capability to provide humanitarian aid in the Middle East and Africa region and support its troops in coalition operations.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be the Boeing Corporation of Chicago, Illinois. The U.S. Government is not aware of any known offsets associated with this sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not alter current assignment of additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Qatar. The number of U.S. Government and contractor representatives required in Qatar to support the program will be determined in joint negotiations as the program proceeds through the development, production and equipment installation phases.

There is no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Qatar.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,

*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-52, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Morocco for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$108 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES WORM, *Acting Deputy Director*
(For J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN,
Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-52

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kingdom of Morocco.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$101 million.
Other: \$7 million.
Total: \$108 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
One thousand two-hundred (1,200) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles (BGM-71-4B-RF)

Fourteen (14) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles (Fly-to-Buy Lot Acceptance Missiles)

Non-MDE includes: U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (VTG).
(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: MO-B-USZ for \$137,034,913 signed on 4 May 2016.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 7, 2016.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Government of Morocco—Radio Frequency (RF) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missile (BGM-71-4B-RF and Support)

The Government of Morocco has requested a possible sale of one thousand two-hundred (1,200) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles (BGM-71-413-RF) and fourteen (14) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles (Fly-to-Buy Lot Acceptance Missiles). Also included with this request is U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated MDE sale is \$101 million. The total estimated value is \$108 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that continues to be an important force for the political stability and economic progress in North Africa. This proposed sale directly supports Morocco and serves the interests of the Moroccan people and the United States.

The proposed sale of TOW 2A Missiles and technical support will advance Morocco's efforts to develop an integrated ground defense capability. Morocco will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors involved in this program are: Raytheon Missile Systems, Tucson, Arizona. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the U.S. Government or contractor representatives to travel to Morocco.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-52

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended
Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Radio Frequency (RF) TOW 2A Missile (BGM-71E-4B-RF) is designed to defeat armored vehicles, reinforced urban structures, field fortifications and other such targets. TOW missiles are fired from a variety of TOW launchers in the U.S. Army, USMC, and FMS customer forces. The TOW 2A RF missile can be launched from the same launcher platforms as the existing wire-guided TOW 2A missile without modification to the launcher. The TOW 2A missile (both wire & RF) contains two trackers for the launcher to track and guide the missile in flight. Guidance commands from the launcher are provided to the missile by a RF link contained within the missile case. The hardware, software, and technical publications provided with the sale thereof are UNCLASSIFIED. However, the system itself contains sensitive technology that instructs the system on how to operate in the presence of countermeasures.

2. The highest level of classified information that must be disclosed in training to use the end item is UNCLASSIFIED. The highest level of classified information that must be disclosed in maintenance of the end item is UNCLASSIFIED. The highest level of classi-

fied information that could be disclosed by sale of the end item is SECRET. The highest level of classified information that could be revealed by testing the end item is SECRET. The highest level of classified information that could be revealed by reverse engineering of the end item is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Morocco.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-15, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$3.5 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-15

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

Prospective Purchaser: United Arab Emirates.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$1.68 billion
Other \$1.82 billion
Total \$3.50 billion

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Twenty-eight (28) AH-64E Remanufactured Apache Attack Helicopters.

Nine (9) new AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopters.

Seventy-six (76) T700-GE-701D Engines (56 remanufactured, 18 new, 2 spares).

Thirty-nine (39) AN/ASQ-170 Modernized Target Acquisition and Designation Sight/AN/AAR-11 Modernized Pilot Night Vision Sensors (28 remanufactured, 9 new, 2 spares).

Thirty-two (32) remanufactured AN/APR-48B Modernized—Radar Frequency Interferometers.

Forty-six (46) AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (31 remanufactured, 9 new, 6 spares).

Eighty-eight (88) Embedded Global Positioning Systems with Inertial Navigation (72 new, 16 spares).

Forty-four (44) Manned-Unmanned Teaming-International (MUMTi) Systems (28 remanufactured, 9 new, 7 spares).

Fifteen (15) new MUMTi System Upper Receivers.

Non-MDE: Training devices, helmets, simulators, generators, transportation, wheeled vehicles and organization equipment, spare and repair parts, support equipment, tools

and test equipment, technical data and publications, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (AE-B-GUA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: FMS case: AE-B-JAH-02 Jan 92-\$617M, FMS case: AE-B-UDE-06 Jan 00-\$195M, FMS case: AE-B-UDN-28 Nov 05-\$755M, FMS case: AE-B-ZUL-21 Oct 09-\$252M, FMS case: AE-B-ZUF-22 Dec 08-\$174M

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 7, 2016.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Arab Emirates—Apache AH-64E Helicopters and Services

The Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has requested a possible sale of twenty-eight (28) AH-64E Remanufactured Apache Attack Helicopters; nine (9) new AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopters; Seventy-six (76) T700-GE-701D Engines (56 remanufactured, 18 new, 2 spares); thirty-nine (39) AN/ASQ-170 Modernized Target Acquisition and Designation Sight/AN/AAR-11 Modernized Pilot Night Vision Sensors (28 remanufactured, 9 new, 2 spares); thirty-two (32) remanufactured AN/APR-48B Modernized—Radar Frequency Interferometers forty-six (46) AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (31 remanufactured, 9 new, 6 spares); eighty-eight (88) Embedded Global Positioning Systems with Inertial Navigation (72 new, 16 spares); forty-four (44) Manned-Unmanned Teaming-International (MUMTi) systems (28 remanufactured, 9 new, 7 spares); and fifteen (15) new MUMTi System Upper Receivers. This request also includes training devices, helmets, simulators, generators, transportation, wheeled vehicles and organization equipment, spare and repair parts, support equipment, tools and test equipment, technical data and publications, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics support. Total estimated program cost is \$3.5 billion.

This proposed sale will enhance the foreign policy and national security of the U.S. by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve the UAE's capability to meet current and future threats and provide greater security for its critical infrastructure. The UAE will use the enhanced capability to strengthen its homeland defense. The UAE will have no difficulty absorbing these Apache aircraft into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Boeing in Mesa, AZ and Lockheed Martin in Orlando, FL. Offsets are a requirement of doing business in UAE; however offsets are negotiated directly between the Original Equipment Manufactures or other vendors and the UAE government and details are not known at this time.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of contractor representatives to the UAE.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-15

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter weapon system contains communications and target identification equipment, navigation equipment, aircraft survivability equipment, displays, and sensors. The airframe itself does not contain sensitive technology; however, the pertinent equipment listed below will be either installed on the aircraft or included in the sale:

a. The AN/APG-78 Fire Control Radar (FCR) is an active, low-probability of intercept, millimeter-wave radar, combined with a passive AN/APR-48B Modernized Radar Frequency Interferometer (M-RFI) mounted on top of the helicopter mast. The FCR Ground Targeting Mode detects, locates, classifies and prioritizes stationary or moving armored vehicles, tanks and mobile air defense systems as well as hovering helicopters, helicopters, and fixed wing aircraft in normal flight if desired, the radar data can be used to refer targets to the regular electro-optical Modernized Target Acquisition and Designation Sight (MTADS). This information is provided in a form that cannot be extracted by the foreign user. The content of these items is classified SECRET. User Data Module (UDM) on the RFI processor, contains the Radio Frequency threat library. The UDM, which is a hardware assemblage, is classified CONFIDENTIAL when programmed with threat parameters, threat priorities and/or techniques derived from U.S. intelligence information.

b. The AN/ASQ-170 Modernized Target Acquisition and Designation Sight/AN/AAQ-11 Pilot Night Vision Sensor (MTADS/PNVS) provides day, night, and limited adverse weather target information, as well as night navigation capabilities. The PNVS provides thermal imaging that permits nap-of-the-earth flight to, from, and within the battle area, while TADS provides the co-pilot gunner with search, detection, recognition, and designation by means of Direct View Optics (DVO), EIPtelevision, and Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) sighting systems that may be used singularly or in combinations. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Technical manuals for authorized maintenance levels are UNCLASSIFIED. Reverse engineering is not a major concern.

c. The AN/APR-48B Modernized Radar Frequency Interferometer (M-RFI) is an updated version of the passive radar detection and direction finding system. It utilizes a detachable UDM on the M-RFI processor, which contains the Radar Frequency (RF) threat library. The UDM, which is a hardware assemblage item is classified CONFIDENTIAL when programmed. Hardware becomes CLASSIFIED when populated with threat parametric data. Releasable technical manuals are Unclassified/restricted distribution.

d. The AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) detects energy emitted by threat missiles in-flight, evaluates potential false alarm emitters in the environment, declares validity of threat and selects appropriate countermeasures. The CMWS consists of an Electronic Control Unit (ECU), Electro-Optic Missile Sensors (EOMSSs), and Sequencer and Improved Countermeasures Dispenser (ICMD). The ECU hardware is classi-

fied CONFIDENTIAL; releasable technical manuals for operation and maintenance are classified SECRET.

e. The AN/APR-39 Radar Signal Detecting Set is a system that provides warnings of radar-directed air defense threats and allows appropriate countermeasures. This is the 1553 databus-compatible configuration. The hardware is classified CONFIDENTIAL when programmed with U.S. threat data; releasable technical manuals for operation and maintenance are classified CONFIDENTIAL; releasable technical data (technical performance) is classified SECRET. The system can be programmed with threat data provided by the purchasing country.

f. The AN/AVR-2B Laser Warning Set is a passive laser warning system that receives, processes, and displays threat information resulting from aircraft illumination by lasers on the multi-functional display. The hardware is classified CONFIDENTIAL; releasable technical manuals for operation and maintenance are classified SECRET.

g. The Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System plus MultiMode Receiver (EGI+MMR). The aircraft has two EGIs which use internal accelerometers, rate gyro measurements, and external sensor measurements to estimate the aircraft state, provides aircraft flight and position data to aircraft systems. The EGI is a velocity-aided, strap down, ring laser gyro based inertial unit. The EGI unit houses a GPS receiver. The receiver is capable of operating in either non-encrypted or encrypted. When keyed, the GPS receiver will automatically use anti-spoof/jam capabilities when they are in use. The EGI will retain the key through power on/off/on cycles. Because of safeguards built into the EGI, it is not considered classified when keyed. Integrated within the EGI is an Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) for processing functions. Each EGI also houses a Multi-Mode Receiver (MMR). The MMR is incorporated to provide for reception of ground based NAVAID signals for instrument aided flight. Provides IMC I IFR integration and certification of improved Embedded Global Positioning System and Inertial (EGI) unit, with attached MMR, with specific cockpit instrumentation allows Apaches to operate within the worldwide IFR route structure. Also includes integration of the Common Army Aviation Map (CAAM), Area Navigation (RNAV), Digital Aeronautical Flight Information File (DAFIF) and Global Air Traffic Management (GATM) compliance.

h. Manned-Unmanned Teaming-International (MUMT-I) provides Manned-Unmanned Teaming with Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs), other Apaches and other interoperable aircraft and land platforms. Provides ability to display real-time UAS sensor information to aircraft and transmit MTADS video. Capability to receive video and metadata from Interoperability Profile compliant (IOP) as well as legacy systems. It is a data link for the AH-64E that provides a fully integrated multiband, interoperable capability that allows pilots to receive off-board sensor video streaming from different platforms in non-Tactical Common Data Link (TCDL) bands. The MUMT-I data link can retransmit Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) or Apache Modernized Target Acquisition Designation Sight full-motion sensor video and metadata to another MUMT-I-equipped Apache. It can also transmit to ground forces equipped with the One Station Remote Video Terminal. It provides Apache aircrews with increased situational awareness and net-centric interoperability while

significantly reducing sensor-to-shooter timelines. This combination results in increased survivability of Apache aircrews and ground forces by decreasing their exposure to hostile fire.

i. Link 16 is a military tactical data exchange network. Its specification is part of the family of Tactical Data Links. Link 16 provides aircrews with enhanced situational awareness and the ability to exchange target information to Command and Control (C2) assets via Tactical Digital Information Link-Joint (TADIL-J). Link 16 can provide a range of combat information in near-real time to U.S. and allies' combat aircraft and C2 centers. This will contribute to the integrated control of fighters by either ground-based or airborne controllers and will greatly increase the fighters' situational awareness and ability either to engage targets designated by controllers or to avoid threats, thereby increasing mission effectiveness and reducing fratricide and attrition. The Link 16 enables the Apache to receive information from the command-and-control platforms and enables it to share this data with all the other services, making it more efficient at locating and prosecuting targets. The material solution for the AH-64E is currently the Small Tactical Terminal (SIT) KOR-24A from Harris to satisfy its requirement for an Airborne and Maritime/Fixed Station (AMF) Small Airborne Link 16 Terminal (SALT). The SIT is the latest generation of small, two-channel, Link 16 and VHF/UHF radio terminals. While in flight, the SIT provides simultaneous communication, voice or data, on two key waveforms.

2. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. A determination has been made that the recipient country can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

21ST CENTURY CURES BILL

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I am pleased to see that the 21st Century Cures Act will fix one of the issues associated with payments for hospital outpatient departments that arose from the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015. You will recall that section 603 of that act changed the way these departments will be reimbursed by Medicare in the future. Hospital outpatient departments that were billing Medicare prior to November 2, 2015, however, were exempted from these reduced payments.

We have heard from a number of hospitals in Florida that were in the middle of developing hospital outpatient departments when the new law went into effect. They had made substantial investments in these new departments under the assumption that Medicare

would pay them just as it had been doing for years. I am pleased to see that the 21st Century Cures Act will permit hospitals that were in the process of developing outpatient departments to be reimbursed under the previous payment system.

In my State, Jackson Health System, a large public hospital which is known throughout the world for its high-quality healthcare and its value as a public hospital in our community, was in the process of building four new outpatient departments for patients in the Miami-Dade County area when the new law was passed. They had executed binding leases on three of the departments, constructed facilities, and finalized contracts for architectural and engineering reviews on several of the facilities. They had gone through a long process of getting the necessary approvals and financing from the county and State governments.

It is obvious that all four of Jackson's outpatient facilities meet the "mid-build" exception contained in section 16001 of the 21st Century Cures Act. The actual construction of these facilities was complete, and Jackson was in the process of securing all the necessary requirements for the renovations of these facilities when the new law was passed on November 2, 2015. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, clearly agreed when they issued provider numbers to all four new outpatient departments in September and October 2015. For hospitals like Jackson, the subsequent change in the law essentially changed the rules in the middle of the game. I urge CMS to work with all hospitals in similar situations.

I am very pleased that the 21st Century Cures Act will provide relief to the Jackson Health System and hospitals like it that had made these investments in future outpatient healthcare departments prior to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FEDERAL RULE OF CRIMINAL
PROCEDURE 41

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following letters from law enforcement groups be printed in the RECORD in support of the recent changes to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 41 that was the subject of debate on the floor of the Senate on November 30, 2016: a December 6, 2016, letter signed by the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the National District Attorneys Association, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the Sergeant's Benevolent Association NYPD; a December 5, 2016, letter signed

by the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association; a December 5, 2016, letter signed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Agents Association; a December 5, 2016, letter signed by the National Fraternal Order of Police; and, a December 5, 2016, letter signed by the National Association to Protect Children.

DECEMBER 6, 2016.

Re: Rule 41 Changes.

Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Chairman

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
*Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY AND RANKING MEMBER LEAHY: We write in support of changes to Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure that improve the ability of law enforcement to obtain evidence despite efforts by criminals to hide behind technology. The changes encourage judicial oversight of complex online investigations and give investigators a clear roadmap to seek authorization for their techniques.

Rule 41 improvements help solve a simple conundrum for law enforcement: if you don't know where a computer is located that is being used to commit a crime, how do you know which court to ask for a search warrant to find the computer? Investigators sought these common-sense changes because they needed court oversight and authorization to identify criminals hiding behind technological barriers, not because they wanted to avoid oversight.

Rule 41 only governs cases where investigators are seeking a search warrant issued by a neutral magistrate based upon probable cause, particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized. If these changes are not made, then criminals could hide behind anonymizing services with impunity, knowing that law enforcement could never lawfully figure out which court had jurisdiction over them.

The stated goal of several legislative reforms addressing law enforcement access to digital evidence is to modernize the law to accommodate changing technology, preserving law enforcement access while protecting privacy. Ensuring that law enforcement can access evidence it needs with appropriate judicial oversight is precisely what these Rule 41 changes will do.

Sincerely,

ASSOCIATION OF STATE
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE
AGENCIES,
INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS
OF POLICE,
MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION,
MAJOR COUNTY SHERIFFS'
ASSOCIATION,
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
POLICE ORGANIZATIONS,
NATIONAL DISTRICT
ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL SHERIFFS'
ASSOCIATION,
NATIONAL SHERIFFS'
ASSOCIATION,
SERGEANT'S BENEVOLENT
ASSOCIATION NYPD.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,

Washington, DC, December 5, 2016.

Re: Rule 41 Amendments.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
*Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC,*

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
*Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. HARRY REID,
*Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
*Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Ju-
diciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATORS: On behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)—the nation's largest professional, non-profit association representing over 26,000 federal law enforcement officers from 65 agencies—I am writing to express our strong support for the recently implemented amendments to Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. These amendments will enhance and improve the ability for law enforcement officials to investigate and prosecute terrorists, transnational child pornographers, and cyber criminals who use computer networks to conceal their physical location.

FLEOA shares the same opinion of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Agent's Association (FBIAA), the National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys (NAAUSA) and the National Association to Protect Children. We all agree that the Rule 41 amendments are necessary to address investigative hindrances that result from the difficulty of identifying the exact location of a computer when seeking a warrant. Terrorists and criminals frequently use complex computer networks, spread across the country and the world to anonymize communications, but the previous version of Rule 41 only allowed magistrate judges to issue warrants for evidence within their jurisdictions. This situation created ambiguity and significant burdens for investigators allowing transnational sexual predators and cyber criminals anonymity.

The Rule 41 amendments resolve the uncertainty surrounding the warrant process by establishing a court-supervised framework for conducting investigations that will protect the privacy interests of the public. FLEOA believes these changes, which took effect on December 1, 2016 are reasonable and necessary.

Respectively,

NATHAN CATURA,
FLEOA National President.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AGENTS ASSOCIATION,
Alexandria, VA, December 5, 2016.

Re: Rule 41 Amendments.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
*Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. HARRY REID,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
*Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Ju-
diciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATORS: On behalf of the FBI Agents Association ("FBIAA"), a voluntary professional association currently representing over 13,000 active duty and retired FBI Special Agents, I write to express our

support for the recently implemented amendments to Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure ("Rule 41"). These amendments will enhance the ability for law enforcement officials to investigate and prosecute criminals, such as terrorists and child pornographers, who use computer networks to disguise their physical location.

The FBIAA shares the opinion of FBI Director Comey and the Department of Justice that the narrow changes included in the Rule 41 amendments are necessary to address investigative obstacles that result from the difficulty of identifying the specific location of a computer when seeking a warrant. Criminals frequently use complex computer networks spread across the country and the world to anonymize their communications, but the previous version of Rule 41 only allowed magistrate judges to issue warrants for evidence within their jurisdictions. This situation created uncertainty and significant administrative burdens for investigators, and as Director Comey noted earlier this year, the previous iteration of Rule 41 created problems "for some of our most important investigations."

The Rule 41 amendments resolve the uncertainty surrounding the warrant process by establishing a court-supervised framework for conducting investigations that will protect the privacy interests of the public. The FBIAA believes these changes, which took effect on December 1, 2016, are reasonable and necessary.

The FBIAA is pleased that the Senate did not interfere with the implementation of the Rule 41 amendments, and we look forward to continuing our work with Congress on these important issues.

If you have any questions, please contact me, FBIAA General Counsel Dee Martin, dee.martin@bracewelllaw.com, and Joshua Zive, joshua.zive@bracewelllaw.com.

Sincerely,

THOMAS O'CONNOR,
President.

NATIONAL FRATERNAL
ORDER OF POLICE,
Washington, DC, December 5, 2016.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
*Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN AND SENATOR LEAHY, I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong and continued support for the changes to Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure made by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The FOP supports these changes and we believe they will benefit law enforcement officers conducting online investigations. These changes will ensure that Federal agents know which judge to go to in order to apply for a warrant when the cybercriminals they are investigating have hidden their location through anonymizing technology. This search warrant will help law enforcement discover where these criminals are located and end their illicit activity.

Law enforcement officers are now able to obtain warrants from a single judge instead of multiple applications in many jurisdictions to obtain the same information. This will help speed up investigations into crimes like computer hacking, where offenders unlawfully access computers remotely and cross jurisdictional boundaries.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to

thank you for your consistent strong support for the men and women of law enforcement throughout this country. I look forward to working with you and your staff on this issue. If I can be of any additional help in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

CHUCK CANTERBURY,
National President.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION TO
PROTECT CHILDREN,
Knoxville, TN, December 5, 2016.

Hon. JOHN CORNYN:

*U.S. Senate, Majority Whip, Chair, Judiciary
Subcommittee on The Constitution, Wash-
ington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR CORNYN, We are writing you in support of the amendment to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 41. It has been with great concern over the last decade that we have watched as child sexual predators take advantage of new technologies, including ways to hide their exploitation of children through the use of proxies, anonymizers and encryption.

The internet was not created to give technologically savvy offenders an advantage in obfuscating their crimes, and offenders who participate in the global demand for the rape and torture of children should not be rewarded for being good at hiding.

Make no mistake, the offenders who take advantage of the "dark web" are some of the most dangerous offenders that exist. For proof of this one need look no further than one of the most notorious ICE cases in history, the recent "Operation Delego". This transnational child exploitation case involved between 600-900 of the worst offenders ICE has seen. It led to 72 indictments (of which 15 are for "John Doe" warrants) and 57 arrests. This investigation uncovered a private bulletin board where hands on offenders produced hardcore child rape imagery and shared it by utilizing sophisticated proxies and encryption methods. The members were segregated into groups, including a "Super VIP" section and according to the "Hawkeye Indictment" provided by the US Department of Justice, "The rules controlling what could be posted in that section were as follows:

"Keep the girls under 13, in fact, I really need to see 12 or younger to know your (sic) a brother".

and:
"It's very young kids, getting (expletive), and preteens in distress and or crying, etc. . . . Getting hit hard on the ass, with a belt and so on . . . I can't believe some of you guys can't work it out for yourselves? And "pretend" bondage, "pretend light whipping" is not super hardcore. If the girl looks total (sic) comfortable, she's not in distress, it does NOT belong I (sic) this section (smiley face icon)".

In another transnational child exploitation case investigated by ICE dubbed "Operation Round Table", Jonathon Johnson, a 27 year old predator from Louisiana, operated a 27,000 member hidden service site on TOR for the production and dissemination of child sexual abuse images. Johnson created a "honeypot" site by stealing a young woman's identity and pretending to be her. Not only did he persuade over 251 child victims to provide him with sexually explicit images and video but he was successful in convincing some of his victims to sexually assault their younger relatives on camera for him, some of whom were under the age of 3.

We applaud Congress and the US Supreme Court for providing this amendment to rule

41, which can only be described as long overdue.

The internet has provided vexing challenges to today's law enforcement efforts to protect children and for their sake government must keep pace.

With much gratitude,

CAMILLE COOPER,
*Director, Government
Affairs, The Na-
tional Association to
PROTECT Children
& PROTECT.*

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor our colleagues who are leaving us at the end of this Congress, six individuals who have done a lot to shape how the Senate operates today.

First I would like to thank my three Republican colleagues who are departing. Thank you not only for their service to our country but your willingness to work with me and other members of my party on a number of issues.

DAN COATS

Mr. President, Senator COATS and I served on the Intelligence Committee together. He was a supporter of many of our efforts, including our encryption bill to require all companies to abide by lawful court orders.

MARK KIRK

Mr. President, Senator MARK KIRK took a brave stance on gun violence issues, bucking his party by cosponsoring our amendment to close the terrorist loophole.

KELLY AYOTTE

Mr. President, Senator AYOTTE and I have worked very closely to improve breast cancer detection. I am hopeful that together we can pass our bill before the end of this Congress.

I would also like to speak to three of my closest colleagues on our side of the aisle.

Over the past 24 years, I have had the pleasure of serving in the Senate with HARRY REID, BARBARA MIKULSKI, and BARBARA BOXER, and I am grateful not just for our working relationships but for the close friendships I have formed with each of them.

HARRY REID

Mr. President, Senator REID has served in Congress since 1983, and he has been our party's leader for the past decade. Despite more than three decades in Washington, Senator REID still retains the values instilled in him while growing up in Searchlight, NV. Often described as a tough fighter, he has respect from both sides of the aisle for being a consensus builder who is willing to constantly work to find a deal.

One issue on which Senator REID and I share a passion is Lake Tahoe, the High Sierra lake that straddles the California-Nevada border.

Twenty years ago, HARRY invited President Bill Clinton to announce a major commitment to restoring the health of Lake Tahoe. That first summit launched a public-private partnership that has now invested \$1.2 billion in conservation and restoration projects around the lake.

This year, Senator REID told me he wanted to turn the annual summit into a celebration by inviting President Obama to speak. The event was a huge success, with more than 7,000 people attending.

I will miss HARRY's passion and leadership, but if anyone deserves a break, it is him.

BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. President, BARBARA MIKULSKI is another fearless leader whom I admire.

When I first came to the Senate in November of 1992, there were only three female Senators: Jocelyn Burdick of North Dakota, who retired a month later; Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas; and, of course, Senator BARB.

Senator MIKULSKI often quips, "I may be short, but I won't be overlooked." History certainly will not overlook the contributions she has made.

Rising to become the first woman to chair the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator MIKULSKI is often described as a trailblazer. To the women in the Senate, she is a mentor, the dean of the Senate women.

From three women in 1992 to 20 women senators today—and 21 in the next Congress, much of that progress can be attributed to the leadership of the longest serving woman in Congress, Senator MIKULSKI.

BARBARA BOXER

Mr. President, finally, I would like to talk about my partner from California, BARBARA BOXER.

Senator BOXER and I were elected to the Senate on the same day in 1992, the "Year of the Woman."

The day BARBARA was sworn in was historic; it was the first time two women represented their State together in the Senate. That is an honor I am grateful to have shared with my good friend.

From the Marin County Board of Supervisors, to the House of Representatives, to the United States Senate—Senator BOXER has been a champion for families, children, consumers, and the environment.

She rose to become the chair and now ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee. I have great respect for Senator BOXER's passion, dedication, and enthusiasm for protecting the environment. No one does it better.

She led an effort to protect California's coast from offshore drilling. She authored the California Missions Preservation Act to restore and protect the 21 historic missions in California. She helped create Pinnacles National Park,

Fort Ord National Monument, and Caesar Chavez National Monument. And she led the effort to expand the Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries.

In California, there are now more than 1 million acres of protected wilderness thanks to Senator BOXER.

But she was more than just a champion for our environment.

In the Senate, BARBARA was a staunch advocate for issues related to children.

She pushed to protect children from dangerous toys by removing lead or other dangerous chemicals and requiring cautionary warnings on children's products sold over the Internet. She fought to remove arsenic from drinking water to protect children. As chair of the After School Caucus, she wrote legislation to secure Federal funding for afterschool programs. Thanks to Senator BOXER, 1.6 million children now have a safe place to go after school.

She fought for our servicemembers.

She founded the Military Families Caucus to provide support for the families of servicemembers. She helped establish the West Coast Combat Care Center in San Diego, so that southern California veterans with traumatic wounds would have access to quality care.

And Senator BOXER fought for consumers.

She authored a bipartisan measure to prevent a conflict of interest with banks acting as real estate brokers. After the housing crisis, she wrote measures to protect homeowners whose mortgage is transferred or sold. And she pushed for legislation to help homeowners refinance with lower rates—thanks to that effort, 1 million borrowers were able to save thousands of dollars in interest payments each year.

And finally, BARBARA was a staunch defender of women's rights.

She led the floor fight to pass the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act and pushed back against repeated attacks on women's health and a woman's right to privacy. Her efforts led to the passage of the Violence Against Women Act that protects women from domestic and sexual abuse.

She worked closely with then-Senator JOE BIDEN to pass that landmark bill. After she announced her retirement, the Vice President said: "You always knew in the Senate if you had BARBARA on your side, you didn't need much more."

Well, I have been lucky to have BARBARA by my side for the past 24 years.

She has been a strong advocate for the people of California, and I am grateful to have served with her.

I am also grateful for the friendship we have shared over the years.

BARBARA and her husband, Stewart, are two of the kindest, most caring people I have had the pleasure of know-

ing. Their marriage of more than 50 years has brought them considerable joy. Together they raised two wonderful children and are now blessed with four grandchildren.

I am sure she is looking forward to spending more time with them.

While she may be retiring from the Senate, the passion BARBARA displayed for public service will not end.

I know she will continue to advocate and remain a powerful voice for the causes she championed here in the United States Senate.

I look forward to seeing what she is able to accomplish in the next phase of her life and offer her best wishes in a well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Senator BARBARA BOXER, who has served her State and country with boundless energy, enthusiasm, and exuberance.

Senator BOXER's 24 years in the Senate are only part of her legacy of leadership and accomplishments. Previously, she served for 10 years in the House of Representatives for California's Sixth Congressional District and before that as the first woman president of the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

That remarkable record of service includes another record. In her reelection in 2004, Senator BOXER received nearly 7 million votes, the most in Senate history until that time and a mark that stood for 8 years.

During her service in the Senate, Senator BOXER has established herself as a champion of the environment, infrastructure, and medical research. Along with Senator INHOFE, she authored a 5-year transportation bill that many thought was an impossible task in a gridlocked Senate. But she worked across the aisle and did it. The United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act she authored in 2012 reaffirmed the special relationship between our two countries and is another of Senator BOXER's accomplishments.

It has been especially rewarding to work with her on legislation to better protect women from violence, in our country and around the world.

In her first campaign for Congress in 1982, she ran under the slogan, "Barbara Boxer Gives a Damn." She always has and always will. It is a pleasure to thank Senator BARBARA BOXER for her years of service and to wish her and her husband, Stewart, many more years of good health and great happiness.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY AYOTTE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Maine and New Hampshire share a border, a history, and an invigorating climate. When KELLY AYOTTE came to the Senate 6 years ago, I immediately saw in

her those traits shared by the people of our two States: a strong work ethic, a respect for tradition balanced by a spirit of innovation, and fiscal prudence always tempered by compassion.

During those years, I came to know Senator AYOTTE as a diligent, energetic, and committed public servant.

She brought with her to the Senate a remarkable record of public service. As her State's attorney general, she fought hard to protect the people of New Hampshire and the environment that is so crucial to their way of life.

It has been rewarding to work with her on such bipartisan efforts as the Terrorist Firearms Prevention Act, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and addressing the opioid addiction crisis confronting our States. From her support for land conservation to advancing biomass energy, she has been a strong leader in the wise use of natural resources and their role in growing the economy.

Coming from a military family, she has demonstrated her respect for our men and women in uniform as a member of the Armed Services Committee and is recognized as a leading voice on national security issues and the well-being of our veterans. We have joined together on many occasions to advocate for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard that is so important to our Nation's defense and to the dedicated men and women of our two States who work there.

It has been an honor to serve with KELLY AYOTTE in the United States Senate, and the American people are better off for her service. I wish KELLY and her wonderful family all the best in the years to come.

HONORING SERGEANT STEVEN C. OWEN

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Sergeant Steven C. Owen, a beloved husband and father who tragically lost his life in the line of duty on October 5, 2016.

Sergeant Owen was born in Encino, CA, and proudly joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department almost three decades ago. He spent most of his career at the Lancaster Sheriff's station, patrolling the streets of his Antelope Valley community with pride. Well known for his courage as well as kindness, Sergeant Owen received a Meritorious Conduct Medal in 2014 after safely rescuing a hostage held at gunpoint, devising the rescue plan and ensuring that his deputies were kept out of harm's way.

Colleagues fondly remembered Sergeant Owen's tireless work ethic, selfless nature, and deep commitment to the community he served. "Sergeant Owen had the qualities of a religious man—maybe a priest, a minister or a rabbi, or someone who took vows to

serve mankind," said Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell. "He fed the hungry, he clothed those who needed it, and Steve Owen comforted the traumatized."

Outside of work, Sergeant Owen spent most of his time volunteering, coaching youth football, and mentoring young students. He also taught landlords and businessowners how to reduce crime on their properties. A skilled water-skier and equestrian, Sergeant Owen also enjoyed camping and gardening in his free time.

Above all else, Sergeant Owen was devoted to his family and his faith. On behalf of the people of California, whom Sergeant Owen served so bravely, I extended my gratitude and deepest sympathies to his wife, Tania; children, Branden, Chadd, and Shannon; and his entire extended family.

HONORING OFFICER LESLEY ZEREBNY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring to the life of Police Officer Lesley Zerebny, a beloved wife, devoted mother, and esteemed colleague who was tragically killed in the line of duty on October 8, 2016.

Officer Zerebny was born in Hemet, CA, to David and Luanne Kling. She was raised in a law enforcement family and expressed a desire to become a police officer from a young age. In 2014, Officer Zerebny joined the Palm Springs Police Department as a police officer trainee and was promoted to police officer after graduating from the Riverside County Sheriff's Academy.

Her positive attitude and commitment to the job helped Officer Zerebny stand out at the Palm Springs Police Department. She consistently accepted additional assignments and always offered a helping hand to her colleagues. She was described as "small in stature, but fearless" and "fiery, creative, full of life and tough as nails." Hard-working, dedicated, and compassionate, Officer Zerebny courageously served her community with distinction.

Officer Zerebny took enormous pride in everything she set out to do—especially in her service as a police officer—but her proudest accomplishment was her family. On behalf of the people of California whom Officer Zerebny served so bravely, I extend my heartfelt condolences to her husband, Zach; daughter, Cora; and her parents, David and Luanne.

REMEMBERING HAROLD JOHN SHIMER

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, today marks the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It was during that fateful event that more than 2,400 American lives were lost and another 1,100 were wounded.

While that day took a tragic toll, heroes were made of those who rushed to action. I wish to honor the life and memory of one such Pearl Harbor hero who went on to serve his country for an additional 20 years after that day. That man is Harold John Shimer, who passed away on October 30, 2016, at the age of 97 in Anacortes, WA.

Mr. Shimer was born on February 12, 1919, in Wurstboro, NY, the son of Harold and Irma Shimer. He attended schools in Wurstboro and Middleton, NY, and enjoyed working with his father on their 640-acre dairy farm. After graduating high school, Mr. Shimer joined the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Shimer had begun his naval career as a storekeeper third class aboard the newly commissioned USS *Helena*, where the ship's first assignment was as neutrality patrol in South America, protecting Uruguay and Argentina prior to the United States' entrance into World War II. Mr. Shimer had the very unique and rare account of watching the famous German *Graf Spee* warship and its captain, which had sunk nine merchant ships, scuttle itself after being pursued by English warships.

The USS *Helena* was assigned to the Pacific, where it was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. It was hit by a Japanese torpedo and lost 23 men. Mr. Shimer and the other surviving crewmembers immediately fired back against the attackers. He passed ammunition for the new guns that had just been installed that summer. He recalled, "In a superhuman effort we emptied the ammunition locker in less than two hours." Mr. Shimer and his team were credited with saving the USS *Pennsylvania*, the flagship of the fleet in a drydock just forward of the *Helena*. Following repairs, the *Helena* went on to win fame for sinking a number of Japanese ships before being sunk herself by a submarine in 1943.

Mr. Shimer returned to the States before being reassigned to establish a submarine depot in Fremantle, Australia, and was promoted to chief warrant officer. In 1947, he was assigned to the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, DC, then to Japan Naval Supply Depot, Yokosuka, Japan, and finally Naval Depot, Seattle, WA. Mr. Shimer had served aboard the USS *Philippine Sea*, USS *Mount McKinley*, and USS *Constellation*. He retired from Naval Station Seattle in June 1961, after 22 years of patriotic service to his country.

Mr. Shimer's great pleasure was golfing with all his friends in the Similk Men's Golf Club, and he was an active member of Pearl Harbor Survivors, life member of VFW and American Legion, and member of the Anacortes Elks Lodge.

Mr. Shimer is survived by his wife, Carolyn; daughters Patricia Armstrong, Terrie Hughes, and step-daughter Brenda Eissenstat; grandchildren

Toni Gill and Clayton Hughes and step-grandsons Ethan and Daniel Eissenstat; great-grandchildren Mitchell, Jamie, and Katelin Gill and Hayley and Brynn Hughes; step-sister Gale Angelostro; sister-in-law Blanche Shimer; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Please join me in extending our warmest gratitude to Mr. Shimer and his family for the years of dedicated service to his country and for being an upstanding and active member of the Anacortes community. His stories, which were described as no less than “amazing”, will be missed, but they will also live on in the memories of family and friends that knew him well.

REMEMBERING LEROY MAZELL SMITH

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Leroy Mazell Smith, an aviation mechanic from Fordyce, AR, who was part of the illustrious Tuskegee Airmen and served his country with honor and distinction.

Born in 1927, Smith loved to tell the story of his birth with wry humor and fondness. A midwife helped his mother deliver him while on a bridge where some had taken refuge from the great Mississippi River flood of that year. They remained there for 4 days before his birth was documented. The result was that his birth certificate indicated a different date of birth, 4 days after his actual birthday.

From that unusual beginning, he went on to lead a remarkable life. He credited his Baptist grandfather with having a large influence on him growing up, including teaching him the value of hard work. He graduated from high school at age 16 and took preflight aeronautical classes. After graduation, Smith joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and became a mechanic.

He completed basic training in Texas and was stationed at Chanute Field in Illinois. Later, during World War II, he was sent to Europe where he was assigned to the Tuskegee Airmen Red Tail squadron. He remembered being scared during his time in theater but always relayed his sense of pride in the work he did and the fact that the Tuskegee unit never lost a bomber.

Smith also helped break social and racial barriers in the military. As part of the group of African Americans who served in the Armed Forces in the mid-20th century, he was among many servicemembers who confronted segregation within the barracks and beyond. Even so, he recalled his time in the Army Air Corps as “one of his best memories.”

Leroy Smith honorably served with the U.S. Army Air Corps and the U.S. Air Force for more than 25 years, including further combat tours in Korea and Vietnam. He retired in 1968 as a master sergeant.

Leroy Mazell Smith passed away on December 1, 2016. He will be laid to rest on December 9, wearing an Air Force uniform complete with the medals he earned during his service, a recent request that the nonprofit veterans’ support group Team Red, White and Blue helped fulfill.

Smith is an American hero whose admirable service is recognized and appreciated by all Arkansans. I extend my sincere condolences to his family and friends, and I hope that they take comfort in the wonderful legacy that he leaves behind.

TRIBUTE TO JOE AND LOUISE HEAD

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Joe and Louise Head, recipients of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation’s 2016 Jacob E. Davis Volunteer Leadership Award, which is presented annually to honor citizens who have made significant contributions to the greater Cincinnati community.

Recognized for their generosity as philanthropic and civic leaders, Joe and Louise have volunteered their time, talents, and treasure to countless community endeavors to make the greater Cincinnati community a better place to live.

They have both been very active volunteers to many local organizations including Xavier University, Seven Hills School, the Metropolitan Growth Alliance, and the Cincinnati Nature Center. Joe and Louise have also provided significant leadership by serving as trustees and board members to many civic and charitable organizations. Louise is a former governing board chair of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, and Joe is a former chair of the Christ Hospital Health Network board of directors. No couple is more community-minded, and the people of greater Cincinnati have been the beneficiaries.

I would like to congratulate Joe and Louise Head on this award.

NASHVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT’S CENTENNIAL

Mr. BARR. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Nashville Fire Department in North Carolina. On December 17, 2016, the men and women of the department will celebrate their 100th anniversary.

The Nashville Fire Department has a tremendous history of dedicated service to its community. On December 17, 1916, it was outfitted with their first hose and reel to replace the previous bucket brigades. As the oldest fire department in Nash County, NC, its volunteers and employees continue, to this day, risking their lives to protect the welfare of their citizens. I am so proud of their dedication to keeping us safe in the Tar Heel State.

The mission of the Nashville Fire Department is to “protect lives, property, and the environment by providing skillful and cost effective fire and life safety services.” The Nashville Fire Department goes above and beyond accomplishing this by answering approximately 1,700 calls for service yearly for either fire protection, EMS response, or vehicle extrication. Additionally, this department specializes in trench rescue—one of the most challenging rescue events that emergency responders can face.

I salute the brave men and women of the Nashville Fire Department for 100 years of protective service to the people of Nashville, NC. Through their efforts, they make their community a better, safer place.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous accomplishments of the city of Santa Barbara, a community that has pioneered efforts in sustainability and environmental preservation for many years.

For over four decades, the city of Santa Barbara has been a leader in protecting and enhancing the local environment. In 1969, a devastating oil spill released an estimated 80,000 to 100,000 barrels of oil into the Santa Barbara Channel, resulting in public outcry over the significant damage to the ocean waters and wildlife. Local residents and civic leaders immediately began advocating for environmental reforms, and a few months later, Congress passed the National Environmental Policy Act, one of the first laws to establish a national framework for protecting our environment. Soon after, the California Coastal Commission was created in 1972 as an independent State agency committed to preserving California’s beautiful coastline.

As the Santa Barbara community grew and the effects of global climate change became more apparent, local leaders developed innovative initiatives to reduce waste, decrease emissions, and conserve natural resources. Specifically, the city imposed stormwater requirements for development projects to prevent runoff and implemented a shared-use vehicle program to reduce fuel costs and the number of vehicles in the city’s fleet. These efforts helped cut water consumption by 15 to 20 percent and reduce emissions by 10 percent, respectively. Next year, Santa Barbara will begin using a state-of-the-art water desalination facility that will reduce electrical demand and environmental impacts while supplying roughly 30 percent of the city’s water.

I want to congratulate the city of Santa Barbara for its dedicated efforts to preserve our precious natural resources. Santa Barbara's leadership will continue to make a profound difference for generations to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BRYON J. YOUNG

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the career of Mr. Bryon J. Young, executive director of the Army Contracting Command—Aberdeen Proving Ground (ACC-APG). Mr. Young will be retiring after 40 years of distinguished service to the country. Throughout his career, Mr. Young has proven himself a true public servant and his leadership will be truly missed. I would like to take this time to send my congratulations to Mr. Young on his retirement and reflect upon his long career, exemplified by his hard work, dedication, and passion.

Mr. Young dedicated his career to the defense and service of his Nation and his fellow citizens. A graduate of the University of Delaware and Boston University in the 1970s, Mr. Young went on to complete degrees at the Defense Systems Management College Program manager's course and executive program manager's course, as well as the U.S. Army War College and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Prior to his time with the Army Contracting Command, Mr. Young served for 27 years as an air defense officer in the Army with the 101st Airborne Division and as an ROTC instructor at Princeton University. Throughout his career, Mr. Young has displayed a commitment to excellence, and his numerous commands over the years are a testament to his work ethic and dedication. Among his many commands, Mr. Young has served as director of the U.S. Army Research Development and Engineering Command Contracting Center, director of the U.S. Army Contracting Agency in Falls Church, Virginia, chief of staff to the Army Contracting Agency, commander of the Defense Contract Management Agency Raytheon, and procurement team chief of U.S. Army Missile Command. Mr. Young's years of service and experience have benefited not only those around him, but the Nation as a whole. In his most recent role as executive director of the Army Contracting Command—Aberdeen Proving Ground, Mr. Young managed a geographically dispersed contracting center responsible for executing more than 35,000 contracting actions valued at \$11 billion.

Mr. Young's dedication to the Armed Services and our country are evident not only from his four decades of service and leadership, but also from his numerous decorations, which include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service

Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

Throughout his long and distinguished career in public service, Mr. Young has always placed his community and country first. We are all grateful for his dedicated service which will long be remembered. On behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a grateful Nation, I would like to once again extend my congratulations to Mr. Young on his retirement and thank him for his decades of public service. I wish him all the best in the years ahead.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 9:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1555. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 2234. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 1:47 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 817. An act to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.

S. 818. An act to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

S. 2873. An act to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

S. 3076. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish caskets and urns

for burial in cemeteries of States and tribal organizations of veterans without next of kin or sufficient resources to provide for caskets or urns, and for other purposes.

S. 3492. An act to designate the Traverse City VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Traverse City, Michigan, as the "Colonel Demas T. Craw VA Clinic."

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 756. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide for the dissemination of information regarding available Federal programs relating to energy efficiency projects for schools, and for other purposes.

H.R. 875. An act to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3381. An act to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4150. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to modify the hours of employment of physicians employed on a full-time basis by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 4352. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program establishing a patient self-scheduling appointment system, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4680. An act to prepare the National Park Service for its Centennial in 2016 and for a second century of promoting and protecting the natural, historic, and cultural resources of our National Parks for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5399. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs fulfill the ethical duty to report to State licensing authorities impaired, incompetent, and unethical health care activities.

H.R. 6375. An act to provide for consideration of the extension under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of nonapplication of No-Load Mode energy efficiency standards to certain security or life safety alarms or surveillance systems.

H.R. 6394. An act to require the Federal Communications Commission to submit to Congress a report on promoting broadband Internet access service for veterans.

H.R. 6401. An act to amend Public Law 94-241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands.

H.R. 6416. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6438. An act to extend the waiver of limitations with respect to excluding from gross income amounts received by wrongfully incarcerated individuals.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 174) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 34.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 795. An act to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees.

S. 3395. An act to require limitations on prescribed burns.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 5:46 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5790. An act to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3516. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a best-practices peer review of each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs to evaluate the efficacy of health care delivered at each such medical center.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 7, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 795. An act to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees.

S. 1555. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 2234. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

S. 2577. An act to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner officers, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 3395. An act to require limitations on prescribed burns.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ISAKSON, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 425. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs (Rept. No. 114-395).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 8. A bill to provide for the approval of the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Con. Res. 30. A concurrent resolution expressing concern over the disappearance of David Sneddon, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 40. A concurrent resolution encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families.

S. Con. Res. 57. A concurrent resolution honoring in praise and remembrance the extraordinary life, steady leadership, and remarkable, 70-year reign of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 535. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States from Mexico and China.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 537. A resolution expressing profound concern about the ongoing political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, urging the release of political prisoners, and calling for respect of constitutional and democratic processes.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 1150. A bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1182. A bill to exempt application of JSA attribution rule in case of existing agreements.

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2658. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2016 through 2017, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment:

H.R. 2845. A bill to promote access to benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4481. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the goal of all children in school and learning as an objective of the United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4939. A bill to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean re-

gion, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. THUNE for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Ann Begeman, of South Dakota, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2020.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE—TREATY

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Treaty Doc. 114-12: Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro with 2 conditions and 7 declarations (Ex. Rept. 114-16)

The text of the committee-recommended resolution of advice and consent to ratification is as follows:

As reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to Declarations and Conditions.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, which was opened for signature in Brussels on May 19, 2016, and signed on behalf of the United States of America (the "Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 114-12), subject to the declarations of section 2 and the conditions of section 3.

Sec. 2. Declarations.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declarations:

(1) Reaffirmation that United States Membership in NATO Remains a Vital National Security Interest of The United States.—The Senate declares that—

(A) for more than 60 years the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has served as the preeminent organization to defend the countries in the North Atlantic area against all external threats;

(B) through common action, the established democracies of North America and Europe that were joined in NATO persevered and prevailed in the task of ensuring the survival of democratic government in Europe and North America throughout the Cold War;

(C) NATO enhances the security of the United States by embedding European states in a process of cooperative security planning and by ensuring an ongoing and direct leadership role for the United States in European security affairs;

(D) the responsibility and financial burden of defending the democracies of Europe and North America can be more equitably shared

through an alliance in which specific obligations and force goals are met by its members;

(E) the security and prosperity of the United States is enhanced by NATO's collective defense against aggression that may threaten the security of NATO members; and

(F) United States membership in NATO remains a vital national security interest of the United States.

(2) Strategic Rationale For NATO Enlargement.—The Senate finds that—

(A) the United States and its NATO allies face continued threats to their stability and territorial integrity;

(B) an attack against Montenegro, or its destabilization arising from external subversion, would threaten the stability of Europe and jeopardize United States national security interests;

(C) Montenegro, having established a democratic government and having demonstrated a willingness to meet the requirements of membership, including those necessary to contribute to the defense of all NATO members, is in a position to further the principles of the North Atlantic Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area; and

(D) extending NATO membership to Montenegro will strengthen NATO, enhance stability in Southeast Europe, and advance the interests of the United States and its NATO allies.

(3) Support for NATO's Open Door Policy.—The policy of the United States is to support NATO's Open Door Policy that allows any European country to express its desire to join NATO and demonstrate its ability to meet the obligations of NATO membership.

(4) Future Consideration Of Candidates For Membership In NATO.—

(A) Senate Finding.—The Senate finds that the United States will not support the accession to the North Atlantic Treaty of, or the invitation to begin accession talks with, any European state (other than Montenegro), unless—

(i) the President consults with the Senate consistent with Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States (relating to the advice and consent of the Senate to the making of treaties); and

(ii) the prospective NATO member can fulfill all of the obligations and responsibilities of membership, and the inclusion of such state in NATO would serve the overall political and strategic interests of NATO and the United States.

(B) Requirement for Consensus and Ratification.—The Senate declares that no action or agreement other than a consensus decision by the full membership of NATO, approved by the national procedures of each NATO member, including, in the case of the United States, the requirements of Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States (relating to the advice and consent of the Senate to the making of treaties), will constitute a commitment to collective defense and consultations pursuant to Articles 4 and 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

(5) Influence Of Non-NATO Members On NATO Decisions.—The Senate declares that any country that is not a member of NATO shall have no impact on decisions related to NATO enlargement.

(6) Support for 2014 Wales Summit Defense Spending Benchmark.—The Senate declares that all NATO members should continue to move towards the guideline outlined in the 2014 Wales Summit Declaration to spend a

minimum of 2 percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defense and 20 percent of their defense budgets on major equipment, including research and development, by 2024.

(7) Support for Montenegro's Democratic Reform Process.—Montenegro has made difficult reforms and taken steps to address corruption. The United States and other NATO member states should not consider this important process complete and should continue to urge additional reforms.

Sec. 3. Conditions.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following conditions:

(1) Presidential Certification.—Prior to the deposit of the instrument of ratification, the President shall certify to the Senate as follows:

(A) The inclusion of Montenegro in NATO will not have the effect of increasing the overall percentage share of the United States in the common budgets of NATO.

(B) The inclusion of Montenegro in NATO does not detract from the ability of the United States to meet or to fund its military requirements outside the North Atlantic area.

(2) Annual Report on NATO Member Defense Spending.—Not later than December 1 of each year during the 8-year period following the date of entry into force of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, which shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex, and which shall contain the following information:

(A) The amount each NATO member spent on its national defense in each of the previous 5 years.

(B) The percentage of GDP for each of the previous 5 years that each NATO member spent on its national defense.

(C) The percentage of national defense spending for each of the previous 5 years that each NATO member spent on major equipment, including research and development.

(D) Details on the actions a NATO member has taken in the most recent year reported to move closer towards the NATO guideline outlined in the 2014 Wales Summit Declaration to spend a minimum of 2 percent of its GDP on national defense and 20 percent of its national defense budget on major equipment, including research and development, if a NATO member is below either guideline for the most recent year reported.

Sec. 4. Definitions.

In this resolution:

(1) Appropriate Congressional Committees.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) NATO Members.—The term "NATO members" means all countries that are parties to the North Atlantic Treaty.

(3) Non-NATO Members.—The term "non-NATO members" means all countries that are not parties to the North Atlantic Treaty.

(4) North Atlantic Area.—The term "North Atlantic area" means the area covered by Article 6 of the North Atlantic Treaty, as applied by the North Atlantic Council.

(5) North Atlantic Treaty.—The term "North Atlantic Treaty" means the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Washington April 4, 1949 (63 Stat. 2241; TIAS 1964), as amended.

(6) United States Instrument of Ratification.—The term "United States instrument of ratification" means the instrument of ratification of the United States of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. WARREN:

S. 3511. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to expand the Secretarial Designee Program of the Department of Defense to include victims of acts of terror; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 3512. A bill to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation Program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FLAKE:

S. 3513. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to facilitate communication between U.S. Customs and Border Protection and border ranchers in Arizona and other border States and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 3514. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 3515. A bill to authorize previously appropriated resources for communities to address persistent or historical crime through collaborative cross-sector partnerships; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 3516. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a best-practices peer review of each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs to evaluate the efficacy of health care delivered at each such medical center; read the first time.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3517. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide appropriate rules for the application of the deduction for income attributable to domestic production activities with respect to certain contract manufacturing or production arrangements; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3518. A bill to impose nonnuclear sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 3519. A bill to address the psychological, social, and emotional needs of children, youth, and families who have experienced trauma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 632. A resolution supporting a transition to 100 percent clean, renewable energy to help consumers, support the economy and national security of the United States, and avoid the worst impacts of climate change; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. Con. Res. 58. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that rates for inmate calling service should not exceed the affordable modified rate caps adopted by the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 24

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 24, a bill to clarify that an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority shall not authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. NELSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 1148

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1148, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 1524

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1524, a bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products.

S. 1911

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1911, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 2595

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 2712

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2712, a bill to restore amounts improperly withheld for tax purposes from severance payments to individuals who retired or separated from service in the Armed Forces for combat-related injuries, and for other purposes.

S. 2748

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 2748, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2878

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2878, a bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

S. 2895

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2895, a bill to extend the civil statute of limitations for victims of Federal sex offenses.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from South Caro-

lina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2957, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

S. 2989

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2989, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 3188

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3188, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the incentives for biodiesel.

S. 3256

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3256, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the goal of all children in school and learning as an objective of the United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes.

S. 3284

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3284, a bill to oppose loans at international financial institutions for the Government of Nicaragua unless the Government of Nicaragua is taking effective steps to hold free, fair, and transparent elections, and for other purposes.

S. 3364

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3364, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to accept the donation of facilities and related improvements for use by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3478

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3478, a bill to require continued and enhanced annual reporting to Congress in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom on anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, the safety and security of European Jewish communities, and the efforts of the United States to partner with European governments, the European Union, and civil society groups, to combat anti-Semitism, and for other purposes.

S. 3504

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3504, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to implement Medicare payment policies designed to improve management of chronic disease, streamline care coordination, and improve quality outcomes without adding to the deficit.

S.J. RES. 40

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 40, a joint resolution approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 632—SUPPORTING A TRANSITION TO 100 PERCENT CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY TO HELP CONSUMERS, SUPPORT THE ECONOMY AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES, AND AVOID THE WORST IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 632

Whereas, in December 2016, nearly 200 nations that are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted an historic international agreement to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change;

Whereas transitioning to clean energy will help reduce carbon pollution in the United States, and combat climate change;

Whereas transitioning to clean energy will help the United States meet its international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

Whereas transitioning to a clean energy economy will create millions of well-paying jobs in the United States, save consumers in the United States money, and boost economic growth;

Whereas low-income communities, communities of color, and indigenous people in the

United States are inordinately exposed to pollution from fossil fuels;

Whereas distributed renewable energy and energy efficiency can provide access to local jobs in cities in the United States while cleaning up neighborhoods;

Whereas, in 2005, the United States had fewer than 10,000 megawatts of installed wind and solar electric generating capacity;

Whereas, in 2016, the United States has more than 100,000 megawatts of installed wind and solar electric generating capacity;

Whereas, in 2016, the United States is projected to add more electric generating capacity from solar and wind than from any other source;

Whereas, by the end of 2016, there are projected to be—

(1) 310,000 individuals in the United States employed in the solar industry; and

(2) 88,000 individuals in the United States employed in the wind industry;

Whereas, by 2020, there are projected to be nearly 600,000 individuals in the United States employed in the wind and solar industries;

Whereas more than ½ of all new electricity capacity added in the world in 2015 was renewable; and

Whereas according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the United States has the technical potential to generate more than 100 times the quantity of electricity it consumes each year as of 2016 solely from wind, solar, and other renewable resources: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports a national goal of phasing out fossil fuel emissions and, by 2050, generating 100 percent of the electricity consumed in the United States from clean energy resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, and other renewable resources; and

(2) supports policies to achieve that goal that will—

(A) create jobs for all individuals, especially in communities with high rates of unemployment or underemployment, and build a sustainable economy; and

(B) ensure universal access to clean energy for all homes and businesses in the United States, including for moderate- and low-income families.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 58—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT RATES FOR INMATE CALLING SERVICE SHOULD NOT EXCEED THE AFFORDABLE MODIFIED RATE CAPS ADOPTED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. BOOKER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas an estimated 5,000,000 United States children have, or have had, a parent in prison or jail;

Whereas phone calls make it easier for families of incarcerated individuals to maintain positive relationships with their loved ones who are incarcerated;

Whereas phone calls help to reduce recidivism and promote the well-being of children;

Whereas a reduction in recidivism rates by just 1 percent would save United States taxpayers \$250,000,000 per year in correctional costs;

Whereas families of incarcerated individuals frequently experience financial hardship because of the loss of a key wage earner;

Whereas the cost of maintaining contact with incarcerated loved ones through in-person visits can be prohibitive;

Whereas written correspondence, especially with small children and disabled individuals, can be an inadequate way of maintaining communication; and

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission has been steadfast in its efforts, in accordance with its authority under the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.)—

(1) to bring about a compromise on inmate calling service rate caps; and

(2) to ensure that those rates are just and reasonable: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) rates for inmate calling service should not exceed the affordable modified rate caps adopted by the Federal Communications Commission as of the date of the adoption of this resolution; and

(2) reduced inmate calling service rates should be implemented swiftly because of the importance of inmate calling service as a rehabilitative means of communication.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 7, 2016, at 2 p.m., in room S-216 to the Capitol Building.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 7, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a Subcommittee hearing entitled "Assessing the Security of our Critical Surface Transportation Infrastructure."

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 7, 2016, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining the Department of the Interior's Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations, Four Years Later."

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY, AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

The Committee on Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition

Policy and Consumer Rights is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 7, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining the Competitive Impact of the AT&T-Time Warner Transaction."

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 7, 2016, from 3 p.m. in room SH-219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 742 through 765 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Robert N. Polumbo

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Jerry D. Harris, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. James M. Holmes

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. William K. Lescher

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Kelly A. Aeschbach

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade

indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Dixon R. Smith

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Joel E. DeGroot
Col. Christopher M. Faux
Col. Robert J. Gregory, III
Col. Henry U. Harder, Jr.
Col. Eric W. Lind
Col. David D. Zwart

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. David P. Baczewski
Brig. Gen. Timothy J. Cathcart
Brig. Gen. Brian T. Dravis
Brig. Gen. James O. Eiffert
Brig. Gen. Richard W. Kelly
Brig. Gen. Christopher J. Knapp
Brig. Gen. Jon K. Mott
Brig. Gen. Clayton W. Moushon
Brig. Gen. Kerry L. Muehlenbeck
Brig. Gen. Howard P. Purcell
Brig. Gen. David P. San Clemente
Brig. Gen. Michael R. Taheri
Brig. Gen. Roger E. Williams, Jr.

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Jesse T. Simmons, Jr.

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. David M. McMinn
Brig. Gen. Ronald E. Paul

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. William E. Dickens, Jr.

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Brian K. Borgen
Col. Jeffrey S. Hinrichs
Col. Jay D. Jensen
Col. Bret C. Larson
Col. Todd J. McCubbin
Col. Patrice A. Melancon
Col. Ellen M. Moore
Col. Boyd C. L. Parker, IV
Col. Steven B. Parker
Col. Bryan P. Radliff
Col. Scott A. Sauter
Col. Constance M. Von Hoffman

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Randolph J. Staudenraus

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Craig L. LaFave
Brig. Gen. Pamela J. Lincoln
Brig. Gen. Donald R. Lindberg
Brig. Gen. Randall A. Ogden
Brig. Gen. James P. Scanlan
Brig. Gen. Patrick M. Wade

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Stephen C. Melton

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Paul E. Funk, II

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Gary J. Volesky

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. James H. Dickinson

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Patrick M. Hamilton

The following Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Benjamin F. Adams, III
Brig. Gen. Wayne L. Black
Brig. Gen. Christopher M. Burns
Brig. Gen. Kurt S. Crytzer
Brig. Gen. Ivan E. Denton
Brig. Gen. James C. Ernst
Brig. Gen. Kevin R. Griese
Brig. Gen. Mark G. Malanka
Brig. Gen. Roy V. McCarty
Brig. Gen. Blake C. Ortner
Brig. Gen. Christopher J. Petty
Brig. Gen. Jessie R. Robinson
Brig. Gen. Steven T. Scott
Brig. Gen. Raymond F. Shields, Jr.
Brig. Gen. Bryan E. Suntheimer
Brig. Gen. Kirk E. Vanpelt
Brig. Gen. Timothy J. Wojtecki
Brig. Gen. Michael R. Zerbonia

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Mark A. Pitera

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Ellis F. Hopkins III

The following Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Michael A. Abell
 Col. Joseph L. Biehler
 Col. Janeen L. Birkhead
 Col. Marti J. Bissell
 Col. Scott J. Boespflug
 Col. Raymond D. Bossert, Jr.
 Col. Patrick R. Bossetta
 Col. Thomas R. Bouchard
 Col. Robert A. Boyette
 Col. Kenneth E. Brandt
 Col. Stanley E. Budraitis
 Col. Anthony R. Camacho
 Col. Mike A. Canzoneri
 Col. Rita B. Casey
 Col. Gregory P. Chaney
 Col. Paul B. Chauncey, III
 Col. Bobby L. Christine
 Col. Edward J. Chrystal, Jr.
 Col. William E. Crane
 Col. Darrell W. Daniels
 Col. Gregory T. Day
 Col. Henry S. Dixon
 Col. Scott A. Doust
 Col. Dwaine E. Drummond
 Col. Diane L. Dunn
 Col. Robert A. Dwan
 Col. Leonard H. Dyer, Jr.
 Col. Steve D. Elliott
 Col. Francis J. Evon, Jr.
 Col. Kelly A. Fisher
 Col. Robert C. Frick
 Col. Robert B. Gaston
 Col. Andrew L. Gibson
 Col. Kerry W. Goodman
 Col. William D. Griswold
 Col. Dennis J. Humphrey
 Col. Robert W. Intruss
 Col. Richard F. Johnson
 Col. Jeffrey A. Jones
 Col. Eric T. Judkins
 Col. Kipling V. Kahler
 Col. Moses Kaoui, Jr.
 Col. Eric K. Little
 Col. Zachary E. Maner
 Col. James R. Mathews
 Col. Mark A. Merlino
 Col. Douglas R. Messner
 Col. David J. Mikolaities
 Col. Charles W. Moore
 Col. Leah M. Moore
 Col. Michel A. Natali
 Col. Reginald G.A. Neal
 Col. John M. Oberkirsch
 Col. Stephen E. Osborn
 Col. Rodney B. Painting
 Col. Chad J. Parker
 Col. Roger A. Presley, Jr.
 Col. Jose J. Reyes
 Col. Frank M. Rice
 Col. Timothy L. Rieger
 Col. James W. Ring
 Col. John W. Rueger
 Col. Adam R. Silvers
 Col. Jeffrey D. Smiley
 Col. Michael E. Spraggins
 Col. Steven E. Stivers
 Col. Mechelle M. Tuttle
 Col. Jeffrey P. Van

Col. Thomas M. Vickers, Jr.
 Col. Louis W. Wilham

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. (1h) Mary M. Jackson

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1553 AIR FORCE nominations (15) beginning DANIEL J. BESSMER, and ending CHRISTIE BARTON WALTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2016.

PN1832 AIR FORCE nominations (28) beginning KIP T. AVERETT, and ending DANIEL S. WALKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1833 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning SHAWN M. GARCIA, and ending MORGAN H. LAIRD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1834 AIR FORCE nominations (1903) beginning DANIEL C. ABELL, and ending PETER ZWART, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1835 AIR FORCE nomination of Gary A. Fairchild, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1836 AIR FORCE nomination of Megan M. Luka, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1837 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning BRANDON D. CLINT, and ending EDMUND J. RUTHERFORD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1838 AIR FORCE nominations (90) beginning ISAMETTIN A. ARAL, and ending LESLIE ANN ZYZDA-MARTIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

IN THE ARMY

PN1557 ARMY nomination of Brian C. Garver, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2016.

PN1689 ARMY nomination of Clifford D. Johnston, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2016.

PN1692 ARMY nomination of Reinaldo Gonzalez, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2016.

PN1712 ARMY nomination of Graham F. Inman which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2016.

PN1839 ARMY nomination of Eileen K. Jenkins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1840 ARMY nomination of Jeffrey M. Farris, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1841 ARMY nomination of Matthew T. Bell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1842 ARMY nomination of Melissa B. Reister, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1843 ARMY nomination of Charles M. Causey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1844 ARMY nominations (2) beginning STEPHEN A. LABATE, and ending RAYMOND J. ORR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1845 ARMY nomination of Roxanne E. Wallace, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1846 ARMY nomination of Eric A. Mitchell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1847 ARMY nomination of Jonathan J. Vannatta, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1848 ARMY nomination of Dennis D. Calloway, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1849 ARMY nominations (3) beginning KENNETH L. ALFORD, and ending BRUCE T. SIDEBOTHAM, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1850 ARMY nomination of Henry Spring, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1851 ARMY nomination of Craig A. Yunker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1852 ARMY nomination of Cornelius J. Pope, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1853 ARMY nomination of Anthony K. McConnell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1854 ARMY nomination of Jennifer L. Cummings, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1855 ARMY nominations (2) beginning DONALD J. ERPENBACH, and ending TIMOTHY A. FANTER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1857 ARMY nomination of Carl I. Shaia, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1858 ARMY nomination of Lisa M. Barden, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1859 ARMY nomination of Roger D. Lyles, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1860 ARMY nomination of Clara A. Bieganeck, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1861 ARMY nomination of Isaiah M. Garfias which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1862 ARMY nomination of Louis E. Herrera, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1863 ARMY nomination of Schnicka L. Singleton, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1864 ARMY nomination of John R. Burchfield, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1865 ARMY nomination of Elizabeth S. Eatonferenzi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1866 ARMY nomination of Richard D. Mina, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1867 ARMY nominations (44) beginning TEMIDAYO L. ANDERSON, and ending D0127914, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1869 ARMY nomination of Richard A. Gautier, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1870 ARMY nomination of Joseph A. Papenfus, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1871 ARMY nominations (9) beginning STUART G. BAKER, and ending WALTER D. VENNEMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1872 ARMY nomination of David S. Yuen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1873 ARMY nomination of Donta A. White, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1874 ARMY nomination of Tony A. Hampton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1875 ARMY nominations (18) beginning CHARLES C. ANDERSON, and ending JAMES D. WILLSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1876 ARMY nomination of David A. Yasenchock, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1877 ARMY nomination of Aaron C. Ramiro, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1878 ARMY nomination of Richard M. Strong, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1879 ARMY nomination of Brendon S. Baker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1880 ARMY nominations (19) beginning LANNY J. ACOSTA, JR., and ending LANCE B. TURLINGTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1900 ARMY nomination of Andrew J. Wade, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 16, 2016.

PN1902 ARMY nomination of Christopher S. Besser, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

PN1903 ARMY nomination of Chad C. Black, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

PN1904 ARMY nomination of Thomas D. Starkey, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

*PN1808 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (2) beginning Marva Michelle Butler, and ending Adonis Mariano Matos de Mello, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

*PN1907 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (2) beginning Stephen Donald Mull, and ending Victoria Jane Nuland, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

*PN1908 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (181) beginning Robert L. Adams, and ending Laura Ann Griesmer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

*PN1909 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (5) beginning Robert Stephen Beecroft, and ending Marie L. Yovanovitch, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

*PN1910 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (42) beginning Tristan J. Allen, and ending William F. Zeman which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

*PN1911 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (180) beginning Anthony Abba, and ending Michael David Zgoda, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1905 MARINE CORPS nomination of Joshua D. Fitzgarrald, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

PN1906 MARINE CORPS nomination of Anthony C. Lyons, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 29, 2016.

IN THE NAVY

PN1633 NAVY nomination of Suzanne L. Hopkins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 13, 2016.

PN1881 NAVY nominations (46) beginning JAFAR A. ALLI, and ending ANTHONY K. WOLVERTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1882 NAVY nomination of Meryl A. Severson, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1883 NAVY nomination of Ashley R. Bjorklund, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1884 NAVY nomination of Adeleke O. Mowobi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1885 NAVY nominations (2) beginning MARY K. ARBUTHNOT, and ending JOHN K. WERNER, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1886 NAVY nomination of Stephen W. Hedrick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1887 NAVY nomination of Vincent M. J. Ambrosino, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1888 NAVY nomination of Neal P. Ridge, which was received by the Senate and ap-

peared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1891 NAVY nomination of Abdeslam Bousalham, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1892 NAVY nomination of Scott M. Morey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

PN1893 NAVY nomination of Christian R. Foschi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2016.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3516

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3516) to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a best-practices peer review of each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs to evaluate the efficacy of health care delivered at each such medical center.

Mr. TILLIS. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, December 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 2943 postcloture; finally, that all postcloture time on the conference report to accompany S. 2943 expire at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:24 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 8, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ANN BEGEMAN, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2020. (REAPPOINTMENT)

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 7, 2016:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ROBERT N. POLUMBO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JERRY D. HARRIS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. JAMES M. HOLMES

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. WILLIAM K. LESCHER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. KELLY A. AESCHBACH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. DIXON R. SMITH

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOEL E. DEGROOT
COL. CHRISTOPHER M. FAUX
COL. ROBERT J. GREGORY III
COL. HENRY U. HARDER, JR.
COL. ERIC W. LIND
COL. DAVID D. ZWART

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAVID P. BACZEWSKI
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. CATHCART
BRIG. GEN. BRIAN T. DRAVIS
BRIG. GEN. JAMES O. EIFERT
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD W. KELLY
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER J. KNAPP
BRIG. GEN. JON K. MOTT
BRIG. GEN. CLAYTON W. MOUSHON
BRIG. GEN. KERRY L. MUEHLENBECK
BRIG. GEN. HOWARD P. PURCELL
BRIG. GEN. DAVID P. SAN CLEMENTE
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL R. TAHERI
BRIG. GEN. ROGER E. WILLIAMS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JESSE T. SIMMONS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE

OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAVID M. MCMINN
BRIG. GEN. RONALD E. PAUL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. WILLIAM E. DICKENS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. BRIAN K. BORGEN
COL. JEFFREY S. HINRICHS
COL. JAY D. JENSEN
COL. BRET C. LARSON
COL. TODD J. MCCUBBIN
COL. PATRICE A. MELANCON
COL. ELLEN M. MOORE
COL. BOYD C. L. PARKER IV
COL. STEVEN B. PARKER
COL. BRYAN P. RADLIFF
COL. SCOTT A. SAUTER
COL. CONSTANCE M. VON HOFFMAN

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. RANDOLPH J. STAUDENRAUS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. CRAIG L. LAFAVE
BRIG. GEN. PAMELA J. LINCOLN
BRIG. GEN. DONALD R. LINDBERG
BRIG. GEN. RANDALL A. OGDEN
BRIG. GEN. JAMES P. SCANLAN
BRIG. GEN. PATRICK M. WADE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. STEPHEN C. MELTON

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PAUL E. FUNK II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. GARY J. VOLESKY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES H. DICKINSON

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. PATRICK M. HAMILTON

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BENJAMIN F. ADAMS III
BRIG. GEN. WAYNE L. BLACK
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER M. BURNS
BRIG. GEN. KURT S. CRTYZER
BRIG. GEN. IVAN E. DENTON
BRIG. GEN. JAMES C. ERNST
BRIG. GEN. KEVIN R. GRIESE
BRIG. GEN. MARK G. MALANKA
BRIG. GEN. ROY V. MCCARTY
BRIG. GEN. BLAKE C. ORTNER
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER J. PETTY
BRIG. GEN. JESSIE R. ROBINSON
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN T. SCOTT
BRIG. GEN. RAYMOND F. SHIELDS, JR.
BRIG. GEN. BRYAN E. SUNTHEMER

BRIG. GEN. KIRK E. VANPELT
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. WOJTECKI
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL R. ZERBONIA

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. MARK A. PITERSKI

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. ELLIS F. HOPKINS III

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHAEL A. ABELL
COL. JOSEPH L. BIEHLER
COL. JANEEN L. BIRCKHEAD
COL. MARTT J. BISSELL
COL. SCOTT J. BOESPFLUG
COL. RAYMOND D. BOSSERT, JR.
COL. PATRICK R. BOSSETTA
COL. THOMAS R. BOUCHARD
COL. ROBERT A. BOYETTE
COL. KENNETH E. BRANDT
COL. STANLEY E. BUDRAITIS
COL. ANTHONY R. CAMACHO
COL. MIKE A. CANZONERI
COL. RITA B. CASEY
COL. GREGORY P. CHANEY
COL. PAUL B. CHAUNCEY III
COL. BOBBY L. CHRISTINE
COL. EDWARD J. CHRYSYAL, JR.
COL. WILLIAM E. CRANE
COL. DARRELL W. DANIELS
COL. GREGORY T. DAY
COL. HENRY S. DIXON
COL. SCOTT A. DOUST
COL. DWAIN E. DRUMMOND
COL. DIANE L. DUNN
COL. ROBERT A. DWAN
COL. LEONARD H. DYER, JR.
COL. STEVE D. ELLIOTT
COL. FRANCIS J. EVON, JR.
COL. KELLY A. FISHER
COL. ROBERT C. FRICK
COL. ROBERT B. GASTON
COL. ANDREW L. GIBSON
COL. KERRY W. GOODMAN
COL. WILLIAM D. GRISWOLD
COL. DENNIS J. HUMPHREY
COL. ROBERT W. INTRESS
COL. RICHARD F. JOHNSON
COL. JEFFREY A. JONES
COL. ERIC T. JUDKINS
COL. KIPLING V. KAHLER
COL. MOSES KAOWI, JR.
COL. ERIC K. LITTLE
COL. ZACHARY E. MANER
COL. JAMES R. MATHEWS
COL. MARK A. MERLINO
COL. DOUGLAS R. MESSNER
COL. DAVID J. MIKOLAITIS
COL. CHARLES W. MOORE
COL. LEAH M. MOORE
COL. MICHEL A. NATALI
COL. REGINALD G.A. NEAL
COL. JOHN M. OBERKIRSCH
COL. STEPHEN E. OSBORN
COL. RODNEY B. PAINTING
COL. CHAD J. PARKER
COL. ROGER A. PRESLEY, JR.
COL. JOSE J. REYES
COL. FRANK M. RICE
COL. TIMOTHY L. RIEGER
COL. JAMES W. RING
COL. JOHN W. RUEGER
COL. ADAM R. SILVERS
COL. JEFFREY D. SMILEY
COL. MICHAEL E. SPRAGGINS
COL. STEVEN E. STIVERS
COL. MEHELLE M. TUTTLE
COL. JEFFREY P. VAN
COL. THOMAS M. VICKERS, JR.
COL. LOUIS W. WILHAM

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MARY M. JACKSON

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL J. BESSMER AND ENDING WITH CHRISTIE BARTON WALTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KIP T. AVERETT AND ENDING WITH DANIEL S. WALKER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SHAWN M. GARCIA AND ENDING WITH MORGAN H. LAIRD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL C. ABELL AND ENDING WITH PETER ZWART, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF GARY A. FAIRCHILD, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MEGAN M. LUKA, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRANDON D. CLINT AND ENDING WITH EDMUND J. RUTHERFORD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ISAMETTIN A. ARAL AND ENDING WITH LESLIE ANN ZYZDA-MARTIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRIAN C. GARVER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CLIFFORD D. JOHNSTON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF REINALDO GONZALEZ II, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GRAHAM F. INMAN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF EILEEN K. JENKINS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JEFFREY M. FARRIS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW T. BELL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MELISSA B. REISTER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHARLES M. CAUSEY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN A. LABATE AND ENDING WITH RAYMOND J. ORR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROXANNE E. WALLACE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERIC A. MITCHELL, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JONATHAN J. VANNATTA, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DENNIS D. CALLOWAY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KENNETH L. ALFORD AND ENDING WITH BRUCE T. SIDEBOTHAM, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF HENRY SPRING, JR., TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CRAIG A. YUNKER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CORNELIUS J. POPE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANTHONY K. MCCONNELL, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JENNIFER L. CUMMINGS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DONALD J. ERPENBACH AND ENDING WITH TIMOTHY A. FANTER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CARL I. SHAIJA, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LISA M. BARDEN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROGER D. LYLES, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CLARA A. BIEGANEK, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ISAIAH M. GARFIAS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LOUIS E. HERRERA, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SCHNICKA L. SINGLETON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN R. BURCHFIELD, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH S. EATONFERENZI, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RICHARD D. MINA, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TEMIDAYO L. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH D0127914, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RICHARD A. GAUTIER, JR., TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOSEPH A. PAPANFUS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STUART G. BAKER AND ENDING WITH WALTER D. VENNEMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID S. YUEN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DONTA A. WHITE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TONY A. HAMPTON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHARLES C. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH JAMES D. WILLSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID A. YASENCHOCK, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF AARON C. RAMIRO, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RICHARD M. STRONG, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRENDON S. BAKER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LANNY J. ACOSTA, JR. AND ENDING WITH LANCE B. TURLINGTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANDREW J. WADE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER S. BESSER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHAD C. BLACK, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF THOMAS D. STARKEY, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JOSHUA D. FITZGARRALD, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF ANTHONY C. LYONS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF SUZANNE L. HOPKINS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAFAR A. ALI AND ENDING WITH ANTHONY K. WOLVERTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MERYL A. SEVERSON III, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ASHLEY R. BJORKLUND, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ADELEKE O. MOWOBI, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARY K. ARBUTHNOT AND ENDING WITH JOHN K. WERNER, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATION OF STEPHEN W. HEDRICK, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF VINCENT M. J. AMBROSINO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF NEAL P. RIDGE, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ABDESLAM BOUSALHAM, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF SCOTT M. MOREY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF CHRISTIAN R. FOSCHI, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARVA MICHELLE BUTLER AND ENDING WITH ADONIS MARIANO MATOS DE MELLO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN DONALD MULL AND ENDING WITH VICTORIA JANE NULAND, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT L. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH LAURA ANN GRIESMER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT STEPHEN BEECROFT AND ENDING WITH MARIE L. YOYANOVITCH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TRISTAN J. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM F. ZEMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANTHONY ABBA AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL DAVID ZGODA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2016.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, December 7, 2016

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 7, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY NEUGEBAUER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

PROTECTING PENSIONS OF COAL MINERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, miners and their widows in West Virginia and across the country are asking us to protect their pensions and health care, families like Robin Workman of Boone County, who wrote to me about how she and her husband depend on these benefits. These are the benefits that they earned.

She said: "My husband put in 35 years underground, a promise made to them shouldn't be broken. West Virginia helped keep the lights on back then as well as today. Please don't forget about us."

This promise dates back to 1946 when the Truman administration signed an agreement with coal miners, an agreement that guaranteed their pensions and health care would be there for them when they retired. Now that agreement—no, that promise—is in jeopardy.

In just a few weeks, tens of thousands of miners and widows will lose their

health insurance. These miners have back problems, knee problems, and breathing problems, all from their work in the mines. They simply cannot go without insurance.

Kenny Meade's father is one of those retired miners. He lives in Chapmanville and reached out to me to share the story of his parents. Kenny wrote about his father. He said: "He worked 31 years in the mines and often for less than other miners so he could bargain for their right to health care and pensions."

This is an issue we can fix, but it is not an issue that arose overnight. The war on coal has decimated coal jobs in West Virginia and across the country. An onslaught of overreaching Federal regulations have made it harder to mine coal and harder to burn coal. Coal-fired power plants have shut down, making electricity more expensive and reducing the market for coal.

As demand has decreased and regulations have made it harder to mine coal, mines are closing and companies are filing for bankruptcy. A company in bankruptcy isn't going to have the resources to meet its pension obligations.

All of these market forces, regulations, and the war on coal have had devastating impacts on our miners and their families. It is time for Congress to act to keep the promise and protect the benefits the miners worked their entire life to earn.

The Coal Healthcare and Pensions Protection Act won't cost taxpayers anything. It uses existing funds paid for by mining companies to provide for retired miners. This is not a tax. Taxpayers won't be on the hook for these pensions. This is about ensuring a promise made is a promise kept.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach the holiday season, I hope we will remember the retirees and widows worried about what the new year will bring. We must act now to pass a solution to this crisis to keep our word.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE STEVE ISRAEL

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about my friend and colleague, STEVE ISRAEL, who is retiring from Congress after 16 years. We came into Congress together and have been the best of friends and brothers ever since.

Now, the last time I mentioned STEVE ISRAEL on the House floor was

after making a bet with STEVE over the Dodgers-Mets series, a bet that I lost, and I had to sing the "Meet the Mets" song on the House floor. I want to assure all my colleagues that is never going to happen again either on the playing field or on the House floor.

When we came to Congress together, we were given a book, like all incoming freshmen, called "Charting the Course." This is a book that basically says that there are three different models of being a Congressman. You can be the policy expert or you can be the political animal or you can be the pothole Congressman who is focused on district needs and excellent at meeting the needs of constituents, but the gist of the book is you can't be all three. You have to pick where you are going to make your specialization, and if you try to do all three, you will end up not doing any one of them very well. STEVE ISRAEL proved the premise of that book wrong because he proved to be superlative at each and every aspect of being a Member of Congress.

On policy, STEVE developed an expertise in energy policy and became a leading champion of the development of renewable sources of energy. He became an expert on defense issues; and as one of the members of the Appropriations Committee, he helped eliminate wasteful expenditures on systems we didn't need and investment in defenses that would really protect the country.

He became an expert on Middle East policy and sorting out the difficulties of all the complicated relationships between the nations in the Middle East. He became an expert on the Syrian conflict.

He also became an expert on issues affecting the middle class and has always been a champion for what needs to be done to make sure that people in this country can enjoy a secure retirement, can get a good job, can raise their family, and that their kids will enjoy a quality of life at least as great as that of their parents, and hopefully even better.

He also founded and co-chairs the Center Aisle Caucus, doing something very difficult in this institution, and that is bringing people together of both parties—something we need to see a lot more of.

In addition to those policy strengths, he was also and has been one of our greatest political leaders. He served for many years as the DCCC chair and had an encyclopedic knowledge of each and every district in the country belonging

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

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

to friend or foe alike. He was an extraordinary chair, not only in terms of raising resources, but recruiting some of the finest candidates, and a great many Members of this institution owe their very presence here to his incredible work.

He then became the chair of the House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee and was a very effective Member at shaping our message and at helping us articulate what the Democratic Party was about and has been among the most effective surrogates the Democrats have.

In addition to his political expertise and policy expertise, having visited his district and having met his constituents, I know he was also so attuned to the needs of his constituents, particularly the veterans and the homeless, but also in championing the economy and bringing improvements to Long Island Sound. His casework was renowned within New York, and his staff was among the most superb anywhere on the Hill or in any district office.

In addition to all that—and that would be enough for any of us—he also wrote a fabulous novel on his iPhone, “The Global War on Morris.” Who can do that? Who can write a book at all, let alone one on his iPhone, let alone it gets published by a major publisher and does phenomenally well?

When STEVE retires, this Congress is going to lose another of its great Members, someone of genuine talent, intellect, and integrity, someone who has come to be relied upon by Presidents. We are also going to lose someone with a great sense of humor, who is a wonderful friend and a bit of a practical joker—like the time he convinced his chief of staff that one of his district staff had run over his dog. Yes, STEVE is a cruel man, but funny. We are going to miss him tremendously.

I want to wish him all the luck in the world in the exciting career that awaits him when he retires, and all his new endeavors. I look forward to finding him not in the center aisle necessarily, but in a different aisle in the bookstore near me with his latest work.

I want to join my colleagues in thanking STEVE ISRAEL for his tremendous years of service and for his wonderful friendship. We will all miss him as, indeed, will this entire institution.

TRAGIC LOSS OF AMERICAN LIFE IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am back on the floor again today to discuss the tragic loss of American life in Afghanistan. This past week, I was touched by George Stephanopoulos and ABC as they publicly listed the nine service-

members that died in Iraq and Afghanistan during the month of November.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the names of the nine American heroes.

Sergeant John W. Perry of Stockton, California; Private 1st Class Tyler R. Lubelt of Tamaroa, Illinois; Sergeant 1st Class Ryan A. Gloyer of Greenville, Pennsylvania; Captain Andrew D. Byers of Rolesville, North Carolina; Senior Chief Petty Officer Scott C. Dayton of Woodbridge, Virginia; Specialist Ronald L. Murray, Jr., of Bowie, Maryland; Staff Sergeant James F. Moriarty of Kerrville, Texas; Staff Sergeant Kevin J. McEnroe of Tucson, Arizona; Staff Sergeant Matthew C. Lewellen of Lawrence, Kansas.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I find it quite ironic that the last moment of silence for our men and women in uniform who have died serving this Nation during wartime by the House Chair took place on March 23, 2015, almost 2 years ago. I, frankly, do not understand how House leadership is not more concerned about those who have given their life serving this Nation.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I wrote to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter several weeks ago regarding an article that said that there are 200,000 Afghan soldiers who do not exist—they call them ghosts—who are on the payroll of the Department of Defense. I asked him in the letter: Why are we wasting this money, and can you identify where the money is going?

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD my letter to Secretary Ashton Carter.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 14, 2016.

Hon. ASHTON B. CARTER,
Secretary of Defense,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CARTER: I am responding to Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acting) Jedidiah Royal's October 3, 2016, response to the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)'s letter to you (dated August 5, 2016) regarding “ghost soldiers” in Afghanistan.

I am appalled that the U.S. taxpayer has, and continues to pay, for “ghost soldiers” in Afghanistan. Moreover, I am also concerned about the risks that inadequacy of data concerning personnel levels of the Afghan National Security and Defense Forces (ANDSF) may pose to American forces in Afghanistan.

In Deputy Assistant Secretary Royal's response to SIGAR, he indicates the systems that U.S. Forces-Afghanistan are putting in place to try to verify Afghan personnel data will not be ready until at least July 2017. Given the estimate that there may be up to 200,000 “ghost soldiers,” I would respectfully request an estimate of how much funding provided to the ANDSF for salaries in fiscal years 2016 and 2017 is expected to be wasted on “ghost soldiers.”

Additionally, Deputy Assistant Secretary Royal indicates that a limited amount of funds has been withheld from the ANDSF for not adhering to the agreed-upon timeline for implementation of personnel verification systems. How much money was withheld, and what percentage does that number represent of the amount originally designated to be allocated?

Given that many Afghan military and police outposts have limited, if any, access to

electricity and telecommunications systems, I would also ask whether there is a contingency plan to back-up the biometric database and personnel system given that units may not always have regular access to the technology needed to operate them? Further, under the current deployment arrangement ordered by President Obama, U.S. forces do not have the capability to witness firsthand, at the lowest levels of the ANDSF, whether there is fraudulent use of the biometric cards. With that in mind, does DOD expect there will be salary overpayments even after July 2017?

I am also concerned about the effect the “ghost soldier” problem is having on U.S. forces in Afghanistan. While the Afghan Minister of Defense was recently quoted as saying there is not a single “ghost soldier” in Afghanistan, the Deputy Assistant Secretary's letter makes clear that is not the case. We know the collapse of the 215th Corps in Helmand in 2015 was at least in part due to an overestimation of ANDSF personnel in Helmand based on inflated numbers reported to the Ministry of Defense. USFOR-A subsequently deployed additional personnel closer to the front lines in Helmand to assist with improving that corps. The “ghost soldier” issue clearly is affecting decision-making within the Defense Department that affects U.S. personnel. I would like to know how DOD plans to mitigate any further risk to U.S. military and civilian personnel that may result from the ongoing “ghost soldier” problem.

Finally, how confident is the Defense Department that the ANDSF and the Afghan government have the capability and the will to effectively implement the new systems, and when will that implementation be fully achieved? When implemented, does the Defense Department expect the “ghost soldier” problem to be eliminated, or merely reduced?

Mr. Secretary, the “ghost soldier” problem has clearly existed in Afghanistan since the beginning of U.S. operations there. The Defense Department should have known that “ghost soldiers” represented a major risk to American personnel and American taxpayers no later than 2008, when a Government Accountability Office report raised the issue. But year after year, the administration—with far too little oversight from Congress—continues sending tens of millions of U.S. taxpayer dollars to pay the salaries of Afghan military and police, thousands of whom never show up for duty or may not even exist. And now, we are almost \$20 trillion in debt.

After 15 years of wounded and murdered Americans, it is time to bring this waste, fraud and abuse to an end. It is sickening, unaffordable, and it must stop. Many scholars have said that Afghanistan is a graveyard of empires—when this financial disaster finally brings us to our knees, maybe the ghost soldiers can visit the headstone that says United States of America.

Sincerely,

WALTER B. JONES,
Member of Congress.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the reason I mentioned these ghost soldiers is because Americans are still dying in this godforsaken country known as Afghanistan, all while our Nation is headed for an economic collapse as we soon will see the \$20 trillion debt number come forward. For the sake of our military, we need to end this madness in Afghanistan.

I have beside me a photograph of a flag-draped coffin being taken off of an airplane. This is a humble way that I can say to the nine Americans who also came home in a flag-draped coffin in the back of a plane thank you for your service.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to have a debate on the floor of the House as to whether we need to stay in Afghanistan for another 16 years. We have been there for 16 years now.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article that tells the story of Afghanistan better than I can today on the floor. The title of that article is "It's Time for America to Get Out of Afghanistan."

[Dec. 2, 2016]

IT'S TIME FOR AMERICA TO GET OUT OF AFGHANISTAN

(By Mark Kryzer)

"Nation-building" hasn't achieved lasting goals, Afghans continue to suffer casualties and be displaced, and the costs to the U.S. keep mounting.

After 15 years and \$115 billion of taxpayer dollars spent on failed "nation-building," it's time for the U.S. to let go of Afghanistan. (The actual "total cost of war and reconstruction" which includes all U.S. military spending, has been estimated at \$783 billion by the Cost of War project at Brown University.)

The situation in 2016 has been described by one senior U.S. government official as an "eroding stalemate." That's optimistic. We are losing whatever has been achieved there and the Afghan government is slowly collapsing under the Taliban onslaught and its own ineptitude driven by corruption.

The Taliban control more territory now than at any time since their overthrow by the U.S. in 2001 with the Afghan government controlling only two-thirds of the country—during daylight hours. Since January 2016, the Taliban have contested five provincial capitals, carried out some of the largest terrorist attacks in the capital city of Kabul, and have pressed attacks in all 34 provinces of the country, with an average of 68 attacks a day.

As a result, the Afghan army and police forces have incurred about 15,000 casualties so far this year, with civilians suffering more than 5,000 casualties, the highest levels ever recorded. An estimated 1.2 million Afghans have been displaced because of the fighting and are living as refugees in their own country, with another 85,000 opting to leave the country in the first six months of 2016 alone for the migrant trail to Europe.

Adding to the Taliban threat, ISIS has now established itself in two eastern Afghan provinces and Al Qaida operatives are active in seven provinces, according to a recent report in "The Guardian." With opium production also up by 43 percent in the country, there is no shortage of funds to fuel the insurgency and corruption.

According to a 2016 World Bank report, the social and economic gains achieved with international assistance over the last 15 years are also quickly eroding due to war and corruption.

The Obama administration has opted to leave 8,400 troops in Afghanistan in 2016 in a support role to the Afghan army, down from a high of 100,000 in 2010. And the U.S. completely pays for the Afghan army and police forces. On the civilian side of reconstruction,

the U.S. continues to pour money into the country for "nation-building." At the Brussels Afghanistan "Donors Conference" in early October, the international community pledged another \$15 billion in support; the U.S. is the largest contributor.

Given the abysmal results achieved so far, isn't it time to re-evaluate U.S. foreign policy goals in Afghanistan? Recently, a group of U.S. generals and former U.S. ambassadors to Afghanistan announced that a "generational commitment" of assistance was still required of the American people toward Afghanistan to see it securely to the end goal of . . . what? Nobody can give a coherent answer to that question, indicating that we have seriously lost our way.

Most Americans have forgotten about Afghanistan (or no longer want to hear about it) and are not aware of the ongoing costs in American lives and resources. It's time for the next American president to drastically change direction and explain it to the American people.

That direction should be to start the pull-out of Afghanistan after 15 years of failure to achieve any lasting policy objectives there. The U.S. should immediately stop the multitude of civilian "nation-building" programs that have been so costly and failed to achieve their unrealistic goals. U.S. funding for the Afghan army and police forces should be put on a diminishing schedule that would stop entirely after two years, forcing Afghanistan to finally stand or fall on its own.

It's time to let go of Afghanistan and end the 15-year drain on American lives and resources.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I ask God to bless our men and women in uniform, and I ask God to continue to bless America.

PUTTING FLORIDA FIRST

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

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am so very fortunate to have grown up in a family dedicated to public service. I watched and learned from my father as he served as a State legislator, Florida's Governor, and as a United States Senator, and from my mother who worked tirelessly as an advocate for students and seniors. Together, they were a team that always put Florida first.

Following in their footsteps, I served my community as a PTA volunteer, and I worked for my local school district. While I was happy to serve, I never planned to follow in my father's footsteps into politics. But as our country became more divided, my thoughts began to change. Like so many Americans, I was disappointed to see our Nation's civil discourse deteriorate to shouting matches on cable news and gridlock in government.

In 2013, I decided to run for office with my own message and my own mission: to bring back civility, to work with both parties to actually get things done, and to always put the people of Florida first.

□ 1015

I ran for office to bring the north Florida way to Washington. Almost 4

years after making that decision, I am proud to say we have had many successes in our own mission.

After winning my election, I immediately began reaching out to my Florida colleagues, Republicans and Democrats. I am proud to say that those friendships have paid off to the benefit of Florida.

We were able to recruit almost the entire State delegation to support our Apalachicola Bay Restoration Act. I cosponsored legislation with Congressman PATRICK MURPHY to protect the Everglades and with Congressman DAVID JOLLY to ban oil drilling off the coast of Florida.

I asked to serve on the committees that were most important to my district—the Armed Services Committee and the Agriculture Committee.

On the Armed Services Committee we were able to make substantial legislative gains. We were able to amend the National Defense Authorization Act with initiatives to protect programs that helped Florida's economy, create jobs, and strengthen our national security, as well as the work we have done to improve our relationship with Israel, including authorizing a joint anti-tunneling program to fight terrorism and to protect both of our countries' borders.

On the House Agriculture Committee, I work closely with farmers across the State. I will never forget our 14-county north Florida farm tour, where I tried my own hand at planting peanuts and even pregnancy checked a cow. I am so proud of the work we did to bring the U.S. Department of Agriculture Strike Force program to Florida, which will help rural counties to protect their communities, to grow their economies, and to create jobs.

While we have had many successes in Washington, I am even more proud of the work we have accomplished in Florida. Our focus on constituent services and cutting through bureaucratic redtape has paid off. We have helped return almost \$2 million in benefits owed to Florida seniors and families, including more than half-a-million dollars to veterans.

While the numbers are impressive, the stories behind them are what really count. Stories like Kenneth McCray, a Vietnam veteran who was denied benefits by the VA until our office stepped in to help. In every vote and in every way, we always put the people of Florida first.

While working in Congress, the people of north Florida have never let me down. I have felt their love and support in each hug, whether at a press conference or along a parade route. I have witnessed their compassion after Hurricane Hermine, when neighbors helped neighbors clear debris and sheltered those in need. I have seen local leaders put partisanship aside to fight for our communities.

We call this the north Florida way, but we don't have a monopoly on that spirit. It is the essence of the American spirit. I have witnessed a bit of it here in Washington. Between campaigns and commercial breaks, I have seen that Republicans and Democrats can actually like one another. If we can begin talking to each other again instead of shouting at each other, we can move our country forward in a way that helps every American.

So, as I prepare to leave Congress, I offer up this parting advice to new and veteran Members. Take the time to form friendships, put partisanship aside, and always put the people you represent first.

Now that I have shared this advice, I would like to end my speech by saying thank you. Thank you to my committed staff, my family, and, most importantly, I want to thank the people of north Florida's Second Congressional District. I am so thankful to them for giving me the opportunity to serve. Running for Congress and serving in the House has been an enriching experience with many workdays, possum festivals, and parades along the way.

I am sad it is coming to an end, but this moment is bittersweet. I will always treasure the friendships and experience I have gained in Congress. I know that as this chapter closes, another opens, and I will continue to serve my community and the people of Florida for as long as I am able.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, as I think all of us know, today marks the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor; a devastating event that took the lives of more than 2,300 Americans and ultimately led, of course, to the United States' entrance into World War II.

Though it is painful to think of all the brave men and women we lost that day, I am grateful for this heroic generation of soldiers, including my own father, who served in defense of the freedoms of our country during World War II. I wear my father's wings. I have them on today. I wear them every day. My mom and dad love their country and they, like so many others, sacrificed so much. It was examples of heroes such as these that led me to make the decision when I was a young man to become a pilot in the Air Force.

I would like to take a moment and share the story of one brave Utahn, Mervyn Bennion, who was stationed at Pearl Harbor on the day of the attack. After graduating from high school in Salt Lake City, Bennion accepted his appointment to the United States

Naval Academy, where he graduated near the top of his class. He later assumed command of the USS *West Virginia* in July of 1941.

The ship was moored with other vessels on Battleship Row on that Sunday morning. Just shy of 8 a.m., Japanese forces struck the USS *West Virginia* with at least six torpedoes and two bombs.

Under attack and struggling to organize a defense from the bridge, Captain Bennion was struck with shrapnel from one of these bombs; but, still, he continued to direct the ship's battle while using one of his hands to hold his own wounds closed. Several sailors attempted to convince him to go to the first-aid station and seek medical attention, but he refused to leave his post. Sadly, he later died from a loss of blood.

Captain Bennion was recognized with the Medal of Honor—our Nation's highest military honor—for his "conspicuous devotion to duty, extraordinary courage, and complete disregard for his own life."

Today, on the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, let us remember not only the brave men and women who lost their lives in that attack, but also those who have continued to fight for our freedoms for the last 75 years.

In dark and dangerous places all around the globe, American soldiers, sailors, and airmen are doing what they can to bring stability and safety to many parts of the world. We should remember them. We should thank them. We should keep them and their families in our prayers. What we have asked them to do is not easy. They deserve our gratitude and our respect.

CONGRATULATING COMPLETION OF THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU RECORDS PROJECT

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to congratulate the completion of the Freedmen's Bureau Records Project.

The Freedmen's Bureau was organized by Congress in 1865 at the conclusion of the Civil War. It offered assistance to freed slaves in a variety of ways. The Bureau opened schools to educate the illiterate. It managed hospitals, it rationed food and clothing for the destitute, and it even solemnized marriages. In the process, it gathered priceless handwritten personal information on potentially 4 million African Americans.

Due to the work and commitment of over 25,000 volunteers, with the help of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and FamilySearch International, they have been able to uncover the names and stories of over 1.9 million freed slaves. In some cases, for the very first time, African Americans are able to discover their Civil War-era families through an online and searchable database.

I was especially pleased to attend an event yesterday where the newly in-

dexed database of the Freedmen's Bureau Records was delivered to the Smithsonian's new National Museum of African American History and Culture.

If I could just divert for a moment, I would like to share a story from this experience from one of the leaders of the museum, and I hope he will forgive me for stealing his story and repeating it to you. This gentleman told of how his grandparents passed away when he was very young. He had no memory of his grandparents, except for going to his grandmother's house and watching her cook on some old tin cookie sheets.

But as he was able to, for the first time, research his own family records, he found the records of one of his ancestors who was a slave; and part of those records was an accounting of money that was paid to her and some of the things that she was able to purchase. One of them was a line which recorded that she paid 22 cents for a set of tin cookie sheets. What an emotional moment it was for him to have that connection now with his ancestors that he would not have been able to otherwise.

The Freedmen's Bureau Records Project allows families to discover their ancestors. It allows them to connect with them. It allows them to see the heroes among their ancestors that so many of them have.

I would like to congratulate and thank the thousands of volunteers who sacrificed their time in this wonderful project.

HONORING REID RIBBLE AND RICHARD HANNA

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have been privileged to serve with many exceptional people during my tenure in Congress. This year, there are a number of my Democratic colleagues who are leaving who will be sorely missed. We just heard from one—GWEN GRAHAM. And LOIS CAPPS is in a chair in front of me and will be speaking soon.

Today I would like to take a moment to recognize two exceptional friends of mine on the other side of the aisle, Republicans who enriched my time in Congress and brought honor to the service of RICHARD HANNA and REID RIBBLE. These two gentlemen represent small town America—rural Upstate New York, in the case of RICHARD; and Green Bay, Wisconsin, and surrounding environments in the case of REID.

They have a number of similarities. They are both hardworking, dedicated Members of this Chamber, who leave

after only three terms. They are fiercely dedicated to their family, and family concerns figured heavily into their decision not to seek reelection.

They have both been very successful businesspeople, building their own enterprises; taking pride, in the case of REID, in the employment and terrific service from a roofing company; and RICHARD, founding and growing a construction enterprise.

Both are accomplished in a broad range of other areas. RICHARD is a pilot who travels across the country piloting his own plane. REID recently completed a motorcycle trip from Alaska, all the way across North America to the Florida Keys; most of it with his wife riding along with him.

They are both what normally would have been regarded as conservative Republicans. That description really belies their approach and their value to the institution. In some respects, they may actually entertain some libertarian leanings. But they believe in less interference, whether it is liberal overreach or zealotry of the other extreme. RICHARD is equally disdainful of government telling women what they and their doctors should do with women's bodies.

They are both deeply concerned about budgets and the economy—core Republican values in the past—with REID famously, in an exchange with some of his Tea Party constituents, indicating that they weren't fair to their grandchildren by refusing to even consider raising the gas tax to meet our transportation needs, and he made an eloquent case.

RICHARD has been a partner with me for the last two Congresses as we work with transportation stakeholders to try to inform one another and find common ground, working forward on solutions to common problems of rebuilding and renewing America.

I fully respect the decision of both gentlemen to follow their instincts and their families to the next phase of their careers, but their decision to end congressional service weakens this institution. The fact that we could not find enough incentive to keep them here, being productive and adding their wisdom and energy, says something about the challenges that this Congress faces in the years ahead.

Serving with them has been a remarkable pleasure. They have helped both Republicans and Democrats function a little better in a largely dysfunctional climate. They have both given good advice to their Republican colleagues, which I hope, as they leave, will find greater resonance with those who are left.

We are going through a great period of a national civics lesson, where Americans discover that elections have consequences, that facts really should matter, and voters need to be very discerning about the decisions they make.

RICHARD HANNA and REID RIBBLE have helped, through their service, to advance that civics lesson. I will be grateful to them for as long as I am a citizen, and I look forward to years of friendship in the future and maybe ways to advance that national civics lesson that they speak to so eloquently by their service.

□ 1030

WRDA CONFERENCE REPORT:
WATER FOR CALIFORNIA; FIRE
PROTECTION FOR TAHOE

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the conference report on the Water Resources Development Act is the product of many hours of good faith negotiations between the House and the Senate and between Republicans and Democrats. Like any compromise, I don't like everything that is in it, but the net effect is an important step forward in protecting against the devastation of future droughts in California and catastrophic wildfire that threatens Lake Tahoe.

It provides \$335 million for desperately needed surface water storage. It opens a new era of hatcheries to provide for burgeoning populations of endangered fish species. It adds flexibility to the management of New Melones Reservoir and enables water transfers to assure that water can be more efficiently moved to where it is the most needed. It adds strong protection to northern California area of origin water rights. It expedites the review and approval of new projects. It updates flood control management criteria to make better use of our existing reservoirs.

I particularly want to highlight the provisions related to Lake Tahoe. For many years, we have spent enormous resources to adjust drainage in the basin to improve water clarity at the lake. The Senate version of the measure, which was introduced this session by Senators HELLER and FEINSTEIN, continued this effort; but the Heller-Feinstein bill neglected the most immediate environmental threat to Lake Tahoe, and that is catastrophic wildfire. The Senate bill had no provision for forest management, specifically for fire prevention.

The number of acres burned by wildfire in the Lake Tahoe Basin has increased each decade since 1973, including a tenfold increase over the past decade. Eighty percent of the Tahoe Basin forests are now densely and dangerously overgrown. They are dying. At lower elevations, there are now four times as many trees as the land can support. Modeling by the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit warns that, in

two-thirds of the forest, conditions now exist for flame size and intensity that are literally explosive. If a super fire of the size we have seen in other parts of the Sierra were to strike the Tahoe Basin, it could decimate this lake and its surroundings for a generation to come.

For this reason, Congressman AMODEI and I introduced a bill focused on fire prevention. This measure was specifically designed, after extensive input from fire districts throughout the Tahoe region, to reduce excess fuel before it burns. It provides for expediting collaborative fuel reduction projects consistent with the Lake Tahoe Land and Resource Management Plan, and it calls for funds generated by timber sales and other fee-based revenues to stay in the Tahoe Basin to provide for further fuels management and other improvements.

This was falsely portrayed by left-wing activists in the region as a substitute for the Senate bill. As Congressman AMODEI and I made clear repeatedly, it was designed to supplement that bill and fill a glaring deficiency that ignored the single greatest environmental hazard to the lake.

I am very pleased to note that the critical provisions of both bills—for lake clarity and fire prevention—are now in the conference report, thanks to bipartisan negotiations between House and Senate negotiators, most notably by Senator FEINSTEIN and House Majority Leader MCCARTHY.

Unfortunately, in the last 48 hours, Senator BOXER has threatened to blindside this effort and destroy the fruit of these years of labor and endless hours of negotiation. She has threatened to assemble enough votes, not to put forward a positive and credible plan of her own to address these critical needs but, rather, to ruin the painstaking negotiations of many others just as they are coming to fruition.

In the last 4 years, the King Fire, the Butte Fire, the Rough Fire, and the Rim Fire have destroyed more than 1,000 square miles of forest in the Sierra Nevada. If we don't restore sound forest management for fire prevention in the Tahoe Basin now, the next fire could reduce its magnificent forests to cinders and clog the lake with ash and debris for decades to come. We can only pray that wiser heads prevail in the Senate and that this conference report is speedily adopted by both Houses and signed into law by the President.

MY TENURE AS RESIDENT
COMMISSIONER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, after 8 years, this will be my last floor speech as the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in Congress. I want to thank

my constituents for giving me the opportunity to serve as their voice in Washington. They are enduring difficult times, but they never lose their hope, dignity, or appreciation for life's blessings.

I also want to thank my colleagues in the House and the Senate. I respect your dedication to public service, energy, and commitment to the causes you champion. In addition, I want to thank my staff, which has served me and the people of Puerto Rico with skill, passion, and loyalty.

Most importantly, I want to thank my wife, Maria-Elena; my four children; and the rest of my family. They have walked alongside me on this journey through the peaks and valleys, and my love for them cannot be captured with words.

It is impossible to condense 8 action-packed years into 5 minutes. However, if there is a central theme to my tenure as Resident Commissioner, it has been "fighting the good fight" on behalf of the 3.4 million American citizens in Puerto Rico, who have been treated unfairly for too long.

In an example of baptism by fire, the battle began almost as soon as I assumed office in 2009, when Congress was debating the stimulus bill known as ARRA. Even as I was still learning to navigate my way through the Capitol, we managed to secure virtually State-like treatment for Puerto Rico, injecting almost \$7 billion into the island's economy when we needed it most.

The fight continued the following year with the Affordable Care Act, which resulted in the largest funding increase in history for Puerto Rico's Medicaid program. Separately, we secured legislative and administrative action that eliminated many of the disparities that Puerto Rico faced under the Medicare program.

I am also proud of our work to combat drug-related violence in Puerto Rico, requiring the Federal Government to prepare the Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy and persuading Federal lawsuit agencies to increase their resources in Puerto Rico. The number of homicides on the island was cut in half between 2011 and 2015. But this is not about statistics. It is about preserving human life.

Moreover, I have tried my best to serve those who have served us. Residents of Puerto Rico have a rich military tradition, and no unit exemplifies their courage and character better than the 65th Infantry Regiment, which fought the enemy on the battlefield and discrimination in the barracks. After we enacted legislation to award them the Congressional Gold Medal, these warriors—now in the twilight of their lives—stood beside President Obama as he signed the bill into law and were honored at a ceremony in the Capitol, one that I will never forget.

The toughest fight of my tenure came earlier this year when Congress and the White House worked together to enact legislation, called PROMESA, to prevent the Government of Puerto Rico from collapsing. Nobody was pleased that such legislation was necessary, and nobody liked every provision in the bill, but I firmly believe that PROMESA, if properly implemented, provides a path to a better future for Puerto Rico.

I close with this thought: Puerto Rico's current territory status, which gives Congress license to treat my constituents like second class citizens, is undignified and unsustainable.

Following a 2012 local referendum in which island residents expressed their opposition to the current status and their support for statehood, Congress enacted legislation that provided funding for the first federally sponsored referendum in Puerto Rico's history. The significance of this achievement has yet to be sufficiently appreciated. Puerto Rico should use this authority to conduct a vote on whether the territories should become a State. If the people of Puerto Rico ratify their support for statehood, as I expect they will, it will be incumbent upon Congress to implement that result. This country, which was founded on the principles of equality and justice, must live up to its creed.

May God bless Puerto Rico and the United States of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOSE ABEYTA

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

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Jose Abeyta of Montrose, Colorado, who passed away on November 14, 2016. Jose is survived by his wife, Loretta, whom he married 40 years ago, and they have two sons, Lenny and Juan.

Jose was a personal friend of mine and was a beloved member of his community. He served our country proudly during the Vietnam war from 1969 to 1971, as a fixed wing mechanic for the Army's 358th Aviation Detachment. He received an honorable discharge after serving for 2 years. Mr. Abeyta was a hero for the time he spent in the Army, but the life he lived after his service showed us what an honorable man and model citizen he truly was.

Jose married Loretta 1 month after returning home from Vietnam, and they moved to Colorado Springs, where he went to school and earned a degree in sociology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Mr. Abeyta paid his own way through school. He and Loretta then moved back to Montrose, where he began his career as a probation officer. He later ran successfully for the city council in 2006

and served as the mayor of Montrose in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, it was not just his work that defined who Mr. Abeyta was. It was the devotion to serving others. As a husband, a father, a war veteran, a little league coach, and a public servant, he lived a life full of selfless service and stood as an example for all Americans to live by. He started out as the new guy in Montrose, and he ended up serving as the mayor, which speaks volumes about the impact he had on his community.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by Jose's passing because he was an irreplaceable figure in Montrose, but I am grateful that I had the opportunity to know him. His family is in my thoughts and prayers, and I hope that the community of Montrose will continue to celebrate his tremendous accomplishments in the weeks and months to come. Jose Abeyta will be missed.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving, back in Massachusetts, I participated in the seventh annual Monte's March, which is a 43-mile walk to raise awareness about hunger in our community and to raise money for The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

The leader of this remarkable event is Monte Belmonte, a well-known local radio personality with WRSI, the River, and a committed activist on behalf of those who are most vulnerable. This year, the march raised a record \$211,213. This translates into over a half a million meals for individuals and families who struggle with food insecurity. I was impressed by the stamina of all of those who walked and by the incredible generosity of the community.

The sad reality is that there is no congressional district in the United States that is hunger free, and those who battle hunger defy stereotypes. Some are homeless; some are jobless; but there are many who work but who earn so little that they can't afford to put food on the table on a regular basis for their families.

While food banks and food pantries and charitable organizations are vital in our efforts to combat hunger, they cannot do it alone. We need a strong commitment by our government to do its part. Indeed, I would argue that we have fallen way short of doing what is needed to ensure that no one goes hungry. Those whom I marched alongside during Monte's March are good people who understand what it means to truly be part of a community.

I want to thank, first and foremost, the incredible Monte Belmonte and all of the people at the River, including

Mark Lattanzi, Joan Holliday, Michael Sokol, Kaliis Smith, Dave Musante, and Matt Peterson. They are amazing people who worked overtime to make this march a success.

I am grateful to Andrew Morehouse, the executive director of The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, and to everyone at the food bank. They do incredible work.

Thanks to all of the elected officials who joined part of the march, including my colleagues, Congressmen RICHIE NEAL and JOE KENNEDY. We were also joined by State Representatives Steve Kulik and Aaron Vega, State Representative-elect Solomon Goldstein-Rose, as well as by Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz and District Attorney Dave Sullivan.

We kicked off the march at Friends of the Homeless in Springfield, and I am grateful for all that they do. The Sheriff's Departments in Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties, as well as the Deerfield Police, helped provide escorts for us during all 43 miles.

A special thanks to the students who joined the march from Greenfield Center School, HEC Academy, Conway Grammar School, and Erving Elementary. We were joined by a contingent from Greenfield Community College, which included its president, Bob Pura. We also had a group of farmers from The Kitchen Garden in Sunderland who joined the effort.

Sean Barry, from Four Seasons Liquors in Hadley, was, as usual, Monte's right-hand man and always at the front of the line. We had a large group of individuals who marched and raised a lot of money. Thanks to all of them. My friend Chia Collins of Northampton deserves special credit for raising the most.

Thanks to all of the people who greeted us along the way, including Karen Blanchard of Kate's Kitchen, Andrea Marion at Lorraine's Soup Kitchen and Pantry, Mindy Domb at the Amherst Survival Center, Lori Divine and Vitek Kruta at Gateway City Arts, Chancellor Subbaswamy at UMass Amherst and his top aide Natalie Blais, who marched 27 miles with us.

□ 1045

We are grateful to Northampton Brewery for a wonderful dinner on Monday, Chandler's in Deerfield for a great lunch on Tuesday, Richardson's Candy Kitchen in Deerfield for the indulgent chocolates that gave us energy, and all the folks at Seymour's in Greenfield for the magnificent celebration at the end of the march. Also, a special thanks to Tea Guys for their wonderful tea in honor of the march and for their generosity.

Thanks to Ben Clark from Clarkdale Fruit Farm in Deerfield for the apples and for keeping us in line. Thanks to

Erika Connell Cooper's mother for the delicious apple pies. And thank you to Mr. Michael Brooks and the students at the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton for making the shopping carts we used during the march.

Mr. Speaker, I was glad to be part of this, but I want to close by expressing my deep concern about the future. I remain worried about rumors of more cuts to SNAP or separating SNAP from the farm bill or weakening child nutrition. With so many relying on these programs to help put food on the table, these cuts would be devastating for families across the country. We must protect and strengthen these programs.

I believe food ought to be a right for every single individual in this country and on the planet, but the sad reality is that it isn't. All of us need to do better. All of us need to care more. All of us need to recognize our moral failings in not addressing this issue sooner.

So on behalf of the dedicated crew that took part in Monte's March, I urge all of us in Congress to act and end hunger now.

IN HONOR OF DAVID HOWLE

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Howle.

For the past 29 years, Coach Howle has served as the head football coach for the Bunn High School Wildcats in Franklin County. During that time, Coach Howle had unprecedented success, amassing 214 wins and just 90 losses. He has had 45 players go on to play at the collegiate level, a nearly unheard of number for an AA high school.

While Coach Howle built the Bunn football program into a regional powerhouse, it is more important to recognize the impact he has had on thousands of students, parents, and staff in the Bunn community. His expectation of his players to work hard, not just on the field, Mr. Speaker, but also in the classroom, translated into a 99 percent graduation rate for his student athletes.

Coach Howle has famously told his team, "show me your friends and I'll show you your future," encouraging his players not just to be good citizens, but also to be productive members of society.

And no matter the outcome of any game—win, loss, or draw—Coach Howle was always there to encourage his players to keep their heads up and to look to the future as the team ended every game with the Bunn High School fight song followed by the Lord's prayer.

David Howle exemplifies what the thousands of dedicated educators in

North Carolina do every day. The lessons Coach Howle taught and the difference he made in thousands of lives will be remembered in his community for years to come.

FAREWELL ADDRESS

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

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House one last time as a Member of Congress. Over 18 years ago, I was honored and humbled to be elected to this House. It has been the job and the responsibility of a lifetime.

After a career spent as a nurse and in our public schools as a school nurse, it was the start of a life I never expected, but I was eager to answer the call to public service on behalf of the citizens of the central coast of California. It was the same call that had beckoned my husband, Walter, before me. He was a religious studies professor who felt compelled to serve. Like Walter, I sought to help restore the bonds of trust between the people and their government.

While the circumstances of my joining Congress were unexpected, it has been a tremendous honor to serve with all of you over these years. Together with our colleagues, our dedicated staff, and our constituents, I have been proud to work on behalf of issues so important to our congressional district on the central coast of California, issues important also to our entire Nation.

We have worked hard to ensure that everyone has the chance to fulfill their American Dream, while moving our economy and our country forward. We have fought to protect women's rights, strengthen families, and push for equality. We have made great strides in making health care more accessible and affordable so that no one has to go bankrupt just because they get sick. And we have championed a clean energy future while protecting our beautiful landscapes, our coastlines, and our precious natural resources for future generations.

In recent months, I have often been asked what I will miss most about serving in Congress. While there is much to miss, the answer is easy: it is the people. To me, this job has always been and always will be about the people: the people we represent, the people who work so hard to keep this place going, the people on my staff over the years who have been so dedicated to making our community and our country just a little bit better—and the people I serve with here, you, my colleagues.

It has been such a privilege and pleasure to get to know you and work alongside many of you over the years, learning more about your districts,

your backgrounds, and your families. After all, isn't this what Congress was meant to be? You, my colleagues, coming from all over the country, from all walks of life, to represent your neighbors and communities in this place, this Congress, to work together for the good of our Nation.

During my time in Congress, I have been so proud of those laws we have passed that have made a real difference in people's lives. When I am home, I often hear about the positive impact of our work, the role our office has played in the district, the difference our efforts have made in individual lives.

I am proud of the progress we have made as a country, but we need to keep this momentum going. As we all know, cooperation and progress is not always easy, but it is what we are sent here to do and it is what we must do, regardless of partisanship. We are here, each one, because we believe in the role of government to make the lives of everyday Americans better, and that has been my guiding light both as a Member of Congress and as a nurse before.

As I have said, I may be retiring, but I do not want to consider myself retired. I prefer to say I am graduating to continue working locally on issues that have defined my time in Congress.

Our work is cut out for us, but I am deeply optimistic about what the future holds. I trust that the next Congress will hold healthy debates about how to build a better country for our children. I urge my colleagues to remember that, even during the most trying times, as my husband Walter often said: There is much more that unites us as a people than that which divides us.

Now I want to take one last opportunity to thank my staff, the people who have become family to me both here in D.C. and in the district. And I want to thank you, my colleagues, for your camaraderie, your hard work, and the friendship that has lasted over 18 years. It has meant the world to me.

And finally, thank you. Thank you, truly, to the people of the central coast for trusting me as your Representative, for inspiring me every single day with your passion and your dedication for our Nation and for California's 24th District. You make our community a place in which I have been proud to raise my children and my grandchildren now, one I am proud to call home.

8-YEAR ASSAULT ON AMERICA'S COAL INDUSTRY

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mark the end of a long, harsh, partisan, politicized campaign, unprecedented in American history. I am not

talking about the recent election. No. We are finally at the end of the Obama administration's 8-year assault on Kentucky's and America's coal industry.

In two terms, President Obama's policies have successfully put thousands of coal miners and utility workers into the unemployment line. In 2008, then-candidate Obama pledged that any company looking to build a coal-powered electric plant would be bankrupted. The combined regulations of the EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, and several other bureaucracies have turned that pledge into a reality, choking off investment in new state-of-the-art, clean-burning, coal-fired electric generation; and it led to the premature closing of existing plants.

If we continue on this path, the other promise made by candidate Obama will also come to pass: electricity rates will necessarily skyrocket. And that would be a disaster for consumers, for whom energy prices are often the second or third largest line item in the family budget.

I also think about industrial consumers and the many manufacturers in my district and around the Nation who depend on affordable, reliable energy that will face skyrocketing costs if we fail to act and reverse these administration policies. However, it is a new day; and voters—particularly in the Rust Belt and Appalachia—turned out in November to close the book on this legacy of job-killing regulation and to seek a new path forward.

President Obama said that elections have consequences, and this is true; but his administration ignored every electoral outcome since 2010, doubling down on failed policies while the American people called for a different approach.

The inverse is also true: consequences drive elections. The consequences of the Obama administration's unilateral decisions decided last November's election, and no place in this country felt those consequences as acutely as coal country.

National coal production is at its lowest level in 35 years. Pike County, the long leading coal producer in Kentucky, until losing that title in 2012, is down 89 percent since its peak in 1996. Nationwide, consumption of coal has dropped nearly a third since 2007.

In Kentucky, coal employment hit its lowest level in 118 years. To repeat, coal employment in Kentucky is now at its lowest level since 1898. In 2009, 18,850 people were employed by coal. About 73,000 jobs were indirectly supported by that economic activity. Today, only about 6,500 Kentuckians now work in the coalfields, and those losses have rippled throughout the economy. Yet this is the legacy that this administration will earn as it leaves office.

Never in the history of our country has an administration singled out and targeted a lawful industry—in this case, an industry that has provided jobs and opportunities for American workers for generations, an industry that has literally powered America, and, through that overregulation, crushed an entire sector of our economy.

Now, Obama administration apologists will say that depletion in Appalachian coalfields and new competition from natural gas are the primary factors in those job losses, but they don't give the regulators enough credit. The turnaround in natural gas production on State and private lands has been dramatic, to be sure, but relative price parity with coal does not explain two-thirds of mining jobs in Kentucky disappearing in 7 years.

The administration has targeted coal supply and demand, prohibiting production leases, rejecting mining permit applications, stretching the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts against congressional intent, prohibiting new and existing plants from using coal—the list goes on and on.

Many of these rules have been halted or overturned by the courts, and several more remain subject to challenge by the States and industry; but since the President could not get Congress' support for his agenda of banning the production and use of coal, most of these regulations can be unwound by the courts or the next administration.

I urge the incoming Trump administration to do just that and to engage with Congress in a bipartisan fashion on our Nation's energy and environmental policies. The livelihoods of people in the coalfields, of those working in the manufacturing and rail industries, of families trying to keep their homes warm and their lights on must never again be the collateral damage in partisan warfare.

I must address the issue of climate change. Let the last 8 years serve as a lesson to all of us. Let's never again attempt to solve problems through central planning by punishing innocent Americans whose paychecks put food on their table. Instead, let's address problems like climate change the American way: not through central planning or government, but through innovation, science, technology.

While it will be a tough road back for coal country and it may never be the same after 8 years of regulatory attack, I do look forward to a new day dawning in the coalfields.

ROBERT LEVINSON STILL MISSING IN IRAN

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the holiday season is upon us. We are getting

ready to head home to spend time with family and friends, yet I rise today with a heavy heart.

For the family of my constituent Robert Levinson of Coral Springs, Florida, these weeks are a painful reminder of another Thanksgiving, another Christmas—their 10th, in fact—without their father, grandfather, and husband.

□ 1100

Bob has been missing in Iran for 3,561 days. He disappeared from Kish Island, Iran, on March 9, 2007. Late that year, Bob's wife, Christine, and his oldest son Dan traveled to Iran to learn as much as they could about his whereabouts.

It was a brutal 3-year wait for the first proof of life, a video of Bob dressed in an orange jumpsuit, pleading for help. A year later, in 2011, another proof of life, pictures of Bob, his beard long, his face thin, his gregarious smile gone, a shadow of the exuberant family man in this photograph.

In March, marking the ninth anniversary of Bob's disappearance, south Florida came together in support of Bob's return with a rally. Each of Bob's children spoke so beautifully about the special relationship that they share with their father, his commitment to his family, his words of wisdom, his ability to touch the lives of everyone that he meets.

Bob Levinson served this country for nearly 30 years, first as a DEA agent, and then as an FBI agent. He is the definition of a patriot. He loves this country. He dedicated his life to public service. Now we must do whatever we can to bring Bob home; home to Christine, his wife of over 40 years; home to his daughters Susan, Stephanie, Sarah, and Samantha; home to his three sons, Dan, David, and Doug, and son-in-law Randy; home to meet, for the first time, the newest members of his growing family, his sons-in-law and daughter-in-law, Ralph, Ryan, and Sophia, and his six beautiful grandchildren, Ryan, Grace, Caroline, Harry, Sean, and Bobby; home in time for the birth of two new grandchildren; and home in time to hold 2-year-old Bobby as he begins treatment for lymphoma.

Bobby was named after Grandpa Bob. Bob's daughter Susan said: I always wanted to name my son after my dad not because he has been taken, but because growing up I always knew how special my dad is.

The family needs Bob home. We can't wait any longer. Whether you support engagement with Iran or not doesn't matter. The fact is, for the first time since Bob went missing, the United States Government sits directly across the table from their Iranian counterparts.

The future of our relationship with Iran is uncertain. That is why we can't wait. The Iranians have spent the last

2 years seeking acceptance from the international community, but to be treated as a responsible nation, they must act as a responsible nation. After Iran released other Americans this year, the U.S. Government announced Iran's commitment to use newly established channels to move us closer to Bob's return, but, 11 months later, Iran has not fulfilled that commitment.

Our allies are looking to invest in Iran. U.S. businesses are seeking new economic opportunities, and Iran is seeking to change its standing in the world. I am not here today to debate U.S. policy. I am only here to remind Iran and to remind the world that an American is still not home.

I am grateful to this Congress for the unanimous passage of a resolution earlier this year calling on the Government of Iran to find Bob and bring him home and for the deep, deep support so many of my colleagues have offered the Levinson family. I don't want to have to introduce that legislation again next year. I don't want to come back to the House floor in 2017 to plead for Bob's return. This is the moment for action. This is the time to bring Bob home.

When the Levinson children were growing up, they would pile into the family Suburban before Christmas in search of the best holiday decoration displays. The kids would sit back singing Christmas songs, and Bob would hold Christine's hand while he drove. Even though the family has grown too large to fit in one Suburban now, Bob and his family deserve to see the lights together this year. They deserve to sing together. This must be the last season that Bob spends away from his family.

CELEBRATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, this year my parish, Holy Cross Catholic Church in Hutchinson, Kansas, is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Sixty years ago, then-Bishop of Wichita, Most Reverend Mark K. Carroll, proclaimed Holy Cross Parish to be the third parish in Hutchinson. On June 23, 1957, the church celebrated their first mass in a 4-H building.

Holy Cross Parish has come a long way from that first mass held on the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Now a beautiful church adorned with holy images, the parish serves Christ's people from the moment they are born with the Sacrament of Baptism, to feeding them with the Word of God and the Holy Eucharist, to couples exchanging marriage vows, to those seeking forgiveness in the confessional, and, finally, to when we prepare to meet our Lord

at the end of our earthly lives. At each milestone of a Catholic's life, Holy Cross Catholic Church is there to guide us toward the truth: to know, love, and serve the Lord in this life so as to be with Him in the next.

The work of the Holy Cross community certainly extends outside the church walls. The parish is present in the community, serving meals to the needy, visiting inmates in prison, working to save the lives of the precious unborn children, and comforting those who grieve.

Additionally, education has always been a high priority for the Holy Cross Parish. Hundreds upon hundreds of boys and girls, young men and women, have received a superb Catholic education at Holy Cross Catholic School and Trinity Catholic High School. Dedicated teachers, administrators, coaches, committed families, holy priests and nuns, and supportive parishioners have worked together to prepare each of these students to serve as Christ's light to the world. The families that make up Holy Cross Catholic Church are a living example of individuals who live out their faith in their work and their daily lives.

Our country was founded on Judeo-Christian principles. The First Amendment guarantees the freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of conscience. It is my sincere hope that, as America moves forward, our leaders will place the issue of religious liberty at the forefront of their political and legislative agendas.

On this 60th anniversary of Holy Cross Catholic Church, it is my prayer that the parish will continue to grow and thrive, welcome new members, and share the Gospel with the world.

THE WAR ON SCIENCE

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the growing antiscience attitude in Washington. This attitude has manifested itself even on the cover of the respected National Geographic magazine, titled "The War on Science." The war on science is being conducted in two ways. First, by rejecting or trying to discredit legitimate science. Second, by reducing Federal science funding.

Skepticism of science is hardly new and is sometimes well founded, but what is happening today is different and is part of a trend in the United States to discount or disbelieve experts in any field. I hear from scientists who are very worried that the quality and quantity of science produced in this country will decline as a result.

American inventors and innovators have improved our lives and have given our country an economic edge, helping

make us the strongest country in the world. Let me share a partial list of revolutionary achievements by American scientists: airplanes, phonographs, practical incandescent lamps, wireless communications, microwave ovens, lasers, personal computers, washing machines, cyclotrons, 3D printing machines, polio vaccinations, the nuclear bomb, light-emitting diodes or LEDs, fiber optic cables, mobile telephones, computer mouse, public key cryptography, global positioning systems or GPS, and social media.

Now let's recall an earlier battle against science that used the discredit tactic; namely, the tobacco companies' effort to dispute the science that smoking is addictive and causes deadly diseases. The tobacco industry tried to both discredit and threaten the scientists who were advancing the facts, and funded questionable scientists to create doubts about the actual scientific results. The tactic worked for a time while tobacco producers were able to continually hook millions of new people on their dangerous product. Eventually the science won out, but the cost was terrible.

Today a similar effort is underway with respect to climate change. The science is clear, with a vast majority of climate scientists agreeing that the climate is warming and that continuing to emit carbon into the atmosphere at current levels will bring significant and mostly detrimental change to our environment. Moreover, even though the evidence that climate change is already taking place and is overwhelming and increasingly obvious, there is widespread denial that climate change is even happening or that it would be possible to help combat it. But the things that need to be done to address climate change, such as taxing carbon emissions, can be done gradually, predictably, and in a way that helps the economy grow and puts people to work.

So why is there so much resistance?

The resistance in America is caused by a well-funded campaign to create doubt about obvious scientific facts. The fossil fuel industry, in particular, has been paying its own scientists to go on talk shows, to publish in their own denial journals, and generally to create doubt whenever possible about climate change, suggesting that it would be better to wait for conclusive evidence before doing anything. But to wait for conclusive evidence is to wait for catastrophe.

While Republicans in Washington are trying to reduce or eliminate funding for climate change research, there also seems to be an effort by Republicans to reduce science funding across the board. This will result in fewer scientific advances in the U.S., which will likely cause us to fall behind our competitors. But this is part of a larger trend that denies there are real ex-

perts. Science denial has become a pop culture. This is dangerous because modern society is built upon the things that science got right.

I see the war on science in this country as shortsighted and very damaging to our economy. We need to change the tone and direction toward a positive process that acknowledges and supports the role science has played and will continue to play for our country. That means working with legislators and getting more scientists and other concerned citizens involved in the political process to ensure that our Nation can continue to benefit from new scientific discoveries and innovation and which will help create the jobs we need to continue to be a great economic power.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE JOE PITTS

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in my hand is a book, "Congress: The Chester County Line" written by Wayne C. Woodward. A portion of the foreword reads as follows: "From the very beginning of our great Nation and the first American Congress, Chester Countians have served their southeast Pennsylvania constituents in the United States House of Representatives. Not all have been nationally known leaders or internationally renowned legislators, but, by and large, Congressmen from Chester County have played a major role in American history." That was written by Richard T. Schulze, member of the United States House of Representatives, serving from 1975 to 1993.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Congressman JOE PITTS, who has served Chester County, Lancaster County, and Berks County with tremendous distinction for the past two decades. Whether it was his legislative focus and advocacy involving religious liberty, life, health care, land conservation, or focusing on those issues at the most local level, JOE PITTS' legacy and achievements as a legislator will prove lasting in the history of Chester County and this Congress.

My predecessor, Jim Gerlach, serving in the neighboring Sixth Congressional District, commented: "I had the good fortune of working with JOE from my first years as a State legislator in the PA house all the way through my last year in Congress. During those 24 years, JOE PITTS was a steady and committed voice for conservative principles and policies that are the bedrock of our economy and society. He cared deeply about his constituents and country, and he always voted for what he believed was best for both. In short, he was a principled leader who worked

hard every day to do the right thing, and his leadership will be missed."

JOE PITTS' predecessor in Congress, occupying what is commonly referred to as "the Pennsylvania Dutch seat," Congressman Bob Walker, commented: "JOE PITTS has distinguished himself and the district he represents with his congressional service. He has become an acknowledged leader in healthcare policy, and his human rights work has won worldwide claim. I have been proud to call him my congressman for the past 20 years, and wish JOE and Ginny the very best in the years ahead."

This book, "Congress: The Chester County Line," was written in 1992. There will be a day when a second book about the history of Congress and Chester County will be written. We don't know who will write it, but we do know there will be a chapter on the service of Jim Gerlach and on the service of Bob Walker; and there will also be a very long chapter, rich in content, on the contributions that JOE PITTS has played in American history for the betterment of this country, for the betterment of Chester County, Berks County, and Lancaster County.

Congressman PITTS, I wish you the very best as you retire, and a long and healthy retirement to you and your family. God bless you.

□ 1115

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE BOB DOLD

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, when I came to Congress, as I suspect when most new Members come to Congress, you tend to look around for those Members who you can take a little something from to improve yourself and to see what they do and also what they don't do.

Congressman BOB DOLD is finishing his second term. I would like Mr. DOLD to know that I have taken a great deal from him. I find him to be a very honorable man and a friend who has served with purpose, a positive attitude, and is partisan-free. He is a great example of how to serve in this body effectively, with distinction, and with a great attitude.

I wish Congressman DOLD the very best in all his future endeavors.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE RICHARD HANNA

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, RICHARD HANNA, serving New York's 22nd Congressional District, is retiring. I want to commend Congressman HANNA on his thoughtfulness, independence, and courage of convictions. I find him to be a great example of how to serve in this body honorably, and I wish him and his family the very best in his retirement.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE MIKE FITZPATRICK

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Congressman MIKE FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District is retiring. His

brother, Brian, has big shoes to fill to serve in MIKE's place.

When I came to Congress, one thing that you would always hear in political circles is that MIKE FITZPATRICK, while serving in Congress, never stopped being a Bucks County Commissioner. What that really means is, while he came down here to focus on Washington and issues important to this country, he never stopped spending time in Bucks County, serving the district with distinction.

I wish MIKE FITZPATRICK the very best in retirement and thank him for his mentorship during my first year in Congress.

CONGRATULATING STAFF SERGEANT AARON TOBLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Aaron Tobler, an Albany native and La Salle Institute of Troy graduate who was recently selected for the Outstanding Airman of the Year award by the United States Air Force.

The Air Force provides this recognition to top enlisted Airmen for their unique individual achievements in leadership, job performance, significant self-improvement, and community involvement.

Sergeant Tobler is a fine example of the best the capital region, the Air Force, and our Nation have to offer. In addition to his military service, he serves as a manager at the California Department of Social Services, mentors local youth, and is a regular blood donor.

I thank Staff Sergeant Tobler for his military and civilian service to our Nation. He and his colleagues are truly what has made, and continues to make, this country great.

109TH AIRLIFT BUZZ ALDRIN EVACUATION

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, last week, the National Science Foundation announced that the 109th Airlift Wing provided a humanitarian medical evacuation flight from Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station in Antarctica to astronaut Buzz Aldrin, one of the first men to walk on the Moon.

As the Representative for New York's 20th Congressional District, I am, indeed, honored that we are home to Stratton Air National Guard Base, which hosts the 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, New York. Their unit flies the world's only ski-equipped LC-130s, better known as Ski Birds.

The 109th continues a proud tradition of critical contributions that New York's capital region makes to our national security, our economy, and yes, our standing in the world. I am, indeed, proud of their unique service to this country and thank them for their continued support.

PEARL HARBOR

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, 75 years ago, the Imperial forces of Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and other bases in Hawaii. This unforgivable act thrust our country into the war in the Pacific. On this day, 2,403 Americans died, 1,177 of them on the *Arizona*, and 1,178 were wounded.

Today, to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice, there will be services here in D.C., throughout the Nation, and particularly at Pearl Harbor. This is where Pearl Harbor, the symbol of World War II and the attack, is found. That, of course, is the USS *Arizona* Memorial.

Designed by Alfred Preis, it was controversial when first unveiled because people could not understand the significance of it. They said it kind of looked like a squashed milk carton. But when you really understood what went behind it, it made sense.

The middle part that looks like it is sagging represented the defeat of December 7; however, the two proud, strong sides represented the victory that our country faced. Think about it. There is a portion of it that is open to the ocean. That is where leis like this were thrown in to honor those who were buried below.

In addition, there is a wall with the names of all those who perished. But there is another wall—and this is very significant—with the names of those who survived the attack but chose to return to be buried with their colleagues. A Navy diver takes their ashes down and puts them on the USS *Arizona*. There are seven large windows on one side representing December 7. There are 21 windows altogether, representing a 21-gun salute.

When Mr. Preis designed it, he said he wanted the memorial to be everything to anybody as they looked at it, but, most importantly, he wanted it to be serene. You have to ask yourself: Why?

What very few know about Mr. Preis is, like the Japanese Americans, he was detained because he was Austrian. In Hawaii, there were internment camps, not only of Japanese Americans but of Germans of American descent, as well as Italians. Mr. Preis was one of them.

World War II created the Greatest Generation of all time, and we must never forget them. We must honor them. But we must always remember that ultimate sacrifice they made. They made it for all of us so we would appreciate and enjoy civil liberties.

Remember, in February of the following year is when President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 putting Japanese Americans, whose only crime was that they were Japanese Americans, into internment camps. This group fought the fight to prove their loyalty to this country.

Let us not forget them, the Filipino World War II veterans who also served, and everyone who served in World War II. Let us not forget why they served and why they did that ultimate sacrifice. It was so that we would be the greatest country on this Earth and we would provide people with civil liberties.

So let us not, as we move forward, forget that. Let us not forget what it means to be a country that welcomes all and has protected the civil liberties. As we look and hear about things like the Muslim registry or building walls, would those brave men of the Greatest Generation really think they fought for that? Is that what they want this country to become? I contend that they do not.

On this day, Mr. Speaker, as we honor those who gave that ultimate sacrifice, let us not forget why we are the greatest country on the face of this Earth and why they are the Greatest Generation.

DROUGHT: HUMAN IMPACT

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the real human impact that the drought has had on families across California's San Joaquin Valley. This drought has lasted for 6 years.

Tomorrow, the House will have an opportunity to vote on legislation that will help address the impacts of the drought and begin to repair a broken water system that we have in California today. I hope more than anything that we can get the legislation across the finish line, but it seems that some of my colleagues in the House and the Senate remain unconvinced that a solution is necessary. I tell you that a solution is necessary and we are working on borrowed time.

I would like to take the opportunity to dispel that misconception. The picture next to me here is Mr. and Mrs. Cabrera from Madera, California. I represent these constituents. As you will notice, they look happy. The reason they look happy is because, when I had the pleasure of meeting with them that day, they found out that they had received a Federal resource grant to dig a new well in their backyard. Two years prior to that day, their well had gone completely dry.

For my colleagues who do not represent the rural constituencies across this country or in California, that means for 2 years the Cabrera family could not turn their faucet on to get water to bathe or cook. Instead, they went outside to haul buckets of water into their house. A 2,500-gallon tank in their backyard was where they got the water from. Some families are even less fortunate and had to have water trucked into their neighborhoods.

Also, pictured next to them is Juana Garcia. Juana lives in East Porterville. She was featured in a Fresno Bee story last year. Her family and 700 households in East Porterville have no water. This photo illustrates the delivery of nonpotable water to Ms. Garcia and her family. They walk to the local church several times a week so they can take a shower.

The Cabrera and Garcia families represent the faces of thousands of families throughout the Valley who don't have water and don't have a long-term plan to get water. They have been impacted.

Farmers, farm workers, and farm communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley have been impacted as well. Without water, hundreds and thousands of acres of productive ag land have gone fallow. That means they are not planted. Without planting, that means no jobs and no water. Unemployment, in many of these Valley farming communities, is in the double digits and at an all-time high.

While a California drought relief bill will not resolve every single challenge we face in the Valley and in California's broken water system, it will provide some relief to help these suffering families.

To my colleagues in California and elsewhere who think that the language in the WRDA bill is a poison pill, I say it is not. This is important to help solve the problems of the people in this Valley to ensure that more Valley families do not become the victims of polluted water and dry wells. This is not a poison pill. You should not look at it that way. It is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House and the Senate to support this legislation and act swiftly, not only on the behalf of the people of the San Joaquin Valley but Flint, Michigan, and the others who will benefit in the very important WRDA bill that will be before us tomorrow.

Time is of the essence. The drought-stricken community in California, especially in the San Joaquin Valley, and others who are impacted by very important and needed efforts that Senator FEINSTEIN and others have put together as part of the WRDA bill, a bipartisan bill that Congressman MCCARTHY has worked on, should be passed tomorrow. Do the right thing before Christmas.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a strong recommendation that President-elect Trump address immediately and put to rest the overwhelming conflicts of interest that abound with his personal business af-

fairs that threaten to undermine the public interest and destabilize his future administration.

When America's Founding Fathers wrote the Emoluments Clause in our Constitution, their firm intention was to insulate our new government from unethical foreign inducement to our elected officials and corruption attendant to the intertwining of Europe's politics with our own.

□ 1130

So reads our Constitution, Article I, Article I, right at the beginning, Section 9, clause 8: "No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States"—that means we don't coronate kings here—"And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever from any King, Prince, or foreign State."

No elected official in this country is above the Constitution, the law of the land. This is the strict, time-tested standard, ethical standard to which the President and Congress and all senior government appointees are held.

Unfortunately, American history has no shortage of examples of Presidents and senior officials who attempted to skirt this ethical standard outside of appropriate channels, and they paid the price: Ulysses S. Grant's Whiskey Ring, or Warren G. Harding's Teapot Dome, or Richard Nixon's Jewel Scandal or Watergate, to name a few. Each represents an instance of improper gifting, self-dealing, and an array of clandestine and illegal activities, of which President-elect Trump would be wise to reflect upon their consequences.

There have been many suggestions offered to the President-elect on what he should do to clear up such potential conflicts about his foreign investments, contacts, and his vast private wealth that could compromise his position as President; yet President-elect Trump's advisers keep us waiting and dodging the main question.

He, himself, has said that action is not legally required. He is wrong. He also incorrectly asserts there can be no conflict of interest for a President. History shows that is false.

Without separation of his private interests from his public interests, how will the American people know he is acting fairly and impartially in his appointments to regulatory agencies, for example? or his funding recommendations of budgets and departments that could impact his investments? Or how about the contracts that are let by the Federal Government itself?

How will he work with banks, and which ones, nation-state-owned or foreign, that have loaned him and his associates money?

Who will he be appointing to key regulatory positions that could impact his

vast financial interests across many continents?

A former Reform Party Vice Presidential candidate opined on the Huffington Post site that Mr. Trump has three options to address his conflicts of interest:

Number one, to place his company and assets into a true blind trust, supervised by a totally independent entity;

Number two, to persuade the GOP-controlled Congress to enact a law that exempts the President from the Emolument Provision, which I would vote against; or

Number three, to resign, or risk impeachment.

As the Office of Government Ethics advised, only a true divestiture of his financial stake in his sprawling and global business dealings will resolve ethical concerns about conflicts of interest as he assumes the role of President of the United States.

Now, this map gives you a sense of some of his interests that he has acknowledged in some of his filings, of 144 companies in 25 different countries. We don't know what these relationships are. He has a sprawling global business empire, and the list includes countries with strained diplomatic ties to the United States.

As the President, his responsibilities will force him to make decisions on foreign policy and tax policy, for example, that will impact these significant business interests. Only a truly complete removal of his ownership can assure the American people that his Presidential actions and political decisions are not motivated by personal financial interests. Even then, suspicion will arise about every move he makes and be subject to prosecution.

In the 3 weeks since his election, President-elect Trump has held meetings and calls with foreign dignitaries, Prime Ministers, and Presidents in his official capacity as President-elect. That is normal. What is not normal or appropriate, though, is for the public to hear afterwards that his adult children, who are slated to take over the family business, were also present.

The American public is well aware that the Trump team has a steep learning curve in understanding his role, the operation and legal allowances of our Federal Government, and he has a long way to go in separating his personal financial interests from his public financial interests. I can't say in strong enough terms we do need to have his tax filings on record, and we do need to have clarification for the American people that our Constitution must prevail.

No public official—no public official—is exempt from the law of the land, and the highest law is the Constitution of the United States. He must separate himself from his business dealings.

ST. XAVIER FOOTBALL STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 2, my alma mater, St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, beat the odds in a true underdog story and won the Ohio high school Division I football State championship. They join the St. Xavier water polo team as State champs this year as well.

Through a tough regular season schedule, the St. X Bombers went into the final regular season game with a record of 4 and 5, needing one more win to make it to the playoffs, and they were losing at halftime. They won and went on to win five more times, ultimately beating a tough Cleveland Saint Ignatius team, in front of 13,000 people at Ohio Stadium, to win the State championship.

In one of the most thrilling high school football games, St. X won 27–20 in double overtime. In fact, three of the five playoff victories were won in overtime.

In a historic year, St. X became the first team in Ohio high school athletic history to lose five regular season games and then go on to win the State championship. The 2016 football season can teach us all something about perseverance and never giving up.

I would like to congratulate the St. Xavier players, Coach Steve Specht, and his staff, for their hard work and dedication. This win adds to a long history of sportsmanship and commitment on the field at St. Xavier High School.

Go Bombers.

CONGRATULATING DR. BEN
CARSON

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that President-elect Donald Trump has appointed Dr. Ben Carson to serve as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, where he will promote opportunity for success for everyone.

President-elect Trump announced: "Ben Carson has a brilliant mind and is passionate about strengthening communities and families within those communities . . . Ben shares my optimism about the future of our country and is part of ensuring that this is a Presidency representing all Americans."

Dr. Carson knows that there is power in education and hard work. He earned a full scholarship to Yale University, received his doctorate from the University of Michigan, and then, at just age 33, became the director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins.

With his dear wife, Candy, he started the Carson Scholars Fund, a valuable national scholarship program to empower students from all backgrounds to strive for academic excellence and community service.

Our Nation is fortunate that Dr. Ben Carson has been nominated to this important position, and I am confident in his future success for American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

9/11 was the Pearl Harbor of our era, being a surprise attack on our civilization. President-elect Donald Trump, with Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, will lead us to victory to protect American families.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

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

On this day 75 years ago, our Nation was attacked, and war was visited upon our people. In so many places in our world, war rages still. May all leaders be empowered to work toward lasting peace, with the help of Your grace.

We ask also this day for wisdom, patience, and understanding among the Members of this people's House. Give them the generosity of heart, and the courage of true leadership, to work as true statesmen and women, toward a common solution to the many issues facing our Nation.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) come forward

and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARTON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

RECOGNIZING DR. EDUARDO J.
PADRON ON RECEIVING THE
PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREE-
DOM

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Dr. Eduardo Padron, president of my alma mater, Miami Dade College, for receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

As a fellow refugee who escaped the Castro regime, I was honored to help lead the effort to nominate Dr. Padron for this meritorious recognition. He has always made it his life's work to advocate on behalf of underserved populations.

Through his expert guidance and leadership, Dr. Padron has propelled Miami Dade College into national prominence by improving student access, retention, and graduation, as well as helping them with their professional achievements.

Today, MDC enrolls and graduates more minority students than any other institution of higher education in the country.

Congratulations to Dr. Padron on receiving our Nation's highest civilian honor. South Florida and the MDC community could not be more proud of you.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL
HARBOR

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, my heart is in Hawaii today. At almost this exact time, on this very day 75 years ago, the first bombs were dropped in the attack on Pearl Harbor. More than 2,400 people perished on that fateful day that will forever live in infamy.

We remember our brothers and sisters who paid the ultimate price and those who answered the call to serve in the months and years that followed, including our two former Senators Inouye and Akaka, and the more than 320,000 who gave their lives in that war.

We remember the Japanese Americans whose lives were forever changed

when, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, were thrown into internment camps; and the brave nisei who, in spite of these atrocities, volunteered to serve, forming the nisei-only "Go for Broke" 442nd Infantry Regiment, serving courageously and sacrificing greatly.

May we never forget what happened at Pearl Harbor, the lessons learned, and the sacrifices of all who served.

HONORING NED RANDOLPH

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a faithful public servant of Louisiana, Mr. Edward Gordon Randolph, Jr., better known as Ned, who passed away October 4, 2016, at the age of 74.

Ned was a political force in Louisiana. He served in the Louisiana House of Representatives, the Louisiana Senate, and served as mayor of his hometown, the great city of Alexandria, Louisiana.

Ned served in that capacity for over 20 years, and he had many, many accomplishments in that job. Among those was the opening of the Alexandria Riverfront Center, and advocating for the transition from England Air Force Base to England Airpark, which is still in existence. He revitalized that entire city and left behind a legacy of great, great success.

So, again, just a tribute to Ned Randolph. He will be missed.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 75th anniversary of the tragic attacks on Pearl Harbor. It is a day we reflect to remember over 2,400 Americans whose lives we lost that morning.

Today I especially remember Army Corporal Earl Wickett, a south Buffalo native, who was stationed at Pearl Harbor on the day of the attacks. Mr. Wickett went on to fight on behalf of our Nation for over 4 years.

Following his tour, he returned home to western New York, raised a family, and continued to serve his community as a Buffalo firefighter.

Unfortunately, Mr. Wickett is no longer with us, passing away a few years ago, but his stories and acts of bravery live on.

Today I join all Americans in remembering those who paid the ultimate price at Pearl Harbor and those who sought and seek to protect our freedom here and throughout the world. This Nation is always grateful for those like Mr. Wickett, for their bravery, dedication, and selfless service.

CONGRATULATING FAIRFIELD AREA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I proudly honor my constituents, the Fairfield Area High School girls' soccer team, for earning the PIAA 1A championship. These young women have brought home the first State team sports title in Fairfield's history.

The Green Knights defeated District 7 champion, Shady Side, in a 9-4 victory, at Hersheypark Stadium, on November 18, 2016. The Green Knights finished the season with a 25-1 record and scored 27 goals in four State playoff games, including two nine-goal performances.

For a team from a small community, the Green Knights had an army of loyal supporters.

I extend my congratulations to the team, to the head coach, Phomma Phanththy, and the school officials, family, and friends who supported these young women on this incredible journey. We are all so very proud of you.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PUBLIC SERVANTS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to acknowledge the fallen on this day, December 7, at Pearl Harbor, the day of infamy, and offer to them our greatest admiration and gratitude. Our prayers continue to be with their ongoing families.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to speak about the responsibilities of public servants.

To my knowledge, Air Force One does not belong to any particular Presidency, regardless of party. Therefore, any attempt to ensure the technological sophistication and the quality of that aircraft should be left to the decisionmakers who have the responsibility of protecting the President of the United States or, in essence, those who have the responsibility of governing the United States military, which includes the Congress and, certainly, our Pentagon.

I am concerned when the incoming person that will take the oath of office begins to abuse the process and suggests that this is too costly and that this company—Boeing, in particular—should be undermined.

Our job is to create and save jobs, not to destroy jobs. Our job also, Mr. Speaker, is to protect the President of the United States; and that kind of interference, uninformed, should be stopped immediately.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, to remember, in particular, the recognition of one of the survivors we still have with us, David Edward Callahan, a great northern California veteran who put his life on the line to serve in the United States Navy at a time when the world was on fire.

Less than 4 months after he reported to the U.S. naval training station in San Diego at the age of 16—he fibbed a little on his application—Mr. Callahan soon would be standing to colors aboard the USS *New Orleans* when the drone of the first Japanese aircraft was heard that morning at Pearl Harbor.

It would only be the start of his service to us in the U.S. For 6 years, he would fight the Japanese in almost every major battle of the Pacific war as a combat swimmer, which later became known as the Navy SEALs, from Guadalcanal to Iwo Jima, where he was awarded a Purple Heart.

On behalf of the First District of California, we want to show our gratitude to Mr. Callahan because his service didn't end there. Later on in the Pacific nuclear proving grounds, he used his diving skills there to see how that would work in the nuclear testing that was going on at that time.

He has never stopped serving. He has never been less than an inspiration for all of us. He will be taking part in Pearl Harbor ceremonies today. We are glad to have him, and we are proud to have him as an American.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was a defining moment in our Nation's history, and, as has been said, a day that will live in infamy.

The events of Pearl Harbor demonstrated the resolve of the American people and our Armed Forces. It is a day when we honor those who gave their lives in the defense of this country, but also honor those who have saved lives of others during this tragedy.

Petty Officer Doris "Dorie" Miller, from my hometown of Waco, was one such individual who went above and beyond the call of duty in defense of this country and his fellow Americans. Dorie Miller is widely recognized as a hero after the attack on Pearl Harbor for his remarkable courage when his

ship, the USS *West Virginia*, came under attack by the Japanese.

In the face of imminent danger, he assisted his ship's commander, who was mortally wounded, to safety. He then reportedly manned a .50-caliber anti-aircraft machine gun to shoot down at least 3 of the 29 Japanese planes that went down that day.

Mr. Speaker, ever since I have been a Member of Congress, I have worked time and time again to get Dorie Miller awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Yet, today he is left with still the Navy Cross. It is time we honor the unheard sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and award Dorie Miller the Congressional Medal of Honor.

WHY THE CONSTITUTION IS IMPORTANT

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the United States of America is a nation of laws, where the government derives its limited powers from "We the People," the consenting governed.

Since 1789, the Constitution has served as our country's legal foundation. Its wisdom is timeless. And just as George Washington called the Constitution the guide he would never abandon, we won't abandon it either or try to tinker unnecessarily with its brilliance.

Thanks to the foresight of the Constitution's Framers, their understanding of government overreach, and their grasp of human nature, we have an abiding document that checks the power of the Federal Government and protects the rights of individual citizens.

It is genius in its brevity, in its endurance, and in its forethought to limit and separate the governing powers established therein.

As a Member of Congress, it is an honor and sacred duty to protect and uphold the Constitution.

□ 1215

FBI AND WALL STREET

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I wrote to FBI Director James Comey in September and requested the materials related to the FBI's investigations into the 2008 financial crisis. ELIZABETH WARREN joined me in this request, which we made as a result of the precedent the FBI established in a high-profile case involving a Secretary of State's emails. In citing "intense public interest" and "the interest of transparency," the FBI saw fit to provide extensive testimony to Congress and

hundreds of pages of documents that gave context to its decision not to prosecute.

It has been 8 years since casino-style bets and a culture of fraud on Wall Street crashed our economy and caused millions of Americans to lose their jobs and their homes; yet no top executives were charged with crimes, and many Americans have a gnawing sense that justice has not been served. As of today, I have not received one word.

The DOJ has obtained financial settlements from major institutions, like Citigroup and Bank of America.

The American public has a clear interest and stake in understanding why the FBI did not pursue charges against the recommendations of its own commission.

RECOGNIZING THE KEYSTONE LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Pennsylvania State Little League champions, the Keystone Little League team, from Clinton County, Pennsylvania. Today, I had the privilege of hosting them for a Capitol tour, and they currently join me from the House Gallery.

The team had a remarkable 2016 season, claiming their district and sectional titles before winning the statewide championship for Pennsylvania.

As the Pennsylvania champions, they made an impressive run in the regional playoffs and came just one game short of representing the mid-Atlantic region in the Little League World Series. Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District has a rich history of great Little League players and teams, and this year's Keystone team continues that legacy. They join greats such as Specialist Ross A. McGinnis, a Medal of Honor winner and Little League Hall of Excellence inductee, and the 2011 Mid-Atlantic Little League World Series team, also the former Keystone team, which also hailed from Clinton County.

In keeping with this tradition, Keystone made their region proud through their love and dedication to America's favorite pastime—baseball. Congratulations to the players and coaches on such a great run.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION: NYPD REIMBURSEMENT FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep disappointment in the continuing resolution that was released last night.

The \$7 million appropriated to reimburse New York City for costs incurred to provide security for President-elect Trump and his family was a mere fraction of the \$35 million requested by the city and the police department.

The security efforts involved are unprecedented, and it is totally unfair to ask New York City taxpayers alone to pay for these costs. This is the second busiest intersection, not in New York City, not in New York State, but in the entire country. Over 10,000 residents per hour cross at 57th and 5th. It is a security challenge personified.

Because of this budget's failure, New Yorkers are now being forced to provide a no-interest loan to the Federal Government and have no guarantee of being paid back.

This is a terrible deal. Securing the President-elect is a national security priority, and it must be paid for by the Federal Government.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP'S PHONE CALL TO PRESIDENT TSAI

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

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise for two reasons today.

First, I honor the life of my father, Larry L. Barton. He died on this date, December 7, 1996. He was a World War II veteran and a B-24 Liberator navigator. He was based in Italy and flew 40 combat missions over Central Europe.

I also rise to commend President-elect Trump for his phone call to the President of Taiwan, President Tsai. Taiwan is a friend of the United States. We recognized Taiwan from the late 1940s to 1972. We then recognized Mainland China but maintained diplomatic relationships with Taiwan until 1978. President-elect Trump was right to make a phone call to President Tsai. They are a friend of the United States. In my opinion, there is no reason we can't have diplomatic relations with both nations. I am told that President Tsai is going to come through Texas in the fall on her way to Guatemala. I will welcome her if that trip occurs and will try to give her the hospitality that she gave me when I visited her great nation last month.

A phone call is a phone call, Mr. Speaker. I commend the President-elect for calling President Tsai. I hope this means a warming of a relationship with Taiwan.

JOSIE AND ROLLIE HEATH

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we know it is truly a privilege to serve because of the people we

serve. Today, I want to acknowledge two very special constituents of mine who are retiring this year. Josie and Rollie Heath are beloved members of the community in Boulder, Colorado.

The pair moved to Boulder, Colorado, in the 1970s, where their family and love grew alongside their history of public service. In a recent newspaper article, Josie said that people say to her: Oh, now that you are retiring, you can do what you want to do.

And she thinks: Well, I have been doing what I want to do.

This month, Josie retired after 20 years as the head of The Community Foundation Boulder County. Prior to that, she was a county commissioner, and she served in the Carter and Clinton administrations. When I was 15 years old, I volunteered on her United States Senate race in 1990.

Early next month, Rollie Heath, a 23-year veteran of the Army, is retiring as a State Senator. Prior to the legislature, he had a career in international business and founded the Rocky Mountain World Trade Center.

For Rollie and Josie, their jobs weren't simply about the work they did. They were about building community. Both served on so many boards and advocated for so many just causes. Above all, they have remained true to themselves as purveyors of progress in all that they do. I am honored not only to be their Congressman but to be their friend.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate them on their life's work, and I look forward to joining them in future adventures.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM W. PETERSON

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Captain William W. Peterson of Richland, Washington, who was recently inducted into the Wall of Gallantry in the Hall of Heroes at the United States Coast Guard Academy.

While serving as an aircraft commander with the Coast Guard in July of 1982, then-Lieutenant Peterson engaged in a perilous rescue of nine survivors from an HC-130 that had crashed in bad weather on Attu Island, off the coast of Alaska. Flying in extremely hazardous conditions, with winds gusting up to 40 knots, and with visibility as low as 50 feet, Lieutenant Peterson inched his helicopter along the side of a mountain and transported nine survivors back to safety over multiple trips from the crash site.

Captain Peterson demonstrated the highest forms of courage, judgment, and unwavering devotion to duty that day. I congratulate him on this much-deserved honor. I also offer my humble

appreciation to Captain Peterson for serving on my Academy Nomination Board.

Your heroic service is an inspiration to these future military leaders.

HONORING LINDA CHRISTLE

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Linda Christle, who is retiring as executive director of Economic Development Sedalia-Pettis County.

She has faithfully served the community of Sedalia for the past 12 years. Throughout her tenure as executive director, Linda has achieved many accomplishments, including the creation of three enhanced enterprise zones, resulting in over 50 companies benefiting and growing their businesses in her community. Additionally, this past year, the community was able to complete its third strategic plan in 15 years. As a result, multiple task forces were established to enhance the community, which also led to the eventual creation of the entrepreneurial program called 1 Million Cups.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to congratulate and to thank Linda Christle for her years of distinguished service in Sedalia and Pettis County. I am blessed to represent her in Congress, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

MEDIACRATS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we need a new word for the dictionary, a new term for the merger of the liberal media and the Democratic Party.

Obviously, the liberal media have no intention of treating President-elect Trump objectively or fairly. They want to continue to link arms with the Democrats. This is no surprise, given that 96 percent of national reporters' contributions went to Hillary Clinton.

As chairman of the Media Fairness Caucus, here is my proposal: let's combine the two words—"media" and "Democrat"—and go with "mediacrat." It is short; it gives the media first mention; and it sounds like a new species. Now, I realize the liberal media is not likely to use this word "mediacrat" very often, but there are two reasons for them to do so—first, to show they have a sense of humor; and, second, to show they have a sense of humility.

I think most Americans would be happy if the liberal media didn't display their bias every time they covered the President-elect. Maybe the mediocrats should try balanced reporting. It surely would help their credibility.

FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW MUST BE ENFORCED

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, a disturbing trend has developed of leading universities in their promoting lawlessness by refusing to comply with Federal immigration law; so, today, I am introducing the Federal Immigration Law Compliance Act of 2016, with co-sponsors from California to New York to Florida.

This act requires any entity that receives Federal funds, including institutions of higher learning, to comply with all lawful requests made by Federal immigration enforcement authorities. Should the entity refuse to comply with Federal immigration enforcement requests, all Federal funding can be withheld. For instance, the University of Pennsylvania, which charges \$51,000 tuition, despite its having an endowment of \$10.7 billion, would stand to lose \$700 million in Federal grants if they were to choose to continue their policy of not complying with Federal immigration law.

Congress has the responsibility to protect the rule of law in our country and to provide for the safety of our citizens. The American people have spoken loudly in this past election that they want Federal immigration law enforced. Shame on those universities that take Federal money and then promote lawlessness.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5143, TRANSPARENT INSURANCE STANDARDS ACT OF 2016; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 9, 2016, THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2017; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 944 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 944

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5143) to provide greater transparency and congressional oversight of international insurance standards setting processes, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-68 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the

bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services; (2) the further amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. On any legislative day of the second session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress after December 8, 2016—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 3. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 4. Each day during the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 5. Each day during the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XIII.

SEC. 6. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of December 8, 2016, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

□ 1230

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 944 provides for consideration of H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016. The resolution provides for a structured rule. This legislation is an important effort to protect the U.S. model of insurance super-

vision, provide for improved oversight, and keep the U.S. insurance industry strong and competitive.

For over 150 years, individual States have successfully regulated insurance and coordinated their activities. This model has worked and ensured that the focus remains on the consumer.

Well, when Congress passed the Dodd-Frank Act back in 2010, the Federal Government assumed a new role in the regulation of the insurance industry. This change included the creation of the Federal Insurance Office, otherwise known as FIO, and charged FIO with representing the interests of U.S. insurers—not consumers, insurers—during the negotiation of any international agreements.

The change also allowed for both the FIO Director and the Federal Reserve to participate in an international organization known as the International Association of Insurance Supervisors. Previously, insurance regulators from the individual States participated in the international discussions. Remember, the State insurance regulators are there to protect consumers.

The International Association of Insurance Supervisors is responsible for developing regulatory guidelines and best practices for insurance supervisors around the world to adopt. Europe and the United States have very different regulatory models for insurance.

Recently, the European Union has developed a regulatory protocol known as Solvency II. Solvency II is significantly different from the successful State-based insurance regulatory system that has been successful in the U.S. for the last 150 years. The fear is that the International Association of Insurance Supervisors will adopt Solvency II as the gold standard, which would put U.S. insurers and consumers at a severe disadvantage.

More alarming, the Treasury Department and the U.S. Trade Representative are already engaged in negotiations with the European Union regarding a “covered agreement” over insurance regulations. If based on the Solvency II model, this could severely hurt the U.S. insurance industry and consumers.

That is where our legislation comes in. The Transparent Insurance Standards Act simply enhances Congress’ oversight of international deliberations relating to insurance standards. The bill sets reasonable requirements that must be met before the United States can agree to accept, establish, or enter into the adoption of any international insurance standard. The same requirements would be followed throughout any negotiations over a covered agreement with the European Union.

To be clear, this bill would not stop the international process. It simply will ensure that the United States is leading on the issues instead of being led by foreign governments.

This bill also requires that the Federal Insurance Office and the Federal Reserve report and testify before Congress at least twice a year about ongoing negotiations.

I appreciate Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Chairman HENSARLING for their leadership on this very important issue, and I hope we can come together to pass this very important legislation.

I just don’t understand why anyone would be opposed to greater congressional oversight over such an important issue. Adoption of these standards or entering into an agreement with the European Union could fundamentally alter the U.S. insurance industry and, yes, hurt consumers. It only makes sense for the democratically elected Congress to play a role in the process.

This legislation is simply about improving oversight and protecting the State-based model of insurance regulation that has held up so well in our country over the last 150 years and has enjoyed wide, bipartisan support. Most importantly, this bill is about ensuring the concerns of the American people come first, not the worries of some foreign government or group.

I urge my colleagues to protect insurance consumers across America by supporting House Resolution 944 and the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman from Alabama for yielding to me the customary 30 minutes for debate.

I rise to debate the rule for consideration of H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016. At best, this bill is unnecessary. At worst, it will harm our ability to reach vital international agreements to protect our financial system.

Mr. Speaker, the 2008 financial crisis and the subsequent Great Recession was the worst financial disaster in our Nation’s history since the Great Depression. Nearly 9 million Americans lost their jobs, doubling the unemployment rate. More than 11 million Americans lost their homes to foreclosures. Home values dropped more than 30 percent. Our Nation lost more than \$13 trillion in economic output. To put that in perspective, that is the equivalent of losing a year’s gross domestic product.

From this disaster, we learned many lessons and passed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to ensure that we are better able to prevent such a financial calamity from occurring again.

One lesson we learned was the significant risk posed to our financial system by potentially unstable, large, globally active insurance companies, as demonstrated by the near collapse of AIG. As a result, commonsense reforms to the insurance industry were put in place, including the creation of the

Federal Insurance Office to coordinate Federal efforts, develop policy, and represent the United States in the International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

This office, along with new authorities for the Federal Reserve and the Department of the Treasury, allow our regulators to work to ensure that our unique insurance regulatory regime provides stability in our financial system, both nationally and globally. Now, however, the majority seems to have forgotten the lessons of the 2008 financial crisis.

Mr. Speaker, at best, this legislation is unnecessary. Under the guise of transparency, H.R. 5143 would require additional public notice and comment regarding potential agreements on international insurance standards. But such international agreements would only take effect domestically after regulations were promulgated in accordance with U.S. law, which already includes a notice and comment period. The transparency this bill is seeking is already enshrined in our rulemaking process.

Then, at worst, this bill will harm U.S. negotiators by tying their hands and making setting workable insurance standards nearly impossible to achieve. Mr. Speaker, by requiring our negotiators to seek consensus positions with all 50 State insurance commissioners, this bill weakens the United States' ability to work with other countries to improve the regulation of large global insurance companies. By placing unnecessary, counterproductive, and overly cumbersome reporting and negotiating requirements on the Federal Reserve and Treasury, we will not be able to achieve the global insurance stability we need to prevent future financial disasters.

As we approach the end of the 114th Congress, I am dismayed to see that consideration of this bill is how the majority has decided we should spend what few precious legislative days remain. I guess my dismay carries over from last night's so-called impeachment consideration of the IRS Commissioner, who will be gone from office by the time they could get through this process. I was pleased to see the chairman of the Judiciary Committee refer it to his committee, where I am sure it will die.

It just seems that we get to this important juncture and we find ourselves caught up in bumper sticker politics, as we have for most of the session of the 114th Congress. It appears that, in the final hours of this Congress, the majority is attempting to throw up roadblocks to prevent commonsense financial regulations aimed at preventing large insurance companies from once again threatening the stability of our economy.

The American people—all of them, Republican and Democrat—deserve bet-

ter. Assuredly, we can anticipate that if this measure were to become law—and I predict it won't—but if it were to become law, then I can see us, at some point, faced with another serious financial crisis.

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

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

I have listened to my colleague from Florida's remarks, and I certainly understand the concern that we all have with the aftermath of the Great Recession of 2008. But there are many of us who believe that the Dodd-Frank law, which contains the provision that we are trying to affect here, really did things that went way outside of what we should have been doing to try to prevent another recession from happening again.

How does ceding control over the U.S. insurance market to foreign governments and groups help our economy or help prevent a future recession? How does a bill like the underlying bill, that protects consumers and provides congressional oversight, hurt our economy? How does that not help our economy, help the consumers?

□ 1245

This bill is necessary because the United States faces losing control over our insurance that is so very important to everybody in the United States of America.

My colleague talked about State insurance departments. One thing we have seen these last several years is a steady effort to take power away from State governments, which is, frankly, contrary to the intent of our Constitution.

Our State governments do very important things, like they are the primary providers for public education. But they are also the primary regulators for insurance, and they have done a good job of that. We have 150 years of experience with that. We have bipartisan support for that. Why would we be taking power away from them? Why isn't continuing to allow them to have that power and utilize it as each State sees fit, why isn't that a good thing?

Finally, my colleague talked about how, at the end of this Congress, we are doing bumper sticker things. Well, I believe that passing, with a huge bipartisan vote, the National Defense Authorization Act last week was a good thing. If that is a bumper sticker, I want that bumper sticker.

We passed, last week, the 21st Century Cures Act that I really believe is going to save lives. If that is a bumper sticker, I want that bumper sticker.

And I predict on the floor tomorrow we are going to take a WRDA bill for everybody in the United States that is going to enhance the well-being of people all over this country. That is an-

other bumper sticker I will be happy to have on my car.

So I appreciate my colleague's remarks. He knows the tremendous respect that I have for him, but I respectfully disagree with the premise for his arguments.

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

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

My colleague from Alabama and I do have mutual respect for each other, and I agree with him the three measures that he cited, and I can cite others during the course of the 114th that were substantive legislation that rightly we should have bipartisan support for and did, and I agree with him that the WRDA bill will be one that we could equally wear proudly on our bumper stickers.

The point that I was making was that we spent a good portion of the 114th Congress, number one, doing nothing. We didn't even make any bumper stickers because we weren't here that often to undertake to do anything. At the very same time, many of the things that we did fell in the category, at least as I perceive it, of being bumper sticker measures: 60-plus times repealing the Affordable Care Act, knowing full well that the sitting President was not going to sign anything, so all we did it for was for certain people to have talking points. Now, we are entitled; that is a part of what politics is. But make no mistake about it: we did a lot of bumper sticker legislation in the last session because a lot of it went nowhere, and a lot of it was done during a period that we should have been about the business of substantive legislation.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up a bill that would close a tax loophole that rewards companies for moving jobs overseas and would, instead, provide a tax credit for companies that move jobs back to the United States.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), the bill's sponsor and my good friend, to discuss our proposal.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule.

In the waning days of the 114th Congress, here we are debating a bill once again to roll back Wall Street reforms. This is what it comes down to.

How tone deaf can we be? Here is a news flash: the whole country is focused on defending blue-collar jobs,

bolstering our industrial manufacturing base. Folks are zoned in on that, focused on that issue. So we need to stop outsourcing now.

This Congress should start by defeating the previous question and bringing up the Bring Jobs Home Act. Around 5 million United States manufacturing jobs have been lost since 1994, good-paying jobs. Their loss has led to a somewhat demise of the middle class in America. Just ask folks in places like Ohio and Pennsylvania, who have seen steel mills and rubber factories shipped overseas. My hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, was formerly the hub of the textile manufacturing industry, which no longer exists.

So why are we subsidizing it? Why are we subsidizing American companies to move to other shores? That is what we are doing. Right now, when companies move overseas, they can take a tax deduction for the cost of the move. That is a huge tax break. How do we defend it and why do we defend it?

So the bill that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) referred to eliminates this tax deduction and gives a tax credit of up to 20 percent of the cost of moving businesses, bringing businesses back to the United States of America through U.S. companies. That seems to me to make more sense. Why are we paying folks to leave when we could be paying them to get back into this country? I don't know how you disagree with that.

The companies would have to add jobs to claim the tax credit. That is the caveat. I think it works. I ask you to consider it. Let's stop subsidizing companies that ship jobs overseas and start bringing jobs back to our shores. Let's stop talking about it. Let's do something about it. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't get much simpler than that.

This is not a new idea at all. President Obama and the Democrats in Congress have raised this bill for years, and the Republican Congress has blocked the bill at every turn. Senator STABENOW of Michigan leads this bill in the Senate, where it cleared a procedural vote 93-7 in 2014.

I challenge you today to take up and pass the bill, to stand up for American manufacturing and the workers here at home who need help. Don't be all talk. Step up to the plate. Take a stand where it counts.

I urge a "no" vote on the previous question so we can bring up the Bring Jobs Home Act and start bringing jobs back to the United States of America, the greatest country in the world.

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

This bill, the underlying bill, has nothing to do with Wall Street and everything to do with consumers, so I respectfully disagree with my colleague from New Jersey. I know that it would be good for them to try to characterize this bill as something having to do

with Wall Street, but it really has to do with you and me and the average people in this country.

I listened to his remarks about his proposal regarding doing things to try to keep American companies from going abroad and doing everything we can to attract other companies abroad, whether they are U.S. based or not, to come back here. That sounds a whole lot like what President-elect Trump is saying, and I think it is pretty clear that that is going to be a big priority for him when we come back in January.

Now, we had been talking about tax reform here in this House, and there is a proposal moving forward that is comprehensive that will not only provide the appropriate incentives for American companies to stay here, but also provide incentives for companies that are in other countries to come here and provide jobs for the American people, which is really what this is all about.

Our tax reform proposal would actually lower tax rates for everybody in America, and we should be about that as well. Instead, our friends on the other side of the aisle, every time we talk about tax reform, they want to stick some tax increases in there.

The American people don't want a tax increase. They are tired of tax increases. They are tired of the over-extension of the Federal Government, and they are tired of ceding control over things in America to international governments and groups. What the underlying bill does is it keeps control over our domestic insurance market here in America and doesn't give that control, doesn't give any of that authority to people in other countries.

I listened with interest to the remarks that were just made. I am looking forward to President-elect Trump being President Trump so that we can have a comprehensive approach to keeping American businesses here and attracting more businesses here for more jobs. I believe that is exactly what we are going to see during this very exciting year to come.

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

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

As my friend from Alabama knows, we are currently debating the rule. This is a tool used to set the House's agenda and to prioritize consideration of legislation. For that very reason, this is, in fact, the appropriate time for us to explain to the American people what legislation we would like to prioritize and what agenda we would like to pursue in this House. That is why we have a previous question.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman will also be pleased to learn that our amendment does not prevent the House from considering the majority's bill. Our amendment simply allows the House to

consider our bill as well. As Mr. PASCRELL pointed out, it is not as if this isn't something that hasn't been brought up for the last 2 years; and therefore, I join the gentleman in his excitement about the possibilities going forward of us being able to address this legislation, but now is the time that we can do it if we were to vote the previous question as requested.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me reiterate that the bill before us is unnecessary; it is a waste of valuable time; and if it were ever to be enacted into law, which I predict it won't, it would be harmful to our country's fiscal well-being. Let me go back and put a caveat there. It won't become the law in the 114th session. It may very well pass the 115th session.

We need to protect and wisely continue to implement commonsense regulations and oversight passed in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis to ensure it doesn't happen again. I urge my colleagues to oppose the rule and the underlying measure.

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

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

In closing, I want to go back to some remarks I made at the very beginning. No one wants to see a repeat of the Great Recession. It harmed everybody in this country. But in response to it, by passing the Dodd-Frank law, which this provision is going to try to affect, we essentially took a liberal grab bag of ideas that have been hanging around for years and just threw it into a bill and then tried to pretend that somehow that was going to have something to do with preventing a future recession.

□ 1300

Virtually everything that is in the Dodd-Frank law has nothing to do with preventing a future recession, and the particular provision that we are talking about with the underlying bill has nothing to do with preventing a future recession. What it does do is take the bill we have right now—not the underlying bill but the law we have right now—and take authority away from the American people.

We have sat back the last several years and watched this administration go through negotiation and agreement after agreement that were bad for the American people. My colleague and I have agreed over and over again that the Iran deal was a bad deal for the American people. So why would we continue to cede control to foreign governments and groups?

I think the election that we just had was, in part, about taking control of our country back—taking it back from Federal overreach and taking it back from ceding authority to people in other countries.

This bill, the underlying bill that this rule deals with, gets that authority back for the American people and gets the control back to the States, where it has been successful for 150 years. That is what is good for the American people, and that is why we have chosen to bring this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 944 and the underlying bill.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 944 OFFERED BY
MR. HASTINGS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC 7. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2963) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage domestic insourcing and discourage foreign outsourcing. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 8. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 2963.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the

opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 7, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 7, 2016, at 12:24 p.m.:

Appointments:
United States-China Economic Security
Review Commission
Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

INDIAN EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING
AND RELATED SERVICES CON-
SOLIDATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 329) to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 329

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF SHORT TITLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401 note; 106 Stat. 2302) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

"This Act may be cited as the 'Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992'."

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in law to the "Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992" shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992".

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

Section 2 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking “The purposes of this Act are to demonstrate how Indian tribal governments can” and inserting “The purpose of this Act is to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes and tribal organizations to”;

(2) by inserting “from diverse Federal sources” after “they provide”;

(3) by striking “and serve tribally-determined” and inserting “, and serve tribally determined”; and

(4) by inserting “, while reducing administrative, reporting, and accounting costs” after “policy of self-determination”.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3402), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘tribe’ have the meaning given the term ‘Indian tribe’ in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

“(B) INCLUSION.—The term ‘Indian tribe’ includes tribal organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)).”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means a program described in section 5(a).”.

SEC. 5. INTEGRATION OF SERVICES AUTHORIZED.

Section 4 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3403), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. INTEGRATION OF SERVICES AUTHORIZED.

“The Secretary shall, after approving a plan submitted by an Indian tribe in accordance with section 8, authorize the Indian tribe to, in accordance with the plan—

“(1) integrate the programs and Federal funds received by the Indian tribe in accordance with waiver authority granted under section 7(d); and

“(2) coordinate the employment, training, and related services provided with those funds in a consolidated and comprehensive tribal plan.”.

SEC. 6. PROGRAMS AFFECTED AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

Section 5 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3404), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. PROGRAMS AFFECTED.

“(a) PROGRAMS AFFECTED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The programs that may be integrated pursuant to a plan approved under section 8 shall be only programs—

“(A) implemented for the purpose of—

“(i) job training;

“(ii) welfare to work and tribal work experience;

“(iii) creating or enhancing employment opportunities;

“(iv) skill development;

“(v) assisting Indian youth and adults to succeed in the workforce;

“(vi) encouraging self-sufficiency;

“(vii) familiarizing individual participants with the world of work;

“(viii) facilitating the creation of job opportunities;

“(ix) economic development; or

“(x) any services related to the activities described in clauses (i) through (x); and

“(B) under which an Indian tribe or members of an Indian tribe—

“(i) are eligible to receive funds—

“(I) under a statutory or administrative formula making funds available to an Indian tribe; or

“(II) due to their status as Indians under Federal law; or

“(ii) have secured funds as a result of a competitive process, a noncompetitive process, or a specific designation.

“(2) TREATMENT OF BLOCK GRANT FUNDS.—For purposes of this section, programs funded by block grant funds provided to an Indian tribe, regardless of whether the block grant is for the benefit of the Indian tribe because of the status of the Indian tribe or the status of the beneficiaries the grant serves, shall be eligible to be integrated into the plan.

“(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall, in cooperation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, after the Secretary approves a plan submitted by an Indian tribe or tribal organization under section 8, authorize the Indian tribe or tribal organization, as applicable, to coordinate, in accordance with the plan, federally funded employment, training, and related services programs and funding in a manner that integrates the programs and funding into a consolidated and comprehensive program.”.

SEC. 7. PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

Section 6 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3405), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 6. PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

“A plan submitted to the Secretary for approval under this Act shall—

“(1) identify the programs to be integrated and consolidated;

“(2) be consistent with the purposes of this Act;

“(3) describe—

“(A) a comprehensive strategy identifying the full range of potential employment opportunities on and near the service area of the Indian tribe;

“(B) the education, training, and related services to be provided to assist Indians to access those employment opportunities;

“(C) the way in which services and program funds are to be integrated, consolidated, and delivered; and

“(D) the results expected, including the expected number of program participants in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program, from the plan;

“(4) identify the projected expenditures under the plan in a single budget covering all consolidated funds;

“(5) identify any agency of the Indian tribe to be involved in the delivery of the services integrated under the plan;

“(6) identify any statutory provisions, regulations, policies, or procedures that the Indian tribe believes need to be waived to implement the plan; and

“(7) be approved by the governing body of the Indian tribe.”.

SEC. 8. PLAN REVIEW; WAIVER AUTHORITY; AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION.

Section 7 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25

U.S.C. 3406), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7 PLAN REVIEW.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of a plan from an Indian tribe, the Secretary shall consult with—

“(1) the head of each Federal agency overseeing a program identified in the plan; and

“(2) the Indian tribe that submitted the plan.

“(b) IDENTIFICATION OF WAIVERS.—The parties identified in subsection (a) shall identify any waivers of applicable statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirements, or of Federal agency policies or procedures necessary to enable the Indian tribe to efficiently implement the plan.

“(c) TRIBAL WAIVER REQUEST.—In consultation with the Secretary, a participating Indian tribe may request that the head of each affected agency waive any statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirement, policy, or procedure identified subsection (b).

“(d) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), notwithstanding any other provision of law, the head of each affected Federal agency shall waive any applicable statutory, regulatory, or administrative requirement, regulation, policy, or procedure promulgated by the agency that has been identified by the parties under subparagraph (b).

“(2) EXCEPTION.—The head of an affected Federal agency shall not grant a waiver under paragraph (1) if the head of the affected agency determines that a waiver will be inconsistent with—

“(A) the purposes of this Act; or

“(B) the provision of law from which the program included in the plan derives its authority that is specifically applicable to Indians.

“(e) DECISION ON WAIVER REQUEST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the head of an affected agency receives a waiver request, the head of the affected agency shall decide whether to grant or deny the request.

“(2) DENIAL OF REQUEST.—If the head of the affected agency denies a waiver request, not later than 30 days after the date on which the denial is made, the head of the affected agency shall provide the requesting Indian tribe and the Secretary with written notice of the denial and the reasons for the denial.

“(3) FAILURE TO ACT ON REQUEST.—If the head of an affected agency does not make a decision under paragraph (1) by the deadline identified in that paragraph, the request shall be considered to be granted.

“(f) SECRETARIAL REVIEW.—If the head of an affected agency denies a waiver request under subsection (e)(2), not later than 30 days after the date on which the request is denied, the Secretary shall review the denial and determine whether granting the waiver—

“(1) will be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act; or

“(2) will prevent the affected agency from fulfilling the obligations of the affected agency under this Act.

“(g) INTERAGENCY DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary determines that granting the waiver will not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and will not prevent the affected agency from fulfilling the obligations of the affected agency under this Act, the Secretary shall establish and initiate an interagency dispute resolution process involving—

“(A) the Secretary;

“(B) the participating Indian tribe; and
 “(C) the head of the affected agency.

“(2) DURATION.—A dispute subject to paragraph (1) shall be resolved not later than 30 days after the date on which the process is initiated.

“(h) FINAL AUTHORITY.—If the dispute resolution process fails to resolve the dispute between a participating Indian tribe and an affected agency, the head of the affected agency shall have the final authority to resolve the dispute.

“(i) FINAL DECISION.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which the dispute is resolved under this section, the Secretary shall provide the requesting Indian tribe with—

“(1) the final decision on the waiver request; and

“(2) notice of the right to file an appeal in accordance with the applicable provisions described in section 8(d).”

SEC. 9. PLAN APPROVAL; SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY; REVIEW OF DECISION.

Section 8 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3407), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 8. PLAN APPROVAL; SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY; REVIEW OF DECISION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall have exclusive authority to approve or disapprove a plan submitted by an Indian tribe in accordance with section 6.

“(b) APPROVAL PROCESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a plan, the Secretary shall, after coordinating with the Secretary of each Federal agency providing funds to be used to implement the plan, approve or deny the plan.

“(2) APPROVAL.—If the Secretary approves a plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall authorize the transfer of program funds identified in the plan in accordance with section 13.

“(3) DENIAL.—If the Secretary denies the plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide to the Indian tribe a written notification of disapproval of the plan that contains a specific finding that clearly demonstrates, or that is supported by a controlling legal authority, that the plan does not meet the requirements described in section 6.

“(4) PARTIAL APPROVAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a plan is denied under paragraph (3) solely on the basis that a request for a waiver that is part of the plan has not been approved (or is subject to dispute resolution) under section 7, the Secretary shall, upon a request from the tribe, grant partial approval for those portions of the plan not affected by the request for a waiver.

“(B) APPROVAL AFTER RESOLUTION.—With respect to a plan described in subparagraph (A), on resolution of the request for a waiver under section 7, the Secretary shall, on a request from the tribe, approve the plan or amended plan not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the request.

“(5) FAILURE TO ACT.—If the Secretary does not make a decision under paragraph (1) within 90 days of the date on which the Secretary receives the plan, the plan shall be considered to be approved.

“(c) EXTENSION OF TIME.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may extend or otherwise alter the 90-day period identified in subsection (b)(1) for not more than 90 additional days, if, before the expiration of the period, the Secretary obtains the express written consent of the Indian tribe.

“(d) REVIEW OF DENIAL.—

“(1) PROCEDURE UPON REFUSAL TO APPROVE PLAN.—If the Secretary denies a plan under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary shall—

“(A) state any objections in writing to the Indian tribe;

“(B) provide assistance to the Indian tribe to overcome the stated objections; and

“(C) unless the Indian tribe brings a civil action under paragraph (2), provide the Indian tribe with a hearing on the record with the right to engage in full discovery relevant to any issue raised in the matter and the opportunity for appeal on the objections raised, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary may promulgate.

“(2) CIVIL ACTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The district courts of the United States shall have original jurisdiction of a civil action against the appropriate Secretary arising under this section.

“(B) ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING AND APPEAL NOT REQUIRED.—An Indian tribe may bring a civil action under this paragraph without regard to whether the Indian tribe had a hearing or filed an appeal under paragraph (1).

“(C) RELIEF.—In an action brought under this paragraph, the court may order appropriate relief (including injunctive relief to reverse a denial of a plan under this section or to compel an officer or employee of the United States, or any agency thereof, to perform a duty provided under this Act or regulations promulgated thereunder) against any action by an officer or employee of the United States or any agency thereof contrary to this Act or regulations promulgated thereunder.

“(3) FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a decision by an official of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Health and Human Services, as appropriate (collectively referred to in this paragraph as the ‘Department’) that constitutes final agency action and that relates to an appeal within the Department that is conducted under paragraph (1)(C) shall be made—

“(A) by an official of the Department who holds a position at a higher organizational level within the Department than the level of the departmental agency (such as the Indian Health Service or the Bureau of Indian Affairs) in which the decision that is the subject of the appeal was made; or

“(B) by an administrative law judge.”

SEC. 10. EMPLOYER TRAINING PLACEMENTS.

Section 10 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3409), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 10. EMPLOYER TRAINING PLACEMENTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act may use the funds made available for the plan under this Act—

“(1) to place participants in training positions with employers; and

“(2) to pay the participants a training allowance or wage for a training period of not more than 24 months, which may be non-consecutive.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—An Indian tribe may carry out subsection (a) only if the Indian tribe enters into a written agreement with each applicable employer under which the employer shall agree—

“(1) to provide on-the-job training to the participants; and

“(2) on satisfactory completion of the training period described in subsection (a)(2), to prioritize the provision of permanent employment to the participants.”

SEC. 11. FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

Section 11 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3410), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 11. FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

“(a) LEAD AGENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the lead agency responsible for implementation of this Act shall be the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The responsibilities of the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in carrying out this Act shall include—

“(A) in coordination with the head of each Federal agency overseeing a program identified in the plan, the development of a single model report for each Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act to submit to the Director reports on any consolidated activities undertaken and joint expenditures made under the plan;

“(B) the provision, directly or through contract, of appropriate voluntary and technical assistance to participating Indian tribes;

“(C) the development and use of a single monitoring and oversight system for plans approved under this Act;

“(D)(i) the receipt of all funds covered by a plan approved under this Act; and

“(ii) the distribution of the funds to the respective Indian tribes by not later than 45 days after the date of receipt of the funds from the appropriate Federal department or agency; and

“(E)(i) the performance of activities described in section 7 relating to agency waivers; and

“(ii) the establishment of an interagency dispute resolution process.

“(3) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2016, the Secretary (acting through the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs), in conjunction with the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs and the Attorney General, shall enter into an interdepartmental memorandum of agreement providing for the implementation of this Act.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The memorandum of agreement under subparagraph (A) shall include provisions relating to—

“(i) an annual meeting of participating Indian tribes and Federal departments and agencies, to be co-chaired by—

“(I) a representative of the President; and

“(II) a representative of the participating Indian tribes;

“(ii) an annual review of the achievements under this Act, including the number and percentage of program participants in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program, and any statutory, regulatory, administrative, or policy obstacles that prevent participating Indian tribes from fully and efficiently carrying out the purposes of this Act; and

“(iii) a forum comprised of participating Indian tribes and Federal departments and agencies to identify and resolve interagency conflicts and conflicts between the Federal Government and Indian tribes in the administration of this Act.

“(b) REPORT FORMAT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The lead agency shall develop and distribute to Indian tribes that have in place an approved plan under this Act a single report format, in accordance with the requirements of this Act.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The lead agency shall ensure that the report format developed under paragraph (1), together with records maintained by each participating Indian tribe, contains information sufficient—

“(A) to determine whether the Indian tribe has complied with the requirements of the approved plan of the Indian tribe;

“(B) to determine the number and percentage of program participants in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program; and

“(C) to provide assurances to the head of each applicable Federal department or agency that the Indian tribe has complied with all directly applicable statutory and regulatory requirements not waived under section 7.

“(3) LIMITATION.—The report format developed under paragraph (1) shall not require a participating Indian tribe to report on the expenditure of funds expressed by fund source or single agency code transferred to the Indian tribe under an approved plan under this Act but instead shall require the Indian tribe to submit a single report on the expenditure of consolidated funds under such plan.”

SEC. 12. NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.

Section 12 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3411), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12. NO REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In no case shall the amount of Federal funds available to an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act be reduced as a result of—

“(1) the enactment of this Act; or

“(2) the approval or implementation of a plan of an Indian tribe under this Act.

“(b) INTERACTION WITH OTHER LAWS.—The inclusion of a program in a tribal plan under this Act shall not—

“(1) modify, limit, or otherwise affect the eligibility of the program for contracting under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.); or

“(2) eliminate the applicability of any provision of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.), as the provision relates to a specific program eligible for contracting under that Act.”

SEC. 13. TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

Section 13 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3412), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 13. TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after the date of apportionment to the applicable Federal department or agency, the head of a Federal agency overseeing a program identified in a plan approved under this Act shall transfer to the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for distribution to an Indian tribe any funds identified in the approved plan of the Indian tribe.

“(b) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, at the request of the Indian tribe, all program funds transferred to an Indian tribe in accordance with the approved plan of the Indian tribe shall be transferred to the Indian tribe pursuant to an existing contract, compact, or funding agreement awarded pursuant to title I or IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).”

SEC. 14. ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS.

Section 14 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25

U.S.C. 3413), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (d);

(2) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“SEC. 14. ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS.

“(a) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) CONSOLIDATION AND REALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all amounts transferred to a tribe pursuant to an approved plan may be consolidated, reallocated, and rebudgeted as specified in the approved plan to best meet the employment, training, and related needs of the local community served by the Indian tribe.

“(B) AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS.—The amounts used to carry out a plan approved under this Act shall be administered in such manner as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to ensure the amounts are spent on activities authorized under the approved plan.

“(C) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section interferes with the ability of the Secretary or the lead agency to use accounting procedures that conform to generally accepted accounting principles, auditing procedures, and safeguarding of funds that conform to chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Single Audit Act of 1984’).

“(2) SEPARATE RECORDS AND AUDITS NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations and circulars of any agency (including Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133)), an Indian tribe that has in place an approved plan under this Act shall not be required—

“(A) to maintain separate records that trace any service or activity conducted under the approved plan to the program for which the funds were initially authorized or transferred;

“(B) to allocate expenditures among such a program; or

“(C) to audit expenditures by the original source of the program.

“(b) CARRYOVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any funds transferred to an Indian tribe under this Act that are not obligated or expended prior to the beginning of the fiscal year after the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated shall remain available for obligation or expenditure without fiscal year limitation, subject to the condition that the funds shall be obligated or expended in accordance with the approved plan of the Indian tribe.

“(2) NO ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION.—The Indian tribe shall not be required to provide any additional justification or documentation of the purposes of the approved plan as a condition of receiving or expending the funds.

“(c) INDIRECT COSTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an Indian tribe shall be entitled to recover 100 percent of any indirect costs incurred by the Indian tribe as a result of the transfer of funds to the Indian tribe under this Act.”; and

(3) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (1))—

(A) by striking “All administrative” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—All administrative”; and

(B) by striking “regulations” and all that follows through the end of the subsection and inserting the following: “regulations).

“(2) TREATMENT.—The amount equal to the difference between the amount of the com-

mingled funds and the actual administrative cost of the programs, as described in paragraph (1), shall be considered to be properly spent for Federal audit purposes if the amount is used to achieve the purposes of this Act.

“(e) MATCHING FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds transferred to an Indian tribe under this Act shall be treated as non-Federal funds for purposes of meeting matching requirements under any other Federal law, except those administered by the Department of Labor or the Department of Health and Human Services.

“(f) CLAIMS.—The following provisions of law shall apply to plans approved under this Act:

“(1) Section 314 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1991 (Public Law 101-512; 104 Stat. 1959).

“(2) Chapter 171 of title 28 (commonly known as the ‘Federal Tort Claims Act’).

“(g) INTEREST OR OTHER INCOME.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe shall be entitled to retain interest earned on any funds transferred to the tribe under an approved plan and such interest shall not diminish the amount of funds the Indian tribe is authorized to receive under the plan in the year the interest is earned or in any subsequent fiscal year.

“(2) PRUDENT INVESTMENT.—Funds transferred under a plan shall be managed in accordance with the prudent investment standard.”

SEC. 15. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION ON INDIAN WORK FORCE.

Section 17(a) of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3416(a)), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking “The Secretary” and all that follows through “manner,” and inserting “The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary, Indian tribes, and the Director of the Bureau of the Census, shall”; and

(2) by striking “, by gender,”.

SEC. 16. REPEALS; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) REPEALS.—Sections 15 and 16 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3414, 3415), as amended by section 2 of this Act, are repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Sections 17 and 18 of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3416, 3417) (as amended by this Act) are redesignated as sections 15 and 16, respectively.

SEC. 17. EFFECT OF ACT.

Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act—

(1) affects any plan approved under the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.) (as so redesignated) before the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) requires any Indian tribe or tribal organization to resubmit a plan described in paragraph (1); or

(3) modifies the effective period of any plan described in paragraph (1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act, will empower tribes and tribal organizations to offer workforce development issues that uplift Native communities throughout the country. This bipartisan legislation will make the tribal 477 program permanent and make improvements to its administration.

The 477 program was established in 1992—by the way, I was the sponsor of that legislation at that time, also—as a demonstration program. It allows tribes to combine employment, child care, and job training funding from a variety of Federal sources to conduct consolidated, comprehensive reporting. This has enabled tribes to run innovative programs and saved both the tribes and the Federal Government money and resources.

I would suggest respectfully that this is a great piece of legislation. The 477 program embodies tribal self-determination by allowing tribes to provide opportunities tailored to the unique needs of their communities. Significant education and training needs exist in Indian country, and the 477 program has a proven track record of success. This is particularly true in Alaska, where the Cook Inlet Tribal Council has pioneered a smart model that provides holistic services, all under one roof, for individuals and families.

My bill improves accounting procedures and reporting mechanisms to uphold the original intent of the program, ensures that agencies treat tribes fairly, and sets a foundation for participants' continued success.

I especially, at this time, would like to thank the members of the 477 tribal work group who, over the past 4 years, have been dedicated to developing and advancing this legislation. Without the work group's tireless advocacy, this bill would not have been possible.

I would also like to thank Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA and their staffs for their work on the bill and commitment to advancing it through the process. I would specifically like to recognize Ken Degenfelder on Chairman BISHOP's staff and Alex Ortiz on my staff.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to Chairman BRADY, Chairman KLINE, and Chairman GOODLATTE and their staffs for working together on the

committee on which I serve to improve this bill.

I would like to thank them for agreeing to help expedite consideration of this bill today, and I urge adoption of H.R. 329.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE,

Washington, DC, December 5, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Education and the Workforce with regard to H.R. 329 on those matters within my committee's jurisdiction and making improvements to the legislation to address concerns.

In the interest of expediting the House's consideration of H.R. 329, the Committee on Education and the Workforce will forgo further consideration of this bill. However, I do so only with the understanding this procedural route will not be construed to prejudice my committee's jurisdictional interest and prerogatives on this bill or any other similar legislation and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to my committee in the future.

I respectfully request your support for the appointment of outside conferees from the Committee on Education and the Workforce should this bill or a similar bill be considered in a conference with the Senate. I also request you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Committee Report on H.R. 329 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,

Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On November 16, 2016, the Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported as amended H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2016. The bill was sequentially referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Education and the Workforce until December 8, 2016.

I understand our staffs have been able to negotiate out text that is agreeable to you. Therefore, I ask that you allow the Committee on Ways and Means to be discharged from further consideration of the bill before December 8, 2016, so that this revised text for H.R. 329 may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Ways and Means represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to submit this letter and any response to the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for the extraordinary cooperation shown by you and your staff over matters of shared jurisdiction. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you next Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: I write with respect to H.R. 329, the "Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015," on which the Committee on Ways and Means received a sequential referral.

I appreciate your willingness to work with my Committee on this legislation. In order to allow H.R. 329 to move expeditiously to the House floor, I agree to forgo a markup of this bill. The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with our mutual understanding that by forgoing consideration of H.R. 329 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,

Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On November 16, 2016, the Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported as amended H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2016. The bill was sequentially referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Education and the Workforce until December 8, 2016.

I understand our staffs have been able to negotiate out text that is agreeable to you. Therefore, I ask that you allow the Committee on Ways and Means to be discharged from further consideration of the bill before December 8, 2016, so that this revised text for H.R. 329 may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Ways and Means represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to submit this letter and any response to the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for the extraordinary cooperation shown by you and your staff over matters of shared jurisdiction. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you next Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2016.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On March 16, 2016, the Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported as amended H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2016, by unanimous consent. My staff has shared the reported text of the bill with your staff.

The reported bill contains provisions regarding judicial review, a matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. Specifically, section 9 of the bill amends section 8(d) of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 to provide for judicial review of the Secretary of the Interior's denial of a plan. I understand that you have concerns regarding this provision. Based on my agreement to drop this text from the bill when it is considered by the House of Representatives, I ask that the Committee on the Judiciary not seek a sequential referral of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader before the House adjourns for the election. This concession in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary and the issues raised by the omitted text are within the scope of the conference, I would support your request to have the Committee on the Judiciary represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the Congressional Record to document this agreement.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, September 22, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 329, the "Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act." I appreciate your willingness to work with me on this issue.

As you note in your letter, the reported bill contains provisions regarding judicial review that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. Specifically, section 9 of the bill amends section 8(d) of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Act of 1992 to provide for judicial review of the Secretary of the Interior's denial of a plan. The Judiciary Committee has concerns with this provision. However, based on your agreement to drop this text from the bill or similar legislation when it is considered by the House, the Judiciary Committee will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. The Committee takes

this action with our mutual understanding that by forgoing a sequential referral of H.R. 329 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and asks that you support any such request.

I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in your committee report and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 329.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, Public Law 102-477 established what is commonly known as the 477 program to foster employment and economic development in Indian country. This highly successful program authorizes tribal governments to consolidate up to 13 different Federal grant programs into a single plan with a single budget and a single reporting system.

Current participants in the program have significantly improved effectiveness of the delivery of services included in the 477 plan, while lowering administrative costs. These cost savings have been translated into more and better direct services for their communities.

H.R. 329 will build on this success by permanently authorizing the program, by increasing the scope and availability of participating Federal grant programs, and by setting a streamlined process for tribes to follow.

I want to congratulate Chairman YOUNG for his tireless work on this legislation and for putting together a piece of legislation that we should always consider and for bringing together all of the stakeholders to address the concerns and find a workable solution.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I urge passage of the legislation.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my concerns with H.R. 329. While the legislation seeks to provide additional flexibility and support to Indian tribes—a worthy goal—I remain concerned that it could have the effect of weakening the services provided to families and children in Indian tribes.

Currently, Indian tribes have the option to consolidate certain federal funding streams related to work and job training into one grant. H.R. 329 includes a number of changes to this consolidation option and expands the number of programs that can be consolidated.

The legislation could be interpreted in an overly broad fashion resulting in the inclusion of programs that may not be appropriate to include—programs or services only "relating to" job training, skill development, and economic development, or other related goals.

The Education and the Workforce Committee, on which I serve as Ranking Member, was given a sequential jurisdictional referral on this legislation, but has not considered the legislation nor considered its impact on education and training programs within our jurisdiction.

Specifically, our Committee has an interest in ensuring that program funds are used for their intended purpose. Whether the TANF program or Head Start, adequate reporting and oversight protect beneficiaries and ensure the quality of services. For example, Head Start performance standards are vital to the success of the program.

While I do not intend to oppose the legislation, I encourage continued robust oversight of the programs impacted by this bill to ensure that quality and effective education and job training programs remain available to our nation's tribes.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training, and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015.

In particular, I'm grateful for the opportunity I had to work with Representative YOUNG and the Natural Resources Committee to address some concerns I had with a previous version of the bill, and I'm grateful for the collaborative effort between our two committees so this bill can move forward today.

Under current law, Indian tribes can combine funding for employment, training, and related services to streamline their administration of social service programs—often referred to as "section 477 demonstration projects." Many times the dollar amounts received from the individual programs are rather small, so being able to combine funds with similar purposes allows tribes to achieve more effective economies of scale. However, in recent years these tribes have run into challenges as they have sought to operate these demonstration projects to best serve their members. The goal of H.R. 329 is to clarify confusion related to these demonstration projects, increase the flexibility Indian tribes have in consolidating these programs, and ensure accountability of taxpayer dollars.

While I agreed with the general intent of the prior version of this bill, I was concerned that it may have unintentionally undermined important requirements in current law for programs under Ways and Means jurisdiction, such as TANF and child care. To balance the goal of increased flexibility for tribes with appropriate oversight and accountability, I asked Representative YOUNG to amend the text to ensure the bill would not:

Undermine important rules regarding how funds appropriated for specific purposes can be used;

Eliminate requirements specifying how the spending of consolidated funds must be accounted for; and

Change how funds authorized by the Ways and Means Committee are treated for matching purposes.

First, I'm glad this bill now reiterates that agencies providing funding to tribes have the authority to approve or deny waivers of key program provisions. For example, this would mean the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) could deny an Indian tribe's request to use federal child care funds for the purchase or improvement of land, as such use of child care funds is not permitted under current law. HHS could also forbid a tribe from using federal TANF funds to pay for medical services, something states and tribes are not permitted to do under current law. At the same time, agencies and departments, like HHS, are encouraged to waive program requirements when they will assist the tribe in streamlining the administration of their social service programs to better serve their members, as long as they don't undermine the central purposes for which the money was originally appropriated.

Second, there was some concern that the bill would eliminate requirements that tribes report how they spend funds consolidated in section 477 projects. Mr. YOUNG has modified the bill to reiterate that tribes must report how funds are spent, but that they will not be required to report spending by specific program. Since 2011, a tribal working group has worked diligently to simplify tribal financial reporting, and the group has recently agreed upon a unified financial report that allows tribes to report by category, instead of by program. This form allows taxpayers to understand broadly how dollars are spent, without requiring tribes to maintain complex accounting systems necessary to report on spending per the rules for each separate program. This form is now in use, and I hope this working group, or future iterations of it, will continue to engage, as needed, to ensure this form adequately serves all stakeholders in the same manner.

Third, the earlier version of this bill allowed tribes operating section 477 projects to count federal funding received through HHS and the Department of Labor (DOL) to count as tribal spending for matching purposes. Because this would have allowed tribes to use federal funds as match to draw down additional federal dollars—and because it would have advantaged tribes operating these demonstrations compared to those not operating these demos—I asked that this language not apply to funding administered by HHS and DOL. Mr. YOUNG agreed to incorporate this change, and I'm grateful for his willingness to do so.

Finally, I'm glad we could work together to restore language in the bill regarding coordination between the Department of the Interior and other departments as these projects are approved. It is important that agencies work together to ensure tribes have the flexibility they need to streamline their services, while maintaining a balance between flexibility and accountability.

Together, these changes will support tribes as they seek to better serve their members, while maintaining appropriate accountability of taxpayer dollars and ensuring funds are used to meet the goals for which they were appropriated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the

rules and pass the bill, H.R. 329, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

—————

JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM BOUNDARIES REVISION

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6400) to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6400

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

SECTION 1. REPLACEMENT OF JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAP.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The map subtitled “Seidler Beach Unit NJ-02, Cliffwood Beach Unit NJ-03P, Conaskonk Point Unit NJ-04”, dated August 1, 2014, that is included in the set of maps entitled “Coastal Barrier Resources System” referred to in section 4(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(a)) and relating to certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey, is hereby replaced by another map subtitled “Seidler Beach Unit NJ-02/NJ-02P, Cliffwood Beach Unit NJ-03P, Conaskonk Point Unit NJ-04, Sayreville Unit NJ-15P, Matawan Point Unit NJ-16P” and dated October 7, 2016.

(b) **AVAILABILITY.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall keep the replacement map referred to in subsection (a) on file and available for inspection in accordance with section 4(b) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(b)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6400, introduced by my colleague, Mr. PALLONE, makes boundary adjustments to multiple units of the Coastal Barrier Resources System along the coast of his New Jersey congressional district. I have no

objection to this bill and compliment the gentleman for introducing the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act—or CoBRA—the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identifies hazardous areas on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, and submits maps to Congress recommending that we make Federal subsidies off limits to people who choose to develop those lands.

This is a commonsense, scientific, fiscally conservative way to protect private property and public infrastructure, while also ensuring that taxpayers do not have to foot the bill for risky coastal development. In this time of rising sea levels and increased storm surge brought on by climate change, CoBRA is becoming more and more important every day.

H.R. 6400 would adjust the boundaries of several Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey, including one that contains an important flood control structure. These changes have been carefully mapped by the Fish and Wildlife Service, and reflect improvements in technology that have allowed us to show with great accuracy which parcels of land do and do not constitute “coastal barrier resources” under the law.

As a result, numerous properties that were originally included by mistake will be removed, and other properties that have been identified as at-risk will be included.

These changes to the C.B.R.S. are protective of private property rights, the environment, and the taxpayers, and I support passage of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the author of the bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6400.

This bill is extremely important to my constituents, especially those living in Union Beach, New Jersey. Passing this bill will allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to move forward on an important flood control project for Union Beach.

H.R. 6400 would realign the mapping of several New Jersey units of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resource System. Congressional approval is required for any changes to these maps by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Over the past year, the Fish and Wildlife Service worked with the Corps to make noncontroversial changes to the mapping, completed its review, and transmitted them to Congress on November 21 of this year.

Until these maps are approved by Congress, Mr. Speaker, the Union Beach flood control project will be in limbo. The Corps cannot sign a project partnership agreement or make other progress until the updated maps are approved.

Union Beach was devastated by Superstorm Sandy, and residents have been waiting far too long for this

project to be completed. It was initially authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 on November 8, 2007, and funding and authorization for the project came from Sandy relief funding in 2013.

Moving forward on this project is a priority for the State of New Jersey, local authorities in Union Beach, and the Army Corps; however, that can only be done if Congress approves the new maps, which it can do by passing H.R. 6400.

Again, passing this bill is vitally important. It is noncontroversial. I want to thank Chairman BISHOP, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, and House leadership for allowing this legislation to be considered under suspension of the rules.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6400. The people of Union Beach have waited long enough to rebuild and protect their community from future storms.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I would like to compliment the gentleman from New Jersey. I do hope he understands that this is his district and I will support his legislation. I would like to have him do the same thing when I bring legislation to the floor that only affects my district.

So, with courtesy to him, I will urge a "yes" vote on this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6400.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHICANO PARK PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3711) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park, located in San Diego, California, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3711

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Chicano Park Preservation Act".

SEC. 2. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) *STUDY.*—The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a special resource study of Chi-

cano Park and its murals located in San Diego, California.

(b) *CONTENTS.*—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) *evaluate the national significance of the site;*

(2) *determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the site as a National Historic Landmark or Affiliated Area of the National Park System;*

(3) *consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of Chicano Park and its murals by Federal, State, or local governmental entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;*

(4) *consult with interested Federal, State, or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations or any other interested individuals; and*

(5) *identify cost estimates for any development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.*

(c) *APPLICABLE LAW.*—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code, except that the study shall not consider any options that involve Federal acquisition of lands, interests in lands, or any other property related to the Chicano Park and its murals.

(d) *REPORT.*—Not later than 18 months after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing the results of the study and any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, located in the Barrio Logan community of San Diego, Chicano Park is a 7.4-acre parcel known for its display of nearly 50 vibrant murals depicting the history, culture, and its civil rights movement.

□ 1315

Residents secured the creation of the park in 1970 by protesting the construction of a parking lot on the vacant land the city previously promised for the development of the community park. After successfully taking over the land, artists painted dozens of vibrant murals on the pillars and ramps of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge located in the park, creating the largest con-

centration of these murals in the world.

H.R. 3711 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the national significance of the park, determine the suitability and feasibility of designating it as a national historic landmark or affiliated area of the National Park Service through a special resource study. The bill prohibits the Secretary from considering any options that result in the Federal acquisition of the park.

I urge adoption of this bill, H.R. 3711.

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS).

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues for their support of H.R. 3711, the Chicano Park Preservation Act. Again, I thank the chairman for those kind words about the park. I appreciate it very much.

Ranking member, thank you again for allowing me to be here to support moving this legislation forward.

Chicano Park is a historic park under the San Diego-Coronado Bridge that embodies the spirit of the Hispanic culture in San Diego.

As was said, in the spring of 1970, the Barrio Logan community in San Diego united to advocate for the community park and, with the support of the city and State officials, the park was born. Since then, the park has been transformed by world-renowned muralists who have adorned the freeway pillars with breathtaking murals, sculptures, and architectural pieces that tell the story of the Hispanic community in San Diego.

Chicano Park is home to the largest collection of outdoor murals, 89 of them, in the country, in addition to various sculptures, earthworks, and an architectural piece dedicated to the cultural heritage of the community. The murals are recognized at the local, State, and national levels as historical, cultural, and public art.

This legislation, as was said, authorizes a special resource study of Chicano Park and its murals to evaluate the feasibility of the park becoming a national historic landmark or an Affiliated Area of the National Park Service.

It is also interesting that now the community has taken it on as a community park. Unfortunately, the area has very few parks, and this is one of the places where the community now, since 1970, has been coming and having picnics there with their families, their children, and it has become really a wonderful opportunity for the people that live in the community.

Even more than that, if you go there on a Saturday, you will find artists and different people from throughout the State, and Arizona, and other places

coming to look at the murals and to look at the art. It is quite a vibrant area. If you take a look at some of the things that are sold in the area, you will see T-shirts and you will see lots of cultural food. It has become a wonderful place for everyone to come together.

So I appreciate very much the opportunity here, and I thank the ranking member, and especially the chairman, for this opportunity. Again, I encourage them to come to the park. It is not quite as grand as some of the things in Alaska, and I look to going to Alaska some day because I have only seen them in the pictures. Again, I thank you for your kind words about the park.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers on this legislation. I do urge the passage of the legislation as a classic example of where people are working together to have a place to rest and save some great art. I congratulate the gentleman for introducing the legislation. So I urge the passage of the legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill will permit the National Park Service to study and evaluate the Chicano Park for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and possibly to become an affiliated site of the agency.

Chicano Park has come to represent not only the civil rights struggles and victories for the residents of the Barrio Logan community, but has become a center for discussions around civil rights movements for all Mexican Americans today.

Today, this space has become a vibrant expression of the history and concerns of the community and, because of their efforts, I know it will continue to remain a relevant site for generations to come. I am glad to see that this community will receive the national recognition it deserves.

I thank my colleague, Congressman VARGAS, for introducing this bill, and I am very pleased to see that we are able to move this through the House expeditiously.

I would also like to, one day, visit Alaska, but at this point in time I urge adoption of this legislation.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would assure both gentlemen, Alaska will welcome you on a visit. I hope to visit both of their communities in the future. The only way we can get things done around here is if we understand your locations, your people, and what you will treasure, as I do in my State of Alaska.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3711, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 944;

Adoption of House Resolution 944, if ordered;

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1219; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 3028.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5143, TRANSPARENT INSURANCE STANDARDS ACT OF 2016; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 9, 2016, THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2017; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 944) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5143) to provide greater transparency and congressional oversight of international insurance standards setting processes, and for other purposes; providing for proceedings during the period from December 9, 2016, through January 3, 2017; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 231, nays 178, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 609]
YEAS—231

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta

Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black

Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine

Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)

Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenge (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin

NAYS—178

Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette

Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zinke

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta

Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black

Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)

Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette

Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi

Table of names and states, including Lujan Grisham (NM), Ruzpersberger (PA), Joyce (SC), Keating (IL), Meng (MO), Schiff (CA), Grayson (VA), Kelly (MS), Rice (SC), Kelly (IL), Moore (MO), Schrader (OR), Green, Al (NM), Kelly (PA), Roby (TX), Kennedy (MO), Moulton (VA), Scott (VA), Green, Gene (NM), Lynch (OH), Ryan (OH), Kildeer (FL), Kennedy (FL), Nadler (VA), Scott, David (VA), Scott, David (VA), Sherman (CA), Gutiérrez (CA), Carolyn (CA), Sarbanes (MD), Schakowsky (MD), Dent (PA), DeSantis (FL), DesJarlais (VA), Diaz-Balart (FL), Dold (VA), Donovan (VA), Duffy (VA), Duncan (SC), Duncan (TN), Long (VA), Loudermilk (VA), Love (VA), Lucas (VA), Luetkemeyer (VA), Lummis (WY), Marchant (VA), Marino (VA), McCarthy (VA), McCaul (TX), McClintock (CA), McHenry (VA), McKinley (VA), McMorris (VA), Rodgers (VA), McSally (AZ), Meadows (VA), Meehan (VA), Messer (VA), Thornberry (TX), Tipton (TX), Torres (TX), Trott (TX), Turner (TX), Upton (TX), Valadao (CA), Wagner (VA), Walberg (VA), Walden (VA), Walker (VA), Walorski (VA), Walters, Mimi (VA), Weber (TX), Webster (FL), Westerman (VA), Williams (VA), Wilson (SC), Wittman (VA), Womack (VA), Woodall (VA), Yoder (VA), Yoho (VA), Young (AK), Young (IA), Young (IN), Zeldin (NY), Zinke (VA).

NOT VOTING—24

Table of names and states for 'NOT VOTING' section, including Brown (FL), Garrett (TX), Poe (TX), Clyburn (MO), Graves (MO), Rothfus (VA), Crenshaw (VA), Honda (VA), Sanchez, Loretta (CA), Ellmers (NC), Jolly (VA), Serrano (CA), Farr (VA), Kirkpatrick (VA), Sewell (AL), Fincher (VA), Lee (VA), Tiberi (VA), Fitzpatrick (VA), MacArthur (VA), Westmoreland (VA), Forbes (VA), Miller (MI), Zeldin (NY).

□ 1349

Messrs. CICILLINE, PETERS, VELA, and VISCLOSKY changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

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

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 232, noes 180, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 610]

AYES—232

Table of names and states for 'AYES' section, including Abraham (IL), Blum (VA), Carter (GA), Aderholt (AL), Bost (TX), Carter (TX), Allen (VA), Boustany (LA), Chabot (OH), Amodei (NV), Brady (TX), Chaffetz (UT), Babin (VA), Brat (VA), Clawson (FL), Barletta (PA), Bridenstine (OK), Coffman (CO), Barr (VA), Brooks (AL), Cole (VA), Barton (VA), Brooks (IN), Collins (GA), Benishek (MI), Buchanan (VA), Collins (NY), Bilirakis (VA), Buck (VA), Comer (VA), Bishop (MI), Bucshon (VA), Comstock (VA), Bishop (UT), Burgess (VA), Conway (VA), Black (VA), Byrne (VA), Cook (VA), Blackburn (VA), Calvert (VA), Costa (CA).

Table of names and states for 'AYES' section (continued), including Adams (MA), Clarke (NY), Esty (VT), Agullar (VA), Clay (VA), Evans (VA), Amash (MI), Cleaver (MO), Farr (VA), Ashford (VA), Cohen (VA), Foster (VA), Bass (VA), Connolly (VA), Conyers (VA), Beatty (VA), Becerra (CA), Cooper (VA), Bera (VA), Courtney (VA), Beyer (VA), Crowley (VA), Bishop (GA), Cuellar (VA), Blumenauer (OR), Cummings (VA), Bonamici (VA), Davis (CA), Bonamici (VA), Davis, Danny (VA), Boyle, Brendan F. (VA), DeFazio (VA), Brady (PA), DeGette (VA), Brownley (CA), Delaney (VA), Bustos (VA), DeLauro (VA), Butterfield (VA), DelBene (VA), Capps (VA), DeSaulnier (VA), Capuano (VA), Crowley (VA), Cardenas (VA), Dingell (VA), Carney (VA), Doggett (VA), Carson (IN), Doyle, Michael F. (VA), Cartwright (VA), Duckworth (VA), Castor (FL), Edwards (VA), Castro (TX), Chu, Judy (VA), Ellison (VA), Cicilline (VA), Engel (VA), Clark (MA), Eshoo (CA).

NOES—180

Table of names and states for 'NOES' section, including Clarke (NY), Esty (VT), Evans (VA), Clay (VA), Farr (VA), Cleaver (MO), Cohen (VA), Foster (VA), Connolly (VA), Conyers (VA), Cooper (VA), Courtney (VA), Crowley (VA), Cuellar (VA), Cummings (VA), Davis (CA), Davis, Danny (VA), DeFazio (VA), DeGette (VA), Delaney (VA), DeLauro (VA), DelBene (VA), DeSaulnier (VA), Dent (VA), Dingell (VA), Doggett (VA), Doyle, Michael F. (VA), Duckworth (VA), Edwards (VA), Ellison (VA), Engel (VA), Eshoo (CA).

Table of names and states for 'NOES' section (continued), including Esty (VT), Evans (VA), Farr (VA), Cleaver (MO), Cohen (VA), Foster (VA), Connolly (VA), Conyers (VA), Cooper (VA), Courtney (VA), Crowley (VA), Cuellar (VA), Cummings (VA), Davis (CA), Davis, Danny (VA), DeFazio (VA), DeGette (VA), Delaney (VA), DeLauro (VA), DelBene (VA), DeSaulnier (VA), Dent (VA), Dingell (VA), Doggett (VA), Doyle, Michael F. (VA), Duckworth (VA), Edwards (VA), Ellison (VA), Engel (VA), Eshoo (CA).

NOT VOTING—21

Table of names and states for 'NOT VOTING' section, including Brown (FL), Garrett (TX), Poe (TX), Clyburn (MO), Graves (MO), Rothfus (VA), Crenshaw (VA), Honda (VA), Sanchez, Loretta (CA), Ellmers (NC), Jolly (VA), Serrano (CA), Farr (VA), Kirkpatrick (VA), Sewell (AL), Fincher (VA), Lee (VA), Tiberi (VA), Fitzpatrick (VA), MacArthur (VA), Westmoreland (VA), Forbes (VA), Miller (MI), Zeldin (NY).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1357

Mrs. TORRES changed her vote from "no" to "aye."

So the resolution was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ARBUCKLE PROJECT MAINTENANCE COMPLEX AND DISTRICT OFFICE CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1219) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and appurtenances of the Ar-buckle Project, Oklahoma, to the Ar-buckle Master Conservancy District, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 412, nays 1, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 611]

YEAS—412

Abraham DeLauro Johnson (GA)
 Adams DelBene Johnson (OH)
 Aderholt Denham Johnson, E. B.
 Aguilar Dent Johnson, Sam
 Allen DeSantis Jones
 Amodei DeSaulnier Jordan
 Ashford DesJarlais Joyce
 Babin Deutch Kaptur
 Barletta Diaz-Balart Katko
 Barr Dingell Keating
 Barton Doggett Kelly (IL)
 Bass Dold Kelly (MS)
 Beatty Donovan Kelly (PA)
 Becerra Doyle, Michael Kennedy
 Benishek F. Kildee
 Bera Duckworth Kilmer
 Beyer Duffy Kind
 Bilirakis Duncan (SC) King (IA)
 Bishop (GA) Duncan (TN) King (NY)
 Bishop (MI) Edwards Kinzinger (IL)
 Bishop (UT) Ellison Kline
 Black Emmer (MN) Knight
 Blackburn Engel Kuster
 Blum Eshoo Labrador
 Blumenauer Esty LaHood
 Bonamici Evans LaMalfa
 Bost Farenthold Lamborn
 Boustany Farr Lance
 Boyle, Brendan Fleischmann Langevin
 F. Fleming Larsen (WA)
 Brady (PA) Flores Larson (CT)
 Brady (TX) Forbes Latta
 Brat Fortenberry Lawrence
 Bridenstine Foster Levin
 Brooks (AL) Foxx Lewis
 Brooks (IN) Frankel (FL) Lieu, Ted
 Brownley (CA) Franks (AZ) Lipinski
 Buchanan Frelinghuysen LoBiondo
 Buck Fudge Loebsack
 Bucshon Gabbard Lofgren
 Burgess Gallego Long
 Bustos Garamendi Loudermilk
 Butterfield Gibbs Love
 Byrne Gibson Lowenthal
 Calvert Gohmert Lowey
 Capps Goodlatte Lucas
 Capuano Gosar Luetkemeyer
 Cárdenas Gowdy Lujan Grisham
 Carney Graham (NM)
 Carson (IN) Granger Luján, Ben Ray
 Carter (GA) Graves (GA) (NM)
 Carter (TX) Graves (LA) Lummis
 Cartwright Grayson Lynch
 Castor (FL) Green, Al MacArthur
 Castro (TX) Green, Gene Maloney
 Chabot Griffith Carolyn
 Chaffetz Grijalva Maloney, Sean
 Chu, Judy Grothman Marchant
 Cicilline Guinta Marino
 Clark (MA) Guthrie Massie
 Clarke (NY) Gutiérrez Matsui
 Clawson (FL) Hanabusa McCarthy
 Clay Hanna McCaul
 Cleaver Hardy McClintock
 Coffman Harper McCollum
 Cohen Harris McDermott
 Cole Hartzler McGovern
 Collins (GA) Hastings McHenry
 Collins (NY) Heck (NV) McKinley
 Comer Heck (WA) McMorris
 Comstock Hensarling Rodgers
 Conaway Herrera Beutler McNerney
 Connolly Hice, Jody B. McSally
 Conyers Higgins Meadows
 Cook Hill Meehan
 Cooper Himes Meeks
 Costa Hinojosa Meng
 Costello (PA) Holding Messer
 Courtney Hoyer Mica
 Cramer Hudson Miller (FL)
 Crawford Huelskamp Moolenaar
 Crowley Huffman Mooney (WV)
 Cuellar Huizenga (MI) Moore
 Culberson Hultgren Moulton
 Cummings Hunter Mullin
 Curbelo (FL) Hurd (TX) Mulvaney
 Davidson Hurt (VA) Murphy (FL)
 Davis (CA) Israel Murphy (PA)
 Davis, Danny Issa Nadler
 Davis, Rodney Jackson Lee Napolitano
 DeFazio Jeffries Neal
 DeGette Jenkins (KS) Neugebauer
 Delaney Jenkins (WV) Newhouse

Noem Ros-Lehtinen Thompson (PA)
 Nolan Roskam Thornberry
 Norcross Ross Tipton
 Nugent Rouzer Titus
 Nunes Roybal-Allard Tonko
 O'Rourke Royce Torres
 Olson Ruiz Trott
 Palazzo Ruppersberger Tsongas
 Pallone Rush Turner
 Palmer Russell Upton
 Pascrell Ryan (OH) Valadao
 Paulsen Salmon Van Hollen
 Payne Sánchez, Linda Vargas
 Pearce T. Veasey
 Pelosi Sanford Vela
 Perlmutter Sarbanes Velázquez
 Perry Scalise Visclosky
 Peters Schakowsky Wagner
 Peterson Schiff Walberg
 Pingree Schrader Walden
 Pittenger Scott (VA) Walker
 Pitts Scott, Austin Walorski
 Pocan Scott, David Walters, Mimi
 Poliquin Sensenbrenner Walz
 Polis Sessions Wasserman
 Pompeo Sewell (AL) Schultz
 Posey Sherman Waters, Maxine
 Price (NC) Shimkus Watson Coleman
 Price, Tom Shuster Weber (TX)
 Quigley Simpson Webster (FL)
 Rangel Sinema Welch
 Ratcliffe Sires Wenstrup
 Reed Slaughter Westerman
 Reichert Smith (MO) Williams
 Renacci Smith (NE) Wilson (FL)
 Ribble Smith (NJ) Wilson (SC)
 Rice (NY) Smith (TX) Wittman
 Rice (SC) Smith (WA) Womack
 Richmond Speier Woodall
 Rigell Stefanik Yarmuth
 Roby Stewart Yoder
 Roe (TN) Stivers Yoho
 Rogers (AL) Stutzman Young (AK)
 Rogers (KY) Swalwell (CA) Young (IA)
 Rohrabacher Takano Young (IN)
 Rokita Thompson (CA) Zeldin
 Rooney (FL) Thompson (MS) Zinke

NAYS—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—20

Brown (FL) Graves (MO) Rothfus
 Clyburn Honda Sanchez, Loretta
 Crenshaw Jolly Schweikert
 Ellmers (NC) Kirkpatrick Serrano
 Fincher Lee Tiberi
 Fitzpatrick Miller (MI) Westmoreland
 Garrett Poe (TX)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1405

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DANIEL J. EVANS OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3028) to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 8, answered “present” 2, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 612]

YEAS—401

Abraham Crawford Heck (WA)
 Adams Crowley Hensarling
 Aderholt Cuellar Herrera Beutler
 Aguilar Culberson Hice, Jody B.
 Allen Cummings Higgins
 Amodei Curbelo (FL) Hill
 Ashford Davidson Himes
 Babin Davis (CA) Hinojosa
 Barletta Davis, Danny Holding
 Barr Davis, Rodney Hoyer
 Barton DeFazio Hudson
 Bass DeGette Huelskamp
 Beatty Delaney Huffman
 Becerra DeLauro Huizenga (MI)
 Benishek DelBene Hultgren
 Bera Denham Hunter
 Beyer Dent Hurd (TX)
 Bilirakis DeSantis Hurt (VA)
 Bishop (GA) DeSaulnier Israel
 Bishop (MI) DesJarlais Issa
 Bishop (UT) Diaz-Balart Jackson Lee
 Black Diaz-Balart Jeffries
 Blackburn Dingell Jenkins (KS)
 Blum Doggett Jenkins (WV)
 Blumenauer Dold Johnson (GA)
 Bonamici Donovan Johnson (OH)
 Bost Doyle, Michael Johnson, E. B.
 Boustany F. Johnson, Sam
 Boyle, Brendan Duckworth Jordan
 F. Duffy Joyce
 Brady (PA) Duncan (SC) Kaptur
 Brady (TX) Duncan (TN) Katko
 Bridenstine Edwards Keating
 Brooks (AL) Kelly (IL) Kelly (IL)
 Brooks (IN) Emmer (MN) Kelly (MS)
 Brownley (CA) Engel Kelly (PA)
 Buchanan Eshoo Kennedy
 Buck Esty Kildee
 Bucshon Evans Kilmer
 Burgess Farenthold Kind
 Bustos Farr King (IA)
 Butterfield Fleischmann King (NY)
 Byrne Fleming Kinzinger (IL)
 Calvert Flores Kline
 Capps Forbes Knight
 Capuano Fortenberry Kuster
 Cárdenas Foster Labrador
 Carney Foxx LaHood
 Carson (IN) Frankel (FL) LaMalfa
 Carter (GA) Franks (AZ) Lamborn
 Carter (TX) Frelinghuysen Lance
 Cartwright Fudge Langevin
 Castor (FL) Gabbard Larsen (WA)
 Castro (TX) Gallego Larson (CT)
 Chabot Garamendi Latta
 Chaffetz Gibbs Lawrence
 Chu, Judy Gibson Levin
 Cicilline Gohmert Lewis
 Clark (MA) Goodlatte Lieu, Ted
 Clarke (NY) Gowdy Lipinski
 Clawson (FL) Graham LoBiondo
 Clay Granger Loebsack
 Cleaver Graves (GA) Lofgren
 Coffman Graves (LA) Long
 Cohen Grayson Loudermilk
 Cole Green, Gene Love
 Collins (GA) Griffith Lowenthal
 Collins (NY) Grijalva Lowey
 Comer Guinta Lucas
 Comstock Guinta Luetkemeyer
 Conaway Guthrie Lujan Grisham
 Connolly Gutiérrez (NM)
 Conyers Hanabusa Luján, Ben Ray
 Cook Hanna (NM)
 Cooper Hardy Lummis
 Costa Harper Lynch
 Costello (PA) Hartzler MacArthur
 Courtney Hastings Maloney
 Cramer Heck (NV) Carolyn

Maloney, Sean	Polis	Speier
Marchant	Pompeo	Stefanik
Marino	Posey	Stewart
Matsui	Price (NC)	Stivers
McCarthy	Price, Tom	Stutzman
McCaul	Quigley	Swalwell (CA)
McClintock	Rangel	Takano
McCollum	Ratcliffe	Thompson (CA)
McDermott	Reed	Thompson (MS)
McGovern	Reichert	Thompson (PA)
McHenry	Renacci	Thornberry
McKinley	Ribble	Tipton
McMorris	Rice (NY)	Titus
Rodgers	Richmond	Tonko
McNerney	Rigell	Torres
McSally	Roby	Trott
Meadows	Roe (TN)	Tsongas
Meehan	Rogers (AL)	Turner
Meeks	Rogers (KY)	Upton
Meng	Rohrabacher	Valadao
Messer	Rokita	Van Hollen
Mica	Rooney (FL)	Vargas
Miller (FL)	Ros-Lehtinen	Veasey
Moolenaar	Roskam	Vela
Mooney (WV)	Ross	Velázquez
Moore	Rouzer	Vislousky
Moulton	Roybal-Allard	Wagner
Mullin	Royce	Walberg
Murphy (FL)	Ruiz	Walden
Murphy (PA)	Ruppersberger	Walker
Nadler	Rush	Walorski
Napolitano	Russell	Walters, Mimi
Neal	Ryan (OH)	Walz
Neugebauer	Salmon	Wasserman
Newhouse	Sánchez, Linda	Schultz
Noem	T.	Waters, Maxine
Nolan	Sarbanes	Watson Coleman
Norcross	Scalise	Weber (TX)
Nugent	Schakowsky	Webster (FL)
Nunes	Schiff	Welch
O'Rourke	Schrader	Wenstrup
Olson	Schweikert	Westerman
Palazzo	Scott (VA)	Williams
Pallone	Scott, Austin	Wilson (FL)
Palmer	Scott, David	Wilson (SC)
Pascarell	Sensenbrenner	Wittman
Paulsen	Sessions	Womack
Payne	Sherman	Woodall
Pearce	Shimkus	Yarmuth
Pelosi	Shuster	Yoder
Perlmutter	Simpson	Yoho
Perry	Sires	Young (AK)
Peters	Slaughter	Young (IA)
Peterson	Smith (MO)	Young (IN)
Pingree	Smith (NE)	Zeldin
Pitts	Smith (NJ)	Zinke
Pocan	Smith (TX)	
Poliquin	Smith (WA)	

NAYS—8

Amash	Grothman	Sanford
Brat	Harris	Sinema
Gosar	Massie	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Mulvaney	Rice (SC)
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NOT VOTING—22

Brown (FL)	Honda	Rothfus
Clyburn	Jolly	Sanchez, Loretta
Crenshaw	Jones	Serrano
Ellmers (NC)	Kirkpatrick	Sewell (AL)
Fincher	Lee	Tiberi
Fitzpatrick	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland
Garrett	Pittenger	
Graves (MO)	Poe (TX)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1413

Mr. RICE of South Carolina changed his vote from "yea" to "present."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

AUTHORIZING DIRECTORS OF VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORKS TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS TO INVESTIGATE MEDICAL CENTERS

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6435) to authorize the Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with appropriate civilian accreditation entities or appropriate health care evaluation entities to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6435

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF DIRECTORS OF VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORKS TO INVESTIGATE MEDICAL CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of a Veterans Integrated Service Network of the Department of Veterans Affairs may contract with an appropriate entity specializing in civilian accreditation or health care evaluation to investigate any medical center within such Network to assess and report deficiencies of the facilities at such medical center.

(b) COORDINATION.—Before entering into any contract under subsection (a), the Director of a Veterans Integrated Service Network shall notify the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Comptroller General of the United States for purposes of coordinating any investigation conducted pursuant to such contract with any other investigations or accreditations that may be ongoing.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

(1) to prevent the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs from conducting any review, audit, evaluation, or inspection regarding a topic for which a review is conducted under subsection (a); or

(2) to modify the requirement that employees of the Department assist with any review, audit, evaluation, or inspection conducted by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 6435, a bill to authorize the Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks, or VISN, of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with appropriate civilian accreditation entities or appropriate health care evaluation entities to investigate VA medical centers.

This bill would allow VISN directors to contract with an appropriate non-VA entity with expertise and civilian accreditation or healthcare evaluation to investigate any medical center within that director's catchment area.

It is no secret that the last few years have been tumultuous for the VA healthcare system, beginning with the access and accountability crisis in Phoenix and across the country in 2014, and continuing to just last week when reports surfaced of potential infectious disease concerns at a troubled VA medical center in Tomah, Wisconsin.

While the committee has an important oversight and investigative responsibility toward VA, as a Federal bureaucracy, VA is all too often charged with policing itself through internal watchdogs like the Office of Medical Inspector and the VA Office of Inspector General. However, despite all of our best efforts, waste, fraud, and abuse still persist and still continue to harm veterans throughout the VA healthcare system.

H.R. 6435 would provide VA regional leadership yet another tool to root out deficiencies within the VA medical facilities while providing VISN directors the ability to work with an experienced, objective entity to assess a given VA medical center's operations and management.

I believe this bill will empower VISN leaders to take a more active role in creating a culture of quality and accountability and lead to the provision of better, safer care to veteran patients.

I am grateful to my friend and colleague Congressman MARKWAYNE MULLIN of Oklahoma for sponsoring this legislation, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

I reserve the balance of my time. Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of this legislation by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Ensuring VA delivers safe and high-quality health care to veterans is an important priority for this committee. This bill will allow Veterans Integrated Service Network directors to contract with civilian accreditation and healthcare evaluation organizations to inspect and investigate VA medical centers. This gives VA another tool to evaluate and improve the quality of care provided at its facilities.

VA medical centers are routinely inspected and accredited by recognized organizations in the healthcare world, such as the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. This bill would allow other organizations to inspect and accredit VA hospitals at VA's discretion.

Since the VA inspector general and Government Accountability Office also routinely conduct investigations, inspections, and audits of VA medical facilities, I would like to emphasize that this bill requires both GAO and the IG to be notified when a VISN chooses to contract with civilian inspection and accreditation organizations.

Coordination of efforts with GAO and the IG will avoid duplication and prevent the waste of taxpayer dollars. I also want to emphasize that this authority should not be used to replace the role of the IG and GAO in conducting investigations, inspections, and evaluations of VA medical facilities.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), who brought this legislation to our committee.

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman-elect ROE for yielding and for his work on the committee. I have no doubt that he will perform admirably in his new role, and I want to extend my appreciation to him and to Chairman MILLER for their leadership in getting this bill to the floor for consideration.

This bill is simple, so I will keep it short. All the bill does is authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to contract with appropriate civilian healthcare accrediting or evaluating groups to investigate the VA medical centers.

Our veterans deserve care equal to the finest civilian hospitals, so let's allow the VA to invite the people who evaluate and accredit those private hospitals to take a look at our VA medical centers when they have problems.

This is a commonsense bill that will help improve the care of our veterans who need us the most. I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this important legislation and to join me in passing H.R. 6435.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. MULLIN said, this is a very commonsense piece of legislation.

I worked in hospitals for almost four decades that had joint commission supervision. It is a good way. It is best for patient safety. With that, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6435.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNITIES HELPING INVEST THROUGH PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5099) to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5099

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016" or the "CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON ACCEPTANCE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF DONATED FACILITIES AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 8103 and 8104 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary may accept donations of the following property from entities described in paragraph (2):

(A) Real property (including structures and equipment associated therewith)—

(i) that includes a constructed facility; or

(ii) to be used as the site of a facility constructed by the entity.

(B) A facility to be constructed by the entity on real property of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—Entities described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) A State or local authority.

(B) An organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(C) A limited liability corporation.

(D) A private entity.

(E) A donor or donor group.

(F) Any other non-Federal Government entity.

(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may accept not more than five donations of real property and facility improvements under the pilot program and as described in this section.

(b) CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PROPERTY.—The Secretary may accept the donation of a property described in subsection (a)(1) under the pilot program only if—

(1) the property is—

(A) a property with respect to which funds have been appropriated for a Department facility project; or

(B) a property identified as—

(i) meeting a need of the Department as part of the long-range capital planning process of the Department; and

(ii) the location for a Department facility project that is included on the Strategic Capital Investment Planning process priority list in the most recent budget submitted to Congress by the President pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code; and

(2) an entity described in subsection (a)(2) has entered into or is willing to enter into a formal agreement with the Secretary in accordance with subsection (c) under which the entity agrees to independently donate the real property, improvements, goods, or services, for the Department facility project in an amount acceptable to the Secretary and at no additional cost to the Federal Government.

(c) REQUIREMENT TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept real property and improvements donated under the pilot program by an entity described in subsection (a)(2) only if the entity enters into a formal agreement with the Secretary that provides for—

(A) the donation of real property and improvements (including structures and equipment associated therewith) that includes a constructed facility; or

(B) the construction by the entity of a facility on—

(i) real property and improvements of the Department of Veterans Affairs; or

(ii) real property and improvements donated to the Department by the entity.

(2) CONTENT OF FORMAL AGREEMENTS.—With respect to an entity described in subsection (a)(2) that seeks to enter into a formal agreement under paragraph (1) of this subsection that includes the construction by the entity of a facility, the formal agreement shall provide for the following:

(A) The entity shall conduct all necessary environmental and historic preservation due diligence, shall comply with all local zoning requirements (except for studies and consultations required of the Department under Federal law), and shall obtain all permits required in connection with the construction of the facility.

(B) The entity shall use construction standards required of the Department when designing, repairing, altering, or building the facility, except to the extent the Secretary determines otherwise, as permitted by applicable law.

(C) The entity shall provide the real property, improvements, goods, or services in a manner described in subsection (b)(2) sufficient to complete the construction of the facility, at no additional cost to the Federal Government.

(d) NO PAYMENT OF RENT OR USAGE FEES.—The Secretary may not pay rent, usage fees, or any other amounts to an entity described in subsection (a)(2) or any other entity for the use or occupancy of real property or improvements donated under this section.

(e) FUNDING.—

(1) FROM DEPARTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not provide funds to help the entity finance, design, or construct a facility in connection with real property and improvements donated under the pilot program by an entity described in subsection (a)(2) that are in addition to the funds appropriated for the facility as of the date on which the Secretary and the entity enter into a formal agreement under subsection (c) for the donation of the real property and improvements.

(B) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall provide funds pursuant to subparagraph (A) under such terms, conditions, and schedule as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) FROM ENTITY.—An entity described in subsection (a)(2) that is donating a facility constructed by the entity under the pilot program shall be required, pursuant to a formal agreement entered into under subsection (c), to provide other funds in addition to the amounts provided by the Department under paragraph (1) that are needed to complete construction of the facility.

(f) APPLICATION.—An entity described in subsection (a)(2) that seeks to donate real property and improvements under the pilot program shall submit to the Secretary an application to address needs relating to facilities of the Department, including health care needs, identified in the Construction and Long-Range Capital Plan of the Department, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(g) INFORMATION ON DONATIONS AND RELATED PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall include in the budget submitted to Congress by the President pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, information regarding real property and improvements donated under the pilot program during the year preceding the submittal of the budget and the status of facility projects relating to that property.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Information submitted under paragraph (1) shall provide a detailed status of donations of real property and improvements conducted under the pilot program and facility projects relating to that property, including the percentage completion of the donations and projects.

(h) BIENNIAL REPORT OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.—Not less frequently than once every two years until the termination date set forth in subsection (i), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the donation agreements entered into under the pilot program.

(i) TERMINATION.—The authority for the Secretary to accept donations under the pilot program shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(j) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as a limitation on the authority of the Secretary to enter into other arrangements or agreements that are authorized by law and not inconsistent with this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5099, as amended, the Communities Helping Invest Through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016—and that is a mouthful—or the CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016. This bill, sponsored by our colleague Congressman BRAD ASHFORD from Nebraska, would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to accept from certain non-Federal entities up to five donations of either real property that includes a constructed facility or is to be used as a site of a facility constructed by the entity, or a facility to be constructed by the entity on VA real property. Such donation may be accepted only if it is for a project for which funds have been appropriated for a VA facility or is identified as meeting both a VA need as part of the Department's long-range capital planning process and as the location for a VA facility project that is included on the strategic capital investment plan.

VA is one of our government's largest real property holders; and, considering that the average age of a VA medical building is five times older than the average age of a building in a nonprofit hospital system, VA's capital needs continue to grow in both cost and complexity. Meanwhile, the high-profile scandals and failures that VA's construction and capital asset program has undergone have been well publicized over the last few years.

In April of 2013, the Government Accountability Office found that VA's major medical facility construction projects, which are already costly, complicated endeavors, experienced cost increases ranging from 66 percent to 427 percent and schedule delays ranging from 14 months to 86 months. Needless to say, it is clear that the time to look for innovative solutions to VA's capital needs is now.

Currently, VA has the authority to accept a donated facility if that facility is already complete; however, it can be challenging to find existing facilities that both meet demonstrated VA need and satisfy all the requirements and mandates that a Federal facility must meet. Allowing VA to accept unconditional donations of real property, improvements, goods, or services from community donors, within certain parameters, could provide a viable solution to meeting VA's capital needs in an expedient, fiscally responsible manner while allowing communities and individuals the opportunity to step up and contribute in honor of their veteran friends and neighbors in a meaningful way.

As chairman in the 115th Congress, I look forward to continuing to aggressively oversee VA's troubled construction program and to leave no stones unturned when looking for new ways to ensure that VA has facilities they need to provide the services our veterans re-

quire. I believe that the pilot program could lay the foundation for doing just that.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 5099, as amended, Communities Helping Invest Through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016. Indeed, it is a mouthful but is a very, very important, potentially transformative piece of legislation. Otherwise, we can shorten it down to the CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016, which was introduced by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Nebraska, BRAD ASHFORD. The bill is a testament to his hard work, as well as many Members and staff on both sides of the Capitol, that we are considering this bill today.

This bipartisan legislation will authorize a pilot program, allowing the Department of Veterans Affairs to partner with nonprofit and private donors to build VA hospitals, receive donated land, and acquire other VA facilities so that the VA may continue to serve veterans.

Today there are generous donors and organizations ready to pitch in and invest in their community's willingness to support and serve our veterans. That is why we must take immediate action and pass H.R. 5099, as amended.

This bill will permit the VA to accept facilities constructed by donors, land where a future facility will be constructed by a donor, and permit a donor to construct a facility on VA property under an agreement to donate the facility to VA upon completion. It will also preserve VA's authority to determine need by only allowing projects to move forward under this program based on projects authorized and funded by Congress or included on the VA's strategic capital investment planning process priority list.

This bill is necessary not only because of the Federal Government's significant budget constraints, but also so that VA has clear authority to undertake these projects and accept donations for the acquisition of facilities.

It also allows VA and Congress to determine whether this pilot program that permits the VA and non-Federal organizations to combine resources to construct facilities is a viable future model for the funding and management of major and minor VA construction projects.

Thanks to the public-private partnerships this legislation will foster, the VA will be able to take meaningful steps in improving its capacity to provide our veterans the quality care they deserve at state-of-the-art VA facilities, all the while saving American taxpayers millions of dollars in the process. It is the very definition of a win-win situation.

Mr. Speaker, strengthening the VA and increasing its capacity to provide and coordinate care is one of our highest priorities at the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I am pleased to support H.R. 5099, as amended, which will only improve VA's ability to do so.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for his comments.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, as we are about to conclude this legislative session, I hope everyone here realizes the magnitude of what this bill before us does.

Yes, we have got a lot going on. We are distracted. We are eager to finish up business and start a transition period. But, as Congressman TAKANO just said, this is transformative. This creates a blueprint of the architecture for a 21st century VA. And why? As Congressman ROE pointed out, we have had extreme difficulties and complexities and problems in the VA with service delivery as well as budgetary cost overruns.

□ 1430

We have had for a very long time an aging hospital in Omaha. We have had a community that is very eager to find a new innovative way out of this problem. We have a pot of money that has been sitting here for a very long time and will continue to sit here for a very long time unless we become innovative, unless we do something different.

That is what Congressman ASHFORD has done with the rest of the Federal delegation from Nebraska, including Senator FISCHER. He has come up with an innovative transformative model that will create a new center of excellence based on a public-private partnership, using existing Federal moneys, using a base of community support that has already come forward looking to help the VA better integrate with the private facilities that already exist in the community of Omaha, which are quite extraordinary. As Congressman TAKANO said, this is a win-win-win.

I want to congratulate my friend and colleague, Congressman ASHFORD, for his extraordinary leadership and vision in this regard as well as the integrity to stay with it until the very end. We have had some complexities along the way, but it is my hope, Mr. Chairman, particularly as you take over the reins of the entire committee, that you will help us implement this rapidly, as I know you will, because it is a transformative mechanism by which we are going to deliver the highest and best possible care for our veterans back home.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. ASHFORD), who had the tenacity to stick it through and bring this legislation finally in this form to the floor.

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member TAKANO, Chairman ROE, certainly Chairman MILLER, and Mr. Speaker for bringing this important bill up for a vote today.

H.R. 5099, the CHIP IN for Vets Act, was introduced by myself and others in the House and by my good friend and colleague, Senator DEB FISCHER, in the United States Senate. There is an identical bill in the Senate awaiting action as we speak.

As has been suggested and mentioned, this bill allows for the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into donation agreements with community groups in order to complete VA construction projects. This is a new and innovative idea not necessarily brought to this body by myself, but by so many other people, as has been mentioned, who have worked on this bill for literally 2 years. I appreciate my good friend, Congressman FORTENBERRY from Lincoln, Nebraska, for his comments and his ability to hold me back from time to time as we proceeded down this course.

I think when we started out with this process, what I was focused on was the idea that in our own communities it is veterans who can make those tough decisions as to what their needs are. Nobody better than our veterans understands those needs. What this bill will allow us to do is to combine community donors with veterans to actually involve themselves together in the development of these projects. Certainly in Omaha, in my community in Iowa, and Nebraska area, we have had a need for such a renovated facility for many, many years.

My bill, I believe, empowers our veterans. It puts an end to the decades-long wait for hundreds of thousands of veterans in my area who have been promised new facilities. I think, as clearly as Congressman FORTENBERRY, Ranking Member TAKANO, and Chairman ROE mentioned, that this really does open up opportunities for VA facilities across the entire country and starts the course moving forward.

Let me just conclude by thanking so many of you. I would be here much longer than 5 minutes if I were going to name everyone, but certainly I appreciate my cosponsors, Congressman WALZ from Minnesota, Congressman FORTENBERRY, Congressman SMITH from Nebraska, Congressman DAVE YOUNG from across the river in Iowa.

I thank Chairman MILLER, who gave me the opportunity to discuss, even on weekends, some of the positive elements of what we were trying to do in Nebraska.

Lastly, thanks to the staff and certainly my staff leader on this bill, Denise Fleming. I am going to be in the House only a few more weeks, but I can't say that she is actually welcoming me leaving, but she certainly has been a tenacious advocate and has worked very, very hard.

There have been other staff members as well, and certainly they have all added a tremendous amount to this bill: Christine Hill and Grace Rodden most particularly.

Moving this bill ensures that Senator FISCHER's bill, which is now in the Senate, can move in the Senate and become law so we can begin this project now. My friends in Omaha, in Nebraska, and Iowa are ready to donate what is necessary to unleash, as Mr. FORTENBERRY suggests, the money that has already been appropriated for our Omaha facility.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Secretary of the Veterans Administration, Robert McDonald. I met Bob McDonald 2 years ago about just now when I was coming in to Congress. I suggested to him that we needed something to be done in Omaha, and I also suggested that I thought that our donor community and our veterans community would work together on an innovative public-private partnership to enable some sort of new way, some sort of center of excellence to develop; and certainly Secretary McDonald and his team have been great and have been so incredibly helpful in moving this along.

Lastly, again, I thank my colleague and friend actually from our years together in the unicameral legislature in Nebraska, DEB FISCHER, whose staff has been tireless and helpful in this matter.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG), my good friend, to speak on this issue.

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in support of H.R. 5099, the bipartisan CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016, which is sponsored by my colleague from across the river, Congressman BRAD ASHFORD in Nebraska.

Our veterans make great sacrifices in defense of our freedoms, and it is incumbent upon us to provide them with the best possible health care when they return home.

Now, many of our Department of Veterans Affairs facilities are aging. They are in need of upgrades and repair, some complete overhauls, yet cost overruns and significant delays trouble VA construction programs and hinder work on other VA facilities in need of improvements.

The CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016 seeks to address some of these problems by authorizing the VA to carry out a 5-year pilot program examining the feasibility of leveraging private donations to construct new VA facilities, that public-private partnership.

This is a new way of doing things and a unique opportunity for the taxpayer and for veterans. This bill could help facilities—and it will—like the Omaha VA Medical Center, which serve my constituents in Iowa as well as those in Nebraska.

Now, I appreciate my colleague's work, Congressman ASHFORD, for pushing this bill along. I was proud to sign on as a cosponsor. Congressman ASHFORD has shown great leadership and tenacity in getting this bill over the finish line. That is what he came here to do, to get things done.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

I want to add some more comments about the legislation that we are about to pass. I concur in and associate myself with the remarks of my colleague from Nebraska, Mr. FORTENBERRY. I certainly want to extend my appreciation to the majority for its generosity of spirit in this particular case. If there is anything that fills me with great hope that we can restore the esteem of this great institution in the eyes of the American people, it is when we pass legislation such as Mr. ASHFORD's bill today. We rose above politics—both sides rose above politics—to do the right thing for veterans. It was our regard for veterans that brought us together. It is fitting that this action is happening in the heartland of our country. This is no small measure today. The American people do not really see the drama. It looks very effortless about what we are going to do because it is going to be voice voted. No real big drama is going to play out in front of everybody, but I am going to tell you that Republicans and Democrats worked together.

I want to congratulate and show my appreciation to my whip, Mr. HOYER. He worked his relationships with some Members on the other side in the Senate, and it showed that we shouldn't be so hasty to move our more senior Members so quickly out of their positions because these relationships matter after so many years. I will go more into detail with anyone who cares to know more about it later. Mr. MCCARTHY, of my home State of California, my own Leader PELOSI, and staff on both sides of the aisle worked tirelessly to bring this bill.

We are about to head home for the holiday season, and I can't think of a greater gift that we can give—well, I can think of a lot of greater gifts, but this is a very important gift that we are going to give. It is truly a potentially transformative piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time. I just want to encourage all of my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation and join me in passing H.R. 5099, as amended.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I, too, want to associate myself with the remarks of all the speakers and thank Mr. ASHFORD for his persever-

ance in bringing this, along with Mr. FORTENBERRY on our side and Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member TAKANO. This is the way we are going to have to do this more. There is a finite amount of money we have. There is a finite amount of money we can provide for services, and looking for public-private partnerships, as my city in Johnson City, Tennessee, is doing right now with other projects. I think this is a model for what could go on in the country.

I have a CBOC in my district where the local mayor provided use at a hospital for a dollar a year for the VA to have the VA facility there. I think that is going on in Nebraska right now. They are trying to see that happen. We need to be thinking about how we can provide these facilities to serve these great veterans who have served our country.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5099, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1445

TO RESEARCH, EVALUATE, ASSESS, AND TREAT ASTRONAUTS ACT

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6076) to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a program for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of astronauts, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6076

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts Act" or the "TREAT Astronauts Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Human space exploration can pose significant challenges and is full of substantial risk, which has ultimately claimed the lives of 24 National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronauts serving in the line of duty.

(2) As United States government astronauts participate in long-duration and exploration spaceflight missions they may experience increased health risks, such as vision impairment, bone demineralization, and be-

havioral health and performance risks, and may be exposed to galactic cosmic radiation. Exposure to high levels of radiation and microgravity can result in acute and long-term health consequences that can increase the risk of cancer and tissue degeneration and have potential effects on the musculoskeletal system, central nervous system, cardiovascular system, immune function, and vision.

(3) To advance the goal of long-duration and exploration spaceflight missions, United States government astronaut Scott Kelly participated in a one-year twins study in space while his identical twin brother, former United States government astronaut Mark Kelly, acted as a human control specimen on Earth, providing an understanding of the physical, behavioral, microbiological, and molecular reaction of the human body to an extended period of time in space.

(4) Since the Administration currently provides medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment for United States government astronauts during their active employment, given the unknown long-term health consequences of long-duration space exploration, the Administration has requested statutory authority from Congress to provide medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment to former United States government astronauts for psychological and medical conditions associated with human space flight.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to seek the unknown and lead the world in space exploration and scientific discovery as the Administration prepares for long-duration and exploration spaceflight in deep space and an eventual mission to Mars;

(2) data relating to the health of astronauts will become increasingly valuable to improving our understanding of many diseases humans face on Earth;

(3) the Administration should provide the type of monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment described in subsection (a) only for conditions the Administration considers unique to the training or exposure to the spaceflight environment of United States government astronauts and should not require any former United States government astronauts to participate in the Administration's monitoring;

(4) such monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment should not replace a former United States government astronaut's private health insurance;

(5) expanded data acquired from such monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment should be used to tailor treatment, inform the requirements for new spaceflight medical hardware, and develop controls in order to prevent disease occurrence in the astronaut corps; and

(6) the 340-day space mission of Scott Kelly aboard the ISS—

(A) was pivotal for the goal of the United States for humans to explore deep space and Mars as the mission generated new insight into how the human body adjusts to weightlessness, isolation, radiation, and the stress of long-duration space flight; and

(B) will help support the physical and mental well-being of astronauts during longer space exploration missions in the future.

SEC. 3. MEDICAL MONITORING AND RESEARCH RELATING TO HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

§ 20148. Medical monitoring and research relating to human space flight

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may provide for the medical monitoring and diagnosis of a former United States government astronaut or a former payload specialist for conditions that the Administrator considers potentially associated with human space flight, and may provide for the treatment of a former United States government astronaut or a former payload specialist for conditions that the Administrator considers associated with human space flight, including scientific and medical tests for psychological and medical conditions.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) NO COST SHARING.—The medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment described in subsection (a) shall be provided without any deductible, copayment, or other cost sharing obligation.

“(2) ACCESS TO LOCAL SERVICES.—The medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment described in subsection (a) may be provided by a local health care provider if it is unadvisable due to the health of the applicable former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist for that former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist to travel to the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, as determined by the Administrator.

“(3) SECONDARY PAYMENT.—Payment or reimbursement for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment described in subsection (a) shall be secondary to any obligation of the United States government or any third party under any other provision of law or contractual agreement to pay for or provide such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment. Any costs for items and services that may be provided by the Administrator for medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment under subsection (a) that are not paid for or provided under such other provision of law or contractual agreement, due to the application of deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, other cost sharing, or otherwise, are reimbursable by the Administrator on behalf of the former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist involved to the extent such items or services are authorized to be provided by the Administrator for such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment under subsection (a).

“(4) CONDITIONAL PAYMENT.—The Administrator may provide for conditional payments for or provide medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment described in subsection (a) that is obligated to be paid for or provided by the United States or any third party under any other provision of law or contractual agreement to pay for or provide such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment if—

“(A) payment for (or the provision of) such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment services has not been made (or provided) or cannot reasonably be expected to be made (or provided) promptly by the United States or such third party, respectively; and

“(B) such payment (or such provision of services) by the Administrator is conditioned on reimbursement by the United States or such third party, respectively, for such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment.

“(c) EXCLUSIONS.—The Administrator may not—

“(1) provide for medical monitoring or diagnosis of a former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist under subsection (a) for any psychological or medical condition that is not potentially associated with human space flight;

“(2) provide for treatment of a former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist under subsection (a) for any psychological or medical condition that is not associated with human space flight; or

“(3) require a former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist to participate in the medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment authorized under subsection (a).

“(d) PRIVACY.—Consistent with applicable provisions of Federal law relating to privacy, the Administrator shall protect the privacy of all medical records generated under subsection (a) and accessible to the Administration.

“(e) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

“(f) DEFINITION OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUT.—In this section, the term ‘United States government astronaut’ has the meaning given the term ‘government astronaut’ in section 50902, except it does not include an individual who is an international partner astronaut.

“(g) DATA USE AND DISCLOSURE.—The Administrator may use or disclose data acquired in the course of medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment of a former United States government astronaut or a former payload specialist under subsection (a), in accordance with subsection (d). Former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist participation in medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment under subsection (a) shall constitute consent for the Administrator to use or disclose such data.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 20147 the following:

“20148. Medical monitoring and research relating to human space flight”.

(c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each fiscal year, not later than the date of submission of the President’s annual budget request for that fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall publish a report, in accordance with applicable Federal privacy laws, on the activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under section 20148 of title 51, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed cost accounting of the Administration’s activities under such section 20148 of title 51, United States Code, and a 5-year budget estimate.

(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress each report under paragraph (1) not later than the date of submission of the President’s annual budget request for that fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

(d) COST ESTIMATE.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall enter into an arrangement with an independent external organization to undertake an independent cost estimate of the cost to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Federal Government to implement and administer the activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under

section 20148 of title 51, United States Code, as added by subsection (a). The independent external organization may not be an entity of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, such as the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance.

(2) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit the independent cost estimate undertaken pursuant to paragraph (1) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(e) PRIVACY STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall carry out a study on any potential privacy or legal issues related to the possible sharing beyond the Federal Government of data acquired under the activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under section 20148 of title 51, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the results of the study carried out under paragraph (1).

(f) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.—The Inspector General of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall periodically audit or review, as the Inspector General considers necessary to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse, the activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under section 20148 of title 51, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 6076, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, for over 50 years, the United States of America has asked its bravest to travel to space in service of their country. From the dynamic launch environment to the unforgiving vacuum of space, to the energetic re-entry of Earth, human spaceflight places astronauts in challenging environments. Even training for spaceflight carries significant risks. I am very proud to say that I represent a great number of these astronauts who call Houston their home.

As a nation, we have an obligation to those whom we put in harm’s way. As a Congress, we have a responsibility to

provide for the treatment of conditions caused by Federal service. As a healthcare professional myself, and as their Representative, you can say it is my duty to make sure that these folks are taken care of properly. This is why I have sponsored H.R. 6076, the TREAT Astronauts Act, a very commonsense, fiscally responsible, bipartisan bill that makes sure that our brave men and women who venture into space receive the support for medical issues associated with their service.

The psychological and medical data associated with an astronaut's human spaceflight service is very important for our future space endeavors. The TREAT Astronauts Act will provide this additional data and will enable NASA to better understand the medical risks of spaceflight, minimize these risks, and enable future long-duration missions to Mars and even beyond.

I am very thankful to Chairman LAMAR SMITH for his support of the TREAT Astronauts Act and for his leadership as chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. I am also very glad that my colleague, Ms. EDWARDS, is an original cosponsor and that the bill was reported out of committee by a voice vote with broad bipartisan support.

The amendment before us today represents compromise language agreed upon with the Senate in good faith that this language will be included and passed in a NASA Authorization Act before the 114th Congress recesses. The program established under this compromise language is very similar to the program that passed out of the committee.

In developing this bill, my staff and I had extensive discussions with former astronauts, NASA, and a number of other Federal agencies. The TREAT Astronauts Act is also informed by a hearing the Space Subcommittee held back in June, at which a number of former astronauts testified, including Captain Scott Kelly, who spent a year on the International Space Station.

Under existing statutes, NASA has the authority to collect voluntary astronaut medical data for research. It exercises that authority through the Lifetime Surveillance of Astronaut Health program, or LSAH. However, there are limitations on the usefulness of the LSAH program. Former astronaut participation is only 61 percent and the existing LSAH program only affords NASA access to yearly checkup data, not the entirety of the former astronauts' medical records.

Furthermore, NASA is unable to provide for the appropriate diagnosis and treatment under the existing authority to conduct research. The TREAT Astronauts Act solves this problem by supplementing existing authorities.

Congress would be remiss not to ensure that the TREAT Astronauts Act is

fiscally responsible. The TREAT Astronauts Act is not a mandate and is subject to existing discretionary appropriations.

In order to address cost risks, the bill establishes NASA as a secondary payer to existing obligations of the United States or third parties, ensuring that the cost to NASA is minimal. Establishing NASA as a secondary payer is not unprecedented. For example, the Department of Defense is a secondary payer to veteran and civilian healthcare programs.

Allow me to make this clear for the record. Although NASA is a secondary payer, the TREAT Astronauts Act provides that no participating former astronaut or payload specialist will have to pay for anything out of pocket, including deductibles and copayments associated with the primary payer.

There are a number of reporting requirements, including an independent cost estimate and an annual fiscal report. These reports will ensure that Congress is well informed and able to conduct appropriate oversight.

Participation in the program is voluntary. No astronaut should be forced or coerced to participate in this program. In the event that an astronaut chooses not to participate in the program, there are still other occupational healthcare options available to them. But if they do participate, the astronauts have consented that NASA can use and disclose the data they collect, subject to protecting their personally identifiable health information.

In conclusion, I strongly support the TREAT Astronauts Act, and I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, fiscally responsible, bipartisan bill that makes sure that our brave men and women who venture into space receive the support for medical issues associated with their service.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6076, as amended, the TREAT Astronauts Act.

The House-passed, bipartisan NASA Authorization Act of 2015 set the long-term goal of sending humans to the surface of Mars. The amendments to the TREAT Astronauts Act being considered today will help provide the research results needed to achieve this goal. As Chairman BABIN noted, the amendment reflects compromise language agreed upon with the Senate in good faith.

Committee Ranking Member JOHNSON and I thank Space Subcommittee Chairman BABIN and his staff for working together to achieve bipartisan and bicameral consensus on this amendment.

Chairman BABIN and I both want to do the right thing for the health of our current and future astronauts. That is

why I was pleased to be a cosponsor of this act to provide for monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of former astronauts.

Our astronauts are heroes. They serve this Nation in the face of extreme risks. Some of those risks involve the potential for medical conditions that may not reveal themselves for years or even decades after an astronaut's service.

It is our responsibility to ensure that we, as a nation, acknowledge the risks that these heroes have taken and, in return, provide our astronauts with the medical monitoring and treatment they need.

It is also our responsibility to mitigate the risks for future NASA explorers, especially as we put in place the systems and missions to prepare the way for human exploration to Mars. Such risk mitigation requires data about astronauts' mental and psychological health.

H.R. 6076, as amended, maintains the three principles I identified as critical to this legislation in the original bill.

The first principle is getting care to former astronauts under this program as soon as possible. NASA has indicated that some former astronauts could already benefit from this new authority.

As Chairman BABIN noted, this bill provides NASA with supplementary authority. As such, I would expect that monitoring provided by NASA's Lifetime Surveillance of Astronaut Health program will continue to be made available to any former astronaut or payload specialist electing not to participate in the program being established by this legislation.

The second principle is being respectful of astronaut rights and privacy. As we expand the amount of data collected on former astronaut health, it is important that we place a priority on ensuring the privacy of the data. NASA is tasked to report on how the agency will ensure the privacy of astronauts in the program when data is shared beyond the Federal Government.

The third principle is ensuring that the program is in sync with the goal of sending humans to Mars. Expanded data acquired from the monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of former astronauts and former shuttle payload specialists will be invaluable for informing the requirements for new spaceflight medical hardware and developing controls to prevent disease occurrence in the astronaut corps.

Mr. Speaker, it is also my hope that Congress and the administration will enable NASA to get to Mars sooner rather than later. As part of that effort, we must establish the safeguards that will get our astronauts there and back safely. Supporting this bill will allow us to stay on that vector.

I ask my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas, the author of this bill, for yielding. I also want to say that Congressman BRIAN BABIN is an excellent chairman of the Space Subcommittee of the full Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. Speaker, since NASA selected the first group of astronauts in 1959, more than 300 brave American astronauts have ventured into the cosmos as explorers. In an age when spaceflight has come to seem almost routine, it is easy to overlook how dangerous it is and how little we know about its long-term health effects.

H.R. 6076, the TREAT Astronauts Act, ensures that our courageous men and women who venture into space receive support for medical issues associated with their service.

The TREAT Astronauts Act also will help us better understand the medical science of human spaceflight, enabling next generation of explorers to literally go where no man has gone before. I should say where no man or woman has gone before.

The TREAT Astronauts Act builds upon NASA's existing Lifetime Surveillance of Astronaut Health program and will operate within existing NASA resources. It provides for enhanced monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions associated with spaceflight service.

I thank Space Subcommittee Chairman BRIAN BABIN again for introducing this legislation and for his persistence in getting us to the point of passage. We wouldn't be here today without him.

I urge my colleagues to support the TREAT Astronauts Act.

Before I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take a moment to thank the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS), who is a friend and has been the ranking member of the Space Subcommittee for the last 2 years, for her outstanding service to Congress and for being a wonderful contributor to the Science Committee as a whole, and in particular the Space Subcommittee. To almost any subject, she always brings enthusiasm, knowledge, and in this case, an almost unequal dedication to space exploration, which we will continue to appreciate both now and in the future. I just thank her again for, as I said, her many contributions to the committee and the subcommittee and say that I hope she stays in touch with us. She will always be a friend of the committee and many members of this side of the aisle.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with Chairman SMITH that I

am so grateful for his remarks today on the floor. He beat me to the punch, but it has been a pleasure both to work on the committee since the beginning of my time here in the Congress. It is the most fun I think that I have ever had, and I have truly enjoyed the collegial working relationship and friendship that we have shared on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) the ranking member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6076, as amended, To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts Act, or the TREAT Astronauts Act.

Long-duration exposure to microgravity and space radiation can lead to chronic health effects such as muscle atrophy, bone loss, permanent vision impairment, and cancer. However, there is much we still need to understand regarding how the space environment relates to these effects and other critical biological functions, such as immunity and tissue healing, so that appropriate countermeasures can be developed.

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This bill, as amended, would provide NASA with the statutory authority to perform monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment for former astronauts for medical or psychological conditions associated with human spaceflight.

Through this authorization, NASA would be able to acquire data from a larger set of participants, and the data acquired on former astronauts would be more comprehensive.

This bill, as amended, reflects several changes that strengthen and improve the bipartisan bill that passed out of committee in September. In particular, the provision that would sunset the monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment program for former astronauts after 10 years has been removed.

In addition, the current version of the bill removes a provision that would have denied a fiscal year's authorization of appropriations for the program if NASA did not submit an annual report on time.

Mr. Speaker, NASA's astronauts are some of the most accomplished, highly trained, and courageous individuals who serve our Nation in the pursuit of furthering our exploration of outer space. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their willingness to risk their health and their lives in the furtherance of space exploration. I would urge all of the House Members to vote for and pass H.R. 6076, as amended.

I too want to join the chairman to express my appreciation and thanks for the services of Congresswoman DONNA EDWARDS for her leadership in bringing this measure to this point and to her

overall leadership as subcommittee ranking member of the Space Subcommittee. She has made many efforts, has led the committee with much understanding, and we certainly will miss her.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join us in this bipartisan effort to make sure that we can get signed into law the TREAT Act for our current, former, and future astronauts.

I would like to close by expressing my gratitude to Chairman LAMAR SMITH, to Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, and to our Subcommittee Chair BABIN for their graciousness and for their leadership. It has truly been a joy to work on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. It is one of the few places in the United States House of Representatives where our charge is really to think about the future, and it is in this spirit that this legislation is in front of us today.

I hadn't anticipated, Mr. Speaker, that I would have a moment on the floor of the House, my last moment on the floor of the House before I depart my service to the United States House of Representatives, but I am grateful for that.

As I reflect on the last 8½ years, it has really been a pleasure, particularly, to work on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and to do that in what seems like a contentious environment sometimes but has been a lot of collegiality.

As I close my service in the Congress, I am, Mr. Speaker, reminded that, as a little girl, I used to picnic with my father and my mother and my siblings on the west front of the Capitol. My dad was in his Air Force uniform, prepared to go back to work after we had had our little picnic.

As little girls, we would run around to the east front of the Capitol, Mr. Speaker, and climb the steps, when you could climb the steps. And we would sit there in between my father and look out on the United States Supreme Court and the Library of Congress.

I never would have imagined, Mr. Speaker, that I would have an opportunity to serve in the House of Representatives; and it has been a great privilege and a joy to represent the people of the Fourth Congressional District of Maryland.

I wish for my colleagues here in the Congress that, as we approach the 115th Congress, and in the spirit of service to this great Nation, that we work together in service to the Nation.

When we come to work every day, Mr. Speaker, people think about things that are big and small; but for a lot of people out there, a lot of our constituents, it is about their health and their

life, their safety and their security, the ability of them to raise their children, and to move forward. And I wish that, in the upcoming Congress, that we have an opportunity to do those things together, and that you do.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the staff of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and the Space Subcommittee, Allen Li, Pam Whitney, Dick Obermann; Anne Nelson on the minority staff, and the majority staff for all of their work; to the people who serve in this institution and serve us tremendously, from the Parliamentarians to the stenographers and the Clerk's staff, and the Marshals Service and the Capitol Police, and all of it, because it makes the trains run, and it means that we can get the job done of the people of the United States.

God bless the United States of America.

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to thank our full committee chairman, LAMAR SMITH; our ranking subcommittee member, Ms. EDWARDS from Maryland; and also our ranking member of the full committee, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON from Texas as well.

I would also like to thank my staff and the staff of the full committee, as well as the subcommittee, who have worked so hard to make this bill happen. It was so badly needed for our astronauts.

Mr. Speaker, I include a letter from the American Association of Space Explorers into the RECORD. This is signed by the president of the American Association of Space Explorers, astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria.

ASSOCIATION OF SPACE
EXPLORERS—USA,
Webster, TX, 7 December 2016.

Hon. BRIAN BABIN,
Chair, Subcommittee on Space, House Committee
on Science, Space and Technology, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BABIN: I am writing on behalf of the U.S. chapter of the international Association of Space Explorers (ASE-USA) to strongly endorse H.R. 6076, the "To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts" (TREAT) Act, that is under consideration by the House of Representatives.

Our organization counts over 210 American current and former flown astronauts as its members. Our mission is to provide a forum for professional dialogue among individuals who have flown in space, to promote education in science and mathematics and inspire in students a lifelong commitment to learning, to foster environmental awareness and encourage planetary stewardship, to promote the benefits of space science and exploration and to advocate for international cooperation and operational compatibility in current and future space exploration endeavors.

We in the astronaut community applaud your Committee for recognizing the risks inherent in traveling to and exploring space, and for ensuring that the men and women who do so on behalf of our nation receive support for medical issues associated with their service.

I urge the House to pass the TREAT Act so that my colleagues and future generations of Americans can continue to explore and expand the frontiers of space and human knowledge, and can return home to Earth suitably protected from the potential medical consequences of those endeavors on behalf of the United States.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL LOPEZ-ALEGRIA,
President.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6076, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM ACT OF 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2971) to authorize the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2971

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 327. NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions shall apply:

"(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"(2) AGENCY.—The term 'Agency' means the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"(3) HAZARD.—The term 'hazard' has the meaning given the term in section 602.

"(4) NONEMPLOYEE SYSTEM MEMBER.—The term 'nonemployee System member' means a System member not employed by a sponsoring agency or participating agency.

"(5) PARTICIPATING AGENCY.—The term 'participating agency' means a State or local government, nonprofit organization, or private organization that has executed an agreement with a sponsoring agency to participate in the System.

"(6) SPONSORING AGENCY.—The term 'sponsoring agency' means a State or local gov-

ernment that is the sponsor of a task force designated by the Administrator to participate in the System.

"(7) SYSTEM.—The term 'System' means the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System to be administered under this section.

"(8) SYSTEM MEMBER.—The term 'System member' means an individual who is not a full-time employee of the Federal Government and who serves on a task force or on a System management or other technical team.

"(9) TASK FORCE.—The term 'task force' means an urban search and rescue team designated by the Administrator to participate in the System.

"(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Administrator shall continue to administer the emergency response system known as the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

"(c) FUNCTIONS.—In administering the System, the Administrator shall provide for a national network of standardized search and rescue resources to assist States and local governments in responding to hazards.

"(d) TASK FORCES.—

"(1) DESIGNATION.—The Administrator shall designate task forces to participate in the System. The Administration shall determine the criteria for such participation.

"(2) SPONSORING AGENCIES.—Each task force shall have a sponsoring agency. The Administrator shall enter into an agreement with the sponsoring agency with respect to the participation of each task force in the System.

"(3) COMPOSITION.—

"(A) PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—A task force may include, at the discretion of the sponsoring agency, 1 or more participating agencies. The sponsoring agency shall enter into an agreement with each participating agency with respect to the participation of the participating agency on the task force.

"(B) OTHER INDIVIDUALS.—A task force may also include, at the discretion of the sponsoring agency, other individuals not otherwise associated with the sponsoring agency or a participating agency. The sponsoring agency of a task force may enter into a separate agreement with each such individual with respect to the participation of the individual on the task force.

"(e) MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL TEAMS.—The Administrator shall maintain such management teams and other technical teams as the Administrator determines are necessary to administer the System.

"(f) APPOINTMENT OF SYSTEM MEMBERS INTO FEDERAL SERVICE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may appoint a System member into Federal service for a period of service to provide for the participation of the System member in exercises, preincident staging, major disaster and emergency response activities, and training events sponsored or sanctioned by the Administrator.

"(2) NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.—The Administrator may make appointments under paragraph (1) without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service.

"(3) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AUTHORITIES.—The authority of the Administrator to make appointments under this subsection shall not affect any other authority of the Administrator under this Act.

"(4) LIMITATION.—A System member who is appointed into Federal service under paragraph (1) shall not be considered an employee

of the United States for purposes other than those specifically set forth in this section.

“(g) COMPENSATION.—

“(1) PAY OF SYSTEM MEMBERS.—Subject to such terms and conditions as the Administrator may impose by regulation, the Administrator shall make payments to the sponsoring agency of a task force—

“(A) to reimburse each employer of a System member on the task force for compensation paid by the employer to the System member for any period during which the System member is appointed into Federal service under subsection (f)(1); and

“(B) to make payments directly to a non-employee System member on the task force for any period during which the nonemployee System member is appointed into Federal service under subsection (f)(1).

“(2) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMPLOYEES FILLING POSITIONS OF SYSTEM MEMBERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to such terms and conditions as the Administrator may impose by regulation, the Administrator shall make payments to the sponsoring agency of a task force to be used to reimburse each employer of a System member on the task force for compensation paid by the employer to an employee filling a position normally filled by the System member for any period during which the System member is appointed into Federal service under subsection (f)(1).

“(B) LIMITATION.—Costs incurred by an employer shall be eligible for reimbursement under subparagraph (A) only to the extent that the costs are in excess of the costs that would have been incurred by the employer had the System member not been appointed into Federal service under subsection (f)(1).

“(3) METHOD OF PAYMENT.—A System member shall not be entitled to pay directly from the Agency for a period during which the System member is appointed into Federal Service under subsection (f)(1).

“(h) PERSONAL INJURY, ILLNESS, DISABILITY, OR DEATH.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A System member who is appointed into Federal service under subsection (f)(1) and who suffers personal injury, illness, disability, or death as a result of a personal injury sustained while acting in the scope of such appointment, shall, for the purposes of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, be treated as though the member were an employee (as defined by section 8101 of that title) who had sustained the injury in the performance of duty.

“(2) ELECTION OF BENEFITS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A System member (or, in the case of the death of the System member, the System member's dependent) who is entitled under paragraph (1) to receive benefits under subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, by reason of personal injury, illness, disability, or death, and to receive benefits from a State or local government by reason of the same personal injury, illness, disability or death shall elect to—

“(i) receive benefits under such subchapter; or

“(ii) receive benefits from the State or local government.

“(B) DEADLINE.—A System member or dependent shall make an election of benefits under subparagraph (A) not later than 1 year after the date of the personal injury, illness, disability, or death that is the reason for the benefits, or until such later date as the Secretary of Labor may allow for reasonable cause shown.

“(C) EFFECT OF ELECTION.—An election of benefits made under this paragraph is irrevocable unless otherwise provided by law.

“(3) REIMBURSEMENT FOR STATE OR LOCAL BENEFITS.—Subject to such terms and condi-

tions as the Administrator may impose by regulation, if a System member or dependent elects to receive benefits from a State or local government under paragraph (2)(A), the Administrator shall reimburse the State or local government for the value of the benefits.

“(4) PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER CLAIMS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to bar any claim by, or with respect to, any System member who is a public safety officer, as defined in section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b), for any benefits authorized under part L of title I of that Act (42 U.S.C. 3796 et seq.).

“(i) LIABILITY.—A System member appointed into Federal service under subsection (f)(1), while acting within the scope of the appointment, shall be considered to be an employee of the Federal Government under section 1346(b) of title 28, United States Code, and chapter 171 of that title, relating to tort claims procedure.

“(j) EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS.—With respect to a System member who is not a regular full-time employee of a sponsoring agency or participating agency, the following terms and conditions apply:

“(1) SERVICE.—Service as a System member shall be considered to be ‘service in the uniformed services’ for purposes of chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, relating to employment and reemployment rights of individuals who have performed service in the uniformed services (regardless of whether the individual receives compensation for such participation). All rights and obligations of such persons and procedures for assistance, enforcement, and investigation shall be as provided for in such chapter.

“(2) PRECLUSION.—Preclusion of giving notice of service by necessity of appointment under this section shall be considered to be preclusion by ‘military necessity’ for purposes of section 4312(b) of title 38, United States Code, pertaining to giving notice of absence from a position of employment. A determination of such necessity shall be made by the Administrator and shall not be subject to judicial review.

“(k) LICENSES AND PERMITS.—If a System member holds a valid license, certificate, or other permit issued by any State or other governmental jurisdiction evidencing the member's qualifications in any professional, mechanical, or other skill or type of assistance required by the System, the System member is deemed to be performing a Federal activity when rendering aid involving such skill or assistance during a period of appointment into Federal service under subsection (f)(1).

“(l) PREPAREDNESS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, the Administrator shall enter into an annual preparedness cooperative agreement with each sponsoring agency. Amounts made available to a sponsoring agency under such a preparedness cooperative agreement shall be for the following purposes:

“(1) Training and exercises, including training and exercises with other Federal, State, and local government response entities.

“(2) Acquisition and maintenance of equipment, including interoperable communications and personal protective equipment.

“(3) Medical monitoring required for responder safety and health in anticipation of and following a major disaster, emergency, or other hazard, as determined by the Administrator.

“(m) RESPONSE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Administrator shall enter into a response cooperative agreement with each sponsoring agency, as appropriate, under which the Administrator agrees to reimburse the sponsoring agency for costs incurred by the sponsoring agency in responding to a major disaster or emergency.

“(n) OBLIGATIONS.—The Administrator may incur all necessary obligations consistent with this section in order to ensure the effectiveness of the System.

“(o) EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101)) a report on the development of a plan, including implementation steps and timeframes, to finance, maintain, and replace System equipment.’’

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) APPLICABILITY OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 8101(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking ‘‘and’’ at the end;

(B) by transferring subparagraph (F) to between subparagraph (E) and the matter following subparagraph (E);

(C) in subparagraph (F)—

(i) by striking ‘‘United States Code,’’; and

(ii) by adding ‘‘and’’ at the end; and

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) an individual who is a System member of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System during a period of appointment into Federal service pursuant to section 327 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act;’’

(2) INCLUSION AS PART OF UNIFORMED SERVICES FOR PURPOSES OF USERRA.—Section 4303 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (13), by inserting ‘‘, a period for which a System member of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System is absent from a position of employment due to an appointment into Federal service under section 327 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act’’ before ‘‘, and a period’’; and

(B) in paragraph (16), by inserting ‘‘System members of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System during a period of appointment into Federal service under section 327 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act,’’ after ‘‘Public Health Service.’’

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 1086(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 is amended as follows (which amendments shall take effect as if enacted on January 2, 2013)—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ‘‘paragraph (1)’’ and inserting ‘‘paragraph (2)’’; and

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking ‘‘filed or’’ and inserting ‘‘filed (consistent with pre-existing effective dates) or’’; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ‘‘amendments made by this Act’’ and inserting ‘‘amendments made to section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b) by this Act’’.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2971, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking Chairman SHUSTER for his tremendous support and leadership on this issue. For over 8 years, the bipartisan leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has been the driving force behind trying to get these reforms through Congress, and, today, we are closer than ever.

I also want to thank Ranking Member DEFAZIO and Ranking Member CARSON for their bipartisan support.

The House unanimously passed a nearly identical measure earlier this year as part of the FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act, H.R. 1471.

Today, when members of the search and rescue teams are federalized and sent across State lines, they don't know who, if anyone, will pay for their injuries, disabilities, or death. So S. 2971 addresses that issue and clarifies that longstanding concern which has hindered the deployment of critical search and rescue teams between States.

Currently, there are 28 USAR teams across the Nation. Members of these teams are cross-trained in areas such as search, rescue, medical, hazardous materials, and logistics. The teams include firefighters, physicians, structural engineers, and first responders, and they are trained and equipped with help from FEMA. While the members of these teams are not Federal, they do not hesitate to respond to disasters in other States.

These teams have been deployed over the years to numerous disasters, including the Pentagon and World Trade Center on 9/11, Hurricane Sandy, and, most recently, Hurricane Matthew. The challenge has been that when these team members are federalized, they do not have clarity on who would be responsible if they were injured or even killed while performing their jobs.

It is amazing that we ask these men and women to go into collapsed structures to search for trapped survivors, risking life and limb, without providing them with clarity when it comes to liability and injuries.

The stories of the selfless heroism of these men and women are numerous and humbling. Their work is tireless, physically and emotionally demanding, and nerve-racking.

In Hurricane Matthew, one team helped make more than 100 rescues in North Carolina alone, including the

rescue of a 98-year-old hospice patient, when they had to go into areas where the water was 5 to 7 feet above street level, and they could only see the tops of the street signs.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, a single task force rescued more than 850 individuals in 17 hours from a flooded area overwhelmed by a tidal surge. And there are hundreds more such as these accounts.

These heroes play an essential role in the Federal response to national disasters and catastrophes. In addition, the National USAR system benefits our State, local, and regional emergency managers and first responders through training, equipment, and preparedness.

The local government and other entities that sponsor the members of the teams should not have to worry about being left vulnerable or exposed by allowing their employees to participate in such a critical national asset.

After 8 years, it is time to give men and women who put their lives at risk the liability protections they and their families need and deserve. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

First, I would like to compliment the Senate on passing the bill we passed last week, the 21st Century Cures Act, which will help research and save the lives of many Americans, something we did in a bipartisan fashion. I am pleased that that happened.

I rise in support of S. 2971, the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act of 2016, as amended, which codifies the Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

Authorizing the urban search and rescue teams, better known as USAR teams, and codifying protections for team members, such as workers' comp and liability protections, have been a top priority of mine since I first introduced a bill to do so in 2007, my first year in Congress.

I was pleased that the late former Democratic Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman, an outstanding Member, Mr. Oberstar, now deceased, included my USAR language in a bill that was reported from the committee in 2010. Since then, legislation authorizing USAR teams has passed the House several times, and now the Senate has passed one as well.

□ 1515

The 28 urban search and rescue teams that are strategically located across the United States provide timely response when needed in the aftermath of a disaster. In fact, USAR teams can be ready for deployment within 6 hours of being called up.

These specialized teams of first responders provide search and rescue services, extraction from structural collapses, and swift, rapid rescue,

among other activities, after disaster strikes. Their dedication is truly commendable, as they drop everything in their busy daily lives to come to the prompt assistance of others when needed.

It should be noted that USAR teams even respond internationally when assistance is requested. In fact, two USAR teams deployed in the aftermath of Nepal's earthquakes in 2015 and were responsible for many rescues from structural collapses.

It is only appropriate that we ensure that they have the protection they need to perform their jobs as well as the peace of mind that will come from clarity in compensation and liability issues.

USAR teams may be composed of firefighters, law enforcement officers, paramedics, engineers, medical professionals, and canine handlers. Often, these team members are civil servants. By extending job protection benefits when activated for Federal service, team members know that their jobs will be waiting at home for them. In addition, it helps USAR teams recruit and retain new members.

Tennessee's USAR, known as Tennessee Task Force One, has a strong commitment to their jobs, and they do an extraordinarily good job. Tennessee Task Force One is based in Memphis, Tennessee, and consists of firefighters, police officers, and civilians; and they responded when called to assist in the aftermath of disasters, such as Hurricane Matthew in South Carolina and, most recently, for the tragic wildfires in our Smoky Mountains. They did so despite the uncertainty of whether they would be covered for any injuries.

Their actions are truly heroic, and I applaud them and their dedication. The protections in today's bill are long overdue, and team members can now rest assured that they will be taken care of if they are injured when performing Federal duties.

I am sadly disappointed, though, that the Republican leadership is once again selectively choosing when and when not to enforce its budget rules. The underlying Senate bill we are considering authorized "such sums as necessary" to carry out the USAR system. Despite the House having passed a bill authorizing "such sums as necessary" for the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System earlier this year, we are now told that this authorization violates budget rules and an amendment and further consideration by the Senate is required.

As a result, USAR team members must wait another day before we afford them the protections that they deserve. They deserve better, and they deserve laws that will ensure that Congress will appropriate adequate funds to support them and their activities.

I thank all the USAR teams for their service, and I thank Mr. BARLETTA for

working on this bill as well. I urge my colleagues to support our USAR teams by supporting the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on S. 2971.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2971, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate concurs in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 34) “An Act to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.”

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5790) to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5790

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Bureau of Investigation Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICES IN THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

Section 2303(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “any employee of the Bureau” and all that follows through “health or safety” and inserting the following: “an employee in, or applicant for, a position in the Bureau as a reprisal for a disclosure of information—

“(1) made—

“(A) in the case of an employee, to a supervisor in the direct chain of command of the employee, up to and including the head of the employing agency;

“(B) to the Inspector General;

“(C) to the Office of Professional Responsibility of the Department of Justice;

“(D) to the Office of Professional Responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

“(E) to the Inspection Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

“(F) as described in section 7211;

“(G) to the Office of Special Counsel; or

“(H) to an employee designated by any officer, employee, office, or division described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) for the purpose of receiving such disclosures; and

“(2) which the employee or applicant reasonably believes evidences—

“(A) any violation of any law, rule, or regulation; or

“(B) gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5790, the FBI Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2016, as amended.

We have great respect and admiration for the FBI. They do wonderful work. In fact, I was always proud of my grandfather. He was a career FBI agent serving here in the Greater Washington, D.C., area and then up in Pennsylvania for a long period of time. It is because I respect the FBI and its agents that I helped introduce this bill.

The whistleblower protections in the FBI have really not kept up with the rest of government. That is why we need a change here. The whistleblowers at the FBI should be treated the same as they are within the rest of the Federal Government, and this simple bill goes to help correct that.

H.R. 5790 would clarify Congress’ longstanding intent to protect whistleblowers when they make disclosures to the same supervisors who have the power to take personnel actions against them. While a great many changes remain to be made in how the Department of Justice and the FBI respond to whistleblowers, this clarification is not a minor one. If implemented, it would have far-reaching implications in protecting whistleblowers at the FBI just as Congress intended in 1978 in the Whistleblower Protection Act.

The FBI Director, Mr. Comey, testified a year ago in the Senate that he “very much” supports legal protec-

tions for FBI employees who follow FBI’s own policies and report wrongdoing to their supervisors. Similarly, the Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, testified: “We certainly support protecting those who report within their chain of command.”

I want to thank, in particular, the Senate Judiciary Committee, and specifically Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY for his leadership in first introducing this version of the bill. We are also grateful for the support of my colleagues, including Representative HAKEEM JEFFRIES, who joined me as the lead Democrat on this bill in this House.

I also want to particularly thank ELIJAH CUMMINGS, the ranking member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, a great friend and colleague and somebody who also has been very supportive of the passage of this bill. I thank him for his work and commitment on this issue.

Mr. CUMMINGS, personally and through his dedicated staff, continually has worked hand in hand on whistleblower protections, and this is no exception. Together, we have sent the message throughout the Federal Government that protecting whistleblowers is not a partisan issue, and passing this bill will not mark the end of the road for reforming whistleblower protections at the FBI. In fact, in the next Congress, I look forward to addressing other issues raised by the whistleblower community in the GAO as well as the Department of Justice.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5790, as amended. This bill will provide FBI employees with protection for blowing the whistle to a supervisor and make it a prohibited personnel practice to retaliate against a whistleblower for making such a disclosure.

This bill will also ensure that FBI employees are protected when they blow the whistle to certain other individuals, including the Inspector General of the Department of Justice and the Office of Special Counsel.

These small improvements to protect FBI whistleblowers are why I support this measure before us.

The version of this bill that was reported by the Oversight and Government Reform Committee would have done much more to protect the whistleblowers at the FBI than the measure before us today. The introduced version of this bill would have strengthened the whistleblower protections for FBI employees by more closely aligning them with those of the rest of the Federal workforce.

For example, it would have strengthened the appeals process for whistleblowers by requiring appellate review

by the Attorney General and giving employees access to the courts. It would have defined prohibited personnel practices to be consistent with those of other Federal employees, and it would have prohibited the use of nondisclosure agreements unless the employee was fully aware of his or her rights before signing such an agreement.

We should work to enact these additional improvements in the next Congress. All employees deserve strong whistleblower protections, including the employees of the FBI.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my ranking member, Mr. CUMMINGS, and to our chair of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, thank you for the hearings and the dedicated work to ensure that our FBI agents are protected in any case of whistleblowing.

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, again, Mrs. LAWRENCE. I want to thank the ranking member, Mr. CUMMINGS.

This is a good, bipartisan issue. It is really a nonpartisan issue. It is to protect Federal employees within the FBI so that they can have the whistleblower protections that, really, most of the rest of the government has, and I urge its adoption.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5790, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

TRANSPARENT INSURANCE STANDARDS ACT OF 2016

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 944, I call up the bill (H.R. 5143) to provide greater transparency and congressional oversight of international insurance standards setting processes, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 944, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the

text of Rules Committee Print 114-68, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 5143

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) *The State-based system for insurance regulation in the United States has served American consumers well for more than 150 years and has fostered an open and competitive marketplace with a diversity of insurance products to the benefit of policyholders and consumers.*

(2) *Protecting policyholders by regulating to ensure an insurer's ability to pay claims has been the hallmark of the successful United States system and should be the paramount objective of domestic prudential regulation and emerging international standards.*

(3) *United States officials participating in discussions or negotiations regarding international insurance standards shall support standards designed for the protection of policyholders.*

(4) *The Secretary of the Treasury shall seek advice and recommendations from a diverse group of outside experts in performing the duties and authorities of the Secretary to coordinate Federal efforts and develop Federal policy on prudential aspects of international insurance matters.*

(5) *The draft of the Higher Loss Absorbency capital standard adopted in 2015 by the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, notwithstanding the concerns of U.S. parties to the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, unequally affects insurance products offered in the United States, an issue that must be addressed.*

(6) *Any international standard agreed to at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors is not self-executing in the United States for any insurer until implemented through the required Federal or State legislative or regulatory process.*

SEC. 3. OBJECTIVES FOR INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE STANDARDS.

The objectives of the United States regarding international insurance standards are as follows:

(1) *To ensure standards that maintain strong protection of policy holders, as reflected in the United States solvency regime.*

(2) *To ensure, pursuant to enactment of the Insurance Capital Standards Clarification Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-279), standards that are appropriate for insurers and are not bank-centric in nature.*

(3) *To promote a principles-based approach to insurance supervision, in which capital adequacy is assessed using risk-based capital requirements for insurance combined with qualitative risk assessment and management tools.*

(4) *To consider the most efficient and least disruptive approaches to enhancing regulatory assessment of the capital adequacy of insurance groups, including tools that are already in place.*

(5) *To ensure that any international insurance standard recognizes prudential measures used within the United States as satisfying standards finalized by international standard-setting organizations.*

(6) *To support increasing transparency at any global insurance or international standard-setting organization in which the United States participates, including advocating for greater*

stakeholder public observer access to working groups and committee meetings of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

(7) *To ensure that there is a sufficient period for public consultation and comment regarding any proposed international insurance standard before it takes effect.*

(8) *To ensure that the Secretary of the Treasury and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System achieve consensus positions with State insurance commissioners when the Secretary and the Board are United States participants in discussions on insurance issues before the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, Financial Stability Board, or any other international forum of financial regulators or supervisors that considers such issues.*

(9) *To consider the impact of any such standard on the availability and cost of products to consumers.*

(10) *To avoid measures that could limit the availability and accessibility of risk protection and retirement security products that are essential to meeting the needs of aging populations.*

(11) *To ensure that the merits of existing State-based capital standards are recognized and incorporated in any domestic or global insurance capital standard.*

(12) *To advocate for insurance regulatory standards that are based on the nature, scale, and complexity of the risks posed by the regulated insurance group and entity or activity.*

SEC. 4. REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSENT TO ADOPT INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE STANDARDS.

(a) *PUBLICATION OF STANDARDS; ADOPTION OF CAPITAL AND PRUDENTIAL STANDARDS.—The United States may not agree to, accept, establish, enter into, or consent to the adoption of a final international insurance standard with an international standard-setting organization or a foreign government, authority, or regulatory entity unless the requirements under both of the following paragraphs are complied with:*

(1) *PUBLICATION.—The requirements under this paragraph are complied with if the conditions under one of the following subparagraphs have been met:*

(A) *BY FEDERAL RESERVE AND TREASURY.—The Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Secretary of the Treasury have caused the proposed text of the proposed final international insurance standard to be published in the Federal Register and made available for public comment for a period of not fewer than 30 days (which period may run concurrently with the 90-day period referred to in subsection (b)(3)).*

(B) *BY STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.—The State insurance commissioners have caused the proposed text of the proposed international insurance standard to be published in a similar form and manner that provides for notice and public comment.*

(2) *CAPITAL STANDARD.—In the case only of a final international insurance standard setting forth any capital standard or standards for insurers—*

(A) *such international capital standard is consistent with capital requirements set forth in the State-based system of insurance regulation;*

(B) *the Board has issued capital requirements for insurance companies supervised by the Board and subject to such requirements, which shall be issued through rulemaking in accordance with the procedures established under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, regarding substantive rules, under which the periods for notice and public comment shall each have a duration of not fewer than 60 days; and*

(C) *to the extent that such international capital standard is intended to be applied to a company or companies supervised by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, is consistent with the capital requirements of the Board for such companies.*

(b) **SUBMISSION AND LAYOVER PROVISIONS.**—The Secretary and the Board may not agree to, accept, establish, enter into, or consent to the adoption of an international insurance standard established through an international standard-setting organization or a foreign government, authority, or regulatory entity unless—

(1) the Secretary and the Board have—

(A) conducted an analysis under subsection (c) of the proposed international insurance standard; and

(B) submitted to the covered congressional committees, on a day on which both Houses of Congress are in session, a copy of the proposed final text of the proposed international insurance standard and the report required under subsection (c)(2) regarding such analysis;

(2) the Secretary and the Chairman of the Board have determined, pursuant to such analysis, that the proposed standard will not result in any change in State law;

(3) with respect to a capital standard under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary and the Chairman of the Board certify that the proposed international capital standard is designed solely to help ensure that sufficient funds are available to pay claims to an insurer's policyholders in the event of the liquidation of that entity; and

(4) a period of 90 calendar days beginning on the date on which the copy of the proposed final text of the standard is submitted to the covered congressional committees under paragraph (1)(B) has expired, during which period the Congress may take action to approve or reject such final standard.

(c) **JOINT ANALYSIS BY CHAIR OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE AND SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An analysis under this subsection of a proposed final international insurance standard shall be an analysis conducted by the Secretary and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, in consultation with the State insurance commissioners, of the impact of such standard on consumers and markets in the United States and whether any changes in State law will result from such final standard.

(2) **REPORT.**—Upon completion of an analysis under this subsection of a final international insurance standard, the Secretary and the Board shall submit a report on the results of the analysis to the covered congressional committees and the Comptroller General of the United States. The report shall include a statement setting forth the determination made pursuant to paragraph (1) regarding any changes in State law resulting from such final standard.

(3) **NOTICE AND COMMENT.**—

(A) **NOTICE.**—The Secretary and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall provide notice before the date on which drafting the report is commenced and after the date on which the draft of the report is completed.

(B) **OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT.**—There shall be an opportunity for public comment for a period beginning on the date on which the report is submitted under paragraph (2) and ending on the date that is not fewer than 60 days after the date on which the report is submitted. Nothing in this subparagraph shall affect the authority of the Board to issue the rule referred to in subsection (a)(2).

(4) **REVIEW BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.**—Upon submission of a report pursuant to paragraph (2) to the Comptroller General, the Comptroller General shall review the report and shall submit a report to the Congress setting forth the conclusions of the Comptroller General's review.

(d) **LIMITED EFFECT.**—This section may not be construed to establish or expand any authority to implement an international insurance standard in the United States or for the United States

or any representative of the Federal Government to adopt or enter into any international insurance standard.

(e) **TREATMENT OF STATE LAW.**—In accordance with the Act of March 9, 1945 (Chapter 20; 59 Stat. 33; 15 U.S.C. 1011 et seq.), commonly referred to as the “McCarran-Ferguson Act”, this section may not be construed to preempt State law.

SEC. 5. REPORTS.

(a) **REPORTS AND TESTIMONY BY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY AND CHAIR OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE.**—The Secretary and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall submit to the covered congressional committees an annual report and provide testimony, not less often than every 6 months, to the covered congressional committees on the efforts of the Secretary and the Chairman with the State insurance commissioners with respect to international insurance standard-setting organizations and international insurance standards, including—

(1) a description of the insurance standard-setting issues under discussion at international standard-setting bodies, including the Financial Stability Board and the International Association of Insurance Supervisors;

(2) a description of the effects that international insurance standards could have on consumers and insurance markets in the United States;

(3) a description of any position taken by the Secretary and the Board in international insurance discussions or on any international insurance standard;

(4) a description of the efforts by the Secretary and the Board to increase transparency and accountability at the Financial Stability Board with respect to insurance proposals and the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, including efforts to provide additional public access to working groups and committees of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors; and

(5) a description of how the Secretary and the Board are meeting the objectives set forth in section 3, or, if such objectives are not being met, an explanation of the reasons for not meeting such objectives.

(b) **REPORTS AND TESTIMONY BY STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.**—The State insurance commissioners may provide testimony or reports to the Congress on the issues described in subsection (a).

(c) **REPORT ON TRANSPARENCY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report and provide testimony to the Congress on the efforts of the Chairman and the Secretary pursuant to subsection (a)(4) of this section to increase transparency at meetings of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

(d) **GAO REPORT ON TRANSPARENCY OF OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the covered congressional committees a report, and provide testimony to such committees, identifying and analyzing the transparency and accountability of any organization acting as a designee of, or at the direction of, the head of a State insurance department on issues related to international insurance standards, which is not employed directly by the State.

(2) **CONTENT.**—The report and testimony required under this section shall include a description and analysis of—

(A) the role, involvement, or relationship, of any organization identified pursuant to paragraph (1), of, with, or to the State insurance de-

partments' activities as authorized by, directed by, or otherwise referred to in this Act, including a description and analysis regarding such organization's participation in policy and decision-making deliberations and activities related to international insurance standards;

(B) any financial support provided by such organization to any State insurance department personnel in furtherance of their activities related to international insurance standards, the nature and amount of such support, and any understandings between the organization and the State regarding travel protocols and State laws governing State officials' receipt of, benefiting from, or being subsidized by, outside funds;

(C) the budget, including revenues and expenses, of any organization identified pursuant to paragraph (1) relating to participation in international insurance discussions on issues before, involving, or relating to the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, the Financial Stability Board, or any other international forum of financial regulators or supervisors that considers such issues, and how the organization collects money to fund such activities;

(D) whether each such budget of such an organization is developed under a process comparable in its transparency and accountability to the process under which budgets are developed and appropriated for State departments of insurance and Federal executive branch regulatory agencies, including—

(i) an identification of any bodies independent of the organization that set standards for and/or oversee that organization's budgeting process; and

(ii) a description of the extent to which and how the organization, in funding its operations, uses or benefits from its members' ability to compel entities subject to its members' regulatory authority to use the services of the organization or any of its affiliates; and

(E) the extent to which the work product of any organization identified pursuant to paragraph (1) has the effect of establishing any self-executing national standards, and in what way, and whether such standards are developed under processes comparable in their transparency and accountability to the process under which national standards are developed by the Congress or Federal executive branch agencies.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **BOARD.**—The term “Board” means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or the designee of the Board.

(2) **COVERED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “covered congressional committees” means the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(3) **INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE STANDARD.**—The term “international insurance standard” means any international insurance supervisory standard developed by an international standards setting organization, or regulatory or supervisory forum, in which the United States participates, including the Common Framework for the Supervision of Internationally Active Insurance Groups, the Financial Stability Board, and the International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary's designee.

(5) **STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.**—The term “State insurance commissioners” means the heads of the State insurance departments or their designees acting at their direction.

SEC. 7. TREATMENT OF COVERED AGREEMENTS.

Section 314 of title 31, United States Code is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following new paragraph:

“(1) the Secretary of the Treasury and the United States Trade Representative have caused to be published in the Federal Register, and made available for public comment for a period of not fewer than 30 days (which period may run concurrently with the 90-day period for the covered agreement referred to in paragraph (3)), the proposed text of the covered agreement;”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(d) CONSULTATION WITH STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.—In any negotiations regarding a contemplated covered agreement, the Secretary and the United States Trade Representative shall consult with and directly include State insurance commissioners.

“(e) PROHIBITION ON REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—In accordance with subsections (k) and (l) of section 313, a covered agreement shall not be used to establish or provide the Federal Insurance Office or the Treasury with any general supervisory or regulatory authority over the business of insurance or with the authority to participate in a supervisory college or similar process.

“(f) TREATMENT UNDER OTHER LAW.—A covered agreement shall not be considered an international insurance standard for purposes of the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016 and shall not be subject to such Act.”.

SEC. 8. DUTIES OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF FINANCIAL STABILITY OVERSIGHT COUNCIL.

Subsection (a) of section 112 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5322(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) DUTIES OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER.—To assist the Council with its responsibilities to monitor international insurance developments, advise Congress, and make recommendations, the Independent Member of the Council shall have the authority to—

“(A) regularly consult with international insurance supervisors and international financial stability counterparts;

“(B) consult with, advise, and assist the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to representing the Federal Government of the United States, as appropriate, in the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (including to become a non-voting member thereof), particularly on matters of systemic risk, and to consult with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the States concerning such matters;

“(C) attend the Financial Stability Board of the Group of Twenty and join with other members from the United States, including on matters related to insurance and financial stability, and provide for the attendance and participation at such Board, on matters related to insurance and financial stability, of State insurance commissioners; and

“(D) attend, with the United States delegation, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and observe and participate at the Insurance and Private Pensions Committee of such Organization on matters related to insurance and financial stability.”.

SEC. 9. STATE INSURANCE REGULATOR INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD SETTING.

Parties representing the United States at the Financial Stability Board of the Group of Twenty on matters, and in meetings, related to insurance and financial stability shall consult with, and seek to include in such meetings, the State insurance commissioners.

SEC. 10. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed to support or endorse the domestic capital standard for insurers referred to in section 4(a)(2) or any such domestic capital standards established by the Board.

SEC. 11. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION RESERVE FUND.

Clause (i) of section 4(i)(2)(B) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78d(i)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, except that for fiscal year 2017, the amount deposited may not exceed \$43,000,000”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1530

Mr. HENSARLING. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016.

Introduced by my good friend and colleague, the chairman of the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee of our committee, BLAINE LUETKEMEYER, H.R. 5143 enhances Congress' constitutional oversight of international deliberations relating to insurance standards. Mr. Speaker, again, this is legislation which is about accountability, transparency, and oversight.

More specifically, the legislation establishes a series of requirements to be met before the Federal Insurance Office or the Federal Reserve may agree to accept, establish, enter into, or consent to the adoption of a final international insurance standard. Permit me to go into greater detail.

First, the Federal Insurance Office and the Fed must publish any proposed final standard and allow for public comment. A public comment is critical to our negotiating posture, Mr. Speaker. In so doing, the involved agencies must provide a joint analysis of the impact the standard will have on consumers and the U.S. insurance markets. Before agreeing to any international standard relating to capital, the Fed is required to first promulgate its domestic capital standard rule.

The bill makes similar requirements for negotiations concerning insurance covered agreements. It sets negotiating objectives for U.S. parties and also mandates that the Federal Insurance Office and the Fed report and testify before Congress twice annually.

Finally, H.R. 5143 ensures that the independent member with insurance expertise who sits on the Financial Stability Oversight Council, known as FSOC, is permitted to assist the FSOC in international discussions and attend meetings of international bodies where insurance standards are discussed.

Mr. Speaker, for almost 150 years, U.S. insurance companies of every type—including property-casualty, life, reinsurance, health, and auto—have been primarily regulated by our States. Congress and the States have occasionally reviewed the effectiveness of the State-based regulation of insurance and coordinated efforts to achieve greater regulatory uniformity. In 1949, Congress passed the McCarran-Ferguson Act, which confirmed the States' regulatory authority over insurance, except where Federal law expressly provides otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, this changed with the passage of the Dodd-Frank Act in 2010. Dodd-Frank changed the insurance landscape and further enlarged the Federal Government's role in the insurance industry by creating a Federal office specifically tasked with insurance matters. Dodd-Frank established the Federal Insurance Office at Treasury and charged its director with representing the interest of U.S. insurers during negotiations of international agreements.

Among other things, H.R. 5143 seeks to prevent any Federal overreach and establishes essential guardrails for the Federal Government when discussing international insurance issues abroad. The bill is not intended to bring international negotiations to any type of halt. Team USA has experienced victories at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, and has kept Congress informed of its intent to negotiate the first of what could be many covered agreements.

However, we should not underestimate the importance of these conversations or the implications they can have on insurers and the American consumers because they need to be heard and they need to be represented.

As the leader of a Missouri-based midsized insurance company has told our committee, Mr. Speaker:

We worry about the potential negative impacts any international agreement could have on the domestic marketplace or the State-based regulatory system that has served consumer and insurance needs for more than a century.

He added:

Congress should conduct strong oversight in this area in order to protect domestic insurance markets, companies, and especially their policy holders.

Strong oversight and transparency are, indeed, absolutely essential, and that is what we get with this bill.

It is simply imperative that our States, the executive branch, and Congress work cooperatively to signify to

the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, the Financial Stability Board, and to foreign governments that we will only lend our name to standards and agreements that benefit U.S. consumers. The bill we are considering today will assuredly lead us to this goal.

Again, H.R. 5143 provides greater transparency, allows for a stronger Team USA in negotiations, and sends a signal to foreign governments and international organizations that the United States will lead and not be led into bad agreements. With the greater congressional oversight the bill provides, we can ensure that any deal that is reached will be a fair deal, and a good deal, for the American people.

Again, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), for his leadership, yet again, on bringing an excellent bill to the House floor.

I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

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

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Last week, the majority made it clear that it was just getting started with the special interest giveaways at the expense of financial stability and consumer protection.

Now, before we adjourn, we are here to debate one last holiday gift to Wall Street. This bill's gift is less oversight of the largest insurers in the United States, which will put us at risk for another AIG. Don't forget, AIG was bailed out to the tune of \$182 billion.

While Democrats passed Wall Street reform to prevent another crisis and future bailouts, Chairman HENSARLING and Donald Trump have made it clear that Dodd-Frank is on the chopping block. Without the safeguards in Dodd-Frank, a lack of capital standards for large insurance companies will put our economy at risk.

No one should be surprised at what is taking place here. This is Donald Trump's agenda. Despite promises to hold Wall Street accountable, the President-elect is proposing an administration that is heavy on Wall Street insiders. Their plans will do little to help the millions of Americans struggling to get ahead, but that is by design. Because "Trumpism" isn't really about helping the middle class. It is about lining the pockets of some of our biggest banks and insurance companies.

AIG, as I mentioned, is a poster child of the financial crisis. It engaged in financial activities that more closely resemble investment banking than traditional insurance.

Prior to the crisis, State regulators, which have primary jurisdiction over insurance companies, did not effec-

tively account for AIG's activities related to credit derivatives or securities lending, for example, which allowed it to skate by with minimum capital. When AIG's bets on subprime mortgage-backed securities failed, it collapsed and required a taxpayer bailout. Recall that we bailed out AIG because it was a counterparty to nearly all of the largest global banks; meaning that if AIG failed, it would bring down a series of global megabanks with it.

So under Dodd-Frank, we improved the oversight of insurance companies by giving Federal regulators the necessary tools to prevent another collapse of large, globally active insurance companies. We are talking about the big boys here: AIG, MetLife, and Prudential. For the past several years, Federal regulators have been overseeing systematically important financial institutions, which are identified as such because they are expected to pose a substantial risk to our financial stability if they fail. Our Federal regulators have also been negotiating with 140 other countries on international standards for large globally connected insurers.

However, today's bill is designed to undermine the progress we have made on this front, and to ultimately prevent the adoption of these capital standards in the United States.

In fact, H.R. 5143 would add layers of burdensome red tape and unworkable requirements on our Federal negotiators, making it virtually impossible for them to advocate effectively for U.S. interests on these issues or agree to any kind of standard. For example, this bill would prevent negotiators from agreeing to any standard unless it focuses exclusively on a company's ability to pay claims. However, focusing exclusively on a company's ability to pay claims can lead those same policyholders vulnerable to systemic failure.

Moreover, by crippling our ability to engage effectively on international insurance issues, this bill will ensure that the rest of the world will move on to adopt standards that are not in our best interest.

At worst, this bill is unconstitutional—something that the administration detailed in its statement of policy—raising multiple conflicts between the President's exclusive authority on international agreements and the bill's requirements to directly include State insurance commissioners in international negotiations.

At best, this bill is a solution in search of a problem. It caters to an unfounded fear that internationally agreed upon policies would be forced upon the small, domestic insurance companies and unwilling States.

Let me again reiterate that the standards being negotiated internationally are for the largest insurers that operate all over the world—com-

panies like AIG, MetLife, and Prudential. It is a scare tactic to claim that these standards would be applied to anyone but the largest and most interconnected global insurers.

Second, States can never be compelled to adopt international standards such as these. These standards are non-binding and each individual State has the discretion to adopt them, modify them, or reject them entirely after going through their full regulatory process.

Third, stakeholders have ample opportunity to weigh in on these discussions. For example, Federal negotiators have held multiple sessions for stakeholders to provide input, and the International Association of Insurance Supervisors has greatly improved public access and consultation. Yet, this bill, H.R. 5143, would require several additional notice and comment periods and several other layers of unnecessary red tape.

To make matters worse, the sponsor proposes to pay for the bill's costs by taking \$7 million from the Securities and Exchange Commission's reserve fund, which means that our financial watchdog will be unable to respond to unforeseen events, like the flash crash.

In short, this bill would ask taxpayers to pay for the cost of rejecting capital standards by taking away the funding the SEC needs to respond to emergency situations that threaten financial stability. That just doubles down on the irresponsible policymaking we have seen by the opposite side of the aisle.

As the veto threat issued by the White House on this bill states:

The Nation has made great progress as a result of Dodd-Frank, and we cannot allow this bill to hamper the United States' ability to implement the best standards for our unique regulatory regime.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Republicans will go to any lengths necessary to give industry what it wants—less oversight, less supervision, and less regulation. Republicans have repeatedly tried to hamstring our efforts to more effectively monitor and respond to systemic risk by working to dismantle the FSOC and its designation authority for SIFIs. They have called the FSOC unconstitutional and helped companies like MetLife challenge its designation in court. So I am not really surprised that Republicans would close out 2016 by bringing this bill to the floor, but I am disappointed because the American people deserve better.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), the author of H.R. 5143 and the chairman of our Housing and Insurance Subcommittee.

□ 1545

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. I thank the chairman for his tireless help and support in getting this bill to where it is today.

Mr. Speaker, insurance serves as the backbone of financial independence for millions of Americans. It offers support when it is needed the most so that consumers can be assured that they are protected in the event of a loss. Our Nation has a history of thoughtful insurance regulation and strong consumer confidence. To ensure that, we need to make sure that foreign regulators don't do anything to jeopardize that.

The Transparent Insurance Standards Act would establish a series of reasonable requirements to be met before our Team USA, if you will—the Treasury's Federal Insurance Office, the Federal Reserve, or any other party to international regulatory conversations—consents to the adoption of a final insurance standard. H.R. 5143 would also require Team USA to publish any proposed final standard for congressional review and public comment.

Additionally, H.R. 5143 would institute a 90-day layover period, allowing Congress the ability to block any international agreement. It would also ensure State insurance commissioners a broader role in negotiations, thereby protecting our State-based regulatory system that has served policyholders so well. In doing so, the bill would not only help protect the best interests of U.S. insurance customers, but it would also be a step in restoring the powers vested to Congress in Article I of the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, when the Financial Services Committee embarked on this journey, the intent was to craft a bill that not only respected the process, but that provided this body and the public with more opportunity. As such, H.R. 5143 has been drafted with the input of a wide variety of stakeholders, and it has generated broad support. This bill is not intended to bring the international process to a halt. Rather, it will serve as leverage for U.S. negotiators and will ensure that we are in a position to export domestic standards rather than import European-centric ones.

The truth of the matter, Mr. Speaker, is that our constituents don't read about international insurance standards in the local paper or discuss them at the dinner table. However, these conversations and the negotiations at the IAIS have real implications on U.S. companies and, more importantly, on every American policyholder.

Given that, consideration of this bill shouldn't be a partisan affair. Many of my friends across the aisle and their constituents would like to see more sunshine on this international process, and this bill does just that. It is imper-

ative that the United States—that is, the States, the executive branch, and Congress—work cooperatively to signal to the IAIS and foreign governments that we will only lend our name to standards and agreements that benefit U.S. customers. We will lead and not be led, as our chairman just said.

Again, I thank Chairman HENSARLING for his support of this important bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H.R. 5143.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER), the ranking member of the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee on the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. CLEAVER. I thank the ranking member for allowing me to speak on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I find much greater satisfaction in working on legislation with the subcommittee chairman, BLAINE LUETKEMEYER, than opposing such; but, Mr. Speaker, I do, in fact, believe that H.R. 5143 would prescribe narrowly tailored reporting and negotiating requirements that must be completed before any international regulatory insurance standard could be agreed on.

In the wake of the financial crisis with the passage of Dodd-Frank, the Federal Insurance Office, FIO, was tasked with representing the United States at international insurance forums. Currently, the FIO has been negotiating alongside the Federal Reserve and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, NAIC, on behalf of our country's insurance interests. The Housing and Insurance Subcommittee has held numerous hearings on this topic, giving us ample opportunity to more fully understand the process that is being undertaken at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors as well as with other international bodies.

It is critical that Team USA continue to advocate strongly on behalf of the U.S. insurance system, and it is imperative that we do not hamstring their ability to do so. More specifically, the bill contains a number of provisions that would ultimately delay our negotiations abroad. If we limit the ability of our negotiators to do their job, we lose our seat at the international table, which, I believe, will weaken our position. Like most on the other side, I am a strong proponent of the State-based system.

Our Missouri insurance commissioner has recently held a national position. In order to effectively communicate our position and advocate for this unique American system, we need to ensure that our international representatives are empowered, and we believe that this actually impacts their role at the table.

Additionally, none of the standards that may be decided upon internation-

ally are binding. This is, perhaps, the most significant thing I am saying. As everyone knows, the States would have to approve any standards because we can't impose those standards on them. These standards would have to be agreed to domestically—they would have to go to each and every State—and they won't be approved on the Federal level. This process would include a notice and a comment period.

I do believe that this bill does not address a single problem, that it does not fix any broken part of this process that is going on.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and a heavy heart that I yield to the next gentleman. I have a heavy heart because I fear this will be the last time I yield time to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER); but it is with great pride that, for 14 years, I have called him friend and colleague. He is retiring from this institution. He has been tireless in his service to our committee, his constituents, and this country. He has been a tireless advocate for the cause of freedom, free enterprise, and the lot of the common man and the common woman; and this will be a lesser institution upon his departure.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER), my friend.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the chairman and thank him for his leadership and his kind words.

It has been a great pleasure to serve on this Financial Services Committee. I think we have done some good work. I enjoyed working with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle on some issues as well. I wish you the very best as you continue as a committee to work on behalf of Americans all across the country to make sure that they have access to the financial products that they need for their families.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5143, offered by my good friend from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER).

The Transparent Insurance Standards Act is critically important to ensuring that the U.S. State-based model for regulating insurance is preserved and that international agreements benefit U.S. consumers. Since the passage of the Dodd-Frank Act, the increased role of the Federal Government in insurance regulation has led to changes to U.S. participation in international insurance forums, like the International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

The Federal Insurance Office, FIO, is charged with representing the interests of U.S. insurers during negotiations of international agreements. Further, the FIO, along with the Federal Reserve, is an active participant in international standard-setting bodies. Over the last several years, developments in international insurance supervision have created tension with our State-based model.

The European Union has moved toward a single regulatory structure for its member states. This effort, known as Solvency II, will harmonize the varied regulatory regimes in each European nation. Many have raised concern that Solvency II will be adopted as the gold standard for international insurance supervision. Solvency II could put the U.S. insurance industry and the U.S. policyholders at a disadvantage.

H.R. 5143 is important legislation that enhances the congressional oversight of international deliberations for insurance regulation. It holds both the FIO and the Federal Reserve to important benchmarks that ensure that U.S. interests are being represented. For example, the agencies must provide joint analyses on the impact of proposed international standards on U.S. consumers and insurance markets. Further, it allows for public comment on any proposed final standard that the U.S. may agree to.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. These regulatory checks are not new to many U.S. agencies, which already must comply with certain Administrative Procedure Act requirements when setting Federal standards. While there may be a critical role for U.S. representatives to play in the international insurance discussion, it is important that our advocates ensure that U.S. interests are not recklessly pushed aside in the name of global harmony.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5143.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the ranking member of the Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee on the Financial Services Committee.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentlewoman.

I join the chairman in thanking Congressman NEUGEBAUER for his outstanding service to this institution, to his district, and to this country. He has been an outstanding Member. It has been a pleasure to serve with him.

We will miss you. Thank you for your friendship, your consideration, and your really hard work for good, sound policy in this country. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5143.

I believe that it would undermine the Fed's ability to negotiate international agreements on insurance regulation, and I think that that will cause a big problem for insurance in our country.

Telling the Fed that it can't agree to any international standard on insurance that isn't already the law in the United States absolutely makes no sense whatsoever. The other countries

would simply stop negotiating with us, and I believe we would lose our voice and our seat at the table, and that is not good for America.

It is also important to remember that nothing the Fed or Treasury agrees to internationally can be binding on State insurance regulators. That is already the law, and we don't need a new law to tell us that. The Fed does regulate 14 insurance companies through its holding companies. This has been a Federal authority, and there is nothing new about that.

The Fed should be able to align the insurance regulations that it has authority over with the regulations in other countries. One of the big lessons of the scandal and of the economic downturn of 2008 was that different regulatory regimes in different countries could have different incentives, and some of them were bad incentives—for example, AIG. The only problem that existed with this country was in the different incentives in England.

I am very uncomfortable with a bill that hamstring the Federal Reserve's ability to regulate the safety and soundness of the large insurance holding companies that it has authority over and to ensure that those regulatory standards are consistent internationally, so I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), and I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman be able to control the remainder of such time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), who is the Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee chairman.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I thank my fellow subcommittee chairman for working with me to protect the State-based insurance regulatory model that has served our Nation so well for 150 years.

To my colleague from New York, I am very comfortable with this bill and with the underlying philosophy that has brought us here.

Mr. Speaker, I am a former State representative in the Michigan Legislature, and I know firsthand that Michigan does a better job of protecting policyholders within their borders than the Federal Government does or could. Even more so, Michigan certainly knows how to maintain a robust insurance marketplace that works for Michigan customers. Additionally, Michigan serves as an entry point for several foreign companies which then come into the U.S. marketplace.

However, there are bureaucrats in Washington who believe that they

know best. The Dodd-Frank Act significantly expanded the Federal Government's role in the insurance marketplace by creating the Federal Insurance Office and charging the Director with representing the U.S. during the negotiations of international agreements. At the same time, the Dodd-Frank Act changed domestic insurance regulation, which also led to the changes in U.S. participation at the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, or IAIS.

□ 1600

The IAIS develops international insurance regulations for its 190 jurisdictions in more than 140 countries to then adopt those. I am concerned that this could influence the U.S. to replace the State-based insurance regulatory model with international standards that were created by unelected European bureaucrats.

Mr. Speaker, our States are, as Justice Brandeis so eloquently coined, "laboratories of democracy;" and in his words that means that a "State may, if its citizens choose, serve as a laboratory; and try novel social and economic experiments without risk to the rest of the country."

I can't think of a better example of a successful experiment than the State-based insurance regulatory system, especially in my home State of Michigan. That is why the protections provided in the Transparent Insurance Standards Act are so vitally important.

The straightforward bill simply gives the States and Congress the opportunity to comment on any international insurance standard before it may be adopted.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this very, very important bill and support our system that has existed for 150 years.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK), who is a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am especially grateful to the ranking member for allowing me this opportunity.

First, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the gentlewoman from New York and the other gentleman from Texas regarding our colleague, Mr. NEUGEBAUER. From the day that I walked into this Chamber, he has been nothing but a paragon of gentlemanliness toward myself and my colleagues. In fact, every freshman receives a flag flown over the Capitol that Congressman NEUGEBAUER has had flown. And wouldn't you know it, small world category: 2,000 miles away, he happened to be good friends with my uncle, which I didn't even know until he arrived here. He will be missed. He is a testament to how you can see the world completely differently, yet be able to treat one another with respect.

Mr. Speaker, I am a little uncomfortable because this is the second time in a week I have risen to oppose a proposal by my friend from Missouri who I think actually is trying to do the right thing and with whom I have dealt in good faith and who has dealt in good faith with us. But I do, in fact, rise to oppose this bill because in some cases it goes too far, in some cases it won't work, and in some cases, frankly, it doesn't go far enough.

It goes too far in terms of stealing the money from the SEC reserve to pay for this. Its costs and those associated with its implementation should not be borne by another enforcement agency whose job it is to keep us safe.

It won't work in terms of its reporting requirements: all of these expensive requirements that require the rate on the SEC, the transparency, the reporting. Anybody who knows anything about negotiations knows you can't post a public notice about what you intend to do and hope to be successful on the outcome.

I happen to have been a professional on both sides of the labor management negotiations table, and I can tell you, the last thing in the world you want to do is post your playbook. That would be a little bit like the football team saying: Come here, defense; let me tell you what we are going to do.

That would, in fact, be the net effect of this particular approach.

The objective: to maintain the integrity in the McCarran-Ferguson Act is the right one. It is the wrong approach. In some cases it, frankly, doesn't go far enough because, the truth is, we ought to have these international discussions and negotiations for international firms; but this bill would only apply to the IAIS. There are a lot of international forums where insurance is at the table. The fact of the matter is, the State regulators ought to be at those tables as well.

Look, there is a better way. I offer it to you. It is a bill I have introduced, which is H.R. 6436, that takes a principle-based approach. It merely says that the State-based insurance regulators have got to be at the table, and we have to protect that system. It is a principle-based, not a top-down, command and control heavy bureaucracy approach to achieving the same objective while at the same time ensuring that we provide adequate protection and regulation for international insurance companies, but respecting the State-based system.

I don't know why we can't get the win-win here. You know, I find it ironic that my legislation, H.R. 6436, actually enjoys broad-based support among the stakeholders: the regulated and, yes, the regulators. The State-based insurance regulators believe that this is the best approach to take, and it is the one I think is a win-win for everybody. It achieves everybody's objectives. That is not what H.R. 5143 will do.

H.R. 5143 goes too far in some cases, won't work in others, and doesn't go far enough in others. So I hope that you will reject it, provide us with an opportunity to continue to negotiate in good faith, and get to win-win because win-win is possible in this circumstance.

I, once again, thank the ranking member very much for this opportunity.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), who is chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman LUETKEMEYER for all of his work on this bill, H.R. 5143.

As we enter into this debate, I think it is important to look at who supports what. If you look at insurers in States like Wisconsin, they have looked at Mr. LUETKEMEYER's bill and they love it. They think it is a great bill because it protects the American State-based model.

If you are a large global insurer, you don't like this bill because you want one global international standard that you have to comply with.

So we are here fighting for the little guy, those little insurance companies that dot all of our States, that serve our communities and our families; and the opposition is standing with the large insurers which have been more concerned about this bill than the little guy, which goes to my point.

I am concerned that the Federal Reserve and Treasury could enter into an international framework that undermines the U.S. system in favor of, again, this European-centric model that is inconsistent with our American model. If you look at this great American model, it has worked for 150 years.

Look back to the 2008 crisis. This system in America, with a ton of pressure, it performed beautifully. It did really well. Why do you want to cash that in for a different model?

I guess my concern is that those State insurers like in my State, they are not even regulated at the Federal level, but they are concerned that on the track that we are going, they very well may be.

This is pretty simple stuff.

What Mr. LUETKEMEYER is looking for is openness and transparency. He just doesn't want Washington bureaucrats negotiating a deal. He wants all stakeholders as part of this deal. And lo and behold, it is a remarkable concept; but if we are going to have fundamental changes to our insurance law, why only have unelected bureaucrats make those decisions? Why not empower the Congress, the people who are responsive to the American electorate?

We should have a say in this process. Put us back in control, which is exactly what Chairman LUETKEMEYER does.

It is a great bill. I encourage all of my friends on both sides of the aisle to show their resounding support.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for his work on H.R. 5143. I rise in strong support of the legislation.

Now, what we are hearing on the floor today is very similar, I suspect, to the discussion at the founding of this country, yet some who wanted a strong central government, strong regulating powers from Washington and some who said, no, that will not be the best way to provide a strong economy, that we should send the decisions closer to where people live. Frankly, that choice is being played out worldwide right now, and that is the case with the question in front of us.

Should we allow people in Europe to tell us what our markets will look like here?

Now, there are those who say yes. I am in the group that says no. Because our system here has created its own stability. In the financial difficulties of 2008 and 2009, our market performed just perfectly. We have got 56 different regulators, each one has their own responsibility. It provides a safer market for the consumer. It provides a safer product for the consumers to purchase. Why we would send that authority to some other country across the oceans just never made sense to those of us who want the decisions made closer to the people.

Secondly, we have to think that it is good for American jobs. Anytime people in a different country are deciding what the rules are, they are going to skew it in favor of themselves. Again, our market is well diversified. It is spread among the States, and it provides insurance markets for every individual State and some more than just the one.

So that tells us that it is good for the economy, it is good for the consumer; but, finally, we need the stabilizing force here, the ability for Americans to determine what we are going to do.

I think that the recent election has been maybe a referendum on: Do we want to give up power to the local people, or do we just send it away?

Mr. LUETKEMEYER's bill preserves power for the people. It preserves power for the Congress. I would urge support for Mr. LUETKEMEYER's bill, H.R. 5143.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 5143, the

Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016, with my good friend and colleague from the State of Missouri, Representative BLAINE LUETKEMEYER.

Dodd-Frank reversed a nearly 150-year precedent of the U.S. insurance industry being regulated primarily by the States. From property-casualty, life, reinsurance, health, and even auto, the Obama administration and Dodd-Frank created a more invasive role for the Federal Government to intervene in this industry.

Where this has become apparent is during the negotiations of international agreements regarding insurance standards, where our foreign counterparts, particularly in the European Union, are trying to force us to adopt their standard and forgo our State-based insurance regime.

Most concerning is that many of these meetings take place behind closed doors with little accountability or transparency while our Federal Government says they are negotiating on behalf of our best interests.

H.R. 5143 would enhance congressional oversight into these deliberations by establishing requirements to be met before the Federal Government can agree to the adoption of any final international insurance standards or covered agreements. Setting these procedures in place ensures that Missouri policyholders and customers will be protected from premium increases by having to adopt international standards that don't apply or make sense here in the United States.

Americans are sick and tired of the Federal Government making choices on their behalf without proper input and oversight. Congress needs to be more involved in these negotiations that could have substantial impacts on policyholders across the country.

I have two letters of support from companies in Missouri that represent over 40,000 customers and employees in the State. The companies state that this bill will help prevent costs from being driven up in Missouri, and I would like to include these letters in the RECORD.

CAMERON INSURANCE COMPANIES,
August 19, 2016.

TO: MEMBERS OF THE MISSOURI CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: On behalf of Cameron Mutual Insurance Company and the 39,370 policyholders/employees in Missouri, I am writing to ask for your support. During the next few months, U.S. negotiators and their international counterparts are scheduled to meet behind closed doors around the globe approximately three dozen times to make strategic decisions on new international capital and regulatory standards. The U.S. is under pressure from international regulators to adopt their standards. These types of changes have the very real potential to drive up costs here at home.

It is important that the U.S. defend its effective system of insurance regulation. Our U.S. negotiators should not agree to new standards that could eventually weaken U.S.

consumer protections, reduce competition, and, according to economist Robert Shapiro, cost homeowners insurance consumers up to an additional \$100 per year.

H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016, introduced by Missouri's own Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, provides critically important checks and balances regarding negotiations on international insurance standards by requiring transparency, accountability, and consultation with Congress, and allowing for public input. The bill passed the House Financial Services Committee in June.

It is critical for Congress to act on this legislation now and I am asking you to defend U.S. insurance markets and to preserve our effective, consumer-focused, state-based system of insurance regulation. Please contact House leadership and the Financial Services Committee leadership and request a September House floor vote on H.R. 5143.

Transparency, accountability, and consultation with Congress and the public is a simple and reasonable approach to ensure our system is not undermined by closed-door international regulatory fora. H.R. 5143 strengthens the U.S. voice by requiring U.S. state and federal negotiators reach consensus on advocacy positions and supporting them by shining a light on the negotiations. Sincerely,

BRAD M. FOWLER,
President/Chief Executive Officer,
Cameron Mutual Insurance Company.

SHELTER INSURANCE COMPANIES,
September 7, 2016.

Re: H.R. 5143, the "Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016"

HON. ANN WAGNER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WAGNER: Shelter Insurance is the largest domestic property and casualty insurance company in Missouri, writing more than \$1.6 billion in premium, and is home to almost 1,700 Missouri constituents/employees.

On behalf of Shelter Insurance Company, our agents, employees and mutual policy holders in Missouri, I am writing to ask for your help to defend the state-based system of insurance regulation. Congressman Luetkemeyer's bill, H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016, provides critically important checks and balances regarding negotiations on international insurance standards by requiring transparency, accountability, and consultation with Congress, and allowing for public input.

We ask that you please encourage Chairman Hensarling and House leadership to schedule a House vote on this legislation in September.

As you well know, the next few months are important when it comes to international insurance regulation. By the end of 2016, U.S. negotiators and their international counterparts are scheduled to meet behind closed doors around the globe approximately three dozen times to make strategic decisions on new international capital and regulatory standards. The U.S. is under pressure from international regulators to adopt their standards. These types of changes have the very real potential to drive up costs here at home in Missouri.

It is important that the U.S. defend its effective system of insurance regulation. Our U.S. negotiators should not agree to new standards that could eventually weaken U.S. consumer protections, reduce competition.

Again, our ask is that you please work with House leadership and the Financial

Services Committee leadership and request a September House floor vote on H.R. 5143.

I thank you for your help on this bill and for your continued leadership on these efforts that are important to my company and many insurers around the United States.

Sincerely,

RICK MEANS,
President and CEO.
BRIAN WALLER,

Director of Government Relations.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I simply ask my colleagues to support this commonsense piece of legislation that instills transparency and accountability for our government when negotiating with their foreign counterparts.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Missouri has 11½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 12 minutes remaining.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

□ 1615

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman and his staff for the hard work that went into crafting this legislation, coordinating with the insurance industry and the diverse array of stakeholders and consumers.

Mr. Speaker, for about 150 years, the American insurance industry has been regulated at the State level. This has enabled the tailoring of regulations and business models to local circumstances for insurance companies of all types, structures, and sizes. This system has provided our domestic insurance industry a competitive advantage that benefits consumers and the market for insuring against risk. It is a superior model to the concentrated national champion insurance models of Europe.

Some of Dodd-Frank's policies threaten to upend this existing regulatory infrastructure by interjecting the Federal Government, and ultimately international regulators, into the oversight of the American insurance industry. Regardless of one's views on Federal oversight of insurance, I think we should all agree that Congress should have a stake in this process and engage in robust oversight of any Federal or international standards.

The Transparent Insurance Standards Act achieves just that. The legislation sets clear objectives, or rules of the road, for the Federal Insurance Office and the Federal Reserve that must be met during negotiation and, ultimately, adoption of any international insurance standards or covered agreements.

The bill ensures that State insurance commissioners or their designees are

directly involved in the negotiation process; and before adoption of such an international standard, the public and Congress must have access to the final text and the opportunity to provide comments.

FIO and the Fed would be required to file reports and come before Congress twice a year to brief us on the progress and implementation. If the standards include capital requirements, the Fed must have promulgated a domestic standard first, and this will prevent the tail wagging the dog that we have seen with other international financial standards.

These reforms and several other provisions ensure that, if the United States is going down the road of Federal and international insurance standards, the process is transparent, and Congress, the States, and the American people have a say in that process.

For these reasons, I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation, and I urge its passage.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I believe this is my last speaker. Last but not least, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), an entrepreneur who understands the importance of our free enterprise system and how important it is for the insurance industry to be able to protect those interests of the free enterprise folks.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I think by now the secret is out the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act has been a complete failure.

For the last 6 years, in an effort to protect consumers, the Dodd-Frank Act has instead stifled job creation for millions of Americans with regulation after regulation. H.R. 5143, which I am a proud cosponsor of, aims to roll back one of the many unintended consequences forced upon U.S. insurers.

For 150 years, the State-based model, the American model, has been successful because it focused on one thing—the consumer. The U.S. State-based insurance regulatory system is unmatched by any insurance regulatory system in the world. It is important that U.S. insurers are not put at a competitive disadvantage worldwide and we continue to act in their interest.

H.R. 5143 requires Congress to conduct oversight of international conversations focused on insurance standards and establish a series of requirements to be met by our top negotiators at Treasury's Federal Insurance Office.

Furthermore, transparency and accountability is often lacking in international regulatory discussions, something that is fundamental to the State-based system. It is important that Congress takes every opportunity to open doors, not close doors, and allows all

interested parties to participate in negotiations with our international counterparts. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will strongly encourage increased transparency and information sharing and bring to light the true objectives.

Just as Congress is routinely involved in international trade negotiations, this should be no different. It is important we work cooperatively and only agree to standards and agreements that benefit U.S. consumers and allow us to maintain a strong insurance marketplace.

Again, I want to thank Chairman LUETKEMEYER for his leadership and the work our committee has done to stand up for U.S. insurers and consumers. I strongly urge passage of this bill. In God we trust.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

The gentleman who just gave testimony indicated that the secret is out. I don't think he described the secret accurately, but let me just say it is out, and, just as Mr. HENSARLING said on the floor the other day, we ain't seen nothing yet. They are out to destroy Dodd-Frank, they are out to destroy the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and they keep coming forward, as they are doing today, to protect Wall Street.

I ask my colleagues to consider the great progress we have made since the enactment of Wall Street reform to fix the blind spots that prevented our regulators from seeing the big picture. Our U.S. financial system is increasingly complex, and the regulatory structure for the oversight of our system was fragmented before the financial crisis. This was particularly true of the insurance industry, which is regulated primarily by the States.

While our State-based system for insurance regulation has many strengths, by its very nature, it is ill-suited to address all of the issues related to large, globally active insurance companies. That is why Dodd-Frank, while continuing to recognize the primacy of State-based regulation, changed many of the ways in which the insurance industry is supervised for consolidated supervision and enhanced regulation.

If we take a look at AIG, of course, one cannot help but ask: What State regulated AIG; and why did we get into the problem that we got into with AIG? It was because of its London-based operation. That is why it is so important to have cooperation between the countries on these big insurance companies that are operating all over the world.

Let's remind everyone what this bill really does. It takes us backward. It says: forget about examining systemic risks across jurisdictions, and, instead, let's continue to leave the largest internationally active insurers in the world off the hook for any risk they

may pose to our economy. Not the small, domestic insurers that engage in traditional activities, not the companies that make up such an important part of our economy in rural areas, and certainly not the insurers that had absolutely nothing to do with the financial crisis. We are talking about the biggest and most complex insurers that have operations all over the globe and pose risks to international financial stability.

This bill is not about transparency, as its title would suggest. It is about weakening oversight of these large firms and making it virtually impossible to agree to any kind of international insurance standard. This bill is also not about protecting policyholders. It is about burying our head in the sand and going back to the precrisis days where all of us, including policyholders, were vulnerable to a systemic failure.

So let's call this bill what it is. It is a giveaway to the insurance industry that is trying to escape more oversight. And let's not pretend that this bill would ensure a more unified U.S. posture on the international stage because, under the provisions of this bill, the U.S. will be severely crippled in its ability to negotiate on these issues, which means that the rest of the world will move forward while American interests get left behind.

What are we talking about? We are talking about capitalization. And if we are not willing to engage with other countries in this international community about these big insurance companies that are operating all over the world about capital standards, we are putting our own country at risk. The administration has already issued a strong veto threat for all of these reasons. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Let me share with you exactly what the administration is saying. "The restrictions that this legislation seeks to place on United States representatives in international insurance matters under H.R. 5143 would raise serious constitutional concerns and severely outweigh any potential attendant benefits.

... FIO, the Federal Reserve, and state insurance commissioners are all actively engaged at the IAIS and regularly coordinate with one another, ensuring that each aspect of the unique United States regulatory regime is adequately represented in any international negotiation. Despite their effective coordination and extensive work thus far to improve global insurance regulation, the restrictions which H.R. 5143 seeks to impose would stop this work in its tracks and would put in place cumbersome and counterproductive requirements. . . .

"Because this legislation seeks to tie the hands of U.S. representatives, in an unconstitutional manner, and prevent

them from effectively negotiating on international insurance matters, the Administration strongly opposes H.R. 5143.”

Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that my colleague, the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, promised me and threatened me and others that we ain’t seen nothing yet, I think it is very clear about what is happening on the opposite side of the aisle and how Mr. HENSARLING and the committee are already carrying out the Trump agenda.

They are making sure that before we leave here on break everyone understands that they are not about to support Dodd-Frank in any shape, form, or fashion, but, rather, they are going to take every opportunity to undermine Dodd-Frank because they don’t believe in reforming Wall Street.

Mr. Trump said that he was running for the United States President because he wanted to drain the swamp, but Mr. Trump and his leadership are already showing us that they intend to expand the swamp, that they are going to grow the swamp, that they are going to make sure that they have everybody from Wall Street, many of whom have already been fined, been accused of fraud, who are under investigation—somehow he is bringing them close to him, and I wonder why.

This legislation today basically tells you a story. It tells you a story that they are talking about. They are saying, in essence, that we, the United States of America, operate unto ourselves. Yes, we have these big firms, and we don’t mind that they have big businesses in other countries, like AIG. We don’t mind that they are operating internationally. We have State regulations, and our State regulations will take care of whatever our needs are for oversight of insurance.

But they can’t tell you why that didn’t happen with AIG. As a matter of fact, they don’t mention AIG. They wish the story of AIG would just simply go away. They don’t want the American people to be reminded of what happened with AIG that almost brought this country to its knees. They don’t want to remind the people that we had to bail them out. They don’t want to remind the people that they were undercapitalized, their credit default swaps were fraudulent, and they didn’t have anything to back it up. So here we are, and they are asking the American people to ignore all of this, just forget all of this. We are out to protect those who certainly should not be protected.

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

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

Just to recap what we are doing here: We have a bill in front of us here that is basically trying to give leverage to Team USA, which are the representa-

tives from the United States, one of which was created by Dodd-Frank, to represent the United States insurance industry at the negotiating table with regards to the International Association of Insurance Supervisors. Now, this is a group of people from around the world that regulate insurance companies in each of these other countries.

Now, these regulators have a different set of rules and regulations and a different purpose from the standpoint that they regulate insurance at the national level in each one of these countries, where we in this country regulate insurance at the State level.

□ 1630

When the IAIS tries to promulgate rules and regulations, it is like trying to put a square peg in a round hole when they try and put those rules and regulations on our companies here. As a result, this bill is to try and give leverage to our negotiations so that doesn’t happen and so they can protect our industry. In fact, the negotiators want this bill because they need that leverage to be able to go and say no to some of the standards that are being proposed so that they can protect our industry.

Now, I will give you a quick example. In my own State, we have a company that provides reinsurance in one of the countries in Europe. That country right now is trying to impose some new standards on that company to be able to do business there.

We need to have the regulators be able to go to the IAIS and say: Look, this is not working. You cannot impact and undermine our own companies in this country with these rules that do not work. They need to be on a level playing field with everybody else.

So this is a way that we can protect our companies and our industries and our consumers from this regulation that is basically out of control sometimes.

Mr. HUIZENGA made a great point. He said: Why would we allow unelected foreign regulators to tell our industry what to do? That is what we have got. We have got a group of bureaucrats from around the world who are trying to tell our companies, our insurance industry—it isn’t one company; it is everybody in this country—what to do. They are not elected, but we are in this Congress. Shouldn’t we put the people’s representatives in charge of this?

Mr. PEARCE made that comment. These regulations need to be decided by the people’s representatives. That is us. That is what this bill does. It puts us in charge of saying yes or no to whatever agreements are done over there.

Mr. BARR made the comment that we need to protect the insurance model of our industry. And that is what this does. We in the Congress can look and see if these rules and regulations will protect the industry.

It doesn’t mean we throw them all out either. The underlying principle of everything that the minority ranking member is talking about here is that we are going to throw out every regulation that is being proposed. No, this is not the case.

What we want to do is make sure the ones that are being proposed are okay and will not negatively impact our industry. The ones that are going to be helpful, we will support those. We will let them go through. That is up to Congress. We should be in charge of those decisions, not somebody else around this world.

Mr. WILLIAMS made a good point. He said this is kind of like a trade agreement. We approve all the trade agreements over in the other body, if I am not mistaken. Should we approve an agreement like this where we are going to impact an entire industry? I think so, Mr. Speaker.

Let me just move on to a couple of points that were made by a couple of folks during the discussion on the other side.

They talked about the pay-for in the bill. The pay-for in the bill actually comes from a slush fund of the SEC, which is overfunded at this point and that they are going to use less than 20 percent of that money this year. It is well paid for. It is well within the reason of being able to afford this, and it is not going to impact that regulator at all. So I think we are in great shape.

Somebody made the comment that the Fed does have the authority to make these rules. No, they don’t. They don’t have authority to make a rule across the board on all insurance companies in this country. That is not a true statement.

The statement was also made about the G-SIFIs and systemic institutions. This bill doesn’t do anything to address G-SIFI designation. This bill is about protecting the IAIS, which is a supervisory body. It is not the Federal Stability Board. It is not the international board that decides all of these G-SIFI designations. This is the board that oversees the regulatory structure of insurance companies.

Somebody said it has constitutional concerns. If it has constitutional concerns, then you have just told me that Dodd-Frank is unconstitutional. That is all we are doing is dealing with what has gone on in Dodd-Frank when setting up the FIO office to try and give them the leverage and power they need to do something.

It is interesting because the ranking member last week was railing on a bill that we had on the floor about transparency and oversight of regulators. You know what? We listened to her. This bill today does that very thing. It adds to transparency, and we are providing oversight for the regulators. I would think she would be excited about this legislation and be willing to support it.

One other comment, Mr. Speaker, and I will close.

The ranking member keeps throwing AIG at us. That is a red-herring from the standpoint that AIG is made up of two separate entities: one is an insurance company; one is the securities and investment company. The company that was in trouble was the securities and investment part. The insurance company stayed solid and solvent. That is not the one that was bailed out.

So, again, the point was made by one of my colleagues—Mr. DUFFY, I believe it was—that in 2008 our system worked. And he is correct; it did work. Our insurance industry in this country withstood one of the largest and most devastating recessions in history since the Great Depression, and it came out of it with very little negative problems that could impact the quality of insurance being provided for our citizens.

So, Mr. Speaker, let me just close by saying this bill does what we would hope that every bill would do in this Congress, and that is that it gives leverage to people who can do good to protect our industries and our people, our way of life and our economy.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1 PRINTED IN HOUSE REPORT
114-846 OFFERED BY MR. DESANTIS

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 11, before the period insert the following: “and that any such final standard is composed in plain writing (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. 301 note))”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 944, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, my amendment is very simple. It requires that any international agreement needs to be written in plain writing as a condition to enter into the agreement.

I am offering this from the perspective of people in Florida, my district, and elsewhere who are small businesses, who are small companies who can't afford to hire large legal teams simply to understand overly complex regulations. They are already beset with way too much, both in terms of the scope, but also in terms of the complexity; and when you have complex agreements or regulations imposed on them, it not only makes life difficult for them, it actually gives them a competitive disadvantage over some of the big companies that we are always hearing about.

So I think writing in plain language, clear and concise, makes it easier for small businesses to comply without amassing huge amounts in legal fees and other overhead costs.

Plain writing doesn't change the regulation. You can have a regulation. It just requires it to be written in a way that doesn't require you to hire \$500-an-hour attorneys to interpret it for you. So I think it is a commonsense way to help small business with no taxpayer expense.

I would note that the need for plain writing has been something that the Congress, on both sides of the aisle, has embraced over decades.

I appreciate my friend from Missouri's bill. I intend to support it. I think this amendment will be added protection for those who are struggling to do well in an economy in which so much that comes out of Washington seems to be making it more difficult for them to succeed.

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

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.
Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, this amendment requires that any final standard agreed to under the terms of this bill be composed in plain writing in accordance with the Plain Writing Act of 2010. That law basically requires that Federal agencies use “clear government communication that the public can understand and use.”

As a matter of general policy, I think that makes good sense. We want the public to be able to understand the rules and regulations that impact their daily lives. When government regulations are difficult to comprehend, it undermines rather than enhances our goal of setting clear rules of the road and preventing misconduct. But no amount of clear communication or plain writing will improve the basic issues with the underlying bill.

Of course we support plain writing. I wish that all of us would adopt and carry out and implement the legislation that was passed, supported by both sides of the aisle, for plain writing, for plain English. I wish the State would do it with their propositions, et cetera. We all pay lip service to it, but then we come with the gobbledygook that the American public has to try and understand.

So, yes, I support plain writing. I support the public being able to understand what we do, but I don't want people to be confused. Plain writing has nothing to do with the basic issues in this underlying bill.

While I do not take issue with the amendment offered by the gentleman

from Florida, I continue to urge my colleagues to oppose this bill. It is a solution in search of a problem, one that certainly does not exist.

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

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, I am glad that this is an amendment that my friend from California can embrace. I urge everyone to embrace it and would just urge people to support the amendment.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended, and on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS).

The question is on the amendment by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on passage of the bill will be followed by 5-minute votes on motions to suspend the rules with respect to H.R. 6076, S. 2971, and H.R. 5790, in each case by the yeas and nays.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 239, nays 170, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 613]
YEAS—239

Abraham	Carter (TX)	Ellmers (NC)
Aderholt	Chabot	Emmer (MN)
Allen	Chaffetz	Farenthold
Amash	Clawson (FL)	Fitzpatrick
Amodel	Coffman	Fleischmann
Ashford	Cole	Fleming
Babin	Collins (GA)	Flores
Barletta	Collins (NY)	Forbes
Barr	Comer	Fortenberry
Barton	Comstock	Fox
Benishek	Conaway	Franks (AZ)
Bilirakis	Cook	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (MI)	Costello (PA)	Garrett
Bishop (UT)	Cramer	Gibbs
Black	Crawford	Gibson
Blackburn	Crenshaw	Gohmert
Blum	Cuellar	Goodlatte
Bost	Culberson	Gosar
Boustany	Curbelo (FL)	Gowdy
Brady (TX)	Davidson	Graves (GA)
Brat	Davis, Rodney	Graves (LA)
Bridenstine	Denham	Griffith
Brooks (AL)	Dent	Grothman
Brooks (IN)	DeSantis	Guinta
Buchanan	DesJarlais	Guthrie
Buck	Diaz-Balart	Hanna
Bucshon	Dold	Hardy
Burgess	Donovan	Harper
Byrne	Duffy	Harris
Calvert	Duncan (SC)	Hartzler
Carter (GA)	Duncan (TN)	Heck (NV)

Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry

McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Robby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus

Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader

Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko

Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Clay
Cleaver
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Farenthold
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hardy
Harper

Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Lujan Grisham
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napoli tano
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sanchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner

NOT VOTING—24

Brown (FL)
Chu, Judy
Clyburn
Costa
Fincher
Granger
Graves (MO)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Jolly
Kirkpatrick
Lee
Serrano
McDermott
Miller (MI)
Neal
Poe (TX)
Rice (NY)
Roskam

Sanchez, Loretta
Scott, Austin
Lee
Tiberi
Wasserman
Schultz
Westmoreland

□ 1705

Mr. MESSER changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."
So the bill was passed.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TO RESEARCH, EVALUATE, ASSESS, AND TREAT ASTRONAUTS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6076) to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a program for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of astronauts, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 0, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 614]
YEAS—413

ADAMS—170
Adams
Aguilar
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier

Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Lujan Grisham
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napoli tano
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Polis

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Blum
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)

Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Aguliar
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess

Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)

Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hardy
Harper

Lujan Grisham
Luján, Ben Ray
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley

Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sanchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner

Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)

NOT VOTING—20

Brown (FL)
Clyburn
Costa
Diaz-Balart
Fincher
Forbes
Gabbard
Graves (MO)
Israel
Jolly
Kirkpatrick
Lee
McDermott
Miller (MI)
Poe (TX)
Roskam
Sanchez, Loretta
Serrano
Tiberi
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1713

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2971) to authorize the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 7, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 615]
YEAS—405

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishkek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon

Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Constock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Farenthold
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs

Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Constock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Farenthold
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs

Lujañ Grisham (NM)
Lujañ, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummi
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCauley
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer

NAYS—7

Amash
Harris
Jones
Massie
Ribble
Sanford

NOT VOTING—21

Brat
Brown (FL)
Clyburn
Costa
Doyle, Michael
F.
Fincher
Forbes
Graves (MO)
Jolly
Kirkpatrick
Lee
McDermott
Miller (MI)
Poe (TX)
Roskam
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Serrano
Tiberi
Waters, Maxine
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1719

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 615.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5790) to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 0, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 616]
YEAS—404

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishkek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette

Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Elmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Farenthold
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grihalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries

Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer

Newhouse
Noem
Norcross
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher

Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)

Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—29

Brown (FL)
Clyburn
Costa
Doyle, Michael
F.
Fincher
Forbes
Graves (MO)
Jolly
Kirkpatrick

Lee
McDermott
Miller (MI)
Nolan
Nugent
Poe (TX)
Roskam
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

Schrader
Serrano
Sinema
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stivers
Tiberi
Vela
Velázquez
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1726

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 611 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 1219), 612 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended S. 3028), 613 (on passage of H.R. 5143), 614 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 6076), 615 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended House Amendment to S. 2971), and 616 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 5790) I did not cast my vote due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all of the votes.

BETTER ONLINE TICKET SALES
ACT OF 2016

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 3183) to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3183

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Better Online Ticket Sales Act of 2016" or the "BOTS Act of 2016".

SECTION 2. UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ACTS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO CIRCUMVENTION OF TICKET ACCESS CONTROL MEASURES.

(a) CONDUCT PROHIBITED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for any person—

(A) to circumvent a security measure, access control system, or other technological control or measure on an Internet website or online service that is used by the ticket issuer to enforce posted event ticket purchasing limits or to maintain the integrity of posted online ticket purchasing order rules; or

(B) to sell or offer to sell any event ticket in interstate commerce obtained in violation of subparagraph (A) if the person selling or offering to sell the ticket either—

(i) participated directly in or had the ability to control the conduct in violation of subparagraph (A); or

(ii) knew or should have known that the event ticket was acquired in violation of subparagraph (A).

(2) EXCEPTION.—It shall not be unlawful under this section for a person to create or use any computer software or system—

(A) to investigate, or further the enforcement or defense, of any alleged violation of this section or other statute or regulation; or

(B) to engage in research necessary to identify and analyze flaws and vulnerabilities of measures, systems, or controls described in paragraph (1)(A), if these research activities are conducted to advance the state of knowledge in the field of computer system security or to assist in the development of computer security product.

(b) ENFORCEMENT BY THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(1) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of subsection (a) shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or a deceptive act or practice under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall enforce this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were

incorporated into and made a part of this section.

(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(C) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Federal Trade Commission under any other provision of law.

(c) ENFORCEMENT BY STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that an interest of the residents of the State has been or is threatened or adversely affected by the engagement of any person subject to subsection (a) in a practice that violates such subsection, the attorney general of the State may, as *parens patriae*, bring a civil action on behalf of the residents of the State in an appropriate district court of the United States—

(A) to enjoin further violation of such subsection by such person;

(B) to compel compliance with such subsection; and

(C) to obtain damages, restitution, or other compensation on behalf of such residents.

(2) RIGHTS OF FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(A) NOTICE TO FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (iii), the attorney general of a State shall notify the Commission in writing that the attorney general intends to bring a civil action under paragraph (1) not later than 10 days before initiating the civil action.

(ii) CONTENTS.—The notification required by clause (i) with respect to a civil action shall include a copy of the complaint to be filed to initiate the civil action.

(iii) EXCEPTION.—If it is not feasible for the attorney general of a State to provide the notification required by clause (i) before initiating a civil action under paragraph (1), the attorney general shall notify the Commission immediately upon instituting the civil action.

(B) INTERVENTION BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—The Commission may—

(i) intervene in any civil action brought by the attorney general of a State under paragraph (1); and

(ii) upon intervening—

(I) be heard on all matters arising in the civil action; and

(II) file petitions for appeal of a decision in the civil action.

(3) INVESTIGATORY POWERS.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prevent the attorney general of a State from exercising the powers conferred on the attorney general by the laws of the State to conduct investigations, to administer oaths or affirmations, or to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary or other evidence.

(4) PREEMPTIVE ACTION BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—If the Commission institutes a civil action or an administrative action with respect to a violation of subsection (a), the attorney general of a State may not, during the pendency of such action, bring a civil action under paragraph (1) against any defendant named in the complaint of the Commission for the violation with respect to which the Commission instituted such action.

(5) VENUE; SERVICE OF PROCESS.—

(A) VENUE.—Any action brought under paragraph (1) may be brought in—

(i) the district court of the United States that meets applicable requirements relating

to venue under section 1391 of title 28, United States Code; or

(ii) another court of competent jurisdiction.

(B) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In an action brought under paragraph (1), process may be served in any district in which the defendant—

(i) is an inhabitant; or

(ii) may be found.

(6) ACTIONS BY OTHER STATE OFFICIALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to civil actions brought by attorneys general under paragraph (1), any other consumer protection officer of a State who is authorized by the State to do so may bring a civil action under paragraph (1), subject to the same requirements and limitations that apply under this subsection to civil actions brought by attorneys general.

(B) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit an authorized official of a State from initiating or continuing any proceeding in a court of the State for a violation of any civil or criminal law of the State.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) EVENT.—The term “event” means any concert, theatrical performance, sporting event, show, or similarly scheduled activity, taking place in a venue with a seating or attendance capacity exceeding 200 persons that—

(A) is open to the general public; and

(B) is promoted, advertised, or marketed in interstate commerce or for which event tickets are generally sold or distributed in interstate commerce.

(3) EVENT TICKET.—The term “event ticket” means any physical, electronic, or other form of a certificate, document, voucher, token, or other evidence indicating that the bearer, possessor, or person entitled to possession through purchase or otherwise has—

(A) a right, privilege, or license to enter an event venue or occupy a particular seat or area in an event venue with respect to one or more events; or

(B) an entitlement to purchase such a right, privilege, or license with respect to one or more future events.

(4) TICKET ISSUER.—The term “ticket issuer” means any person who makes event tickets available, directly or indirectly, to the general public, and may include—

(A) the operator of the venue;

(B) the sponsor or promoter of an event;

(C) a sports team participating in an event or a league whose teams are participating in an event;

(D) a theater company, musical group, or similar participant in an event; and

(E) an agent for any such person.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE A CERTAIN CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 1635

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 181

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill S. 1635, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:

(1) In section 113, in the proposed subsection (j)(1) of section 4 of the Foreign Service Buildings Act, 1926, strike “subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary may transfer to, and merge with, any appropriation for embassy security, construction, and maintenance such amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2018 for any other purpose related to the administration of foreign affairs on or after January 1, 2017, if the Secretary determines such transfer is necessary to provide for the security of sites and buildings in foreign countries under the jurisdiction and control of the Secretary” and insert “subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may transfer to, and merge with, any appropriation for fiscal year 2018 under the heading ‘Diplomatic and Consular Programs’, including for Worldwide Security Protection, and under the heading ‘Embassy Security, Construction, and Maintenance’ funds appropriated under such headings if the Secretary determines such transfer is necessary to implement the recommendations of the Benghazi Accountability Review Board, or to prevent or respond to security situations and requirements”.

(2) In section 113, in the proposed subsection (j) of section 4 of the Foreign Service Buildings Act, 1926, strike the proposed paragraph (2).

(3) In section 113, in the proposed subsection (j) of section 4 of the Foreign Service Buildings Act, 1926, redesignate the proposed paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(4) In paragraph (7) of section 307, strike “Office of Inspector General of the Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors” and insert “offices of inspectors general of relevant United Nations agencies”.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1730

REQUIRING A REGIONAL STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THE THREAT POSED BY BOKO HARAM

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence be discharged from further consideration of the bill (S. 1632) to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1632

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

SECTION 1. REGIONAL STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THE THREAT POSED BY BOKO HARAM.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly develop and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a five-year strategy to help enable the Government of Nigeria, members of the Multinational Joint Task Force to Combat Boko Haram (MNJTF) authorized by the African Union, and relevant partners to counter the regional threat of Boko Haram and assist the Government of Nigeria and its neighbors to accept and address legitimate grievances of vulnerable populations in areas affected by Boko Haram.

(2) ELEMENTS.—At a minimum, the strategy must address the following elements:

(A) Enhance, pursuant to existing authorities and restrictions, the institutional capacity, including military capabilities, of the Government of Nigeria and partner nations in the region, as appropriate, to counter the threat posed by Boko Haram.

(B) Provide humanitarian support to civilian populations impacted by Boko Haram's activity.

(C) Specific activities through which the United States Government intends to improve and enhance the capacity of Multinational Joint Task Force to Combat Boko Haram partner nations to investigate and prosecute human rights abuses by security forces and promote respect for the rule of law within the military.

(D) A means for assisting Nigeria, and as appropriate, Multinational Joint Task Force to Combat Boko Haram nations, to counter violent extremism, including efforts to address underlying societal factors shown to contribute to the ability of Boko Haram to radicalize and recruit individuals.

(E) A plan to strengthen and promote the rule of law, including by improving the capacity of the civilian police and judicial system in Nigeria, enhancing public safety, and responding to crime (including gender-based violence), while respecting human rights and strengthening accountability measures, including measures to prevent corruption.

(F) Strengthen the long-term capacity of the Government of Nigeria to enhance security for schools such that children are safer and girls seeking an education are better protected, and to combat gender-based violence and gender inequality.

(G) Identify and develop mechanisms for coordinating the implementation of the strategy across the inter-agency and with the Government of Nigeria, regional partners, and other relevant foreign partners.

(H) Identify the resources required to achieve the strategy's objectives.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—The Director of National Intelligence shall submit, to the appropriate committees of Congress, an assessment regarding—

(1) the willingness and capability of the Government of Nigeria and regional partners to implement the strategy developed under subsection (a), including the capability gaps, if any, of the Government and military forces of Nigeria that would need to be addressed to enable the Government of Nigeria and the governments of its partner countries in the region—

(A) to counter the threat of Boko Haram; and

(B) to address the legitimate grievances of vulnerable populations in areas affected by Boko Haram; and

(2) significant United States intelligence gaps concerning Boko Haram or on the willingness and capacity of the Government of Nigeria and regional partners to implement the strategy developed under subsection (a).

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that lack of economic opportunity and access to education, justice, and other social services contributes to the ability of Boko Haram to radicalize and recruit individuals.

(d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters exchanged between myself and the gentleman from California, Mr. NUNES, Chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, regarding S. 1632, an Act to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, December 8, 2016.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on S. 1632, a bill to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the Floor. I concur in your understanding that the assessment required by section 1(b) shall be conducted and provided in a manner that protects intelligence sources and methods.

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

I will seek to place our letters on S. 1632 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,
EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,

December 7, 2016.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: On September 24, 2015, S. 1632, "A bill to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram," was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition, to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

In order to expedite the House's consideration of the bill, the Permanent Select Com-

mittee on Intelligence will forego consideration of the measure. This courtesy is, however, conditioned on our mutual understanding and agreement that it will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Permanent Select Committee with respect to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in the bill or any similar measure. It is also conditioned on our mutual understanding and agreement that the Director of National Intelligence shall carry out the assessment required by Subsection 1(b) of the bill consistent with the protection of intelligence sources and methods.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would request that you include a copy of this letter in the Congressional Record during its floor consideration. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to submit statements and extraneous materials for the RECORD on S. 1632.

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

There was no objection.

HOURLY MEETING ON TOMORROW

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

VIETNAM HELICOPTER CREW MEMORIAL ACT

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4298) to direct the Secretary of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring the helicopter pilots and crew members of the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 4298

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Vietnam Helicopter Crew Memorial Act”.

SEC. 2. PLACEMENT OF MEMORIAL HONORING HELICOPTER PILOTS DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of section (c), the Secretary of the Army shall place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring helicopter pilots and crew members who served on active duty in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam era.

(b) DESIGN.—The memorial placed under subsection (a) shall measure 4 feet in height, 5 feet in width, and 1 foot in depth, and shall be based on a design approved by the Secretary of the Army and the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association.

(c) AGREEMENT FOR UPKEEP AND MAINTENANCE.—The Secretary of the Army may only place a memorial under subsection (a) if the Secretary enters into an agreement with the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association under which the Association agrees to pay all costs necessary to construct, install, and maintain the memorial, and to such other provisions as the Secretary may require.

(d) APPROVAL OF SITE.—The Secretary of the Army shall approve an appropriate site within Arlington National Cemetery for the memorial under subsection (a) to be placed.

(e) WAIVER OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.—Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) shall not apply with respect to the memorial placed under subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4298, which directs the Department of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring helicopter pilots and crew members who served on Active Duty in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam war.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to think about the Vietnam war without thinking about the significant role both man and machinery played throughout the war effort. The helicopter was the mainstay for operational mobility, with approximately 12,000 helicopters used during the war by the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force.

These helicopters, flown by tremendously skilled pilots and manned by brave and competent crew chiefs, door gunners, and medics, brought a constant stream of troops and supplies to the battlefields and carried the wounded from the battlefields—all while operating under extreme conditions and at tremendous personal risk. Helicopter support to combat operations in Vietnam was not without significant loss. An estimated 5,000 helicopter pilots and crew members made the ultimate sacrifice during the war.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nevada for introducing this bill to permanently honor and remember the sacrifice by the extraordinary helicopter pilots and crew members who served in Vietnam by placing a memorial in their honor in Arlington National Cemetery. Therefore, I strongly urge all Members to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI), my friend and colleague and the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. AMODEI. I thank my colleague from the Silver State and also the ranking member from the subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I really shouldn't be here talking about this bill right now. The reason this bill was necessitated is that the public law says that the Secretary of the Army can have monuments placed only in those sections of Arlington National Cemetery that are designated by the Secretary for such placement and only on land that the Secretary deems not suitable for burial. There are about 30 million square feet at Arlington National Cemetery when you take the presently under-construction addition and the planned additional constructed addition—30 million square feet. This bill seeks this amount of space out of 30 million square feet.

For those of you who are challenged by visual numbers, that is 5 square feet that they have asked for for all services—not just the Army but all services—and to commemorate the fact that they were nearly 10 percent of the casualties in the Vietnam war—the Helicopter war.

I understand graves to be the primary mission for Arlington National Cemetery, and I respect that. I understand that there is a concern about being overrun with requests for memorials, and I concur with that concern. My problem is that that public law doesn't say there will be no memorials at Arlington National Cemetery.

By the decision that the administration at Arlington has made that says you can't have 5 square feet, they have basically changed the law effectively to: there are no memorials. The high

bar that there should be for memorials, in effect, has been set up there, touching the ceiling. If these folks—for all services and for nearly 10 percent of the casualties in the Vietnam war—can't qualify, I wonder who can. So the necessity for this legislation: 5 square feet.

By the way, in the last quarter of a century, do you know how many memorials have been approved for placement at Arlington? You don't need all of the fingers on one hand. Four. You need all of the fingers; you just don't need the thumb. Four. We are not overrun with memorials.

As we sit here on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor and as we talk again about some Vietnam veterans, isn't it funny that we now have to come to Congress and run a bill to respect those folks who, by the way, probably kept a heck of a lot more names off that wall a little farther down the Mall from here.

I thank the bipartisan support that I have received from Members in both Houses—nationwide support. My request is this: if we want to say “no more memorials at Arlington,” then we ought to say that in the law. We shouldn't talk about space not being available for graves, and we shouldn't talk about people who represent almost 10 percent of the casualties in a conflict not being entitled to 5 square feet. By the way, at no cost to the government and with maintenance at no cost to the government.

With that in hand, I urge bipartisan nationwide support to do the right thing for almost 5,000 people who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Helicopter war in the service, in these—what were then—cutting-edge iconic machines.

I thank my colleagues.

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

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, as my colleague stated, the service, commitment, and dedication of the helicopter pilots during the Vietnam war were critical to saving many lives. As somebody who was an Army flight surgeon, who spent hundreds of hours in the back of a helicopter, and who served as the chief of aeromedical evacuation for the 325th Combat Support Hospital in Iraq in 2008, I can personally attest to the dedication, bravery, and commitment of the helicopter pilots and of the crew members and what they do for our men and women in uniform. Therefore, I strongly urge the House to support this bill and provide this memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I include the following exchange of letters in the RECORD during consideration of H.R. 4298:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2016.
Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4298, the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Memorial Act. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this committee's right to sequential referral. I do with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 4298 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you.

Sincerely,

JEFF MILLER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2016.
Hon. JEFF MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4298, the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Memorial Act. As you noted, the bill contains subject matter that falls within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

I am most appreciative of your decision to waive formal consideration of H.R. 4298 so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you waived formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those provisions of the bill that fall within your Rule X jurisdiction. I will urge the Speaker to appoint Members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to any conference committee named to consider this legislation.

I will include a copy of our letters in the Congressional Record during consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4298.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOLOCAUST EXPROPRIATED ART RECOVERY ACT OF 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 6130) to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6130

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) It is estimated that the Nazis confiscated or otherwise misappropriated hundreds of thousands of works of art and other property throughout Europe as part of their genocidal campaign against the Jewish people and other persecuted groups. This has been described as the "greatest displacement of art in human history".

(2) Following World War II, the United States and its allies attempted to return the stolen artworks to their countries of origin. Despite these efforts, many works of art were never reunited with their owners. Some of the art has since been discovered in the United States.

(3) In 1998, the United States convened a conference with 43 other nations in Washington, DC, known as the Washington Conference, which produced Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art. One of these principles is that "steps should be taken expeditiously to achieve a just and fair solution" to claims involving such art that has not been restituted if the owners or their heirs can be identified.

(4) The same year, Congress enacted the Holocaust Victims Redress Act (Public Law 105-158, 112 Stat. 15), which expressed the sense of Congress that "all governments should undertake good faith efforts to facilitate the return of private and public property, such as works of art, to the rightful owners in cases where assets were confiscated from the claimant during the period of Nazi rule and there is reasonable proof that the claimant is the rightful owner."

(5) In 2009, the United States participated in a Holocaust Era Assets Conference in Prague, Czech Republic, with 45 other nations. At the conclusion of this conference, the participating nations issued the Terezin Declaration, which reaffirmed the 1998 Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art and urged all participants "to ensure that their legal systems or alternative processes, while taking into account the different legal traditions, facilitate just and fair solutions with regard to Nazi-confiscated and looted art, and to make certain that claims to recover such art are resolved expeditiously and based on the facts and merits of the claims and all the relevant documents submitted by all parties." The Declaration also urged participants to "consider all relevant issues when applying various legal provisions that may impede the restitution of art and cultural property, in order to achieve just and fair solutions, as well as alternative dispute resolution, where appropriate under law."

(6) Victims of Nazi persecution and their heirs have taken legal action in the United States to recover Nazi-confiscated art. These lawsuits face significant procedural obstacles partly due to State statutes of limitations, which typically bar claims within some limited number of years from either

the date of the loss or the date that the claim should have been discovered. In some cases, this means that the claims expired before World War II even ended. (See, e.g., Detroit Institute of Arts v. Ullin, No. 06-10333, 2007 WL 1016996 (E.D. Mich. Mar. 31, 2007).) The unique and horrific circumstances of World War II and the Holocaust make statutes of limitations especially burdensome to the victims and their heirs. Those seeking recovery of Nazi-confiscated art must painstakingly piece together their cases from a fragmentary historical record ravaged by persecution, war, and genocide. This costly process often cannot be done within the time constraints imposed by existing law.

(7) Federal legislation is needed because the only court that has considered the question held that the Constitution prohibits States from making exceptions to their statutes of limitations to accommodate claims involving the recovery of Nazi-confiscated art. In *Von Saher v. Norton Simon Museum of Art*, 592 F.3d 954 (9th Cir. 2009), the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit invalidated a California law that extended the State statute of limitations for claims seeking recovery of Holocaust-era artwork. The Court held that the law was an unconstitutional infringement of the Federal Government's exclusive authority over foreign affairs, which includes the resolution of war-related disputes. In light of this precedent, the enactment of a Federal law is necessary to ensure that claims to Nazi-confiscated art are adjudicated in accordance with United States policy as expressed in the Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, the Holocaust Victims Redress Act, and the Terezin Declaration.

(8) While litigation may be used to resolve claims to recover Nazi-confiscated art, it is the sense of Congress that the private resolution of claims by parties involved, on the merits and through the use of alternative dispute resolution such as mediation panels established for this purpose with the aid of experts in provenance research and history, will yield just and fair resolutions in a more efficient and predictable manner.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are the following:

(1) To ensure that laws governing claims to Nazi-confiscated art and other property further United States policy as set forth in the Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, the Holocaust Victims Redress Act, and the Terezin Declaration.

(2) To ensure that claims to artwork and other property stolen or misappropriated by the Nazis are not unfairly barred by statutes of limitations but are resolved in a just and fair manner.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ACTUAL DISCOVERY.—The term "actual discovery" means knowledge.

(2) ARTWORK OR OTHER PROPERTY.—The term "artwork or other property" means—

(A) pictures, paintings, and drawings;
(B) statutory art and sculpture;
(C) engravings, prints, lithographs, and works of graphic art;

(D) applied art and original artistic assemblages and montages;

(E) books, archives, musical objects and manuscripts (including musical manuscripts and sheets), and sound, photographic, and cinematographic archives and mediums; and
(F) sacred and ceremonial objects and Judaica.

(3) COVERED PERIOD.—The term "covered period" means the period beginning on January 1, 1933, and ending on December 31, 1945.

(4) **KNOWLEDGE.**—The term “knowledge” means having actual knowledge of a fact or circumstance or sufficient information with regard to a relevant fact or circumstance to amount to actual knowledge thereof.

(5) **NAZI PERSECUTION.**—The term “Nazi persecution” means any persecution of a specific group of individuals based on Nazi ideology by the Government of Germany, its allies or agents, members of the Nazi Party, or their agents or associates, during the covered period.

SEC. 5. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or State law or any defense at law relating to the passage of time, and except as otherwise provided in this section, a civil claim or cause of action against a defendant to recover any artwork or other property that was lost during the covered period because of Nazi persecution may be commenced not later than 6 years after the actual discovery by the claimant or the agent of the claimant of—

(1) the identity and location of the artwork or other property; and

(2) a possessory interest of the claimant in the artwork or other property.

(b) **POSSIBLE MISIDENTIFICATION.**—For purposes of subsection (a)(1), in a case in which the artwork or other property is one of a group of substantially similar multiple artworks or other property, actual discovery of the identity and location of the artwork or other property shall be deemed to occur on the date on which there are facts sufficient to form a substantial basis to believe that the artwork or other property is the artwork or other property that was lost.

(c) **PREEXISTING CLAIMS.**—Except as provided in subsection (e), a civil claim or cause of action described in subsection (a) shall be deemed to have been actually discovered on the date of enactment of this Act if—

(1) before the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) a claimant had knowledge of the elements set forth in subsection (a); and

(B) the civil claim or cause of action was barred by a Federal or State statute of limitations; or

(2)(A) before the date of enactment of this Act, a claimant had knowledge of the elements set forth in subsection (a); and

(B) on the date of enactment of this Act, the civil claim or cause of action was not barred by a Federal or State statute of limitations.

(d) **APPLICABILITY.**—Subsection (a) shall apply to any civil claim or cause of action that is—

(1) pending in any court on the date of enactment of this Act, including any civil claim or cause of action that is pending on appeal or for which the time to file an appeal has not expired; or

(2) filed during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2026.

(e) **EXCEPTION.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply to any civil claim or cause of action barred on the day before the date of enactment of this Act by a Federal or State statute of limitations if—

(1) the claimant or a predecessor-in-interest of the claimant had knowledge of the elements set forth in subsection (a) on or after January 1, 1999; and

(2) not less than 6 years have passed from the date such claimant or predecessor-in-interest acquired such knowledge and during which time the civil claim or cause of action was not barred by a Federal or State statute of limitations.

(f) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to create a civil claim or cause of action under Federal or State law.

(g) **SUNSET.**—This Act shall cease to have effect on January 1, 2027, except that this Act shall continue to apply to any civil claim or cause of action described in subsection (a) that is pending on January 1, 2027. Any civil claim or cause of action commenced on or after that date to recover artwork or other property described in this Act shall be subject to any applicable Federal or State statute of limitations or any other Federal or State defense at law relating to the passage of time.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. **GOODLATTE**) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. **COHEN**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **GOODLATTE.** Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 6130, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

From 1933, when Hitler took power in Germany, until 1945, when the Allied Forces liberated Europe, the Nazis and their collaborators stole countless works of art and cultural objects from museums and private collections throughout Europe.

Indeed, according to the American Alliance of Museums, the Nazi regime orchestrated a system of theft, confiscation, coercive transfer, looting, pillage, and the destruction of objects of art and other cultural property in Europe on a massive and an unprecedented scale. Millions of such objects were unlawfully and often forcibly taken from their rightful owners. This systematic looting and confiscation of the cultural property of the Jews and of other persecuted groups has been described as the greatest displacement of art in human history.

In order to provide the victims of the Holocaust and their heirs a fair opportunity in our courts to recover artwork that had been confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis, Representative **NADLER** and I, along with several other bipartisan cosponsors, introduced the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act, or **HEAR Act**. Companion legislation has been introduced by Senators **CORNYN** and **SCHUMER** in the Senate.

Since World War II ended, the United States has pursued policies to help Holocaust victims reclaim artwork and other cultural property that was unlawfully taken.

In recent years, the United States has joined with other nations to de-

clare the importance of restoring Nazi-looted and confiscated art to its rightful owners. For instance, in the 1998 Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, the United States and 43 other nations declared that Holocaust victims and their heirs should be encouraged to come forward and make known their claims to art that was confiscated by the Nazis and not subsequently restituted and that steps should be taken expeditiously to achieve a just and fair solution to such claims.

In 2009, we joined with 48 other countries in declaring that governments should ensure that their legal systems facilitate just and fair solutions with regard to Nazi-confiscated and looted art and make certain that the claims to recover such art are resolved expeditiously and based on the facts and merits of the claims.

The enactment of the **HEAR Act** is an important step in following through on these principles. The vast majority of victims whose property was misappropriated during the Holocaust simply lacked the information, resources, and sometimes wherewithal to pursue litigation to recover their property. Even for those with the resources, locating and proving ownership of Nazi-looted art proved to be extremely difficult. Moreover, the psychological trauma of the Holocaust often prevented victims from pursuing lost property.

Those who have seen the recent movie “Woman in Gold,” which tells the story of Maria Altmann’s arduous legal battle to recover her family’s possessions that were seized by the Nazis, including the famous portrait of her aunt by Gustav Klimt, can understand just how difficult litigation to reclaim Nazi-confiscated art can be.

□ 1745

Ms. Altmann was in litigation for many years before her family’s artwork was recovered from the Austrian Government in 2006. At least in Ms. Altmann’s case, litigation was successful.

However, as the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has observed: “Many obstacles face those who attempt to recover Holocaust-era art through lawsuits,” including “procedural hurdles, such as statutes of limitations” that prevent the merits of claims from ever being adjudicated.

Given the unique and horrific circumstances of World War II and the Holocaust, State statutes of limitations can be an unfair impediment to the victims and their heirs and contrary to the stated policy of the United States.

Accordingly, the **HEAR Act**’s uniform, 6-year Federal limitations period is needed to ensure that the United States fulfills its promises to “facilitate just and fair solution with regard

to Nazi-confiscated and looted art” and to “make certain that claims to recover such art are resolved expeditiously and based on the facts and merits of the claims.”

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so that cases involving Nazi-confiscated artwork are resolved in our courts in a just and fair manner on the merits of those claims.

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

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

I appreciate the work Mr. CONYERS, the ranking member, has done on this bill; Mr. GOODLATTE, the chairman and the sponsor; and Mr. NADLER, our Democratic colead.

I rise in support of H.R. 6130, the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016. H.R. 6130 creates a new 6-year Federal statute of limitations for civil claims filed in Federal or State court to allow a claimant to recover artwork and other cultural property that was stolen, seized, sold under duress, or otherwise lost as a result of Nazi persecution during the period from January 1, 1933, to December 31, 1945.

The bill provides that this limitation period begins upon a claimant’s “actual discovery” of the identity and location of the art that was unlawfully lost, and information or facts sufficient to indicate that the claimant has a possessory interest in the art.

In addition, the bill specifies that this new limitations period applies to cases filed prior to December 31, 2026. Finally, the bill’s provisions sunset on January 1, 2027.

The new Federal limitations period established by H.R. 6130 is necessary because State statutes of limitations often bar claims if they are not filed within some specified number of years from the date of the loss.

For Holocaust-era claims concerning stolen art, this means that most statutes of limitations would bar cases even before victims are able to have actual knowledge of whether their art or other cultural property had been stolen by the Nazis and been located and still was present.

Importantly, H.R. 6130 restores the claims that were barred by existing State statutes of limitations by deeming the bill’s date of enactment as the moment of “actual discovery” for purposes of triggering the bill’s new 6-year limitations period.

This critical legislation reinforces longstanding American policy, encouraging restitution for victims of the Nazi government or its allies and agents, including with respect to Nazi-confiscated or looted art.

As recently as this morning, a feature article was in *The New York Times*: “Jewish Dealer’s Heirs File Suit Over Art in Bavarian State Collection.” Indeed, that case is about the facts, but it shows that there are still

active cases where it has been discovered that there was art that was owned by Jewish people that was taken by others and put in the hands of the Nazis, and there is an issue about whether or not there is a right to recovery.

This would guarantee that those people who discover art—and this art was discovered some person’s house that had been hidden for years in a person’s house behind walls, and all of this valuable art that had been stolen and hidden was only discovered about 3 years ago—that the rightful owners, or heirs to the owners, would have a right in American courts to pursue justice.

In recognition of the Nazi government’s deliberate campaign to steal artwork and other cultural property from its victims, H.R. 6130 rightfully ensures victims are given a chance to have their day in court to pursue justice.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes and 36 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6130, the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act. This legislation will help restore artwork and heritage stolen by the Nazis during the Holocaust to the rightful owners or heirs.

I was proud to join Chairman GOODLATTE in introducing this bill, and I appreciate his efforts in moving it forward.

In addition to their crimes of genocide and mass murder, the Nazis engaged in comprehensive, systemic theft of art and property mostly, but not entirely, from Jews all across Europe. The scope of their theft was massive, and the damaging effects remain with us today, with victims still seeking justice and some form of compensation.

Nearly 20 years ago, in 1998, the United States brought together 44 nations to produce a set of principles on Nazi confiscated art. They agreed that steps should be taken expeditiously to achieve a just and fair solution to the outstanding claims.

In 2009, the United States joined 45 other nations in Prague to issue what was known as the Terezin Declaration, which reaffirmed these principles.

Unfortunately, today, 71 years after the defeat of the Nazis and the liberation of Europe, many American victims are still unable to pursue their claims in court because of restrictive statutes of limitations in the States. These laws generally require a claimant to bring a case within a limited number of years from when the loss occurred or should

have been discovered; but in many instances, the information required to file a claim regarding artwork stolen by the Nazis was not brought to light until many years later, forcing courts to dismiss cases before they could be judged on the merits. In some cases, the law would have required a claim to be brought even before World War II ended. This is obviously unjust.

Some States have attempted to make an exception to their statutes of limitations to accommodate these claims, but such efforts have been ruled unconstitutional, as an infringement on the Federal Government’s exclusive authority over foreign affairs. Federal legislation, therefore, is needed to bring justice to this area.

This bill would set a uniform 6-year Federal statute of limitations for the claims of Nazi-confiscated art from the time that the identity and location of the artwork and the ownership interests of the claimant are actually discovered. It would also restore the claims of those claimants whose cases were dismissed previously because of a statute of limitations.

This bill would finally ensure that the rightful owners and their decedents can have their claims properly adjudicated.

I thank Ronald Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, for his determined efforts to see that this issue is resolved; and Chairman GOODLATTE for working with me and our colleagues to bring this legislation forward.

While no legislation or act of contrition will ever reverse the many horrors committed by the Nazis, one thing we can do is establish a fair judicial process so that some victims can achieve some small measure of justice.

Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support for this legislation.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers and I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the carrier of the spirit of Congresswoman Barbara Jordan.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the manager, Mr. COHEN; the chairman of the committee; both sponsors; the lead sponsor, Mr. NADLER of New York; and I thank the ranking member, Mr. CONYERS.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 6130, the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016. I am very grateful that my colleagues have brought this to the attention of the House. This important legislation tries to bring some remedy and solace to a devastating era of genocide, the Holocaust. It provides the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and genocide and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis, and there were many.

People wishing to claim ownership of art lost or confiscated during the Holocaust would have the proper time necessary to do so under H.R. 6130. The bill would apply to art and other antiquities, such as books, that were stolen from Jewish people and other persecuted groups by the German Nazi regime from 1933 to 1945.

In the times that I visited Israel, I have spent much time in the Holocaust Museum, as I have spent time in the Holocaust exhibit and tribute here in Washington, and our own Holocaust Museum in Houston, Texas.

I have been on the advisory board of the Holocaust Museum in Houston, Texas, and have participated in the Holocaust ceremonies here.

This is a very important legal remedy. While the United States is a signatory of the 2009 Terezin Declaration, which states legal systems can facilitate claims of ownership of items lost during the Holocaust, the claims of potential owners in the U.S. have, however, faced barriers because of State statutes of limitation, which in some cases would have expired even before the end of World War II.

Under this legislation, individuals would have as much as 6 years from the time they discover the identity and location of a piece of art or other property or learned that they may have ownership of such art or property to file an ownership claim.

The bill's findings would express the sense of Congress that setting one Federal statute of limitations will allow claims to be settled through alternative dispute resolution methods that will produce more just and fair outcomes.

The actual bottom line of this legislation, as we were able to see in the Academy Award-winning actress in the film "Woman in Gold," which many of us saw, is that it is a fair and just relief for those so persecuted.

What more can be taken from you—your life, your liberty, your lost loved ones—and then those special artifacts, antiquities that would bring back the memories of your family and your history?

This legislation is well needed. It is a relief for those who are in pain. I support and ask my colleagues to support the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6130, the "Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016".

I thank our colleague, Chairman GOODLATTE for his work in guiding this legislation through the people's House.

This legislation provides the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and genocide and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.

People wishing to claim ownership of art lost or confiscated during the Holocaust would have the proper time necessary to do so under H.R. 6130.

The bill would apply to art and other antiquities, such as books, that were stolen from Jewish people and other persecuted groups by the German Nazi regime from 1933 to 1945.

While the United States is a signatory of the 2009 Terezin Declaration, which urged legal systems can facilitate claims of ownership of items lost during the Holocaust, the claims of potential owners in the U.S. have, however, faced barriers because of state statutes of limitation, which in some cases would have expired even before the end of World War II.

In a 2009 case, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that a law in California that sought to extend the statute of limitations for Holocaust art recovery infringed on federal authority over foreign affairs.

Under this legislation, individuals would have as many as six years from the time they discovered the identity and location of a piece of art or other property, or learned that they may have ownership of such art or property, to file an ownership claim.

The bill's findings would express the sense of Congress that setting one federal statute of limitations will allow claims to be settled through alternative dispute resolution methods that will produce more just and fair outcomes.

Pre-existing claims would be considered discovered on the date of the bill's enactment, including claims that had previously been barred by federal or state statutes of limitation.

While we can never erase the horrors of the Holocaust from human history, we can do our part to bring these treasures back to the families of those who suffered and sacrificed so much during that dark time.

I join the American Society of Appraisers, B'nai B'rith International, the Federal Bar Association, the World Jewish Congress, and the World Jewish Restitution Organization in supporting this important legislation.

Academy Award-winning actress Helen Mirren, who starred in the 2015 film "Woman in Gold," about the real life Maria Altmann's fight to reclaim a painting taken from her family during this horrific atrocity, has pledged her support as well, testifying on behalf of companion bi-partisan legislation introduced in the Senate Judiciary Committee by the Senior Senator from Texas, my friend JOHN CORNYN.

We know there are many cases that still cry out for justice.

For 75 years, since the start of World War II, these unremedied claims have seared festering wounds into the lives of brave survivors and their families.

This legislation will finally allow us to celebrate the heirlooms and artifacts of varied heritage that stitch together the diversity of American culture with the thread of age-old and integral property rights we still cherish today.

The legislation before us is intended to help us remove that stain once and for all.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

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

This legislation is supported by many, including the American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith International, the Commission for Art Recovery, the World Jewish Congress, the World Jew-

ish Restitution Organization, and the Association of Art Museum Directors.

I do applaud Chairman GOODLATTE and Mr. NADLER for their work on this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Just kind of parenthetically, I watched a movie called "Race," which was put out last fall, about Jesse Owens. It was a movie about the 1936 Olympics and how Hitler didn't want him to participate and how there were two Jewish runners who were supposed to participate and they were scratched by our American Olympic chairman because he didn't want the Jewish men to run in front of Hitler and win—because they would have—and the Americans won by a large amount of space and time, and that was not allowed.

Things that happened there should never be forgotten. Elie Wiesel was remembered at the Holocaust Museum recently, after he passed earlier this year. He told us that we can never forget, and we always should bear witness.

We should bear witness and remember and try to do justice for the victims of the Holocaust, as we should to the people who have been disenfranchised and damaged and hurt by our periods of Jim Crow and slavery. Keep us attuned and aware and alert.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, this is important legislation. I commend my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, as well as Members on this side of the aisle, for their bipartisan spirit in passing this.

This will only do a small thing relative to trying to right the wrongs of the history of the Nazi regime, but it is an important step in that process. I strongly support the bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6130, the "Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016."

This bill creates a new uniform Federal 6-year statute of limitations for Nazi-stolen artwork and other cultural property and would allow Nazi-era stolen art claims currently barred by existing statutes of limitations to proceed in court. It also makes clear that the statute of limitations begins only after a claimant makes an actual discovery of his or her claim to artwork of disputed provenance.

Victims of Nazi theft of artwork deserve access to the courts so that they can try to get some justice for the wrongs committed against them. This bill is critical to giving them that chance. The Nazis were notorious for, among other things, stealing hundreds of thousands of artworks from Europe during their reign of terror in the 1930s and 1940s, in what has been described as the greatest displacement of art in human history.

The American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith International, and the Association of Art Museum Directors, among others, support this bill.

While nothing we do can ever fully compensate victims of the Nazis, we can at least take this modest step towards helping those victims get some measure of restitution.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6130.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2028, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 612, GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-849) on the resolution (H. Res. 949) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 612) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse", which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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KEVIN AND AVONTE'S LAW OF 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4919) to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4919

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016".

TITLE I—MISSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Missing Americans Alert Program Act of 2016".

SEC. 102. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MISSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181) is amended—

(1) in the section header, by striking "ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT" and inserting "AMERICANS"; and

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a) GRANT PROGRAM TO REDUCE INJURY AND DEATH OF MISSING AMERICANS WITH DEMENTIA AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.—Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, the Attorney General, through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services—

"(1) shall award competitive grants to health care agencies, State and local law enforcement agencies, or public safety agencies and nonprofit organizations to assist such entities in planning, designing, establishing, or operating locally based, proactive programs to prevent wandering and locate missing individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer's Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism, who, due to their condition, wander from safe environments, including programs that—

"(A) provide prevention and response information, including online training resources, and referrals to families or guardians of such individuals who, due to their condition, wander from a safe environment;

"(B) provide education and training, including online training resources, to first responders, school personnel, clinicians, and the public in order to—

"(i) increase the safety and reduce the incidence of wandering of persons, who, due to their dementia or developmental disabilities, may wander from safe environments;

"(ii) facilitate the rescue and recovery of individuals who, due to their dementia or developmental disabilities, wander from safe environments; and

"(iii) recognize and respond to and appropriately interact with endangered missing individuals with dementia or developmental disabilities who, due to their condition, wander from safe environments;

"(C) provide prevention and response training and emergency protocols for school administrators, staff, and families or guardians of individuals with dementia, such as Alzheimer's Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism, to help reduce the risk of wandering by such individuals; and

"(D) develop, operate, or enhance a notification or communications systems for alerts, advisories, or dissemination of other information for the recovery of missing individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer's Disease, or with developmental disabilities, such as autism; and

"(2) shall award grants to health care agencies, State and local law enforcement agencies, or public safety agencies to assist such agencies in designing, establishing, and operating locative tracking technology programs for individuals with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer's Disease, or children with developmental disabilities, such as autism, who have wandered from safe environments.";

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting "competitive" after "to receive a";

(B) by inserting "agency or" before "organization" each place it appears; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: "The Attorney General shall periodically solicit applications for grants under this section by publishing a request for applications in the Federal Register and by posting such a request on the website of the Department of Justice."; and

(4) by striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the following:

"(c) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under subsection (a)(1), the Attorney General shall give preference to law enforcement or public safety agencies that partner with nonprofit organizations that appropriately use person-centered plans minimizing restrictive interventions and that have a direct link to individuals, and families of individuals, with forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer's Disease, or developmental disabilities, such as autism.

"(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

"(e) GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.—All grants awarded by the Attorney General under this section shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

"(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

"(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'unresolved audit finding' means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that the audited grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued.

"(B) AUDITS.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this section to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

"(C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this section that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this section during the first 2 fiscal years beginning after the end of the 12-month period described in subparagraph (A).

"(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible applicants that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this section.

"(E) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an entity is awarded grant funds under this section during the 2-fiscal-year period during which the entity is barred from receiving grants under subparagraph (C), the Attorney General shall—

"(i) deposit an amount equal to the amount of the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

"(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

"(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

"(A) DEFINITION OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—For purposes of this paragraph and the grant programs under this part, the term 'nonprofit organization' means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of

the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

“(B) PROHIBITION.—The Attorney General may not award a grant under this part to a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(C) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a grant under this section and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees, and key employees, shall disclose to the Attorney General, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Attorney General shall make the information disclosed under this subparagraph available for public inspection.

“(3) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.—

“(A) LIMITATION.—No amounts made available to the Department of Justice under this section may be used by the Attorney General, or by any individual or entity awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this section, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than \$20,000 in funds made available by the Department of Justice, unless the head of the relevant agency or department, provides prior written authorization that the funds may be expended to host the conference.

“(B) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food, beverages, audio-visual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and entertainment.

“(C) REPORT.—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all conference expenditures approved under this paragraph.

“(4) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall submit, to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, an annual certification—

“(A) indicating whether—

“(i) all audits issued by the Office of the Inspector General under paragraph (1) have been completed and reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Attorney General or Director;

“(ii) all mandatory exclusions required under paragraph (1)(C) have been issued; and

“(iii) all reimbursements required under paragraph (1)(E) have been made; and

“(B) that includes a list of any grant recipients excluded under paragraph (1) from the previous year.

“(f) PREVENTING DUPLICATIVE GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the Attorney General awards a grant to an applicant under this section, the Attorney General shall compare potential grant awards with other grants awarded by the Attorney General to determine if grant awards are or have been awarded for a similar purpose.

“(2) REPORT.—If the Attorney General awards grants to the same applicant for a

similar purpose the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

“(A) a list of all such grants awarded, including the total dollar amount of any such grants awarded; and

“(B) the reason the Attorney General awarded multiple grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose.”

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and every year thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the Missing Americans Alert Program, as amended by subsection (a), which shall address—

(1) the number of individuals who benefited from the Missing Americans Alert Program, including information such as the number of individuals with reduced unsafe wandering, the number of people who were trained through the program, and the estimated number of people who were impacted by the program;

(2) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that applied for funding under the Missing Americans Alert Program;

(3) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that received funding under the Missing Americans Alert Program, including—

(A) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that used such funding for training; and

(B) the number of State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies that used such funding for designing, establishing, or operating locative tracking technology;

(4) the companies, including the location (city and State) of the headquarters and local offices of each company, for which their locative tracking technology was used by State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies;

(5) the nonprofit organizations, including the location (city and State) of the headquarters and local offices of each organization, that State, local, and tribal law enforcement or public safety agencies partnered with and the result of each partnership;

(6) the number of missing children with autism or another developmental disability with wandering tendencies or adults with Alzheimer’s being served by the program who went missing and the result of the search for each such individual; and

(7) any recommendations for improving the Missing Americans Alert Program.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 2 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 is amended by striking the item relating to section 240001 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 240001. Missing Americans Alert Program.”

TITLE II—EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

SEC. 201. ACTIVITIES BY THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.

Section 404(b)(1)(H) of the Missing Children’s Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5773(b)(1)(H)) is amended by inserting “, including cases involving children with developmental disabilities such as autism” before the semicolon.

TITLE III—PRIVACY PROTECTIONS

SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CHILD.—The term “child” means an individual who is less than 18 years of age.

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given that term in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)).

(3) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term “law enforcement agency” means an agency of a State, unit of local government, or Indian tribe that is authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

(4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(5) UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “unit of local government” means a county, municipality, town, township, village, parish, borough, or other unit of general government below the State level.

(6) NON-INVASIVE AND NON-PERMANENT.—The term “non-invasive and non-permanent” means, with regard to any technology or device, that the procedure to install the technology or device does not create an external or internal marker or implant a device or other trackable items.

SEC. 302. STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR USE OF NON-INVASIVE AND NON-PERMANENT TRACKING DEVICES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and leading research, advocacy, self-advocacy, and service organizations, shall establish standards and best practices relating to the use of non-invasive and non-permanent tracking technology, where a guardian or parent, in consultation with the individual’s health care provider, has determined that a non-invasive and non-permanent tracking device is the least restrictive alternative, to locate individuals as described in subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing the standards and best practices required under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall—

(A) determine—

(i) the criteria used to determine which individuals would benefit from the use of a tracking device;

(ii) the criteria used to determine who should have direct access to the tracking system; and

(iii) which non-invasive and non-permanent types of tracking devices can be used in compliance with the standards and best practices; and

(B) establish standards and best practices the Attorney General determines are necessary to the administration of a tracking system, including procedures to—

(i) safeguard the privacy of the data used by the tracking device such that—

(I) access to the data is restricted to law enforcement and health agencies determined necessary by the Attorney General; and

(II) collection, use, and retention of the data is solely for the purpose of preventing injury or death to the patient assigned the tracking device or caused by the patient assigned the tracking device;

(ii) establish criteria to determine whether use of the tracking device is the least restrictive alternative in order to prevent risk of injury or death before issuing the tracking device, including the previous consideration of less restrictive alternatives;

(iii) provide training for law enforcement agencies to recognize signs of abuse during interactions with applicants for tracking devices;

(iv) protect the civil rights and liberties of the individuals who use tracking devices, including their rights under the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(v) establish a complaint and investigation process to address—

(I) incidents of noncompliance by recipients of grants under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act, with the best practices established by the Attorney General or other applicable law; and

(II) use of a tracking device over the objection of an individual; and

(vi) determine the role that State agencies should have in the administration of a tracking system.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The standards and best practices established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall take effect 90 days after publication of such standards and practices by the Attorney General, unless Congress enacts a joint resolution disapproving of the standards and practices.

(b) REQUIRED COMPLIANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each entity that receives a grant under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act, shall comply with any standards and best practices relating to the use of tracking devices established by the Attorney General in accordance with subsection (a).

(2) DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall determine whether an entity that receives a grant under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act, acts in compliance with the requirement described in paragraph (1).

(c) APPLICABILITY OF STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES.—The standards and best practices established by the Attorney General under subsection (a) shall apply only to the grant programs authorized under subsection (a)(2) of section 240001 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14181), as added by this Act.

(d) LIMITATIONS ON PROGRAM.—

(1) DATA STORAGE.—Any tracking data provided by tracking devices issued under this program may not be used by a Federal entity to create a database.

(2) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Nothing in this Act may be construed to require that a parent or guardian use a tracking device to monitor the location of a child or adult under that parent or guardian's supervision if the parent or guardian does not believe that the use of such device is necessary or in the interest of the child or adult under supervision.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 401. NO FUNDS AUTHORIZED FOR BYRNE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOVATION PROGRAM.

For fiscal year 2017, no funds are authorized to be appropriated for an Edward Byrne

Memorial criminal justice innovation program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I am inquiring whether anyone is in opposition to the bill. If not, I would like to claim the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would inquire if the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is opposed to the bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I support the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas will control 20 minutes in opposition to the bill.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4919, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that 60 percent of the 5.3 million individuals with Alzheimer's disease and 49 percent of children with autism are susceptible to wandering or leaving safe areas and the protection of a responsible caregiver. The results of wandering can be devastating to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and children with developmental disabilities.

The legislation we are considering today is named in honor of two boys with autism who wandered away from their caregivers and tragically drowned. The special circumstances surrounding cases of wandering individuals are circumstances that people in local communities such as first responders and school personnel are often not specifically trained to handle.

The cost to local communities for a search for a missing person is extremely expensive, even in instances where the local law enforcement agency is trained. That is why we are considering Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016. It reauthorizes the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program and broadens the program to protect children with autism.

This legislation authorizes DOJ to make grants to law enforcement agencies, public safety agencies, and nonprofit organizations to provide educational wandering prevention programming to families and caretakers

of individuals who wander, as well as training to first responders and school personnel to facilitate rescue and recovery.

The bill also enables parents and caregivers to apply for voluntary, noninvasive tracking technology that can be used to help locate a person who has wandered away from the care and safety of his or her home. While these devices are already in widespread use, there are many families that simply can't afford them. The result is oftentimes an expensive search borne by State and local enforcement agencies that all too frequently results in tragic consequences.

We have worked hard to address the privacy concerns that some have raised about this bill. The updated language makes it explicitly clear that this is a completely voluntary program, that all tracking devices must be noninvasive, and that the Federal Government may not store location data related to the devices.

Finally, we make it clear that such devices are only to be recommended where they are the least restrictive alternative. American communities are safer when they are equipped with the training to prevent tragedies from happening. This legislation will assist communities in receiving valuable education on how to prevent individuals with Alzheimer's disease and children with autism from wandering and to respond quickly and appropriately in cases in which they do. I urge all Members to support this important legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise, but I actually do so with a heavy heart. The level of respect I have for the people involved in this bill is really off the charts. These are wonderful people. I appreciate their mental clarity, their intellect, and their big hearts all involved in pushing this legislation in Congress. I can't attribute motive outside Congress, but in Congress, I know it is with the best of intentions and best of hearts.

When we start a Federal program, things that will be only temporary—things that were going to be only temporary come to mind like the income tax, and it was going to be small and temporary. Well, it is still going on, and it has gotten bigger. I have read the bill, and I want to thank the people involved. I have ultimate respect for both Chairman GOODLATTE and my friend CHRIS SMITH. I just couldn't have stronger feelings for people. And my friend across the aisle, it would surprise some people, but we get along quite well, and I appreciate the care she has for people.

Though there have been provisions added—there have been changes made to try to deal with some of the concerns that people like me have had—it

is still a problem. If you look at page 21, the last page of the bill, it has this language added: "Voluntary participation. Nothing in this Act may be construed to require that a parent or guardian use a tracking device to monitor the location of a child or adult under that parent or guardian's supervision if the parent or guardian does not believe the use of such device is necessary."

Frankly, I looked at making a provision like that and asking that it be in the bill, and then I realized: Wait a minute. There are back doors. There are things the Attorney General could do that could satisfy the language we have for "voluntary." Okay. No, the parent or guardian won't have to do that or monitor that, but we have the system in place. It is a Federal system.

So now we have the capability to monitor and track people so, you know, gee, this person is a problem. The definition of who could have this procedure or implement used is, as we are told, people with Alzheimer's, people with autism, people who may wander off or, and the words are, a developmental disability. Well, developmental disability, that is a severe or chronic disability of an individual 5 years or older that is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of those. And so then we get over into the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, and we have seen the evolution of the DSM through 1, 2, 3—major changes at 3—4, 5. Personality disorders like antisocial disorder were once called sociopath or psychopath, but there is an argument that they are a developmental disorder, and they are chronic for so many people.

So then you begin to see, well, we don't have a very tight definition of what a developmentally disabled person is, and we look to the bill, and of course in trying to make this bill broader so it would include autism and other developmental disabilities, we see, on page 2, in the section header, we want to make clear this isn't just Alzheimer's disease patients so we insert the word "Americans," which is a little broader than "Alzheimer's disease patient."

Again, that is in the header, so it is not necessarily language, and people like me that have had to review language as a judge or a chief justice and write opinions on what words mean, how they apply to these circumstances, I see where this goes. We will have a Federal tracking program, but it is only for people with Alzheimer's or autism that wander off. Well, yeah, or developmental disabilities, and that is pretty far reaching where we go with that. But it is just a mental health issue and it is a physical issue because we know—and I know this is what has driven my friend supporting this bill, we have had people wander off and be found dead. All of us have seen stories like that.

The question is: Is it the job of the Federal Government to start a tracking program? And since it is mental disease, obviously the person who would be in charge of such a wonderful program that would help us track people with Alzheimer's, autism, or other developmental disability, it would be the Secretary of Health and Human Services. But wait. The bill gives the authority to the Attorney General of the United States. We are talking Department of Justice.

It does say a couple of places the AG will get with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and collaborate, but ultimately these decisions are the decisions of the Attorney General. The Attorney General will make the call. The bill specifically says that the Attorney General will also, basically, make all the rules and regulations with regard to this tracking system. And then it also says that the Attorney General will formulate the "best practices." So maybe to me or someone in this body, developmental disability would mean one thing, and we do have definition in Federal law, but there, too, it is quite broad.

I so much appreciate the insertion of the word "noninvasive" for the tracking device or system, and nonpermanent. Well, I know tattoos are nonpermanent if you go through what I understand is a pretty painful process. I had felony judge friends who would order people to have tattoos removed, so I guess you could say those were nonpermanent. But when you look at definitions of what noninvasive is—and I don't find it in the bill. Perhaps it is somewhere in Federal law. But even then, you have the word "noninvasive" subject to interpretation. Whose interpretation? The Attorney General, the Department of Justice's head, to make the determination of what is noninvasive.

A definition in medicine, this or some similar are often used, that noninvasive would be a process that does not violate the integrity of the mucocutaneous barriers. Well, if you insert a chip just above the subcutaneous barriers, would that be noninvasive? If you go a little bit under the subcutaneous barriers, would that be noninvasive? Well, there is only one way to find out, and that is once the Attorney General formulates the regulations and the best practices, then we find out what is actually noninvasive.

There is a procedure, and this indicates the people who prepared this bill—and I am not being sarcastic. They were really trying to figure out a way to protect an overoppressive government. You have to have a procedure of appeal, and the Attorney General will help set that up. If you have a complaint, you think something is not being done properly, well, the Attorney General is going to help create the

rules that allow you to complain or appeal on that.

□ 1815

Oh, and by the way, I never wanted to be in a football, basketball, or baseball game—and I love all those sports and played them all—but I never wanted to be in the game where the referee is the one that wrote the rules for our league, because they didn't yield and their opinion was better than the rules on the page, no matter what the page said. So the Attorney General can tell us what he really meant or she really meant.

Voluntary, I appreciate that part, but we have a Federal tracking system and it says here in the bill it is to prevent violence or injury or even death to one's self, to the person, or injury to someone else.

Now, why would this be a concern today, other than the fact that we have seen reports come out of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Department of Homeland Security who think that people who deny manmade climate change are committing, basically, a law against nature. They are violating a law against nature.

We see now where there are people who just put in your search engine religious beliefs, mental disorders, and you will have all kinds of investigations come up. There are people in this government, like those in the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that think that those who claim to be Christians and use code words like 'religious liberty,' that that is code for Islamophobia, homophobia, xenophobia, not understanding that a true Christian is basing their beliefs and their trust in Jesus Christ, who is love incarnate.

Nonetheless, we have government officials that think that religious beliefs are a problem, and that the even bigger problem is, if you are a veteran—that is what Homeland Security has said—and you believe in the strict interpretation of the words on the pages of the Constitution, that makes you a bigger threat.

So when we are talking about terms that we have seen change over the years, we have seen the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual have massive change. Why? Sometimes it is because medicine, psychology, or psychiatry has made great discoveries and improvements, and sometimes it is because one group has a better lobbying group than others.

Mr. Speaker, by the way, other good language here is that none of the money can be used for conferences that may cost more than \$20,000, unless they do certain things. Another good provision is that none of the money may be used to create a Federal database, but the money will be used for State, local, nonprofit organizations.

I can't find anything that says that we in the Federal Government cannot

fund State and local databases of individuals that have developmental disabilities such as they are too religious and, therefore, they are deemed to have a developmental disability, antisocial personalities. It is just too open and there are too many loopholes.

I like the idea; and the more I thought about it, the more I read the language, the more I saw the open loopholes that could result in a Federal tracking system that George Orwell would have been embarrassed about.

So, with brotherly and appeared appreciation for those pursuing this bill out of the best of intentions—just wanting to stop death and harm to one's self because you have autism, Alzheimer's—Mr. Speaker, I humbly submit this is a dangerous door for any government to open, a door that Orwell would have warned about.

People told me, well, gee, there is ink that you can use in a tattoo that can be tracked. I don't know. It is a door that we should not open at the Federal level to begin a program of tracking, no matter whether it is State or local officials that have the database and we get it and look at it or what.

So I hope that the bill doesn't pass and we can work together to find ways to help those who cannot help themselves.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 17 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding and let me thank the sponsor of this bill.

Five minutes certainly will not be enough time to refute my good friend from Texas, but let me start by saying to my colleagues that this bill is about saving lives. Let me say it again. It is squarely, on its face, simply about saving lives.

I support this bipartisan measure because it addresses an urgent need, one with which I have had firsthand experience. As a Member of the United States Congress, I take great concern, as we all do, with the individual lives of our constituents. I have had at least two occasions to deal with missing adults whose families have been in pain. Those adults have been missing because of dementia or Alzheimer's. Out of their plight, we have sought law enforcement to be of help to look for these loved ones.

This bill would amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize and expand the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program. Across our Na-

tion, there are millions of children who suffer from autism or mental developmental disorders, as well as individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.

What is the crux of this bill? A few years ago, Congresswoman WATERS and myself introduced amendments to the Elder Justice Act and Elder Abuse Victims Act, which reauthorized and expanded the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program's key provisions.

The Department of Justice program supports the use of new technologies to help local communities and law enforcement officials quickly locate and identify people with Alzheimer's disease who wander or are missing and reunite them with their families, providing vital assistance to a vulnerable population.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it is about saving lives. We know, in 2016, one in nine older Americans have Alzheimer's disease; 6 in 10 people with dementia will wander. Alzheimer's was the sixth leading cause of death in 2013 in Texas alone.

As it relates to children and autism, nearly half of the children with autism engage in wandering behavior. More than one-third of children with autism who wander are never or rarely able to communicate their name, address, or phone number. Accidental drowning accounts for approximately 90 percent of lethal outcomes as relate to children with autism who wander.

Let me speak specifically to the legislation before us and answer the concerns. There is no evidence in this bill that any invasive activity will occur. No chip will be put in an adult or a child who is suffering either from autism as a child—a wanderer—or an adult.

It clearly says that this is a collaboration between the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, who will only focus on leading research advocacy, self-advocacy, and service organizations to help establish standards and best practices relating to the use of noninvasive, nonpermanent tracking technology where the guardian or parent, in consultation with the individual's healthcare provider, has determined that a noninvasive and nonpermanent tracking device is the least restrictive alternative to locate individuals. Nothing will occur, Mr. Speaker, to any loved ones without the permission of that loved one's guardian or parent, and it is only to be able to save lives. The Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services will have no further input, other than to make sure that whatever is utilized is noninvasive, best practices, and will do no harm.

What is the role of the Federal Government? It is to solve problems. We are attempting to come here today for

the loved ones all over America. Meet the family of an autistic child—a loving child, a loving family. They know that is a talented and wonderful, beautiful child, but they have a tendency to wander.

Come, for example, and stand in the shoes of a family in Houston, Texas. During a wonderful holiday season, the Thanksgiving season, a time of joy and family gathering, a beautiful little 9-year-old boy walked out of the house. They said he may have his iPad with him, he may have his earphones, he might not have any shoes on, but don't call his name, don't bother to chase him, because the likelihood is he will run away from you.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Texas an additional 1 minute.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Just think, if there had been that acceptable tracking device, noninvasive.

Mr. Speaker, I am as concerned about privacy as my good friend from Texas. We have sat on the Judiciary Committee together and we have supported, first, when we were dealing with the issues of terrorism after 9/11, the PATRIOT Act. We came together. We were standing strong against the invasiveness that violates the privacy of the American people and violates the Constitution. This is not that case.

There are families out there who are suffering the loss of their loved ones, whether it is an elderly person or whether it is that beautiful, young child who happens to be autistic, who is in a world of their own and who decided to wander. Just think of the wonderful device that would help save lives.

I ask my colleagues to vote on this bill as a lifesaving bill that needs the love and affection of every Member of Congress to give love and affection to those families that are suffering and need our help. We are problem solvers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4919, the "Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016," as amended.

I support this bipartisan measure because it addresses an urgent need. The bill would amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize and expand the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program.

Across our Nation, there are millions of children who suffer from autism or mental developmental disorders as well as individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.

These children and adults are often at serious risk of injury or even death when they wander away from their caregivers. In many cases, they are disoriented and unable to seek help for themselves. They may not even remember their name or where they live. Worse yet, they can be seriously injured or worse.

This bill, in fact, is named for two young boys—Kevin and Avonte—who died tragically after wandering away from their caregivers.

To address this problem, H.R. 4919 would significantly improve the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program in several significant respects.

First, the bill would expand the scope of the Program to authorize grants to locally based organizations to fund initiatives, activities, and services related to children with autism and developmental disabilities.

Second, the bill would authorize grants for the development and operation of location tracking services in appropriate circumstances.

H.R. 4919 also expands the grant program authorized by the Missing Children's Assistance Act specifically for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to provide technical assistance and training in cases involving children with developmental disorders.

Although H.R. 4919 expands the existing grant system and renames it as the Missing Americans Alert Program, the central purpose of the Program will remain the same.

Grants would continue to be provided to the many agencies and organizations that protect and locate missing individuals suffering from disorders that result in wandering with the goal of reducing incidences of wandering and the resultant risk of injury and death.

To ensure these efforts are done effectively, prevent abuse with respect to any use of tracking technology, and protect privacy interests, the bill establishes standards and best practices.

While H.R. 4919 will help address an important issue, I am concerned that the suspension version of the bill will reduce the authorization for funding for another grant program in order to satisfy the "cut-go" requirements of the Majority.

I do not see the need to reduce the authorization for one good program to fund another, and I hope we will be able to address this issue as we work with the Senate on final legislation for enactment.

Nevertheless, H.R. 4919 overall is an important measure that will provide real assistance to those who are among the most vulnerable in our society.

As this Congress comes to a close, I am pleased that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have worked together in a spirit of compromise to address a critical issue that unfortunately affects so many Americans.

It is my hope that this spirit of cooperation will continue into the next Congress, particularly in the area of criminal justice reform.

I am pleased to support H.R. 4919 because this bill would reauthorize and expand the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program and authorize grants to establish and operate programs that provide location tracking services for children with autism or other developmental and adults with Alzheimer's or dementia—something I have long advocated for and worked to make law.

Thousands of adults and children go missing each year.

While we must be concerned for all individuals who go missing, adults and children, with mental deficiencies or disabilities, require more particularized consideration due to their vulnerability.

Adults who suffer from Alzheimer's or dementia and children with autism spectrum disorders, or other developmental disorders, are prone to wander away from safe places.

A study published this year by researchers at Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York reported that more than 250,000 school-age children with autism or other developmental disorders wander away from adult supervision each year.

The National Crime Information Center reported that, between 2011 and 2015, roughly 16–17 percent of adults reported missing suffered from a mental or physical disability or senility.

When these individuals wander away, they are oftentimes at great risk of serious injury or even death.

This bill is named for two children who wandered away and drowned.

Sadly, each one of us has a similar story about a constituent.

I have pushed so hard for this type of legislation so that we do not have to tell more stories like the one of Mr. Sammy Kirk, a native of Houston, whose family called me for help in locating him.

Mr. Kirk was 76 years old and suffered from dementia when he wandered away.

His family searched for him for days to no avail.

In their desperation, they called on me to lend my services to them to help find him.

We searched together for Mr. Kirk for three days and nights.

When we found him, he had succumbed to dehydration.

His body lay alongside a bayou, many miles away from his home.

I have advocated for so long, along with my colleague, Rep. MAXINE WATERS, in attempting to establish a pilot program during the 109th and 110th Congresses to provide voluntary electronic monitoring services to elderly individuals to assist in locating such individuals when they are reported missing.

Mr. Kirk and many others might have been saved if such a program already existed.

The need for individual location tracking is just as critical as it was in 2008, when I and Congresswoman WATERS offered amendments to several bills providing for such programs, including the Elder Justice Act and the Elder Abuse Victims Act.

I am pleased that the key provisions of the Jackson Lee-Waters Amendments have been incorporated into the bill before us today.

More than 5 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease and 1 in 68 children has an autism spectrum disorder.

Almost half of wandering Alzheimer's patients will be seriously injured or die if they are not found within 24 hours of their departure.

Like their older counterparts, almost half of autistic children are expected to wander away from their caregivers.

Several studies predict that many of these children will be at risk of drowning or sustaining a traffic injury.

The number of citizens suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia, autism, or developmental disorders is expected to grow rapidly and exponentially.

The time has come for us to offer all that we have available to prevent any more stories like that of Kevin Curtis Wills, or Avonte Oquendo, Mr. Sammy Kirk, or just as recently as this Thanksgiving holiday, Marcus McGhee.

Let us focus our efforts on assisting state and local governments in the development of

alert systems and technology to protect some of our most vulnerable constituents and locate them, if the time ever comes.

This bill would provide for a host of entities and measures that work together to protect, locate, and recover loved ones, including education and training.

This bill would also expand the grants that can be awarded to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to provide technical assistance and training in the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases to also include children with developmental disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see this bill before us today.

It is a good piece of legislation that responds to a need that has reached a tipping point.

I am concerned about the cutting of funds for the Byrne Innovation program for 2017, however the Continuing Resolution will provide funding until April 2017.

CHILDREN WITH AUTISM FACT SHEET

Autism is one of the fastest-growing developmental disorders in the U.S.

Nearly half of children with autism engage in wandering behavior.

More than 1/3 of children with autism who wander are never or rarely able to communicate their name, address or phone number.

Accidental drowning accounts for approximately 90% of lethal outcomes among children with autism who wander.

Other dangers include dehydration; heat stroke; hypothermia; traffic injuries; falls; physical restraint encounters with a stranger.

After intellectual disabilities, autism is the most common developmental disorder.

A white child with autism is almost 3 times more likely to receive an accurate diagnosis of autism on their first visit to a specialist, than a black child.

Children diagnosed as early as 18 months to 3 years have the benefit of preschool intervention programs in their most formative years.

The average African-American child with autism is not diagnosed until they are 5 years old.

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control released a 2016 report, announcing an increase in autism from one child in 88 to one in 42.

Autism costs a family \$60,000 a year on average.

Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism.

Half of families report they have never received advice or guidance about elopement from a professional.

AMERICANS WITH ALZHEIMER'S FACT SHEET

In 2016, 1 in 9 older Americans had Alzheimer's disease.

6 in 10 people with dementia will wander. Alzheimer's was the 6th leading cause of death in 2013 in Texas.

Of the 5.4 million Americans with Alzheimer's, an estimated 5.2 million people are age 65 and older, and approximately 200,000 individuals are under age 65 (younger-onset Alzheimer's).

Almost 2/3 of Americans with Alzheimer's were women in 2014.

Among people age 70, 61% of those with Alzheimer's are expected to die before the age of 80 compared with 30% of people with Alzheimer's—a rate twice as high.

In 2015, 15.9 million family and friends provided 18.1 billion hours of unpaid care to

those with Alzheimer's and other dementias—an estimated \$221.3 billion.

In 2016, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost the nation \$236 billion.

Studies have shown that early diagnosis and the creation of a stimulating and supportive environment can be beneficial in slowing the progression of Alzheimer's.

In addition to looking for a cure, researchers are focusing more and more on supporting the caregivers who spend upwards of 13 hours a day caring for loved ones.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. GOODLATTE, for his enormous efforts and those of his staff to, out of an abundance of caution, address some of the issues that were raised by my friend from Texas. I don't think some of his concerns were included or at risk in the bill, but we clarified and made very clear about voluntary participation and the issue of noninvasiveness and nonpermanent, which is now clearly defined in the legislation. So it is an improvement. Mr. GOODLATTE was the one who came up with that language. The language that deals with the collection, use, and retention of data is solely for the purpose of preventing injury or death to the patient.

Mr. Speaker, in the year 2000, I co-founded two caucuses: the Autism Caucus and the Alzheimer's Caucus. I wrote three laws on autism, including the most recent Autism CARES Act, which not only provides \$1.3 billion for autism and research at NIH, CDC, and HRSA, but also looks at the aging out issue.

Law enforcement is not ready to deal with severely autistic children who, when you approach them, need a certain approach so that they don't react violently, especially if they have a sense of threat.

As my good friend and colleague from Virginia, the distinguished chairman said, about 50 percent of autistic children wander. We know at least 100 children since 2011 have died. The bill is named after two of them who drowned.

□ 1830

A benign tracking device that is noninvasive, there is no collection or use other than for the prevention of injury or death, and, of course, there is no national storage. If you ask, I say to my colleagues, your local sheriffs, your law enforcement about the lifesaving program, some have it, some don't. Within about one-half hour of an Alzheimer's patient or an autistic patient being lost, wandering, they find them. Those who are not found in 24 hours, not only have got a 50 percent chance of getting hurt themselves, but can hurt other people. About 60 percent of the Alzheimer's community wander at some point. This is a way of protecting and preventing injury.

I say to my colleague, my good friend from Texas, he is reading into the things that are not there. One of the groups put out an alert suggesting a vote against this and hadn't even read the clarifications out of an abundance of caution, again, put in there by Mr. GOODLATTE.

So I would hope that Members would support this. This will save lives. And we are not reinventing the wheel. The Alzheimer's program was in effect without any parade of horrors occurring as a result.

I check with Alzheimer's patients all the time, Alzheimer's Association and, of course, Autism Speaks, and others who are all for this. They want this desperately because wandering is a serious problem.

We want to get our loved ones, find our loved ones who have developmental disabilities or have Alzheimer's, and make sure they get back to a safe and secure environment as quickly as possible. That is all this does.

So I urge my colleagues to support it. I, again, thank the chairman. I thank Mr. CONYERS and others. This is a bipartisan bill. Senators GRASSLEY and SCHUMER sponsored it on the Senate side, Ms. MAXINE WATERS—it is the left, right, middle, everybody in between. This is about helping people who are at grave risk when they wander.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers other than myself, and I believe I have the right to close, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

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

I will not bow to anyone who may think they have greater love or care or commitment to people who suffer from dementia or other developmental disabilities. I have spent an awful lot of time with people I love.

But let me just tell you, Mr. Speaker—let me finish that. The people I love, I don't know if they knew where they were. I have spent time with family and people I love who struggle with these very issues. I know there is a danger of death. There is a danger of injury.

Whether Franklin said it or not, those who will give up a little liberty to get security deserve neither. Whoever said it, I think it was Franklin, some say it wasn't, but it is true.

We are told, this is strictly for all those people out there that have autistic kids or people with developmental disability. Well, they haven't used—nobody here has used developmental disability but me.

But the truth is, the reason I heard about this bill, my staff tells me, is we just got a call from someone who has an autistic child, and they are scared to death that the Federal Government is going to start a tracking program for kids with autism.

And yeah, they will provision in here that it is supposed to be voluntary, but once you have the system in place—I can guarantee you, I have seen programs like this get started. And when I am a judge and law officers come in and say, this person is a threat, they swear to it, the evidence is in the affidavit then, yes, I will give them a warrant to go use whatever they say they believe will be the best way to handle the situation.

Once it is in place, it is going to be used by more than parents; you can count on it. And if you look at Page 17: The Attorney General shall determine the criteria. The Attorney General shall determine the criteria for determining who should have direct access to the tracking system and determine what is noninvasive, what is nonpermanent. The Attorney General shall make sure that the tracking device access to data is restricted to law enforcement and health agencies, but whoever the Attorney General determines.

I am telling you, this is opening Pandora's box. And as a parent said to us, we can track our child using our own resources. And if we don't have the resources, there are charities that will help us. Please don't let the government start a tracking program because people in this room could end up being on the list of people who end up having developmental disabilities; and they are a threat, as Homeland Security says, so many of our veterans and our constitutionalists are today.

This is about using resources that people have, and if they don't then let's use charitable money so that the government doesn't invade our privacy any more than it already has, already does.

I care about the injuries. I have devoted so much of my life to punishing those who violate people's space; that harm others; that kill others. I have not backed away from that commitment. But the government's job is not to be a dictator or to be a big brother. We never do that well.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would say to my good friend from Texas, and he is my good friend from Texas, that I know that he loves people with developmental disabilities, people with Alzheimer's, families that face the challenge of autism, and I know that his heart is in the right place. But I also know that we have just an honest difference of opinion about what we are doing here and the best way to save the lives of people when they are lost.

I know in my community of Roanoke, Virginia, that we have people, both with Alzheimer's and with autism, who wander off. Sometimes families are able to provide other means of keeping them safe, and sometimes they are not.

But I would argue to you that a tracking device that is not federally administered, that does not have data that is stored by the Federal Government, that is simply a program that already exists and is simply being changed to allow it to apply to families with autistic members of the family who want to voluntarily participate in this, and is something that not only saves lives but also creates more freedom, not more government surveillance or more government intervention in people's lives, as the gentleman is concerned about, but actually more freedom, more freedom so that people can move about a little more freely, and others can know, family members can know where they are.

I think that this is an important change in this law that is going to make life better for families and give them peace of mind, more freedom of movement, and the ability to find them if they do wander off, as has happened so often, as happened in the case of Kevin and Avonte, the children for whom this legislation is named.

I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his hard work over a long period of time on this. I think the Judiciary Committee has done good work to improve this.

I want to thank the ranking member. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas. I want to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work to make this bill, a good bill, even better.

To address the concerns raised by the gentleman from Texas, again, this is voluntary. We are not starting a program. It already exists.

And the authority of the Attorney General, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services, because it is primarily a training and education program to State and local law enforcement, so that when first responders and law enforcement personnel and so on are called to look for someone whose life is endangered, as it happens every day, unfortunately, somewhere in this great country, they will have a new, good, noninvasive tool to help protect the lives of the innocent, the lives of those who don't know where they might be headed or where they might be and, therefore, can help families find them, help first responders find them, bring them back to safety, save their lives. That is what this bill is about.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4919, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PROMOTING TRAVEL, COMMERCE, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6431) to ensure United States jurisdiction over offenses committed by United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6431

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. JURISDICTION OVER OFFENSES COMMITTED BY CERTAIN UNITED STATES PERSONNEL STATIONED IN CANADA.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the chapter heading, by striking "**TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**"; and

(2) by adding after section 3272 the following:

"§ 3273. Offenses committed by certain United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever, while employed by the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice and stationed or deployed in Canada pursuant to a treaty, executive agreement, or bilateral memorandum in furtherance of a border security initiative, engages in conduct (or conspires or attempts to engage in conduct) in Canada that would constitute an offense for which a person may be prosecuted in a court of the United States had the conduct been engaged in within the United States or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States shall be fined or imprisoned, or both, as provided for that offense.

"(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'employed by the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice' means—

"(1) being employed as a civilian employee, a contractor (including a subcontractor at any tier), or an employee of a contractor (or a subcontractor at any tier) of the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice;

"(2) being present or residing in Canada in connection with such employment; and

"(3) not being a national of or ordinarily resident in Canada."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Part II of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the table of chapters, by striking the item relating to chapter 212A and inserting the following:

"212A. Extraterritorial jurisdiction over certain offenses 3271";

and

(2) in the table of sections for chapter 212A, by inserting after the item relating to section 3272 the following:

"3273. Offenses committed by certain United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives."

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to infringe upon or otherwise affect the exercise of prosecutorial discretion by the Department of Justice in implementing this section and the amendments made by this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 6431, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Today we consider on suspension H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016. The bill's origin stems from an international agreement entered into between Canada and the United States in March 2015, known as the agreement on Land, Rail, Marine, and Air Transport Preclearance. This agreement established an immigration and trade preclearance system to strengthen economic competitiveness and national security.

Preclearance facilities permit travelers to pass through U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspections at a particular foreign port prior to entering the United States. This process expedites a traveler's arrival in the U.S., while also protecting national security by preventing from entry those individuals deemed a threat.

CBP officers currently conduct preclearance operations at airports around the world, including various Canadian airports, marine ports, and a rail station in British Columbia.

H.R. 6431 helps implement the foregoing agreement by ensuring that U.S. Government personnel who are stationed in Canada, particularly CBP preclearance officers, may be held accountable in U.S. courts if they commit a crime while performing their official duties, assuming their actions would constitute a crime, if committed in the United States.

Strengthening our Nation's relationship with our northern neighbor is important for both our economy and national security. H.R. 6431 helps pave the way for increased cooperation with Canada to spur economic growth here at home and prevent those who shouldn't be coming to the United States from arriving in the first place.

I want to thank Representatives KUSTER and STEFANIK for their work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, my first order of business is to thank Congresswoman KUSTER for her leadership on this legislation; and then to make mention of a bill just an hour or two ago that bears mentioning, that I want to take note of the importance of its passage, and that is S. 1632. In the House it was H.R. 3833. The Senate bill has now passed, a bill to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram.

□ 1845

As I begin to discuss this bill, the issue of security is on all of our minds, certainly the tragedy of the Boko Haram onslaught in Nigeria, the missing Chibok girls should be on our mind, and this bill that I just mentioned that was passed and supported by Congresswoman WILSON of Florida will be a very, very important initiative, one of which I cosponsored and will continue to work on this issue.

Now I rise in strong support of H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016. The bill would establish U.S. criminal jurisdiction over offenses committed by Federal employees conducting border security duties in Canada. In so doing, H.R. 6431 will strengthen our national security as well as promote the safe and efficient flow of travelers and goods between the United States and Canada, one of the United States' strongest allies.

In addition, it will facilitate the expansion of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance facilities in Canada, which is our Nation's largest trading partner. Each day, our countries trade billions of dollars of goods, services, and stock investments. Annually this relationship generates in excess of \$1.4 trillion in value. This partnership also creates millions of jobs for both Canadians and Americans.

To protect this incredibly important relationship, the Beyond the Border agreement between the United States and Canada created a plan to enhance national security and promote efficient travel and trade.

This agreement is intended to facilitate the expansion of U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance facilities in Canada, which prevents inad-

missible people and items from entering the United States before they reach a U.S. entry point.

The United States, as a result of this agreement, saves millions of dollars in processing costs, and our national security is strengthened because potential threats are stopped before they access U.S. soil.

In addition, preclearance facilities help alleviate congestion for millions of travelers and traders arriving at U.S. airports from Canada. That is a very, very important aspect of this legislation, along with its very strong security commitment. The expansion will include rail preclearance facilities for the first time, thereby creating another safe and efficient way to travel between each country. This bill is intended to resolve a final procedural impediment to the full expansion of the preclearance facilities in Canada by ensuring that U.S. personnel who work at these facilities are held accountable under U.S. law.

Again, I thank my good friend, Congresswoman KUSTER. Her leadership is one that we are greatly appreciative of. I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 6431.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6431, the "Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016."

This bill would establish U.S. criminal jurisdiction over offenses committed by federal employees conducting border security duties in Canada.

In so doing, H.R. 6431 will strengthen our national security as well as promote the safe and efficient flow of travelers and goods between the United States and Canada.

In addition, it will facilitate the expansion of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance facilities in Canada, which is our Nation's largest trading partner.

Each day, our countries trade billions of dollars of goods, services and stock investments. Annually, this relationship generates in excess of \$1.4 trillion in value. And, this partnership also creates millions of jobs for both Canadians and Americans.

To protect this incredibly important relationship, the "Beyond the Border Agreement" between the United States and Canada created a plan to enhance national security and promote efficient travel and trade.

This Agreement is intended to facilitate the expansion of U.S. Customs and Border Protection pre-clearance facilities in Canada, which prevents inadmissible people and items from entering the United States before they reach a U.S. entry point.

The United States, as a result of this Agreement, saves millions of dollars in processing costs and our national security is strengthened because potential threats are stopped before they access U.S. soil.

In addition, pre-clearance facilities help alleviate congestion for millions of travelers and traders arriving at U.S. airports from Canada. And, the expansion will include rail pre-clearance facilities for the first time, thereby creating another safe and efficient way to travel between each country.

This bill is intended to resolve a final procedural impediment to the full expansion of the preclearance facilities in Canada by ensuring that U.S. personnel who work at these facilities are held accountable under U.S. law.

H.R. 6431 is an important bill that will advance the interests of the United States.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, which will allow the expansion of preclearance facilities in Canada and thereby enhance national security and promote trade and travel in the United States.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), who is one of the chief sponsors of this legislation.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act.

First I want to take a moment to thank my colleague, Congresswoman KUSTER, for all of her efforts on this important bill. As you can see, the need for preclearance and this bill stretches across party lines and across our great Nation.

In my district and communities in northern New York, Canada is more than just a bordering nation. They are our neighbors, our friends, and our largest trading partner. Plattsburgh, a city in my district, has even branded itself as Montreal's U.S. suburb, home to more than 100 U.S. subsidiaries of Canadian companies with 15 percent of our area workforce working for a Canadian or border-related employer.

That is why I helped lead the efforts to craft H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act—a necessary step to solidify the preclearance agreement between the U.S. and Canada, which was reached over a year ago.

This significant, bipartisan legislation is great news for U.S.-Canadian relations. It maintains a positive working relationship with border officials, especially in rural regions like ours in the north country, and it allows for facility sharing along the border. This bill also expands U.S. preclearance operations to help provide expedited screening for Amtrak passengers prior to traveling. This process will allow for an easier and accelerated trip while ensuring necessary protections for our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this vital legislation to maintain a secure northern border and facilitate travel and commerce between the U.S. and Canada. I urge the Senate to act quickly to send this measure to the President.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER), who is the author of this legislation.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas, and I thank the chair, Mr. GOODLATTE.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016.

In my home State of New Hampshire, Granite Staters understand the special relationship that Americans have with Canada. For families in the north country and my district, many of their relatives live just across the border in Quebec, and many of our businesses rely on cross-border trade to grow and expand their operations.

According to the State Department, the United States and Canada share the single longest international border in the world and trade over \$1.8 billion every day in goods and services, supporting millions of jobs in the U.S.

Furthermore, approximately 380,000 people cross our border every day, and can do so safely because of the close coordination between U.S. and Canadian border security officials. Many of these travelers save time by utilizing preclearance facilities that are operated by Customs and Border Protection officials at nine different Canadian airports.

Preclearance has numerous security, travel, and trade benefits that present the United States and Canada with a win-win opportunity. First and foremost, preclearance enhances our national security efforts by detecting threats early before they reach U.S. soil. Because travelers go through customs and border inspection prior to boarding their plane, preclearance can intercept inadmissible travelers before they reach the U.S. In fact, in 2014 alone, preclearance operations prevented more than 10,000 inadmissible travelers from coming to the United States, saving American taxpayers more than \$20 million in detention, processing, and repatriation costs.

Second, preclearance boosts cross-border trade by increasing foreign direct investment, creating new jobs and opening up high value tourism to regional markets in the United States.

Third, preclearance improves the overall experience for travelers—particularly those who travel frequently for work—by reducing wait times at border crossings. Because passengers undergo screening prior to travel, they are not subjected to long lines when they arrive in the United States.

To build upon the existing benefits of preclearance, the United States and Canada signed a new, groundbreaking preclearance agreement in 2015 that will pave the pathway for the expansion of these facilities at land, rail, marine, and air ports of entry.

This new agreement represents a 21st century approach to border security, but in order for the 2015 preclearance agreement to be finalized, we must pass legislation in both the United States Congress and the Canadian Parliament, which is what brings us to the floor today.

My bipartisan legislation, H.R. 6431, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act, will finalize the 2015 preclearance agreement by ensuring that the United States has the legal authority to fairly hold CBP officials accountable if they engage in wrongdoing abroad. Under the new preclearance agreement, the United States secured the right to prosecute U.S. officials if they commit crimes on the job while stationed in Canada. Our legislation gives the United States the ability to prosecute any cases of wrongdoing on our own soil and ensures that we are holding all officials accountable.

I am so proud of the bipartisan efforts to get this bill across the finish line. I thank my colleague, Congresswoman ELISE STEFANIK, for her tireless efforts to advance this critical piece of legislation. I would also thank the 23 bipartisan cosponsors who have championed this bill and supported our efforts to pass the bill before the close of the 114th Congress.

I ask for immediate passage of the bill. I thank the chair and the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I will close at this time.

It is my pleasure to indicate what an important bill H.R. 6431 is because it will advance the interests of the United States. I thank the two leading cosponsors for their collaboration and for their leadership: the gentlewoman from New York and the gentlewoman from New Hampshire. I thank the gentlewomen so very much for bringing this bill forward and working so hard on it to improve the relationships and the ability for travel and commerce between Canada and the United States.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, which will allow the expansion of preclearance facilities in Canada, thereby enhance national security and promote trade and travel in the United States. I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I would just like to say congratulations and good work to the gentlewoman from New York and the gentlewoman from New Hampshire. This is a good bill, and we should pass it right now.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6431, the “Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016.”

The United States and Canada have enjoyed a long and fruitful trade relationship which has created millions of jobs and pumped trillions of dollars into both economies.

This bill protects and supports this relationship by taking the final step necessary to expand the U.S. Customs and Border Protection pre-clearance facilities in Canada.

It does this by establishing U.S. criminal jurisdiction over offenses committed by federal employees conducting border security duties in Canada.

Pre-clearance facilities help expedite travel between the United States and Canada by allowing the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to inspect people before they leave Canada. This helps travelers avoid the backlog at our Nation’s airports. And helps stop potential threats to our national security before they reach the United States.

Moreover, this joint effort each year saves the United States millions of dollars by repatriating individuals and items that are not allowed in the United States.

This bill, which is required for the expansion of pre-clearance operations in Canada, simply ensures that U.S. personnel who work at these facilities are accountable under federal criminal law for their conduct.

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 6431, which ensures a safer and more efficient trade relationship with Canada.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STEFANIK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6431.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EMMETT TILL UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2854) to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2854

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 (28 U.S.C. 509 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) meet regularly with eligible entities to coordinate the sharing of information and to discuss the status of the Department’s work under this Act;

“(4) support the full accounting of all victims whose deaths or disappearances were the result of racially motivated crimes;

“(5) hold accountable under Federal and State law all individuals who were perpetrators of, or accomplices in, unsolved civil rights murders and such disappearances;

“(6) express the condolences of the authority to the communities affected by unsolved civil rights murders, and to the families of the victims of such murders and such disappearances;

“(7) keep families regularly informed about the status of the investigations of such murders and such disappearances of their loved ones; and

“(8) expeditiously comply with requests for information received pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’) and develop a singular, publicly accessible repository of these disclosed documents.”;

(2) in section 3—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “1969” and inserting “1979”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and eligible entities”;

(iii) by adding after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) REVIEW OF CLOSED CASES.—The Deputy Chief may, to the extent practicable, reopen and review any case involving a violation described in paragraph (1) that was closed prior to the date of the enactment of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 without an in-person investigation or review conducted by an officer or employee of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice or by an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(4) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Department shall hold meetings with representatives of the Civil Rights Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Community Relations Service, eligible entities, and where appropriate, state and local law enforcement to discuss the status of the Department’s work under this Act.

“(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts made available to carry out this Act under section 6, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2017 and each of the next 10 subsequent fiscal years to carry out this paragraph.”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking “1969” and inserting “1979”;

(II) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(III) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(IV) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

“(H) the number of cases referred by an eligible entity or a State or local law enforcement agency or prosecutor to the Department within the study period, the number of such cases that resulted in Federal charges being filed, the date the charges were filed, and if the Department declines to prosecute or participate in an investigation of a case so referred, the fact that it did so, and the outreach, collaboration, and support for investigations and prosecutions of violations of criminal civil rights statutes described in section 2(3), including murders and including disappearances described in section 2(4), within Federal, State, and local jurisdictions.”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and a de-

scription of the activities conducted under subsection (b)(3)”;

(3) in section 4(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “1969” and inserting “1979”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and eligible entities”;

(4) in section 5—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “1969” and inserting “1979”;

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and inserting “fiscal year 2017 and each of the 10 subsequent fiscal years”;

(5) in section 6—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2017” and inserting “fiscal year 2017 and each of the 10 subsequent fiscal years”;

(ii) by striking “1969” and inserting “1979”;

(B) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—Using funds appropriated under section 3(b)(4)(B), the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice shall provide technical assistance by bringing together law enforcement agencies and communities to address tensions raised by Civil Rights era crimes.”;

(6) in section 7—

(A) in the heading, by striking “DEFINITION OF ‘CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES’” and inserting “DEFINITIONS”;

(B) in paragraph (6), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting the clauses accordingly;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as subparagraphs (A) through (F), respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs accordingly;

(D) by striking “In this Act, the term” and inserting: “In this Act:

“(1) CRIMINAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES.—The term”;

(E) by inserting at the end the following:

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means an organization whose primary purpose is to promote civil rights, an institution of higher education, or another entity, determined by the Attorney General to be appropriate.”;

(7) by striking section 8.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 2854, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, this bill is an important step in continuing to inves-

tigate the crimes and terror inflicted on so many involved in the civil rights movement. This bill will help to right those past wrongs and help to find justice for the families who lost loved ones in the civil rights effort.

Specifically, this bill reauthorizes and updates the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act that was passed 10 years ago. It responds to concerns that victims’ families and those working in this area have had about the implementation of the original legislation. In doing so, it strengthens the collaboration between the FBI, the Department of Justice, and local law enforcement to make sure that the goals of this legislation are met. By providing clearer direction and improved coordination between all the relevant stakeholders, this bill will help to ensure that these crimes will be solved and families who lost loved ones will be able to find justice.

This legislation also addresses some of the concerns with the Senate-passed language by making sure that the bill is fully offset, that a sunset provision is included, and by providing greater clarity regarding the collaboration between various stakeholders.

Finally, I thank both Ranking Members CONYERS and LEWIS—civil rights leaders and icons on these issues—for working with Senator BURR and other stakeholders to reach agreement on this bill, as well as for their tireless work on the underlying legislation.

□ 1900

It is important that the Federal Government investigates and prosecutes these crimes to the greatest extent possible, and this important legislation will give the Department of Justice the ability and the direction to do just that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, in June of 2007, this body passed, and the President subsequently signed, the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act. Since that time, the Department of Justice and cold case advocates have reviewed hundreds of cases in a search for justice and a sense of closure for the families of those who fell victim to racial violence in one of the most tumultuous periods of this Nation’s history.

For those who did not live through the civil rights era, it is difficult to understand the combined climate of excitement for change that coexisted with one of fear and violence. Simply for acting on their ideals of racial equality, innocent people—young and old, Black and White—were struck down.

In some cases, unfortunately, State and local law enforcement colluded with the perpetrators of anti-civil rights violence; and attempts at justice

often proved to be a charade, ending with jury nullification or tampering by racist citizens' councils.

The civil rights community has reported that for every infamous killing that tore at the South in the 1950s and 1960s, there were many more that were barely noted or investigated. We, I am proud to say, passed the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act in 2007 to help bring these cases to light and seek justice for victims and their families.

Even after nearly a decade of effort by advocates in the Justice Department, it remains clear that much work remains to heal the wounds of this period of history. To that end, the Emmett Till Reauthorization Act will create a formal framework for public engagement between the Department of Justice and cold case advocates to share information and review the status and closure of cases through 1980.

The legislation further authorizes appropriations and tasks the Department's Community Relations Service with bringing together law enforcement agencies and communities to address the tensions raised by civil rights era crimes.

The title of this bill serves as a reminder of one of the many lives that was cut much too short as a result of racially motivated hate and violence. Emmett Till was a 14-year-old African American young man from Chicago who allegedly whistled at a White woman. Shortly thereafter, he was found murdered and tortured.

Though his accused killers were tried, they were acquitted by an all White jury. Despite attempts at gaining a Federal indictment in the case, his torture and murder remain unpunished. While his family still grieves, they have channeled their sorrow into activism for those victims still seeking justice.

I believe that it remains important that the perpetrators of civil rights era crimes be brought to justice, even 50 years later. While justice has been delayed for the victims of these crimes, the fact that we are raising these cold cases breathes new life into our new justice system. I am thankful to the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Chairman GOODLATTE.

Ultimately, that commitment bodes well for our collective future and reconciliation within these communities. So I, accordingly, urge my colleagues to join those of us who are leading in this movement and effort and support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the dean of this institution.

Anyone who has had the privilege of working with JOHN CONYERS and JOHN LEWIS have nothing but admiration and understanding through their teachings of the lives which they lived. This important legislation is a reflection of their commitment to these families and their personal knowledge of the pain that so many families still now experience through unsolved civil rights crimes.

Emmett Till was one of the most noteworthy and violent, and many of us still are able to see in our vision the picture of the open casket, of brutalized and beaten young Emmett Till, a 14-year-old boy, and what he had to suffer. His mother was willing to go through what might have been considered absolute humiliation in terms of seeing her son's body open to the world; but because it was such a heinous crime, she was willing for the world to see.

This legislation is enormously important because it extends, until 2027, the authority of the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute unsolved criminal civil rights cases and expands, by a decade, the time period for which the Department can reopen cases to investigate. Under current law, the cut-off date was 1970. The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 remains necessary legislation intended to complete some of the Nation's most important unfinished business.

I will just say, in concluding, this legislation will have to be a document which the Members of Congress will have to breathe life into. We will have to insist, regardless of the changing of the guard at the Department of Justice, that this section have the kind of funding that is necessary. So the task of this Congress is not finished by the authorization; it must be funded.

Many families have come to my office in deep pain needing more resources for that section, more lawyers, more energetic activity. And so I say to those who may be assigned to this at the Department of Justice, take this as a special cause. It is not just unsolved cold cases. It is a smear on the democracy of this Nation. It is a stain. It is a taint that we should live above by insisting that every family have justice for the murder of their loved ones, particularly those who were in the battle of civil rights when many in this country lived in the second-class shadow of racism and discrimination.

The civil rights battles were real; they were violent in some instances; but thank God there were leaders like JOHN LEWIS, JOHN CONYERS, many in this Congress, and certainly the late Dr. Martin Luther King, who always believed, as I do, that we can do this through peace and nonviolence. This is a tool of nonviolence. We must insist that they do their task and that we solve these unsolved murderous civil rights cases, and we do so to heal the

Nation and to continue to promote our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Amendment to S. 2854, the "Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act."

I thank our colleague, JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, who is widely recognized as the moral conscience of the House for sponsoring the original legislation and I thank Chairmen GOODLATTE and Ranking Member CONYERS, for their work in shepherding this reauthorization through the Congress.

This legislation reauthorizes the "Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act of 2007," which I co-sponsored and strongly support when it was reported favorably by the Judiciary Committee, passed by the House and Senate, and signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 7, 2008 as Public Law 110-344.

The legislation before extends until 2027 the authority of the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute unsolved criminal civil rights crimes, and it expands by a decade the time period for which the department can reopen cases to investigate; under current law the cut-off date is 1970.

The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act of 2007 is and remains necessary legislation intended to complete some of the nation's most important unfinished business.

And that is to solve some of the most depraved acts of violence against persons belonging to a racial group that was vulnerable, politically powerless, and innocent, and against those persons who risked life and limb to help them secure the rights promised in the Declaration of Independence and made real in the Constitution.

Madam Speaker, in 1989, the Civil Rights Memorial was dedicated in Montgomery, Alabama, the birthplace of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

The Memorial honors the lives and memories of 40 martyrs who were slain during the movement from 1954 to 1968, including Emmett Till.

But we know that many more people lost their lives to racial violence during that era.

In fact, at the time the Memorial was dedicated, the killers of 13 of the 40 martyrs whose names are inscribed on the Memorial had not been prosecuted or convicted.

In 10 of the 40 deaths, defendants were either acquitted by all-white juries or served only token prison sentences.

We also know there are many cases that still cry out for justice.

These unsolved crimes represent a continuing stain on our nation's honor and mock its commitment to equal justice under law.

The legislation before us is intended to help us remove that stain once and for all.

The 40 victims selected for inclusion in the Civil Rights Memorial fit at least one of three criteria: (i) they were murdered because they were active in the civil rights movement; (2) they were killed by organized hate groups as acts of terror aimed at intimidating blacks and civil rights activists; or, (3) their deaths, like the death of Emmett Till, helped to galvanize the movement by demonstrating the brutality faced by African Americans in the South.

The 40 persons who fit the selection criteria ranged in age from 11 to 66.

Seven were white, and 33 were black.

They were students, farmers, ministers, truck drivers, a homemaker and a Nobel laureate.

But Madam Speaker, there are many, many other victims besides the 40 who are remembered on the Memorial.

The Southern Poverty Law Center reports that its research uncovered approximately 75 other people who died violently between 1952 and 1968 under circumstances suggesting that they were victims of racial violence.

For most of them the reason their names were not added to the Memorial is because not enough was known about the details surrounding their deaths.

Sadly, the reason so little is known about these cases is because they were not fully investigated or, in some cases, law enforcement officials were involved in the killings or subsequent cover-ups.

And because the killings of African Americans were often covered up or not seriously investigated, there is little reason to doubt that many slayings were never even recorded by the authorities.

The reason justice had not been served was the callous indifference, and often the criminal collusion, of many white law enforcement officials in the segregated South.

There simply was no justice for African Americans during the civil rights era.

The whole criminal justice system—from the police, to the prosecutors, to the juries, and to the judges—was perverted by racial bigotry.

African Americans were routinely beaten, bombed and shot with impunity.

Sometimes, the killers picked their victims on a whim.

Sometimes, they targeted them for their activism.

In other cases, prominent white citizens were involved and no consequences flowed.

Herbert Lee of Liberty, Mississippi, for example, was shot in the head by a state legislator in broad daylight in 1961.

It is, of course, fitting and proper that this legislation bears the name of Emmett Till, whose slaying in 1955 and his mother's decision to have an open casket at his funeral stirred the nation's conscience and galvanized a generation of Americans to join the fight for equality.

Sadly, hundreds of them were killed in that struggle, and many of the killers, like those of Emmett himself, were never successfully prosecuted.

Madam Speaker, the heart of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Cases Act is sections 3 and 4.

Section 3 establishes a Deputy Chief of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division.

Section 3 now requires the Attorney General to designate a Deputy Chief of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights division who will be responsible for coordinating the investigation and prosecution of violations of criminal civil rights statutes that occurred before December 31, 1979, and ended in death.

Section 3 also requires a study and report to Congress about the number of cases opened, the number of federal prosecutions commenced, the number of cases of state and local prosecutions where the DOJ assisted, the number of cases that have been closed, and the number of open pending cases.

Section 4 of the bill establishes a parallel component in the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to be headed by a Supervisory Special Agent designated by the Attorney General.

This Supervisory Special Agent in the Civil Rights Unit is responsible for investigating violations of criminal civil rights statutes that occurred not later than December 31, 1979, and resulted in death.

The Supervisory Special Agent should, where appropriate, coordinate investigations with State and local law enforcement officials.

Madam Speaker, over the past half century, the United States has made tremendous progress in overcoming the badges and vestiges of slavery.

But this progress has been purchased at great cost.

Examples of unsolved cases include the 1968 "Orangeburg Massacre" at South Carolina State University where state police shot and killed three student protesters; the 1967 shooting death of Carrie Brumfield, whose body was found on a rural Louisiana road; the 1957 murder of Willie Joe Sanford, whose body was fished out of a creek in Hawkinsville, Georgia; the 1946 killing of a black couple, including a pregnant woman, who was pulled out of a car in Monroe, Georgia, and dragged down a wagon trail before being shot in front of 200 people.

Solving these cases like these is part of the great unfinished work of America.

Madam Speaker, 53 years ago, Medgar Evers was murdered in Jackson, Mississippi; justice would not be done in his case for more than twenty years.

But that day was foretold because the evening before the death of Medgar Evers, on June 11, 1963, President John F. Kennedy addressed the nation from the Oval Office on the state of race relations and civil rights in America.

In his historic speech to the nation President Kennedy said:

We are confronted primarily with a moral issue. It is as old as the scriptures and is as clear as the American Constitution.

One hundred years of delay have passed since President Lincoln freed the slaves, yet their heirs, their grandsons, are not fully free. They are not yet freed from the bonds of injustice. They are not yet freed from social and economic oppression. And this Nation, for all its hopes and all its boasts, will not be flung free until all its citizens are free.

S. 2854 will help ensure that justice is received by those for whom justice has been delayed for more than two generations.

In doing so, this legislation will help this Nation fulfill its hopes and justify its boast that in America all persons live in freedom.

I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume simply to say to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) that this is a quest for justice that needs to be ongoing. I am

pleased to support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do so.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2854, the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act.

This is the Senate companion to H.R. 5067, the bill I introduced with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER). This has been a bipartisan, bicameral effort from the first day, and I ask each and every one of our colleagues to support this important legislation.

Ten years ago, I stood on the House Floor and promised to work tirelessly to pass this legislation. Two years later, we were successful in passing the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act. That legislation created a Federal strategy to bring justice and healing to the victims, survivors, and families.

When the bill was signed into law, family members, academics, historians, lawyers, advocates started working towards a full accounting for these gross human and civil rights atrocities. The reauthorization that we are considering today responds to the their appeals to Congress to make the law whole—to ensure that their thoughtful, tireless work did not fall on deaf ears and end up in a forgotten drawer.

So many people have died; so many families have mourned; so many communities have suffered. Mr. Speaker, as you know this bill is named for a 14-year-old boy who was brutally murdered 61 years ago for allegedly whistling at a white woman. Many people here tonight will recognize the names of Emmett Till, Medgar Evers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, but few know of the countless other possible victims of racially motivated crimes during this period.

This bill restores hope for the families of so many who have unanswered questions—like the Atlanta Five in my congressional district. In 1974, five African-American men—Lee Roy Holloway, Robert Walker, Marvin Walker, John Sterling and Lonnie Merritt—left Atlanta for a fishing trip near Pensacola Florida. Their families never saw them alive again. Their pain and that of so countless others is real.

I said before, and I will say it again—we have a mission, an obligation, and a mandate to restore faith in the cornerstones of our democracy and accountability in the pursuit of truth and justice whenever possible. This bill does just that.

In developing this legislation, we took the time to research and study what happened after the original bill was signed into law. We listened to and were guided by the advocates, by law professors, by families, and by the press. We worked across the aisle and across the Dome to develop a bill that fulfills our promise to never give up on this effort—to never abandon the pursuit of truth.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I would like to thank the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project at Northeastern University School of Law; the Cold Case Justice Initiative at Syracuse University College of Law; the Emmett Till Justice Campaign; the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation; the Georgia Civil Rights Cold Case Project at Emory University; the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR); the

Mamie Till Mobley Memorial Foundation; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); the NAACP-Legal Defense Fund (NAACP-LDF); the National Urban League; and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). The leadership and staff of these institutions fought long and hard for this legislation. They deserve recognition and appreciation.

I would also like to thank the thousands of people across the country who signed petitions, called, emailed, and urged for Congress to act. Mr. Speaker, we must thank them for their determination, their passion, and their commitment to justice.

In closing, I would like to thank the Chair, the Ranking Member, the lead sponsors, our House Leadership, the staff, and all the Members who supported this effort. I ask each and every one of my colleagues to support this important legislation and let it become law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2854, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without

objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, December 7, 2016.

Hon. PAUL RYAN, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On December 7, 2016, pursuant to section 3307 of Title 40, United States Code, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider six resolutions included in the General Services Administration's Capital Investment and Leasing Programs.

The Committee continues to work to reduce the cost of federal property and leases. Of the six resolutions considered, the two construction projects include a federal courthouse consistent with existing funding, and the four lease prospectuses include significant reductions of leased space. In total, these resolutions represent \$56 million in avoided lease costs and offsets.

I have enclosed copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on December 7, 2016.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER, Chairman.

Enclosures.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

CONSTRUCTION—FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, \$834 million in appropriations are authorized for the site acquisition, design, management and inspection, and construction of a new federally-owned headquarters facility for the Federal Bureau of Investigation of not more than 2.1 million rentable square feet in the National Capital Region for the General Services Administration, for which a pro-

spectus is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided, the total funds made available through appropriations, including funds transferred to the "Federal Bureau of Investigation, Construction" account, do not exceed \$2.11 billion (excluding the value realized from the exchange of the J. Edgar Hoover building, outfitting, and decommissioning costs).

Provided further, the Administrator considers transportation impacts, including National Capital Planning Commission recommendations on parking and proximity to metro rail.

Provided further, the Administrator considers the total costs to the government for relocations, site preparation, and site acquisition.

Provided further, that such appropriations are authorized only for a project that results in a fully consolidated FBI Headquarters facility.

Provided further, that the Administrator of General Services shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report on the construction of a new headquarters for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The report transmitted under this provision shall include a summary of the material provisions of the construction and full consolidation of the FBI in a new headquarters facility, including but not limited to, a schedule, the square footage, proposed costs to the Government, and a description of all buildings and infrastructure needed to complete the project.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator's authority to make an award of this project expires two years from the date of the adoption of this resolution.

GSA

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**PROSPECTUS – CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCR17
Congressional Districts: MD 4,5
VA 8

FY 2017 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes construction of a new federally owned facility of approximately 2.1 million rentable square feet (RSF)¹ to provide a consolidated Headquarters for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the National Capital Region (NCR). The FBI Headquarters facility will bring together employees from the J. Edgar Hoover Building (JEH) and 13 leased locations across the NCR into a new, modern and secure facility tailored to fully support FBI’s national security, intelligence and law enforcement missions. The proposed GSA construction funding in this prospectus will partner with construction funding requested in appropriations to the FBI, FY 2016 enacted appropriations, the value of the JEH exchange and other available FBI resources to support the construction cost of the FBI Headquarters facility.

FY 2017 Committee Approval and Appropriation Requested

(Design, Construction, and Management and Inspection).....\$759,000,000

Overview of Project

As an intelligence-driven and a threat-focused national security organization with both national security and law enforcement responsibilities, the mission of the FBI is to protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats, to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States, and to provide leadership and criminal justice services to federal, state, municipal, and international agencies and partners.

The proposed FBI Headquarters facility will consolidate FBI personnel from the JEH and 13 leased locations. The proposed facility will accommodate approximately 11,000 personnel, resulting in an open-plan workspace environment to include state-of-the-art IT infrastructure as required by the FBI’s national security mission. The facility will be built to meet ISC Level V security specifications on one of three previously identified sites. Initial programming provides 6,697 to 8,155 structured and unstructured parking spaces² for official vehicles, employees, and visitors.

At the time of project initiation, the FBI was housed in 21 locations throughout the NCR, including JEH, occupying an aggregate total of 3,029,709 rentable square feet. Over the

¹ This prospectus references an estimated total rentable square feet. The total rentable square footage will vary depending upon the final rentable to usable factor which will be determined by the winning bid, design and selected site.

² The actual amount of parking required will be dependent upon final site selection and the availability of alternate means of transportation.

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intervening years, FBI has taken a number of actions resulting in a decrease in the agency’s footprint. Today, FBI Headquarters functions in the NCR are housed in 14 locations, totaling 2,930,552 rentable square feet. Staff in each of these 14 locations will be consolidated into the new FBI Headquarters facility. The precise RSF for the new FBI Headquarters facility will vary based on the final R/U factor which is dependent upon the winning bid, design and selected site.

Location and Site Area

The project includes conveying title to JEH to the winning bidder in exchange for a newly constructed FBI Headquarters facility at one of the three previously identified potential sites in Greenbelt, MD, Landover, MD, and Springfield, VA.

- Greenbelt..... 61 acres
Greenbelt – Comprised of approximately 61 acres of land owned by the State of Maryland and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), and controlled by GSA pursuant to a purchase option agreement. Located at the Greenbelt Metrorail Station, in Prince George’s County, Maryland.
- Landover 80 acres
Landover – Comprised of approximately 80 acres, privately owned, and controlled by GSA pursuant to a purchase option agreement between GSA and the current site owner. Located at the site of the former Landover Mall, in Prince George’s County, Maryland.
- Springfield..... 58 acres
Springfield - Comprised of approximately 58 acres of federally owned land under the custody and control of GSA. Located at the current site of the GSA Franconia Warehouse Complex in Fairfax County, Virginia.

Building Area

The proposed transaction allows the bidders to submit proposals to construct the FBI Headquarters facility on one of the three sites described above. Bidders have the opportunity to submit proposals on one, two or all three of the identified potential sites.

Building (excluding parking)..... 2,100,000 RSF

Bidders are required to accommodate parking consistent with the number of spaces required for each location: 6,697 spaces for Greenbelt; 8,155 spaces for Landover; 7,039

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spaces for Springfield, each inclusive of 425 official vehicles (including Bureau Cars and FBI police). Distribution between structured and unstructured parking will be dependent upon the site and the proposal made by the bidder.

Project Budget

The costs of the consolidated FBI Headquarters facility will be supported by: (1) FY 2016 enacted funds from the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, which included \$180 million in FBI construction funding, \$135 million in resources made available from the FBI's prior year balances, and \$75 million in GSA FBF construction funding; (2) the value realized from the exchange of the JEH; (3) the President's Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal of \$759 million in construction funding within the GSA FBF; and (4) the President's Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal of \$646 million in the FBI's Construction account. Combined, these funds should ensure that GSA is in a position to award the project on schedule in FY 2017, and support the design and construction of the full consolidation. It is anticipated that outfitting and transition costs will be addressed by the FBI in future years.

Schedule

	Start	End*
GSA Construction Management/Oversight Activities	FY 2016	FY 2022
Design and Construction	FY 2017	FY 2022

(*Identified end dates for both management and oversight, and design and construction are estimates. Actual schedules will be established following award with the winning bidder during design development.)

Tenant Agencies

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Justification

The FBI is in urgent need of a consolidated Headquarters facility to support information sharing, collaboration, and integration of strategic priorities. Currently, FBI Headquarters elements are dispersed over 14 locations in the greater Washington, DC area. This dispersion and fragmentation has created significant challenges to effective command and control and to facilitating organizational change. Dispersion diverts time and resources, hampers coordination, decreases flexibility, and impedes the FBI's ability to rapidly respond to ever changing, asymmetric threats. The FBI needs a consolidated Headquarters facility and operations center to support information sharing, collaboration and integration of strategic priorities. By consolidating into a single location, FBI will

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realize significant mission synergies, and greatly increase workforce and mission security compared to the varying risk scenarios existing throughout the current facilities.

The FBI has occupied JEH since 1974. The approximately 1.8 million rentable square foot (2.4 million gross square foot) JEH sits on 6.7 acres of land fronting Pennsylvania Avenue and is a prime location for office, retail, and residential uses. The building was designed at a time when FBI operated differently, and it cannot be redeveloped to provide the necessary space to consolidate the FBI Headquarters components or to meet the agency’s physical security and current and projected operational requirements. Furthermore the IT infrastructure in JEH has reached capacity and cannot be expanded further. These challenges can best be addressed through consolidation and by providing a flexible infrastructure capable of supporting multiple IT systems. The JEH was not designed to support today’s FBI mission that includes an increased emphasis on national security.

JEH and virtually all of the 13 offsite leased facilities do not meet the applicable Interagency Security Committee (ISC) Standards. Senate Report 110-397 – Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2009, concluded that JEH does not meet the ISC physical security criteria. As the central facility for the management of intelligence and national security programs, the FBI Headquarters facility must have high reliability and survivability of utilities and infrastructure.

Due to the critical need for continuous operations of the FBI, the consolidated FBI Headquarters must be resilient to safeguard the mission it houses and remain operational and capable in the event of local or regional emergency. The facility must provide the FBI the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions. In order to achieve resilience, the program includes utility and building systems redundancy, back-up power generation and water storage requirements, and energy and water efficiency targets. Requirements for utility redundancy include dual feeds for communications, electric service, potable water, and natural gas. Where appropriate, delivery of building services must also be redundant to ensure continued operability in the event of a disruption internal to the facility.

Summary of Energy Compliance

The consolidated FBI Headquarters facility will be designed to attain a Gold rating in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Building Design and Construction (BD+C) rating system, as required by GSA policy for new Federal

GSA

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FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCR17
Congressional Districts: MD 4,5
VA 8

facilities. Furthermore, it will be LEED Operations and Maintenance (O+M) “ready” to ensure that the building systems are operated and maintained efficiently over the long term, protecting the government’s investment.

Energy and Resources – Design, construction, and ongoing operation of the facility will minimize the impact on the environment and the utilization of energy and other scarce and non-renewable resources. The project will consider operational requirements, and focus on strategies that support energy surety goals, incorporating principles of energy source diversity, onsite renewable energy, energy storage, net-zero energy readiness, and micro-grids, as appropriate, informed by mission goals and life-cycle cost analyses.

Sustainability – Design and construction of the facility will achieve a minimum of LEED Gold rating in the BD+C v4 rating system. The new facility will comply with all applicable federal sustainability requirements. It will also consider operational requirements, and incorporate principles of passive design, onsite management of storm-water and waste, resource efficiency, human health and well-being, and life cycle costing.

Reliability and Resilience – The facility will be designed to have high reliability and survivability of utilities and infrastructure. It will include efficient, state-of-the-art HVAC, lighting, power, security, and telecommunications systems and equipment that require minimal maintenance and are designed with backup capabilities to ensure minimal loss of service or downtime. Design of the site and buildings will include principles of energy and water surety, and resistance and resilience to climate change. Incremental climate change impacts, extreme weather conditions, and/or other extreme events, will result in minimal disruption to the mission of the FBI Headquarters complex and the safety of its occupants. The building enclosure systems and critical building systems will be designed to optimize performance and resilience in response to potential extreme events and conditions.

Prior Appropriations

Prior Appropriations			
Public Law	Fiscal Year	Amount	Purpose
114-113	2016	\$75,000,000	Construction Management and oversight activities and other project support costs
Appropriations to Date		\$75,000,000	

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCR17
Congressional Districts: MD 4,5
VA 8

Prior Committee Approvals

None

Alternatives Considered

The proposed state-of-the-art FBI Headquarters facility is a unique asset, built to the Government’s specifications in the form of a detailed Program of Requirements. The proposed facility will meet the long term needs of the FBI. GSA analyzed the modernization and redevelopment of JEH, but in addition to being cost prohibitive, the current facility as sited is not capable of meeting the square footage, security setback, or operational requirements of the FBI. A leased alternative is not cost-effective given FBI’s 46 year history in the current location and the stated 50+ year requirement for the proposed facility. A leased alternative is not considered to be cost effective and the 30 year present value of such alternative was not analyzed.

Recommendation

CONSTRUCTION

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – CONSTRUCTION
FBI HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Prospectus Number: PNCR-FBI-NCR17
Congressional Districts: MD 4,5
VA 8

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

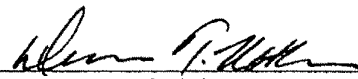
Submitted at Washington, DC, on February 8, 2016

Recommended:



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:



Administrator, General Services Administration

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE—ANNISTON, AL

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the site acquisition, design and construction of a new U.S. Courthouse of approximately 63,000 gross square feet, including approximately 13 parking spaces, in Anniston, Alabama at an additional site and design cost of \$2,414,000, a

total estimated construction cost of \$32,527,000, and total management and inspection cost of \$3,234,000 for a total estimated project cost, including prior authorizations, of \$42,575,000, for which a prospectus is attached to and included in this resolution. This resolution amends prior authorizations of July 24, 2002 and July 23, 2003.

Provided, that the Administrator of General Services shall ensure that construction of the new courthouse complies, at a minimum, with courtroom sharing requirements

adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Provided further, that the Administrator of General Services shall ensure that the construction of the new courthouse contains no more than two courtrooms, including one for Senior District Judges and one for Bankruptcy Judges.

Provided further, that the design of the new courthouse shall not deviate from the U.S. Courts Design Guide.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS
NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE
ANNISTON, AL**

Prospectus Number: PAL-CTC-AN16
Congressional District: 03

FY 2016 Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes the acquisition of a site, and the design and construction of a new U.S. Courthouse of approximately 63,000 gross square feet (gsf), including 13 inside parking spaces in Anniston, AL. GSA will construct the courthouse to meet the 10-year space needs of the court and court-related agencies and the site will accommodate the anticipated 30-year needs of the court. The Judiciary’s Courthouse Project Priorities list (approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States on September 17, 2015) includes a courthouse project in Anniston, AL.

FY 2016 House and Senate Committee Approval Requested

(Additional Site and Design, Construction, Management & Inspection).....\$38,175,000

FY 2016 Funding Requested (as outlined in the FY 2016 Spend Plan)

(Additional Site and Design, Construction, Management & Inspection).....\$38,175,000

Overview of Project

The courts and related agencies are currently located in the Federal Building-Courthouse (FB-CT) as well as one leased location in Anniston. The FB-CT, built in 1906, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The new courthouse will provide two courtrooms and three chambers consistent with the application of courtroom sharing policies and limitation on the provision of space for projected judgeships. The site for the new courthouse will be in the central business area of Anniston.

Site Information

To Be Acquired..... Approximately 3 acres

Building Area¹

Gross square feet (excluding inside parking).....57,000

Gross square feet (including inside parking)63,000

Inside parking spaces 13

¹ Square footages and number of parking spaces are approximate. The actual project may contain a variance in gross square footage from that listed in this prospectus.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS
NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE
ANNISTON, AL**

Prospectus Number: PAL-CTC-AN16
Congressional District: 03

Estimated Project Budget

Site Cost (FY 2004).....	\$2,500,000
Estimated Additional Site.....	\$554,000
Design (FY 2004)	\$1,900,000
Estimated Additional Design.....	\$1,860,000
Estimated Construction Cost (ECC) (\$516/gsf, including inside parking)	\$32,527,000
Estimated Management and Inspection (M&I).....	\$3,234,000
Estimated Total Project Cost (ETPC)*.....	\$42,575,000²

*Tenant agencies may fund an additional amount for alterations above the standard normally provided by GSA.

Schedule

	Start	End
Design & Construction	FY 2016	FY 2021

Tenant Agencies

U.S. District Court, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, U.S. Probation Office, U. S. Department of Justice - Marshals Service, trial preparation space for the U.S. Department of Justice - Office of the U.S. Attorney, and GSA.

Justification

The existing FB-CT, constructed in 1906 and expanded in 1935, does not meet the U.S. Courts Design Guide standards, does not provide for future expansion, and lacks adequate security. There is no separate circulation for judicial officers and prisoners, and no secure elevators in the building. Further, there are no courtroom holding cells, central cellblock, prisoner sallyport, and no secured parking available to the courts. The new courthouse will provide separate circulation for the public, judges, and prisoners, thereby improving security, as well as the efficiency of court operations. Relocation of agencies from leased space to the new courthouse will result in savings of approximately \$195,000 in future annual lease payments to the private sector.

Due to changes in program since previous project approval, courtroom sharing, and exclusion of projected new judgeships, the proposed project has decreased in size and scope (from the previously approved 65,482 gsf).

² GSA requests approval for a total project cost. As noted in the estimated project budget above, GSA identified sub-totals comprising the estimated project budget are intended to provide a breakdown in support of the ETPC. The actual total cost to perform the entire project may differ from what is represented in this prospectus by the various subcomponents.

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS
NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE
ANNISTON, AL**

Prospectus Number: PAL-CTC-AN16
Congressional District: 03

Space Requirements of the U.S. Courts

	Current		Proposed	
	Courtrooms	Judges	Courtrooms	Judges
District				
- Active	1	1	0	0
- Senior	0	0	1	1
- Visiting	0	0		1
Bankruptcy	1	1	1	1
Total:	2	2	2	3

Summary of Energy Compliance

This project will be designed to conform to requirements of the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service and will implement strategies to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. GSA encourages design opportunities to increase energy and water efficiency above the minimum performance criteria.

Future of Existing Federal Building³

The Federal tenancy in Anniston does not support the need for two courthouses; therefore, GSA will explore alternatives associated with the disposal of the existing courthouse. Some of these alternatives include donation or exchange.

³ This section is included to address recommendations in the following GAO Report: Federal Courthouses: Better Planning Needed Regarding Reuse of Old Courthouses (GAO-14-48).

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS
NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE
ANNISTON, AL**

Prospectus Number: PAL-CTC-AN16
Congressional District: 03

Prior Appropriations

Prior Appropriations			
Public Law	Fiscal Year	Amount	Proposed Project
108-199	2004	\$4,400,000	Site and Design
114-113*	2016	\$38,175,000	Additional Site & Design, ECC & M&I
Appropriations to Date		\$42,575,000	

*Public Law 114-113 funded \$947,760,000 for new construction projects of the Federal Judiciary as prioritized in the Federal Judiciary Courthouse Project Priorities list, of which Anniston is included. GSA's Spend Plan describes each project to be undertaken with this funding. The FY 2016 need for Anniston is \$38,175,000.

Prior Committee Approvals

Prior Committee Approvals			
Committee	Date	Amount	Proposed Project
House T&I	7/24/2002	\$3,090,000	Site and Design for 65,482 gsf; 20 inside parking spaces
Senate EPW	9/26/2002	\$3,090,000	Site and Design for 65,482 gsf; 20 inside parking spaces
House T&I	7/23/2003	\$1,291,000	Additional Site and Design for 65,482 gsf; 20 inside parking spaces
Senate EPW	6/23/2004	\$1,291,000	Additional Site and Design for 65,482 gsf; 20 inside parking spaces
House Approvals to Date		\$4,381,000	
Senate Approvals to Date		\$4,381,000	

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS
NEW U.S. COURTHOUSE
ANNISTON, AL**

Prospectus Number: PAL-CTC-AN16
Congressional District: 03

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on

JUN 16 2016

Recommended:



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:



Administrator, General Services Administration

PAL-CTC-AN16
Anniston, Alabama

Housing Plan
New U.S. Courthouse

May 2016

Locations	CURRENT						PROPOSED					
	Personnel			Usable Square Feet (USF)			Personnel			Usable Square Feet (USF)		
	Office	Total		Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	
New Courthouse												
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (courtrooms/chambers)	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2,663	-	2,590	5,253	
U.S. Bankruptcy Court - Clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	6,288	-	750	7,038	
U.S. Bankruptcy Administrator	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1,965	-	1,800	3,765	
U.S. District Court (courtrooms/chambers)	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4,534	-	4,290	8,824	
U.S. District Court - Clerk	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2,594	-	-	2,594	
U.S. Probation Office	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1,005	-	200	1,205	
DOJ - U.S. Marshals Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	4,741	-	2,880	7,621	
DOJ - Office of U.S. Attorneys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	500	
GSA - Public Buildings Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	300	300	-	600	
Joint Use	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	880	880	
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	24,590	300	13,390	38,280	
Anniston FB-CT, 1129 Noble Street												
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (courtrooms/chambers)	3	3	3,359	72	-	3,287	-	-	-	-	-	
U.S. District Court (courtrooms/chambers)	4	4	5,680	-	-	5,680	-	-	-	-	-	
DOJ - U.S. Marshals Service	7	7	270	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	
Congress - House of Representatives	2	2	1,145	-	-	59	-	-	-	-	-	
Vacant Unassigned Space	-	-	2,862	-	-	1,455	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	16	16	10,521	14,870	-	10,521	-	-	-	-	-	
Bankruptcy Building (Lease)												
U.S. Bankruptcy Clerk	15	15	7,707	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
U.S. Bankruptcy Administrator	4	4	1,521	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	19	19	9,228	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	35	35	24,098	10,521	-	10,521	44	24,590	300	13,390	38,280	

Special Space	
Holding Cell	920
Restroom	590
Conference	2,830
ADP	150
Courtroom	4,200
Judicial Chambers	1,800
Food Service	400
Physical Fitness	800
Mailroom	880
Sallyport	820
Total:	13,390

The project may contain a variance in gross square footage from that listed in this project upon measurement and review of the completed project.

USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, NORTHERN VA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 562,000 rentable square feet of space, including 4 official parking spaces, for the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, Office of Information Technology currently located in 11 separate buildings dispersed across six locations including six buildings in the VA-95 complex located at Boston Boulevard and Fullerton Road in Springfield, Virginia and other locations at 1801 N. Beauregard Street in Alexandria, 6350 Walker Lane in Springfield, 7799 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church, 13990 Park East Circle in Chantilly, and 5971 Kingstowne Village Parkway in Alexandria, Virginia at a proposed total annual cost of

\$21,918,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 124 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in

an overall utilization rate of 124 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NORTHERN, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-01-WA17
Congressional Districts: 8, 10, 11

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease for approximately 562,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Information Technology (OIT), currently located in leased space in 11 separate buildings dispersed across six locations including six buildings in the VA-95 complex located at Boston Boulevard and Fullerton Road in Springfield, VA. Other locations are 1801 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA; 6350 Walker Lane, Springfield, VA; 7799 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA; 13990 Park East Circle, Chantilly, VA; and 5971 Kingstowne Village Parkway, Alexandria, VA.

The lease will enable DHS/CBP/OIT to provide continued housing as well as more modern, streamlined, and efficient operations. It will significantly improve space utilization, as the office utilization rate will be improved from 113 to 64 usable square feet (USF) per person, and the overall utilization rate from 184 to 124 USF per person, reducing the DHS/CBP/OIT footprint for this occupancy by approximately 67,680 RSF.

Description

Occupant:	Customs and Border Protection
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	629,680 (Current RSF/USF = 1.08)
Proposed Maximum RSF ¹ :	562,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	67,680 (Reduction)
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	184
Proposed Usable Square Feet/Person:	124
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	15 years
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	09/30/19, 08/01/20, 12/07/20, 12/31/20, 5/31/21, 08/10/21
Delineated Area:	Northern Virginia
Number of Official Parking Spaces ² :	4
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ³ :	\$39.00/RSF

¹ The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.08; however, to maximize competition a RSF/USF ratio of 1.20 is used for the proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.

² OIT security requirements may necessitate control of the parking at the leased location. This may be accomplished as a lessor-furnished service, as a separate operating agreement with the lessor, or as part of the Government's leasehold interest in the building.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NORTHERN, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-01-WA17
Congressional Districts: 8, 10, 11

Proposed Total Annual Cost ⁴ :	\$21,918,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$17,079,000 (Leases effective: 10/01/94, 12/08/00, 01/17/02, 07/15/02, 08/02/05, 11/14/07, 11/21/08, 02/02/09, 06/01/11, and 08/11/11)

Background

OIT is responsible for implementation and support of information technology, research and development functions, and automation and technological strategies for meeting mission-related needs. OIT is responsible for automated information systems, management of the research and development functions, and all forensic and laboratory support of CBP. OIT personnel manage all computer and related resources and establish requirements for computer interfaces between CBP and various trade groups and Government agencies. OIT is responsible for managing all aspects of tactical communications, including the 24/7 operations of the National Law Enforcement Communications Center and Continuity of Operations Planning.

Justification

OIT's mission is to be responsible for all aspects of technology support across all mission areas within CBP. This CBP component designs, develops, programs, tests, implements, trains, and maintains the agency's automated systems. OIT is responsible for managing CBP computer facilities, including all the hardware, software, data, video and voice communications, and related financial resources. OIT develops and maintains the Enterprise Information System Architecture and administers the operational aspects of the CBP Computer Security Program. OIT also represents CBP on matters related to automated import, export, and interagency processing and systems development.

³ These estimates are for fiscal year 2017 and may be escalated by 1.95 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rates are fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

⁴ New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NORTHERN, VA**

Prospectus Number: PVA-01-WA17
Congressional Districts: 8, 10, 11

The current leases are for space in 11 separate buildings in Northern Virginia and expire between September 30, 2019 and August 10, 2021. OIT requires continued housing to carry out its operational mission and functions. The total space requested will reduce the OIT footprint by 67,680 RSF or more than 10 percent of the 629,680 RSF currently occupied. In the absence of this reduction, the status quo cost of continued occupancy at the proposed market rental rate would be at least \$24.6 million per year.

Acquisition Strategy

In order to maximize the flexibility and competition in acquiring space to house the DHS/CBP/OIT elements, GSA may issue a single, multiple award solicitation that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space able to meet requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA

PBS


**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NORTHERN, VA**

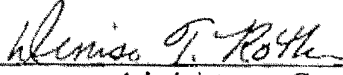
Prospectus Number: PVA-01-WA17
Congressional Districts: 8, 10, 11

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 15, 2016

Recommended:  _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:  _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

November 2015

Housing Plan
Department of Homeland Security
Customs and Border Protection
Office of Information Technology

PVA-01-WA17
Northern, VA

Leased Locations	CURRENT				PROPOSED			
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF) ¹		Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)	
	Office	Total	Office	Special	Office	Total	Office	Special
1801 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA	541	541	75,427	870	9,102	85,399		
6330 Walker Lane, Springfield, VA	472	472	65,647	98	8,681	74,426		
7799 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA	315	315	73,104	160	12,638	85,902		
7375 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA	112	112	13,270	167	2,562	15,999		
7451 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA	78	78	12,397	61	3,293	15,751		
7435 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA	86	86	14,771	-	2,705	17,476		
7501 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA	411	411	59,272	215	16,269	75,756		
7400 Fullerton Road, Springfield, VA	126	126	18,029	522	4,635	23,186		
13990 Parkeast Circle, Chantilly, VA	144	144	38,984	284	3,740	43,008		
5971 Kingsdowne Village Pkwy, Alexandria, VA	427	427	41,125	453	3,128	44,686		
7681 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA	527	527	57,061	-	42,094	99,155		
Proposed								
Total	3,239	3,239	469,087	2,810	108,847	580,744	3,783	3,783

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²		
Rate	Current	Proposed
	113	64

UR=average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 103,199 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 68,272 usf of office support space

Overall UR ³		
Rate	Current	Proposed
	184	124

R/U Factor ⁴			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	580,744	1.08	629,680
Proposed	468,291	1.20	562,000

NOTES:

¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people

³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.

⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

Special Space		USF
Conference		21,382
Training		8,516
LAN/ Teleo		13,741
File Room		5,980
Break / Food		8,057
Shower / Locker		906
Supply / Copy / Print Rooms		8,516
Lab		13,335
Reception		1,812
Lactation Room		544
HSDN/SCIF		2,748
Data Center		37,124
Security		2,899
TOC / Sit Rooms		6,054
Mail Room		2,174
EOC		6,600
Total		140,388

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
ATLANTA, GA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 162,000 rentable square feet of space, including 27 official parking spaces, for the Food and Drug Administration currently located at the FDA Atlanta complex consisting of three leased buildings; Crawford Building, Annex I and Annex II, and an additional lease location in College Park, Georgia at a proposed total annual cost of \$5,994,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 322 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 322 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
ATLANTA, GA**

Prospectus Number: PGA-01-AT17

Congressional District: 5

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 162,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), currently housed at the FDA Atlanta complex consisting of three leased buildings; The Crawford Building, Annex I and Annex II, and an additional lease location in College Park, Georgia, at the Gateway Center Building One.

The proposed lease will provide continued housing for FDA and will improve the office utilization rate from 176 to 103 usable square feet (USF) per person.

Description

Occupant:	Food and Drug Administration
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	134,491 (Current RSF/USF = 1.15)
Estimated Maximum RSF:	162,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.15)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	27,509 (expansion)
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	292
Estimated Usable Square Feet/Person:	322
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	20 Years
Expiration Dates of Current Leases:	11/24/2017, 12/30/2017, and 7/31/2022
Delineated Area:	Atlanta Midtown Business District
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	27 secured
Scoring:	Operating lease
Estimated Rental Rate ¹ :	37.00/RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost ² :	\$5,994,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$5,863,625 (Leases effective 11/25/2005, 12/31/1997, 8/1/2012)

¹This estimate is for Fiscal Year 2019 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the government.

²New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
ATLANTA, GA**

Prospectus Number: PGA-01-AT17
Congressional District: 5

Justification

The current leases are unable to provide the FDA Southeast Regional Office, Atlanta District Office, and Southeast Regional Laboratories (SRL) with the necessary office and special space to efficiently carry out its mission. The new lease will provide a more modern and streamlined office layout and improve office utilization from 176 square feet per person to 103 square feet per person.

SRL testing includes foods, ceramics, meats, cosmetics, drugs, and other products falling under the purview of the FDA. In addition, the SRL has specialized capabilities and is home to the Atlanta Center for Nutrient Analysis, which is the servicing laboratory to all FDA districts for nutrient analysis on domestic and imported foods that bear nutrition labeling. The size of the existing SRL causes the FDA to constantly retro-fit the aging space, leading to higher maintenance costs. A modern laboratory is needed to properly carry out its mission.

Acquisition Strategy

In order to maximize the flexibility in acquiring space to house the FDA elements, GSA may issue a single, multiple award solicitation that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space able to meet requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
ATLANTA, GA**

Prospectus Number: PGA-01-AT17
Congressional District: 5

Interim Leasing

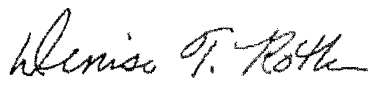
GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

Certification of Need

The proposed lease is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on SEP 13 2016

Recommended: 
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: 
Administrator, General Services Administration

April 2016

Housing Plan
Food and Drug Administration

PGA-01-AT17
Atlanta, GA

Leased Locations	CURRENT				ESTIMATED/PROPOSED				
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)		Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)		
	Office	Total	Office	Special	Storage	Total	Office	Special	Total
Crawford and Annex I	104	177	28,224	5,927	28,649	62,800	-	-	-
Annex II	-	159	-	44,470	44,470	44,470	-	-	-
Gateway Center Building One	65	65	9,821	-	-	9,821	-	-	-
Estimated/Proposed Lease	-	-	-	-	-	-	437	-	83,365
Total	169	401	38,045	5,927	73,119	117,091	437	83,365	140,842

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ¹		
Rate	Current	Proposed
	176	103

UR=average amount of office space per person
 Current UR excludes 73,119 usf of office support space
 Proposed UR excludes 65,039 usf of office support space

Overall UR ²		
Rate	Current	Proposed
	292	322

R/U Factor ³			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	117,091	1.15	134,491
Estimated/Proposed	140,842	1.15	162,000

NOTES:

- ¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
- ²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
- ³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
- ⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

Special Space		USF
Laboratory		73,345
Conference/Training		6,850
Food Service/Break Areas		2,720
Health Unit		100
Fitness Center		400
Lockerroom		450
Total		83,365

AMENDED COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
LEASE—NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION, JACKSON AND CLAY COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AND JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 806,794 rentable square feet of space, including 142 official parking spaces, for the National Archives and Records Administration, Federal Records Center currently located at 200 NW Space Center in Lee's Summit, Missouri at a proposed total annual cost of \$5,647,558 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution. This resolution amends the resolution adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on September 14, 2016.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an office utilization rate of 129 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the office utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an office utilization rate of 129 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
JACKSON AND CLAY COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AND JOHNSON
COUNTY, KANSAS**

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-LS17
Congressional District: MO 05, 06, KS 03

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 806,794 rentable square feet (RSF) for the National Archives and Records Administration – Federal Records Center (NARA-FRC), currently located at 200 NW Space Center, Lee’s Summit, MO.

The lease will provide continued housing for NARA-FRC, will maintain its current office utilization rate of 129 usable square feet (USF) per person, and allow for continued temporary and permanent record storage capabilities for Federal agencies.

Description

Occupant:	National Archives and Records Administration
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF)	806,794 (Current RSF/USF = 1.00)
Estimated Maximum RSF:	806,794 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.00)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	129
Estimated Usable Square Feet/Person:	129
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	20 Years
Expiration Dates of Current Leases:	8/14/2017
Delineated Area:	Jackson and Clay Counties, Missouri, and Johnson County, Kansas
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	142
Scoring:	Operating lease
Estimated Rental Rate ¹ :	\$7.00 / RSF

¹This estimate is for fiscal year 2017 and may be escalated by 2.0 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
 NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
 JACKSON AND CLAY COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AND JOHNSON
 COUNTY, KANSAS**

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-LS17
 Congressional District: MO 05, 06, KS 03

Estimated Total Annual Cost ² :	\$5,647,558
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$3,211,969 (Lease effective 8/15/1997)

Acquisition Strategy

The NARA-FRC is currently located in subterranean space. In order to maximize competition, GSA will consider aboveground and subterranean space for this procurement and will relocate the agency if economically advantageous to the Federal Government.

Justification

NARA-FRC is one of 18 Federal Records Centers across the nation used by Federal agencies for records-related services. The FRCs work together to provide temporary and permanent record storage services. The facility storage services are full at this location and any new incoming client boxes are accommodated by moving existing records to other Federal Records Centers or by the disposal of eligible records. The current location provides storage conditions that meet permanent or archival requirements, which accounts for 57 percent of permanent record storage.

NARA-FRC requires space to accommodate the movement, processing, and retrieving of large quantities of client record boxes into its computer systems, along with the ability to store client records in an environment that meets regulations for Federal Records Storage (36 CFR 1234). The movement of client record boxes is accommodated using eight-foot carts, which require ample circulation space for maneuvering. Although Federal agencies are attempting to convert to electronic storage, the demand for paper record storage still remains and since 2000 has grown by 2.38 percent per year.

²New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
JACKSON AND CLAY COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AND JOHNSON
COUNTY, KANSAS**

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-LS17
Congressional District: MO 05, 06, KS 03

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
JACKSON AND CLAY COUNTIES, MISSOURI, AND JOHNSON
COUNTY, KANSAS**

Prospectus Number: PMO-01-LS17
Congressional District: MO 05, 06, KS 03

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on August 9, 2016

Recommended: _____



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____



Administrator, General Services Administration

October 2015

Housing Plan
National Archives And Records Administration

PMO-01-LS17
Jackson and Clay Counties, MO
and Johnson County, KS

Leased Locations	CURRENT			ESTIMATED/PROPOSED		
	Personnel Office	Total	Usable Square Feet (USF) Storage	Personnel Office	Total	Usable Square Feet (USF) Storage
200 NW Space Center	58	65	2,600	58	65	2,600
Estimated/Proposed Lease						
Total	58	65	2,600	58	65	2,600

Special Space	USF
Warehouse	787,705
Automatic Data Processing	512
Conference/Training	1,252
Food Service	2,109
Janitorial Closet	186
Laboratory	301
Restrooms	1,315
Mail Receiving	702
Workroom	209
File & Copy	317
Total	794,608

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ²	Current	Proposed
Rate	129	129

UR=average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 2,109 usf of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 2,109 usf of office support space

Overall UR ³	Current	Proposed
Rate	N/A	N/A

R/U Factor ⁴	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	806,794	1.00	806,794
Estimated/Proposed	806,794	1.00	806,794

NOTES:

- ¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
- ²Calculation excludes judiciary. Congress and agencies with less than 10 people. Circulation requirement of 40% for movement/processing of client storage above the normal 22%, moved extra circulation to storage.
- ³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
- ⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH,
MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTIES, MD

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 238,000 rentable square feet of space, including 5 official parking spaces, for the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health currently located at 6001 and 6101 Executive Boulevard in Rockville, Maryland at a proposed total annual cost of \$8,330,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agencies agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 183 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 183 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTIES, MD**

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-WA17
Congressional District: 8

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 238,000 rentable square feet (RSF) of space for the Department of Health and Human Services - National Institutes of Health (NIH), currently located at 6001 and 6101 Executive Boulevard in Rockville, MD, under five NIH direct leases. The four leases at 6001 Executive Boulevard expire on January 31, 2019, and the one lease at 6101 Executive Boulevard expires on August 31, 2019.

The proposed lease will enable NIH to provide continued housing. The lease will significantly improve space utilization, as the office utilization rate will be reduced from 172 to 133 usable square feet (USF) per person, and the overall utilization rate from 221 to 183 USF per person, resulting in NIH being housed in approximately 31,632 RSF less space than it has at the current locations.

Description

Occupant:	National Institutes of Health
Current Rentable Square Feet (RSF):	269,632 (Current RSF/USF = 1.22)
Estimated Maximum RSF:	238,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	31,632 (Reduction)
Current Usable Square Feet/Person:	221
Estimated Usable Square Feet/Person:	183
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	15 Years
Expiration Dates of Current Leases:	1/31/2019, 8/31/2019
Delineated Area:	Portions of Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties proximate to the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	5
Scoring:	Operating lease
Estimated Proposed Rental Rate ¹ :	\$35.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost ² :	\$8,330,000

¹This estimate is for fiscal year 2018 and may be escalated by 1.95 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as a basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTIES, MD**

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-WA17
Congressional District: 8

Current Total Annual Cost: \$8,314,990

Justification

The multiple NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) located at 6001 and 6101 Executive Boulevard include the National Institute of Drug Abuse, National Institute of Mental Health, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders, Office of Director-Office of Strategic Coordination, and the Office of Research Services, and are integral components of NIH’s mission. The current leases expire on January 31, 2019, and August 31, 2019. NIH ICs have a continuing need for space and efficient transportation access to the NIH campus in Montgomery County. The lease will streamline operations and improve NIH’s footprint by 31,632 rsf. In the absence of this reduction, the status quo cost of continued occupancy at the existing footprint would be \$9,437,120.

Acquisition Strategy

In order to maximize the flexibility in acquiring space to house the NIH elements, GSA may issue a single, multiple award solicitation in up to two proximate buildings that will allow offerors to provide blocks of space able to meet requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

²New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

GSA**PBS**

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTIES, MD**

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-WA17
Congressional District: 8

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

GSA

PBS

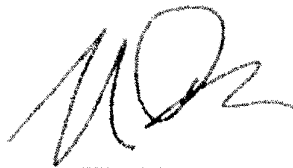
**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTIES, MD**

Prospectus Number: PMD-01-WA17
Congressional District: 8

Certification of Need


The proposed lease is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on August 19, 2016



Recommended: _____

Commissioner, Public Buildings Service



Approved: _____

Administrator, General Services Administration

October 2015

Housing Plan
National Institutes of Health

PMD-01-WA17
Montgomery County, MD

Leased Locations	Personnel			CURRENT			ESTIMATED/PROPOSED			
	Office	Total	905	Office	Storage	Special	Office	Storage	Special	Total
6001 Executive Boulevard	905	905	203,000	-	-	203,000	-	-	-	-
6101 Executive Boulevard	93	93	16,843	-	1,205	18,048	-	-	-	-
Estimated/Proposed Lease	998	998	219,843	-	1,205	221,048	1,084	184,280	14,000	198,280
Total							1,084	184,280	14,000	198,280

Usable Square Feet (USF)	
Office	184,280
Storage	-
Special	14,000
Total	198,280

Office Utilization Rate (UR) ¹	
Current	172
Proposed	133

UR=average amount of office space per person
 Current UR excludes 48,365 usf of office support space
 Proposed UR excludes 40,542 usf of office support space

Overall UR ²	
Current	221
Proposed	183

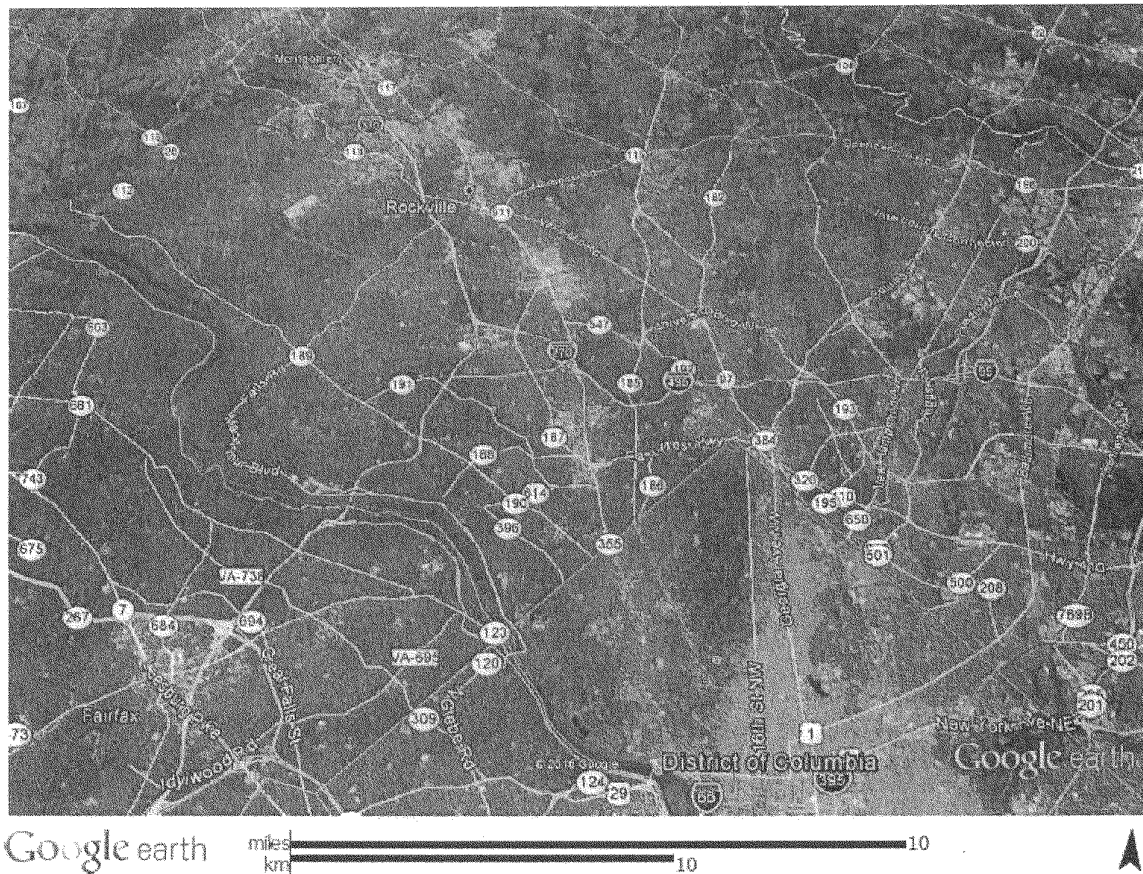
R/U Factor ³	
Total USF	RSF/USF
221,048	1.22
198,280	1.20
238,000	Max RSF

NOTES:

- ¹USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
- ²Calculation excludes Judiciary, Congress and agencies with less than 10 people
- ³USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel.
- ⁴R/U Factor = Max RSF divided by total USF

Special Space	
Data Center and Support Center	4,000
Conference Center	10,000
Total	14,000

Prospectus PMD-01-WA17 Map and Narrative



Within Montgomery and Prince George's counties as further delineated as follows:
 Beginning at the intersection of the Potomac River and the W city boundary of Washington, DC (POB); NW along the Potomac River to Riley's Lock Road; North on Riley's Lock Road to River Road; East along River Road and continuing along Seneca Road (aka Rte 112); NE along Seneca Road to Darnestown Road (aka Rte 28); NE then SE along Darnestown Road to Muddy Branch Road; North along Muddy Branch Road to Great Seneca Highway (aka Rte 119); SE along Great Seneca Highway to Sam Eig Highway (aka I-370); NE along Sam Eig Highway and continuing E along the Intercounty Connector to Baltimore Avenue (aka Rte 1); SW along Baltimore Avenue to Powder Mill Road (Rte 212); East along Powder Mill Road to Edmonston Road (Rte 201); S along Edmonston Road, becoming Kenilworth Avenue (Rte 201) to Annapolis Road (Rte 450); W along Annapolis Road to Bladensburg Road (Alt Rte 1); W on Bladensburg Road to the E city boundary of Washington, DC; NW along the E city boundary of Washington, DC becoming Eastern Avenue NE to Western Avenue NW and the W city boundary of Washington, DC; SW along Western Avenue NW to with POB.

There was no objection.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN
JOSEPH R. PITTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE).

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, what an honor it is to join my colleagues this evening in taking a moment to honor my good friend and fellow alum from Asbury College, Pennsylvania Congressman JOE PITTS.

My friend, JOE PITTS, has spent his life literally engaged in serving those around him. In fact, early in his career, JOE and his wife worked as teachers to educate the next generation until he joined the Air Force in 1963. He answered the call of duty, serving three tours in Vietnam, where he completed 116 combat missions and earned the Air Medal with five oakleaf clusters.

Just a few years after returning home from the war effort, JOE continued his service in his State and our Nation as a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, spending some 24 years assisting his fellow Pennsylvanians.

In 1997, JOE brought his leadership skills and his servant's heart right here to the Halls of Congress, where he has now served for 20 years.

□ 1915

In this role and through his service as chairman of the Values Action Team, JOE has been a guiding force for bringing our Judeo-Christian ethics and moral values to Washington, D.C., and he has literally been a champion for the cause of life.

In Mark, chapter 10, the Lord tells us that those who aspire to leadership must be great servants. Further, in Matthew, chapter 7, we find that we are recognized by our fruits.

In other words, you can tell who someone is not merely by what one says, but by what one does.

JOE, I would just say to you, sir, thank you. You have been tested, and you have shown yourself approved.

We are all going to sincerely and deeply—genuinely—miss JOE PITTS.

I hope, JOE, that as you continue in your next chapter that, in your absence here, we may each have a portion of your servant's heart, and how blessed this body will be if we do so.

I just thank the gentleman so much for the opportunity to take a moment to say "thank you" to this giant of a leader here in Congress and how we will deeply miss him.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for his very eloquent

remarks about our great friend and colleague, the distinguished JOE PITTS.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama, ROBERT ADERHOLT.

Mr. ADERHOLT. I appreciate the time to come to honor JOE PITTS. Congressman SMITH, I appreciate your organizing this evening so we could thank JOE PITTS for his many years of service to not only this Chamber, but also to the public in general.

Madam Speaker, of course, JOE is retiring after 20 years of service to this institution and to the American people. He served, as has been said, 24 years in the Pennsylvania Legislature. The gentleman from Pennsylvania, JOE PITTS, is a hero for conservatives. He fights daily for families, for unborn children, and for persecuted Christians around the world.

I know firsthand about his work for persecuted Christians because one of the first overseas trip opportunities that I had as a Member of Congress was to travel with JOE PITTS to the country of Egypt to advocate on behalf of persecuted Christians. I had the chance to sit there with JOE as we both talked about the plight of the Coptic Christians in the country of Egypt. We sat across the table from Hosni Mubarak, who, at the time, was the President of Egypt, and we let him know of the concerns that we had and that the American people had for Christians who were treated unfairly for no other reason than because of their beliefs and their faith.

JOE PITTS has been a friend and a colleague since we were first elected. He and I were first elected back in 1996. We started here in January of 1997. He has worked tirelessly as chairman of the Values Action Team since the late 1990s. That was when Newt Gingrich had asked him to work on pro-life, pro-family issues. He has been an active, leading member of the Pro-Life Caucus, along with Congressman SMITH, since that time.

I also had the opportunity to work with JOE on OSCE issues, the Organization for Security and Co-operation of Europe. We would meet in the parliamentary assembly once a year with other parliamentarians to try to work on issues. I can tell you the pro-life issue and trying to protect the unborn and the family has been at the forefront of those issues with him as well with the OSCE.

I want to take a minute to thank his staff. Over the years, they have worked hand in glove with Congressman PITTS. They have been champions for the conservative causes over the last 20 years alone here in the House of Representatives, and we will certainly miss working with them as they go on to the next chapters of their lives.

Again, I wish JOE PITTS all the best as he moves on to the next phase of his life. I certainly pray that he and his

wife, Ginny, will have, maybe, a slightly slower pace as they go back to Pennsylvania. I know that JOE, in whatever next chapter of life he is involved, will be involved in protecting families; he will be protecting the unborn—the most vulnerable—and he will be making sure that he does what he feels is in the best interest of this country. I wish JOE PITTS and his family all the best in the many years to come.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Tennessee, DIANE BLACK.

Mrs. BLACK. I thank the gentleman for yielding, my good friend, who is also very involved in protecting life and families, and I appreciate his work in this area as well.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my friend and colleague, Congressman JOE PITTS, on his upcoming retirement from the House of Representatives.

As a former teacher, Congressman PITTS spent years investing in the next generation of leaders, and as an Air Force captain, with three tours of duty in Vietnam, he was on the front lines of protecting the freedoms that we talk about in this Chamber every day.

His service in Congress, now spanning nearly 20 years, will be marked by a quiet strength and a steady leadership that always sought solutions over attention, and that ran towards answers instead of running to the cameras. Congressman PITTS was never the loudest person in the room, but oftentimes he may very well have been the wisest.

As the founder of the Values Action Team, Congressman PITTS created a platform to build stronger relationships between value-oriented Members of Congress and grassroots organizations that shared those same principles. Through his appointment as the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, Congressman PITTS worked to advance real-world healthcare solutions that empowered patients, not bureaucrats.

I will always be most grateful to Congressman PITTS for his fearless, unflinching defense of our Nation's unborn. From his own legislation, like Protect Life Act, to his invaluable leadership in the fight to pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, to his work on the Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives, Congressman PITTS has been a champion for the voiceless and vulnerable at every turn.

I thank Congressman PITTS for his service, for his friendship, for his guidance. I wish him and his wife, Ginny, and his beautiful family all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentlewoman very much for those very, very eloquent remarks.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois, RANDY HULTGREN.

Mr. HULTGREN. I thank my very good friend, CHRIS SMITH, for doing this.

Madam Speaker, it is such a privilege to serve in this amazing place. Some of us have the opportunity—really, the blessing—to be able to meet our heroes. Some of us have the greater blessing of being able to actually not only get to meet them, but to work with our heroes; and those very special few get to become friends with our heroes. That is the feeling I have with JOE PITTS.

JOE PITTS is truly a mentor to me, a hero to me, someone who has served so well in every step of his lifetime. I am here to honor him tonight, to thank him for his service, and to let him know that we are forever grateful.

JOE PITTS is known for many things. Clearly, he is a man of faith. Faith is such a part of his life—his love for God, his love for Jesus Christ. His passion for serving Him influences everything he does. I also love JOE PITTS' commitment and love for his family. JOE and his wife have had a long tradition—for many years—of having grandkids camp, where they will have grandkids—no parents allowed—come and be with them for a week. They will take special trips, do special training, raise up the grandkids to love God, to love this Nation, and to share the values that are so important to JOE and his family.

I am also so grateful for his service here in this Congress. JOE has been faithful over his years. He was tapped early on to be the leader of the Values Action Team so as to recognize that our values are so important. We need champions every single day to be looking out and to be making sure that we are passing legislation that reflects our values—the values of our Founders, the values of so many who have led throughout our Nation—and to be making sure that we are going in the right direction as we go forward. JOE has been faithful there as well—a champion for life, a champion for the persecuted, especially for the religious persecuted around the world. He has been fighting for them, stepping up for them, making sure that their voices are heard. Fighting for the unborn is something that is a passion—a big part—of JOE's life as well.

I am forever grateful to have had the privilege not only to meet JOE PITTS, to get to know JOE PITTS, but to say that JOE is a friend of mine.

JOE, thank you for your service to America. Thank you for your love for your God and for your family. Thank you for all that you have done to make America this wonderful place and for leaving not only a heritage, but such a rich challenge as we go forward to protect the wonderful values that we enjoy. We appreciate you. God bless you, JOE, and God bless America.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman from Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. I thank Mr. SMITH. I really appreciate his efforts in honoring JOE PITTS here tonight and all of the gentleman's efforts over the many years in sticking up for the values that really are important; so I thank the gentleman for that.

Madam Speaker, indeed, it is a night to recognize our leader of the Values Action Team, Mr. JOE PITTS, and all of his dedication to these important causes for our values, which are the things that, I like to say, are going to be remembered long past all the other stuff we do—the fiscal-related things and some other things—that nobody will remember. I like to think they will remember that we stood up for the things that were truly important to families, to the things that endure over time; so being able to join in tonight in recognizing our friend from Pennsylvania is a privilege for me as it was to be able—and it is—to work with JOE.

Over the few short years I have been in the House, I have gotten to know what he is about, and I respect him greatly as a man of faith and courage in standing against the tide that is pretty unpopular these days, a lot of times, in this era of political correctness where what is up is down and what is down is up. He stood in there on some very difficult issues—on life, on basic liberties, on moral conscience, and even on religious conscience. He joined in on some issues from crazy California sometimes, where I come from, in helping to fight a battle there that would allow people to have religious freedom and freedom of conscience. Again, I think a cornerstone of the founding of this country has been lost a lot of times here, in recent reinterpretations, as to what I think true, traditional values are.

He has given that voice to the unborn. He stood side by side with the Little Sisters of the Poor in their direct fight for religious liberty. He defended the conscience of Americans who should never be forced to finance something that goes against one of the very principles our Nation was founded on—life—with their religious convictions.

JOE PITTS, when it comes down to protecting conservative values in our government or outside of it, there was no issue too small, too insignificant, or anything that he would shy away from. Indeed, he inspires us to be bold, to stand up for those who can't always speak for themselves or who have been beaten down by political correctness to even be able to speak for themselves. We need these conservative values. We need visions like JOE PITTS has always exhibited. To have been able to have worked beside him these years I have been here in the House, it has been a privilege, and I appreciate his work and his courage in being fearless against a

tide that sometimes I can't understand.

At the end of all of this, I think some of the most rewarding words and the ones that we can try and express here tonight—but that will be expressed in a bigger place—is: well done, good and faithful servant.

God bless JOE PITTS. Again, we thank him for his service on the Values Action Team and for all he has stood for, and I am proud to be able to stand beside him.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend from California for his very, very fine remarks.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, as there are a number of Members who would like to submit, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, it is hard to imagine a Congress without the incomparable JOE PITTS—a remarkable and highly accomplished lawmaker, a distinguished statesman, a man of principle and bedrock moral conviction and a Christian, who faithfully seeks to do God's will on Earth as it is in Heaven no matter the cost, no matter the sacrifice, no matter the hardship.

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As I think some of my colleagues know—particularly those who know him well—JOE was born in Kentucky into a family of strong Christian faith, a faith that has been passed on to his own three children; Carol, Karen, and Daniel.

JOE's father was an Army chaplain during World War II, serving in the South Pacific after the war. The elder Pitts returned to the Philippines with his wife and children to serve as a missionary in a war-ravaged country. It was there that JOE saw the after effects of war; and that so profoundly affected him, he developed a heart there for human rights and a commitment to a strong national defense.

After high school, JOE attended Asbury College in Kentucky, as my friend and colleague earlier pointed out. He met Virginia—Ginny, as we know her—a wonderful lady. My wife Marie and I and JOE and Ginny have traveled and have been together many times. She is just a wonderful wife of a half a century. Again, they not only have three children but a number of grandchildren as well.

JOE taught math, science, English, and physical education, as well as coached basketball. He served 5½ years in the United States Air Force, including three tours in Vietnam. He was the

EW officer, electronic warfare officer, on a B-52 and completed 116 combat missions and earned the Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters.

Here in Washington, JOE has worked hard helping political prisoners, including people like Saeed Abedini and other Christian and non-Christian—Jewish and other religious and political prisoners around the world.

He has been tenacious in promoting prayer breakfasts all around the world so that members of parliaments and congresses from many countries would know the blessings of fellowship and prayer and being in touch with God.

He even traveled to Mongolia for the first prayer breakfast in the late 1990s. JOE leads an ambassadors' prayer breakfast fellowship at the Cedars, right nearby in northern Virginia. I have had the privilege to join him for those breakfasts on occasions. It is a time for ambassadors to get together from all over the world—different regions meeting at different times, sometimes many from many regions—to break bread, to talk about the Scriptures with some emphasis on policy but mostly about how God does minister to us, how forgiving He is, and how all of us are in need of reconciliation. And JOE PITTS is there leading that fellowship and has been doing it for decades.

JOE has been a leader in the fight against ongoing human rights abuses in Western Sahara and elsewhere. He is co-chair of the Lantos Human Rights Commission. And in Congress, of course, we know he has served in a number of key leadership positions, including his current position as chairman of the Health Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee, obviously working on so many important issues on diseases and disabilities. Top officials from the healthcare system present themselves before his committee for his review and oversight. He has been a problem-solver—he and his staff, working across the aisle to try to find solutions to these often vexing issues of health care.

On the greatest human rights issue of our time—protecting unborn babies and their mothers from the violence of abortion—JOE PITTS has not only saved countless precious lives and fostered reconciliation and hope for post-abortive women, but he has also been an extraordinary inspiration to all of us in Congress.

The way he comports himself. He never gets angry. He deals with the issue in a way that reaches out to people who may have a different view in the hopes that they will see the wisdom of protecting the innocent and most vulnerable.

JOE has been a leader on every pro-life congressional policy—bills, amendments, administrative actions—since he won his seat in Congress in 1996. We are grateful for his powerful voice and vote on ending the hideous method

called partial birth abortion; enacting multiple annual abortion funding bans; proscribing sex selection abortion, which is the ultimate violation of women's rights to say: you are susceptible to killing because you happen to be female; protecting pain-capable unborn children as well as born-alive infants; and enforcing the conscience rights of pro-life Americans has been remarkable. His leadership has been remarkable.

Had the Senate adopted the House-passed Pitts-Stupak amendment, ObamaCare, with all of its egregious flaws, would have at least been abortion-free.

JOE PITTS has been the greatest friend and ally of persons with disabilities, including his robust defense of Terri Schiavo.

His service in the Pennsylvania General Assembly from 1973–1997, including his chairmanship of the powerful Appropriations Committee, to which he was elected by his peers, was filled with accomplishments, including his bold leadership in enacting the Abortion Control Act.

Someday future generations will look back on America's culture of death and wonder how and why a seemingly enlightened society, so blessed with civil rights protections, wealth, educational opportunities, information, medical breakthroughs, a free press, and a strong and diverse faith community could have allowed 60 million unborn children to be killed by abortion.

When the day comes and legal protections for the weak and the most vulnerable are restored, I believe future generations of Americans will remember and celebrate the tenacious heroes, the human rights heroes of today, people like Henry Hyde, compassionate women like Mother Teresa, and JOE PITTS, who persevered, prayed, and worked tenaciously on behalf of the least of these.

St. Francis once famously said: Always preach the gospel, and when necessary, use words.

By his example, by his perpetual radiating of Christ—just look at his eyes; there is kindness and compassion and empathy in JOE PITTS' eyes—he has inspired all of us to strive to do His will on Earth, as it is in Heaven. And it is a distinct privilege and honor to be known as one of JOE PITTS' friends.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. ROTHFUS. Madam Speaker, JOE PITTS is a man whose faith and values, I believe, animate him to protect life in all its stages. Through his decades of service both in the military and public office—and as a dedicated husband and dad—Congressman JOE PITTS has nurtured, protected, and preserved the lives of others.

First, as a young married man and a public school teacher, he nurtured the intellectual life of his students.

Then, so that he could better support his wife and children, he signed up for Officer Training School.

As an Air Force Captain, he did three tours in Vietnam over a five and a half year period, completing 116 combat missions throughout that time, and earning an Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters. Once again, JOE risked his own life to protect the lives of others.

After retiring from military service, JOE returned to teaching, and in 1972, he commenced his 24-year tenure as a PA State Representative, where he was known for being a key advocate of the 1990 Abortion Control Act.

In 1997, JOE became a member of Congress, and understanding that from the family springs new life, he was asked to chair the pro-family Values Action Team.

Throughout his service at the state and federal level, he has worked to improve the lives of others by exercising fiscal responsibility. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, he fought to improve our military readiness, so that our service members can better protect American lives.

I know that each of us here today honoring JOE feel that he has touched our lives, both as a colleague and as a friend. He has touched the lives of countless others through his service.

I wish him all the best in the years to come, and, after decades of serving the lives of others, that he enjoys time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

RETIRING MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to be here this evening to talk about the remarkable records of five individuals who are retiring from the Congress. I have had the honor of chairing the California Democratic delegation for many years; and these five Members—Representative SAM FARR, Representative LOIS CAPPS, Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ, Representative MIKE HONDA, and Representative Janice Hahn—are going home to California after serving distinguished careers here in the House.

THE HONORABLE SAM FARR

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I will start with my near neighbor, who has served since 1993. He came in in a special election, and that is Congressman SAM FARR. He has honorably represented the central coast of California for more than 40 years and here in Congress for the last 23.

SAM was born and raised in the Monterey County area. Before his service here in the House, he early on served in the Peace Corps in Colombia, and his wonderful fluent Spanish is a product of his Peace Corps service in Colombia. To this day, he has a special soft spot for that country.

As the ranking member on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and

Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, he has championed safe and nutritious food for consumers, farmers, and producers. He has made sure that the need of getting fresh food into school lunches has never been far from our thoughts, and he has had remarkable success there, which has served the health of children across the country.

After serving in the Peace Corps, SAM represented his constituents on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors for 6 years. As a member of the Board of Supervisors, he continued to fight for environmental issues and for people who were disadvantaged. After that, he served in the California Legislature.

SAM founded the bipartisan House Oceans Caucus and authored the Oceans Act, which created the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

He is the longest serving Democrat on the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies. And while he served on that subcommittee, he did something simply remarkable. We all know that bases across the United States were closed under the BRAC system, and one of those bases was the Fort Ord military base. It is the biggest California base, and it left a hole in that county. What SAM did was, he worked with the local community to make sure that that base could be repurposed to good use, and he led the effort to make the Cal State University at Monterey a reality at Fort Ord.

SAM is a former chair of the congressional Democratic delegation and did such a great job when he chaired this group. He stands for peace, for diplomacy. SAM is always standing up for the little guy. And one of the things in addition to that is that he has been the photographer for House Democrats. Whenever we go anywhere, SAM is there with his camera, and we really don't know who is going to keep track of our activities when SAM retires.

We wish him well. We know he is going to have a great time in the serene beauty of the region where he grew up. He said: It is time to go home and be a grandpa. And we know that he is a wonderful grandpa.

THE HONORABLE LOIS CAPPS

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, LOIS CAPPS is also retiring. LOIS was sworn in on March 17, 1998. But I remember the day that her late husband, Walter Capps, passed away unexpectedly. She and Walter were on their way to the Capitol, and Walter passed away.

We had an unplanned Special Order here. We were all so shocked that that had happened. And LOIS was here with us. She later went on to run for the seat that her husband had represented really for a short time: Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and parts of Ventura County. She has represented that area with tremendous distinction.

You know, she will be the first to tell you, she never expected to be a Member

of Congress. She is a former nurse, a public health advocate. She was a school nurse and still talks about the work she did as a school nurse with children. And when she got elected to Congress, she was committed to improving schools, to quality health care, and a cleaner environment. She built a legacy of commonsense solutions that have helped make her district, her State, and our country cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable.

And here is something not everyone knows; but when they hear it, it makes so much sense. She has been voted the nicest Member of Congress over and over again, and so she is.

She serves on the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee and sits on the Health Subcommittee, the Energy and Power Subcommittee, as well as the Environment and the Economy Subcommittee. She has focused on Medicare reform, the nursing shortage, mental health, the protection of our air and water. She also serves on the House Natural Resources Committee.

LOIS is someone who not only serves with distinction but who is a warm friend. We will miss her greatly next Congress, but we know that she deserves the retirement that she has earned, and she will be going home to her beautiful district.

THE HONORABLE LORETTA SANCHEZ

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, our colleague LORETTA SANCHEZ is a true trailblazer. Beginning with her election in 1996, where in then-Republican Orange County, she had an upset victory against former Representative Bob Dornan. She defeated Representative Dornan by less than 1,000 votes.

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When she got here, she immediately tried to do what she could for the defense of this Nation. She has served honorably as a senior member on the House Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Homeland Security and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces. She is considered a leader on military and national security issues.

She is also the co-chair of the Congressional Women in the Military Caucus, where she advocated for female servicemembers to serve in combat roles, and she fought to end sexual assault in the Armed Forces.

She served on the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, where she made sure our Nation is prepared for anything, any missile or nuclear attack.

Another thing that I know so well about LORETTA is how much she cares about human rights, and specifically her advocacy for human rights in Vietnam. She and I have co-chaired the Congressional Caucus on Vietnam. She has gone to Vietnam, and she is a reliable, vocal, smart, and dedicated advocate for human rights, for religious

freedom and labor rights for people in Vietnam.

Obviously a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, she served in the past as co-chair of the Immigration Task Force. She is a spectacular person. I will miss her a great deal, and I am thinking about who do I go to on the committee to talk about the nerdy but important things like the National Ignition Facility and big science projects that are also part of the armed services. She has served her country so well.

THE HONORABLE MIKE HONDA

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, MIKE HONDA will also be going home. I have had the honor of knowing MIKE HONDA for many decades. As a matter of fact, I think I first met MIKE when he was serving on the planning commission of the city of San Jose, appointed by then-Mayor Norm Mineta, who later became a Member of Congress. He was later elected to the San Jose Unified School Board, and then to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. In fact, MIKE and I served together on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Many of us know his history. During World War II, MIKE HONDA and his family spent 3 years imprisoned in an internment camp for Japanese Americans. That experience, I think, was the beginning of the fuel for his zeal in his fight for civil rights, for public service, and against discrimination. We will miss him because, although we have a very distinguished member in DORIS MATSUI, who was actually born in an internment camp, I believe that MIKE HONDA is the last of our Members who actually was old enough to remember being in that internment camp.

We have discussions in our country today about locking up people based on their ethnicity or their religious beliefs. It is important that people like MIKE HONDA can stand up and say America made a mistake. America apologized for that mistake. Let's never make that mistake again.

MIKE serves on the House Committee on Appropriations and is serving now as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies. In that position, he played a key role with me and Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO in helping to locate the Patent Office in San Jose and to make sure that the Department of Justice has the resources to address the backlog in rape kits. He also serves on the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies.

He is chair emeritus of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the founding chair of the Congressional Caucus to End Bullying, the vice chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus. In fact, he spent

many years fighting anti-Muslim bigotry and discrimination against the LGBT community.

THE HONORABLE JANICE HAHN

Ms. LOFGREN. Finally, I want to mention our friend Janice Hahn, who took office just, I think, this week as a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Janice was elected to Congress in 2011 and immediately made strong contributions to her district in a short time. But the story of Janice doesn't begin with her election to Congress. It begins long before that.

Her father, Supervisor Kenny Hahn, served longer as a member of the board of supervisors than anyone in the history of the United States; and Janice tells stories of growing up with her father and understanding that public service means getting down and actually talking with your constituents, providing direct services to them. He had a tremendous influence on her, and she served on the Los Angeles City Council before she ran for Congress successfully.

Here, Janice served on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where she did important things like helping to pass the National Freight Network Trust Fund Act to increase investments in port and freight network infrastructure. As a result of her efforts, the harbor maintenance trust fund provided over \$1 billion in resources to operate more efficiently and remain globally competitive.

The Port of Long Beach, which she represented in Congress and now as a Los Angeles County supervisor, moves more than \$180 billion of goods each year and is the second busiest seaport in the United States. She has always made sure that that port got the resources necessary to be efficient not only for the need for business in her district, but recognizing that the goods that come through that port help support the economy across the United States.

She served also on the Committee on Small Business, where she worked to improve access to loans for small businesses to improve job creation. She co-founded the bipartisan Congressional Ports Opportunity, Renewal, Trade, and Security Caucus, the PORTS Caucus, and she also served with JIM COSTA and me on the California High-Speed Rail Caucus, where she championed the California high-speed rail project, which will improve transportation in California and reduce traffic congestion and airport wait times.

Janice Hahn is someone who really cared about her district in Congress, but her district in Congress is tiny compared to the district she represents on the L.A. County Board of Supervisors. We know that she will do a terrific job there.

Many also know her as someone who was very involved in the prayer break-

fast movement here in Congress. She made many friends across the aisle as she did that, and we will miss her.

We know that we will see all of these fine individuals when we go home, as we do every week to California. Now before calling on my colleague Mr. FARR, I would also like to note that the timing of this was a little bit different than we had expected, and a lot of Members have statements.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield to SAM FARR.

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. This is probably the last time I rise on this floor to speak after 23 years of serving here. It may take me a little more than 5 minutes.

Ms. LOFGREN. That is all right.

Mr. FARR. My daughter is on the way with my grandkids, who are trying to watch this. Maybe we can delay it a little more than that.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Ms. LOFGREN for her leadership in the California delegation. She is the head of the Democratic side of the aisle in our caucus from California, the largest caucus just the Democrats alone. I would just like to point out what the politics of the West has done since I first got elected in 1975.

I arrived here, and there were an even number of Democrats and Republicans representing California. Today there are 39 Democrats, and that is because the State has really shifted in their registration and voting. So the California Democratic delegation, it is interesting that ZOE is the chair of because it is the most diverse delegation in Congress: majority women, the highest delegation of Hispanics, of women, of Asians, and I would like to say with, MIKE HONDA and Mr. GARAMENDI and myself, the largest delegation of returned Peace Corps volunteers. It has been quite a change in the 23 years that I have been in Congress.

I first arrived in 1993. I was the last guy in the door here because Leon Panetta, my predecessor, had been elected in the 1992 election, sworn in to the Congress that January; and then when President Clinton was sworn in for his first term, he turned around and appointed Leon Panetta to be head of the Office of Management and Budget. Leon resigns on that day, notifies Governor Wilson, who declares a special election.

Interesting enough, in the special elections in California, it is an open election, so the highest vote getter

from each party at the time would be in the runoff, and 27 people filed. I was in the state assembly. They said: You file and you will clear the field.

No, it didn't happen at all. It was quite a primary, and it ended up with a June election; and on June 15, I think I was sworn here, right in this very spot, to the United States Congress.

What was interesting is I was the 435th Member of Congress, the last person, and today I think my seniority ranks me around 50, from 51 to 55. So it takes 23 years to move from the bottom slot all the way up to the top 50 or so slots in this House. It has been a very interesting experience.

This truly is—and I have seen it through all the years—a representational democracy. There are all kinds of people in Congress with all kinds of issues: personal issues, family issues, financial issues. It really is representational of the society we live in. One thing in common is that they all want to serve the public; they want to serve this country.

That service, particularly in this House, because we are representatives, we serve districts. Madam Chair was a former county supervisor, as I was, and I like jokingly saying that, frankly, because we all serve districts, we are like 435 county supervisors back here. We are more concerned about our district than the whole country.

That is a strength for the constituents of the district, to be able to have direct access to their elected Members of Congress. It is probably a drawback when you are trying to draw the whole country into a common purpose. It is very difficult to get at least 218 people to agree, and that is the challenge here.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Agriculture Committee, the Defense Committee, the Resources Committee, and, in the last 20 or so years, on the Appropriations Committee. It has been a wonderful experience because you are able to really get involved in the Appropriations Committee with all the details of running government.

I am ranking member, the chief Democrat on the Agriculture Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, and our budget for that committee is about the same as the entire budget for the State of California. That is an agency which was created by Abraham Lincoln. It was created to essentially deal with the home ec of westward expansion.

So all of the rural development, the rural poverty programs, are in the Department of Agriculture. Plus you have ag attaches in every Embassy in the United States, in the world. You have the commodities futures exchange. You have Wall Street. You have everything in that committee and it is really interesting, and the biggest feeding program through food stamps, the WIC program, Food for Peace, and so on.

I have been able to do a lot in changing policies so that we got fresh fruits and vegetables, and trying to get them in every school lunch program in the United States. That is good for California agriculture, and it is, more importantly, good for the kids of this Nation.

I have had the privilege of being, I think, the only one in this House to create a national park during my service. The Pinnacles National Park was the 59th national park created in the history of this country.

We have done a big expansion of ocean protection with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. We have created a visitors center for that sanctuary. We have created, for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, a center in Santa Cruz.

We have created a brand-new university out of the largest base closure that ever happened in the history of the United States, with the closure of Fort Ord. Cal State Monterey Bay is really up and coming, about 7,000 students, a great university, really reaching out to the underserved populations of California.

I have been able to raise the pay for Federal workers in my district, what they call the locality pay.

I have been able to, I think, save the Naval Postgraduate School and the Defense Language Institute from being closed or reorganized, realigned to other States. The list goes on and on.

I think what I am most proud of is the fact that I have had such incredible staff. I would just like to take a moment to tell you about Rochelle Dornatt, my chief of staff, who has been with me for 23 years; Debbie Merrill; Troy Phillips; Tom Tucker; Sam Chiron; Dushani De Silva; Zoe Gentes, who is a Sea Grant fellow in my office; Rosie Julin; and Ana Sorrentino, who is my foreign service staffer.

□ 2000

On my district staff, Alec Arago, Carolina Chavez, Nancy DeSerpa, Bertha Munoz, Kristen Petersen, and Alicia Castro. Kristen Petersen just got elected to the Capitola City Council.

All of these people are moving on as I leave tomorrow, and I am very excited that they were part of my life.

Just in closing, I would like to say that my daughter, Jessica, is here in the cloakroom, I hope, and she has with her my grandson, Zachary, and my granddaughter, Ella. I am so pleased that they could be here and share this moment with me.

Congress is a great experience. It is the check and balance. It is the initiator of new ideas. It is the people's House. And I just hope that as Member's face this next uncertainty of a new administration—there is always uncertainty, and probably more so now with the controversial election we had in this country, but I really hope that

this House will rise to the occasion to not let the people down. We fight for all kinds of wonderful reasons. This House, the people's House, has really got to protect the people.

So I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time for me to make a few comments. I am sure that I will have a lot more that I would love to say, but I include in the RECORD a list that I have here of over 20 years of getting results for the 20th Congressional District.

OVER 20 YEARS OF GETTING RESULTS. . . .

Helping change things for the better while in Congress doesn't just mean passing bills, though Sam Farr did a lot of that. It means looking for every opportunity—to form partnerships, to push for White House involvement, to secure earmarks, and even on occasion, to block others from interfering in the district's welfare.

Sam Farr did all this while in Congress and will continue to do so until the day he leaves. There is never a time when Sam Farr is not working for the best interests of the community. He leaves an indelible mark on the district that will have long-term, wide-ranging impact now and far into the future.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Approximate Date. Lists various legislative and administrative actions with their corresponding dates.

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Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I think the comments the gentleman has made show what a difference a Member of Congress can make in the lives of his or her constituents.

One of the things I will say as SAM leaves is that we have joint swearing-in sessions around the Fourth of July. SAM was born on the Fourth of July. Some of the most memorable moments I have are in Gilroy, with hundreds of people wanting to become American citizens. The remarkable thing about our country is that we have 200 people walk in from 150 countries, and they walk out the citizens of just one country.

SAM has been a leader in immigration, the environment, and so many things, and we honor him and respect him for his service to our country.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I passed legislation called Proud to be an American Day. I was hoping that we could do that on the morning of the Fourth of July, but, because it is a Federal holiday, the Federal immigration people don't work that day. So we have been scheduling this around the Fourth of July and days before.

It has been a huge turnout. It is the largest turnout for press because there are so many interesting people to interview. I really appreciate the gentlewoman coming as an immigrant

family and talking about her family background. It has been a highlight to see the smiles and enthusiasm of a day when we are really proud to be Americans.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS), a distinguished Member of the Armed Services Committee and the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, as the only member from the 53rd District, the only district that is 53rd in the country—the highest number district ever—and I am so aware of the size and scope of California and its congressional delegation.

We have such a wide range of talents and perspectives and contributions that California Members bring to this body. As we see the 114th Congress now come to a close, we have more departing Members than many delegations have in the first place. So I am here to talk about some of them.

We are losing leaders, we are losing friends and mentors, Members whom we have looked to and served beside. We are losing Members who have been so influential as they have shared to make their passion to make lives better, each in their own way. As we bid them farewell, I want to take this moment to pay tribute to five members that I am going to dearly miss.

The first one is LOIS CAPPS. LOIS has really been an example and a role model for how to be the quintessential Congresswoman. She is generous, classy, hardworking, collaborative, and never afraid to stand up for people who are in need. One of the things about LOIS that we all know is she has a lock on the Nicest Member of Congress award, and that is for a really good reason.

She has been very helpful to me, and my staff, from the minute I came to Congress. I came a few years after she did. Since then, they have been helpful whenever we needed them. I certainly will miss her leadership, her perspective as a nurse and a healthcare advocate, and our region's voice on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

She has always looked out for and delivered for women, kids, consumers, and anyone who has had problems with healthcare coverage. On that committee, she really has been a leader on the environment and a leader in promoting clean energy and green technology.

Everybody knows LOIS here on the floor. We all just look for her assurance and her smile all the time.

SAM FARR just spoke a few minutes ago. He really is a Member that you look to for results.

I learned about SAM when I was a member of the California legislature. One year, when the California members came to visit our Members of Congress, Sam was there to greet us. I remember

having discussions with him. I think we were both chairing Consumer Affairs at one time in the State legislature and so we became kind of fast friends.

SAM was also one of my walking buddies. There were a few years there where we walked often in the morning, meeting about six o'clock. We had a gang of us who went down to the park. We were there always talking and having a good time and really sharing our experience here.

One thing we all know about SAM is that he was a legendary photo taker. I can assure you, whenever you see SAM wandering down here on the floor, he was often bringing pictures of people from one event or another that he had taken. They were great mementos. I know that we all treasured them dearly.

SAM is known from Monterrey, which he represents, to Colombia. Everywhere he goes, he speaks to people. Often, if you travel with SAM, you know how hard it is to get him moving because he really wants to stop and talk to everybody along the way.

SAM was really shaped by his service in the Peace Corps and dedicated himself to giving back and looking at tough issues from a global perspective. He has been an earmark and appropriations leader. His staff made him a book of accomplishments, and it was so thick. There were so many things that they had to share about SAM and what he has accomplished.

Just like my colleague had said, he really stands for how we can work hard and we can get things done, especially when we know how to work with people. And SAM knows how to do that. That is why he has such a great, thick binder and lots of wonderful pictures.

SAM has been a leader in the fight against offshore drilling and a smart thinker when it comes to BRAC solutions.

I also want to talk about LORETTA SANCHEZ. As my Armed Services colleague, my housemate, and Longworth neighbor, LORETTA is someone I really got to see a lot of.

In this kind of funny button-down town we have, LORETTA is really a breath of fresh air. We know she is never afraid to be herself, and she is not like anyone else who has ever served.

She surprised people when she came to Congress after a very long-shot campaign that really wasn't decided for months after she came here. Of course, she has never been afraid to take on a tough-odds fight. She was one of the first younger women before we had a lot of women coming here to Congress—women who had young children—who were really in their earlier years. A lot of us waited until we were later in our careers, but not LORETTA. She came when she was really a young woman.

LORETTA is famous, of course, for her holiday cards and a lot of things that I just can't repeat right now, and for being one of the smartest, thoughtful, and funniest Members that we have here in Congress.

I know that when San Diego groups come to town and want an interesting speaker, I always recommend LORETTA. I never know what she is going to say, but that is why people listen.

She is someone I will dearly miss, but at least she is leaving her little sister here with us in leadership, no less. We are glad to have LINDA in that position.

I want to talk about my friend, MIKE HONDA. MIKE and I have been on the same path. We served in the legislature together, we campaigned in the year of George W., and we came to Congress in the same small Democratic class in 2000. Our staffs have worked very closely together, and he has ruled the seventh floor of Longworth from the same office that he has held the whole time he has been here in Congress.

Like SAM FARR, MIKE was shaped by his service in the Peace Corps in El Salvador. He has been a warrior for justice, whether it is educational justice or civil rights, and he has taken API issues to a new level and really made people aware of the struggles of Asian Americans from internment camps to POW issues to sex trafficking.

MIKE is something of a bridge as well between the generations. He has represented Silicon Valley with pride and been an advocate and example of new technology. His office always crushes all of us in the Golden Mouse Web site competition, and I think he was the first Member to drive a Prius. He still has that same green Prius with a stuffed animal we see parked all over campus.

More than anything, we miss stories of MIKE's famous karaoke nights. I hear nobody does Sinatra better.

Janice Hahn. Janice actually turned out to be one of my newer colleagues from nearby LA, and I certainly hate to see her leave, but she will be a huge asset as a member of the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. She joins a former colleague here and a former colleague of mine of the State legislature. Go girl.

She is going to do tremendous work. The group of them who are in charge now at LA County, I know, will make tremendous strides for the region and for all of their constituents.

It is very clear that Janice is an expert on transportation and infrastructure. She has helped a lot of us to understand port issues and stands up for the working people who make the goods move.

It is always a great privilege to travel with Janice. I had that opportunity on a few occasions. I am certainly glad she will be serving in elected office. She still has such a great contribution to make.

So, in closing, I just want to say that we certainly are going to miss these Members for different reasons, but those of us still here will carry on their legacies and never forget the marks they have each made.

I have learned from all of them, and I will try to carry on their legacies by making my New Year's resolution to be as genuine as LOIS, as edgy as LORETTA, as engaging as SAM, as good at singing as MIKE, and as spiritual as Janice.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), who represents north of San Francisco and the north coast.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the things I love about serving in Congress is I am always presented with new and interesting experiences. Each year brings more of these experiences, but I have already, in just 4 years, found that there is one experience I have quite enough of, and that is saying goodbye to incredible, irreplaceable colleagues who are just remarkable public servants. I wish them well. I am happy for them in retiring, but I am going to really miss them.

Last year, we had the tough duty of saying goodbye to Henry Waxman and George Miller. This year, we have got another class of terrific people who are moving on.

□ 2015

I am going to miss all of my California colleagues, including our southern California friends, Janice Hahn and LORETTA SANCHEZ; but I want to focus the time I have on our northern California neighbors, starting with our great friend, SAM FARR.

A lot will be said, now and long into the future, about SAM's incredible public service career. People will talk about his time in Colombia in the Peace Corps, the 6 years that he spent on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, his 12 years in the State assembly, his nearly 23 years in Congress. SAM has been such a dedicated and passionate public servant. It is not just the duration and the breadth of those offices. It is really the quality and the character of SAM's service and, particularly, when it comes to the ocean.

SAM was the founder of the House Oceans Caucus, and a longstanding advocate for our coasts and oceans, and reminding all of us and our country, how important they are to our economy. He helped lay the groundwork for a National Ocean Policy that recognizes that there are tens of millions of jobs across this country and trillions of dollars of economic activity that depend on healthy oceans.

SAM has helped all sorts of special places throughout his career, especially in the Central Coast. He has never rested on his laurels. Despite his many accomplishments—and there are too many to list here—I think it is important to note that he created the

Pinnacles National Park, which was signed into law in 2013.

He successfully lobbied to have a national monument at Fort Ord, which was designated in 2012. And SAM has told me many times, even in recent days, that the most satisfying part of his work here in Congress is the enduring part of his legacy, those permanent protections that he, through a lot of hard work and perseverance, has been able to make happen.

Beyond all of this, all of these achievements, all of these offices that define SAM's public service career, I think it is also important to just note he is a heck of a human being.

I will miss SAM. It has been said by Susan and others that he has just always got a warm smile. He greets you on the airplane. He is a pleasure to travel with. He will come up and give you a picture that he took from the last holiday party, sometimes like a year and a half earlier because he has kept it in his pocket for a long time waiting to see you.

SAM, you are just a wonderful friend and human being, and I am so honored to have served with you.

So let's talk about another great human being and public servant, LOIS CAPPS. What I love about LOIS and will deeply miss is the fact that she is a nurse to the core, and a health advocate. She really, as a Member of Congress, and as a health advocate, just walks the walk all the time, constantly advocating for affordable and accessible health care for all, and that includes, obviously, being a champion with her work for the Affordable Care Act. She really does leave this institution, I think, as one of its most respected members, one of the kindest members, certainly one of the ones with widespread affection from her colleagues. That is a reputation that I think everyone in public life should strive for.

LOIS, of course, is another stalwart for California's oceans and our coast, and has helped lead the charge against offshore drilling throughout her tenure.

I think the part of LOIS that I will especially appreciate and especially miss is that she is my living bridge to a wonderful time in my life when I was a student at UC Santa Barbara. Of course, LOIS herself is a graduate of USCB, and I know that my fellow alumni and everyone in the UCSB community is so proud of her.

It is extra special because, of course, she holds the seat in Congress that was previously held by the late Walter Capps, a UCSB professor who was one of my favorite professors way back in the 1980s when I was a Gaucho student.

Finally, it is tough to say good-bye, but we have to, to our great friend, MIKE HONDA, who has so ably represented the Bay Area on the Appropriations Committee. He has made sure

that Congress has invested in key priorities for our Bay Area region. The extension of BART is just one of many, many examples of MIKE's great work.

He served in public life for more than 3 decades, from the San Jose School Board to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the California Assembly, and here in Congress.

MIKE's very special service draws upon his life experience. He has just been an incredible champion for civil rights and human rights and equality. He has really been our North Star, I think, here in Congress on these critical issues.

He has gone to bat for the AAPI community, the LGBT community and, frankly, anyone who has been disadvantaged and who needs a champion in their quest for equality.

MIKE is my neighbor here in Washington. I will miss running into him. I will miss seeing that old, beat-up, first-generation Toyota Prius with all the faded stickers on the bumper. Most of all, I will just miss MIKE's great sense of humor, his warm smile, and his friendship; but I do know that that friendship will continue.

Mr. Speaker, and my colleague, ZOE LOFGREN, thank you for the time to lend my voice of appreciation and gratitude to these great, great, champions for California and for our country. We wish them well.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I had a number of other Members who had planned to be here but, because of the hour, there is a conflicting event, so they will be adding their voices to the RECORD.

Let me just close by saying that our delegation—really, all the Congress and the public—are going to miss the distinguished service of SAM FARR, LOIS CAPPS, LORETTA SANCHEZ, MIKE HONDA, and Janice Hahn. Each of them very different, but each of them made their mark in a way that will not be forgotten. We are sad to see them go, but here's the good news: we have fresh faces coming in to replace them who are very distinguished and who will also make their mark because none of us here will be here forever. We are just passing through this people's House in an effort to serve our country as best we can. Certainly, these Members have served that public with tremendous distinction, and we are honored to have served with them.

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my fellow Californians who I have had the honor of working with here in the House of Representatives.

SAM FARR has spent more than two decades serving the Central Coast in Congress . . . and so many years before that serving locally.

He has been a longtime advocate for our veterans and military families in California. And he always stands up for essential environmental protection efforts . . . and ocean conservation.

Because of Congressman FARR . . . many of our natural treasures in California will be preserved. He will be greatly missed, but I know he will enjoy spending more time in his beautiful hometown of Carmel.

My friend MIKE HONDA will be returning home to California after serving more than 35 years as an elected official . . . and 16 years as a member of Congress . . . representing the people of Silicon Valley.

Congressman HONDA has worked tirelessly on behalf of those who don't have a voice . . . serving as an important advocate for underserved communities. He has always understood the importance of closing gaps in education for our young people . . . and has put that on the forefront of his work in Congress.

Congressman HONDA has dedicated his life to public service . . . and we're incredibly grateful for all that he has done for the people of California. I know he will continue to be an important voice on the issues he cares about.

JANICE HAHN has always been willing to tackle important issues in Congress. I'm particularly grateful for her work to ensure we are strengthening infrastructure in California . . . and for her advocacy on behalf of women.

I know that as she transitions to her new role as Los Angeles County Supervisor . . . she will continue to deliver results for her region.

Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ has been an important advocate for women in the military . . . and a leader on immigration issues. I'm grateful for her decades of service here in Congress.

I will also dearly miss LOIS CAPPS . . . who I have had the pleasure of serving with for many years. As a former school nurse . . . Congresswoman CAPPS has provided valuable insight on public health issues in Congress.

I've enjoyed working with her on the Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee on issues that impact everyday Americans . . . from ensuring people have affordable healthcare . . . to bolstering medical research . . . to strengthening programs like Medicare.

Congresswoman CAPPS has also been an important environmental advocate during her time in Congress. She understands the connections between public health and our changing climate . . . and has continuously fought to ensure that future generations in Santa Barbara . . . and across the country . . . have clean air to breathe.

I'm grateful to all of my departing colleagues from the great state of California. Each of you has brought a unique and important perspective to Congress . . . and I will miss the insights and friendship that you have provided me over the years.

Thank you for your service to our great nation . . . and I wish you all the best of luck as you enter into the next chapter of your lives back in California.

Know that you will always be welcome back here in the Nation's Capital.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my colleagues and good friends Reps. SAM FARR, LOIS CAPPS, LORETTA SANCHEZ, MIKE HONDA and JANICE HAHN upon their retirement from the House of Representatives.

These Members of Congress have been true fighters for California and have been in-

strumental in achieving progress on a number of issues important to our state and our country. With their help, California Democrats have led the fight to ensure access to affordable healthcare, to address the legal needs of our immigrant community and to give every family a fair shot at a good living.

Their work here certainly hasn't been easy, and they have made many personal sacrifices through the years. Nonetheless, they've been tough fighters for some of the most vulnerable people in our country. I'm proud to be able to count them among my friends, and I want to express my sincere thanks to SAM, LOIS, LORETTA, MIKE and Janice for all the work we've been able to accomplish together. They have all set a high bar for the rest of us in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, SAM, LOIS, LORETTA, MIKE and Janice have been great friends to Californians and good friends of mine. It is fitting and proper that we honor them here today for their dedicated public service.

UNMANAGEABLE CABINET AGENCIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the people's House this evening.

Last night, I talked about my initial reflections on having been a freshman Congressman spending my first term in the United States House of Representatives. Last evening, I talked at length about the growth of the administrative state, the expansion of executive power, to the detriment of the first branch, the legislative branch. I traced those changes from my previous service on Capitol Hill as a young man in the Senate staff of the U.S. Senate Banking Committee, and then, most recently, working for President Bush 41 during his 4 years in the Presidency.

Tonight I want to turn and continue that discussion with our American people, Mr. Speaker, and talk about how the cabinet agencies, since I worked for President Bush, worked in cabinet affairs, coordinated economic policy during the last 2 years of his Presidency from the White House staff. I want to talk tonight about those cabinet agencies and how, in my view, they have become essentially unmanageable.

You can see the critical need for spending and personnel reform in many of our departments. In fact, one may assume that change is desired by both the legislative and executive branches, yet reform flounders, whether it was at the Pentagon under Secretary Rumsfeld during Bush 43 or the Veterans Affairs Department today under the current administration.

I have watched the VA for the past 2 years. Secretary McDonald's plans changed, laws are changed, yet malfeasance, incompetence, and worse persist.

On just this Monday, Mr. Speaker, The Washington Post published a shocking report that Pentagon officials buried evidence of \$125 billion in bureaucratic waste during 2015. For that horrific activity, they were the recipient of this month's Golden Fleece Award by my office.

To make it worse, they even made the effort, according to The Washington Post, of hiding this effort, knowing that it would be impetus for the Congress to come together and cut their budget. Clearly, that is a problem with an unmanageable cabinet agency.

I have seen this firsthand right in Little Rock, my hometown, where the center of the Air Force's C-130 program is, for America's airlift, where the Department of the Air Force officials planned for years to transfer aircraft from Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi to Little Rock Air Force Base, basing it as a critical, cost-saving initiative, along with other force structure changes of some \$922 million across future years of their 5-year plan.

Yet, Congress' meddling prevented this commonsense Air Force plan cost-saving initiative. So these bureaucratic efforts in the cabinet agencies that make them, in my view, unmanageable come both from the executive and from the legislative.

Looking at the Veterans Affairs Department, some 360,000 employees, up 140,000 in the past decade alone. About two-thirds of the members are civilian employees, are part of the American Federation of Government Employees and Service Employees International Union. These VA employees are subject to, of course, the protections by the Merit Systems Protection Board.

While there are many hardworking and dedicated VA employees, both in the healthcare area, across our VA hospitals, and in benefits, and many union members fight for high standards and fight for high quality across our veterans system, the facts are stubborn things, and they remain that the VA has had serious quality, ethics, and management issues that are hurting veterans and hurting the reputation of the Federal Government.

Just in this Congress alone, under the leadership of Congressman JEFF MILLER, the chairman of our Veterans Affairs Committee during this Congress, we have seen reforms to rein in construction spending by the VA, clawback bonuses, fire bad actors, stop paying official time to do union work. We have seen, though, people not fired, even though people have died in VA health care.

We have seen a \$300 million hospital complex, Mr. Speaker, be \$1 billion over budget; not possible, in my view, in the private sector. So there is no doubt that our cabinet agencies need reform. We talked about regulatory reform, executive overreach reform, but we must have work rule reform in our agencies.

The other thing I want to touch on tonight before I talk about solutions is just spending overall to fund the obligations of our Federal Government.

Every month, I receive numerous letters about the \$1.1 trillion in annual spending that Congress typically approves each year. When done properly, this annual spending is approved by way of 12 appropriations bills in this body, the people's House, and six appropriations bills in the Senate. They are conferenced together, and they are presented to the President for his veto or approval.

The problem is that this very typical, very constitutional program that has been applied for 240 years about how to authorize and appropriate funds to operate our government just no longer typically happens, yet this is Congress' most fundamental obligation under Article I.

The appropriations clause is but 16 words long. "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by law."

This is our job, yet the last time that all the appropriations bills were passed individually and enacted into law before October 1 of a new fiscal year was 1994. My, that is a terrible track record.

So this is not a President Obama issue or a President Bush issue. This is an issue of the Congress itself. Now you know why, after 20 years, I have seen so many things change, and not for the better, coming back to Washington to represent the people of central Arkansas.

□ 2030

What happens without such a process of appropriations bills is what we will be voting on this week: a continuing resolution which simply freezes spending at current levels and extends forward to a date certain, or, as an alternative to that kind of continuing resolution, an omnibus spending bill where everything is rolled into one.

These massive bills reflect the work, hopefully, of our House and Senate committees. They frequently contain items, Mr. Speaker, that are parachuted into the bill at the end of the negotiations between the House and the Senate, and those produce fireworks on both sides of the political spectrum.

The irony about that debate of that \$1.1 trillion in typical annual spending, approved by this body, is that it composes about \$600 billion—50 percent—that goes to our national defense that funds the essential expenditures for our men and women in uniform. About \$80 billion goes to our veterans and military construction projects around the United States and the world, and the balance is for everything else that we consider government: highway finance, local education initiatives that go to our States, our

national parks, and help for our Corps of Engineers on our ports and along our rivers.

What shocks the Arkansans that I respond to about their letters is that, while I appreciate their correspondence, their emails about that \$1.1 trillion in spending, the so-called domestic discretionary spending, I remain frustrated that Congress' lack of action on the other \$3.5 trillion that this government spends is in the mandatory spending portion of the budget. It is not subject to annual appropriations.

So I thank you for your mail and your suggestions about how we can reform spending at the Pentagon or reform spending in our national forests or our national parks, but \$3.5 trillion is in mandatory spending which funds Social Security, Social Security Disability, Medicaid health care for the poor, Medicare health care for the elderly, and interest on our national debt—and these programs are essentially based on eligibility.

Yet, many of us remain concerned about the size of our annual deficits—the total size of our national debt—particularly when you consider the size of the national debt to our total economy. We currently have about \$19 trillion in outstanding debt of the United States with about \$6 trillion of that owed to foreign investors outside the U.S., principally in Japan and China. This debt is a percentage of our GDP, that is \$19 trillion, which is about 100 percent of GDP.

Back in my twenties, when I worked for Senator Tower from Texas on the Senate Banking Committee, debt to GDP was about 30 percent. When I worked for President Bush 41 as a member of his White House staff for economic policy, our debt was about 50 or 60 percent of GDP. Now you know why after 20 years I remain so concerned, because it has now doubled.

There is a lot of economic research that tells us about the dampening impact on our national growth rates if we have national debt at these kinds of levels. It saps capital alternatives to the private sector that can bring faster growth. Clearly, since the Great Recession of 2008, we have had low growth—well below what I believe should be the growth rate of this great economy.

Likewise, we are at a time of low interest rates. Interest rates are likely on the rise. And while we are paying a modest amount of interest on that soon-to-be \$19 trillion dollars today, the Congressional Budget Office believes that, as interest rates gradually increase over the next few months and years, interest will move from about \$220 billion to \$830 billion, Mr. Speaker, over the next 10 years, surpassing what we spend as a nation on our national defense. So there is no doubt the Federal Government has grown too big and too complex and interferes too greatly. We must get our fiscal house in order.

Mr. Speaker, eliminating waste and fraud will not do it. Raising taxes won't do it. I am always reminded by members of the opposition that insist that we can only balance our budget by raising taxes. Winston Churchill's favorite quote about taxes: "We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift it himself by the handle." It is not going to do it, Mr. Speaker.

This problem is too large and requires reform, and it requires this Congress to reform in the out-years and put us on the right track. Former Joint Chief of Staff Chairman Michael Mullen said in 2010, 6 years ago, Mr. Speaker, that the biggest national security problem facing the United States was the size of our national debt.

So let me talk now, Mr. Speaker, about potential solutions that this Congress has to adopt working with our President-elect in the coming days, in the coming years, and in the early months of the Trump administration. First, Congress, heal thyself. We must reassert our Article I powers: the power of the purse; the power of the proper appropriations process. We don't need someone to impose that. We need to impose it on ourselves.

We need to remind the American people to contact us, to help us return to regular order and return to the appropriations process. We need all 12 of those bills passed and we need to stop depending on continuing resolutions like we will this week. This is something I think that is fundamental.

Let's talk about some of the reforms to that budget process tonight. In this Congress, I was proud to support the Biennial Budgeting and Enhanced Oversight Act, which was introduced by REID RIBBLE of Wisconsin. If this bill passes, it would help the government fix our broken budget system by establishing a biennial budget cycle. I think this would provide Federal agencies with the kind of planning capability that would make them much more effective. We could identify cost savings, no doubt, in the important infrastructure area and long-term systems issues that we have, particularly in the Pentagon. This would be a large advantage.

After reflecting on this, I support abolishing our Budget Committee process. Put in place in 1974, the intent was to have a way to rein in the executive. The Budget Act of 1974 was to help punish Richard Nixon. I believe that if we abolish the Budget Committee, we can allow our authorizing committees to serve both an authorizing and an appropriating function. We can eliminate redundancies in our Federal Government, and we can look inward in how we can eliminate also unnecessary procedures in Congress that waste time. In turn, our Appropriations Committee

would oversee the budget resolutions, making sure that Congress spends no more than what we have approved in a budget resolution and that we can review individual ceilings for appropriating money for those government functions that don't require an authorization.

I also support the idea of properly directing the Congressional Budget Office to account for, or score, in their terminology, for long-term investments as budget impacts versus just current-year spending. These ideas are not revolutionary; they are well known.

We are stuck in the past, Mr. Speaker, and we must reform ourselves starting with this budget and appropriations process. In fact, these ideas are as old as my boss' suggestions. John Tower was a 24-year veteran of the Senate. He served on the Budget Committee and was chairman of the Armed Services Committee in the Senate. These were his ideas upon his retirement in 1984 as to how to make the Congress more effective.

The Congressional Budget Office relies on a set of government statistics including GDP growth, inflation, and tax receipts. It takes into account dynamic scoring. In my view, these things need to be done in a more proper way to better calculate the cost of legislation and the benefits for the economy. For example, CBO does not currently include interest payments on the debt when scoring new legislation. As previously mentioned, this interest will grow exponentially in the coming years, and now spending programs and reforms, in my view, ought to be calculated and take into account the agency costs and the carrying costs on our national debt.

Another recommended reform to the CBO from our House Budget Committee would be to eliminate built-in discretionary inflation, removing the automatic extensions of expiring programs, and removing the current assumption that entitlement payments will continue at current levels even when their trust funds are predicted to be insolvent. These practices currently used by CBO result in automatic plus-ups for the baseline budget, and these reforms, in my view, will remove the current bias to ever higher spending levels.

We ought to consider what we do in the private sector, Mr. Speaker, zero-based budgeting to assess what is really needed and not needed in our Federal agencies. What a great idea for Mr. Trump's incoming new Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Interior Department, let's go to zero-based budgeting. Let's have you justify to the Chief Financial Officer in the Interior Department every program, and then come to Congress with your recommendation of what we really should be doing at Interior or any other bu-

reau or cabinet agency of the government.

House and Senate bills have been introduced on this issue. Representative DUNCAN of Tennessee and Senator THUNE of South Dakota would, I think, bring a lot of common sense. They would say that if private enterprises are performing activities duplicated by an arm of the Federal Government, then they would have the opportunity to compete for that work that Federal agencies unnecessarily handle in-house and, therefore, give better value to our taxpayers.

IT investments—information technology—is a critical function in all of our private sector life. Yet, GAO, the Government Accountability Office, found that 75 percent of the technology budget for the Federal Government goes to just painting up and fixing aging technology rather than modernizing and going in a different direction on IT.

They are actually still using floppy disks at the Pentagon and maintaining 1970s-era computer platforms. Look, that stuff ought to be in the Smithsonian, not at the Pentagon. The report notes that the Social Security systems that are used to determine our eligibility and our benefits are more than 30 years old and are based on COBOL computer language. Mr. Speaker, I used COBOL computer language when I was in college almost 40 years ago. We need that kind of reform in order to be competitive and provide services to our constituents and safe, cyber-ready protections. We have already witnessed the Office of Personnel Management losing people's identities and creating identify theft right in the middle of a Federal computer system that is supposed to be the best.

Our chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, JASON CHAFFETZ, has expressed his support for modernizing our government's aging systems, calling it a vital part of infrastructure that we need in order to have a fully functional government. I couldn't agree more. We don't need to shortchange these agencies when it comes to delivering a safe, cyber-protected IT infrastructure.

Last night I talked about the administrative state, the growth of regulation, and the cost of regulation exceeding that of all the revenues from the tax system. Let's talk about what we can do to rein in regulatory costs. The House passed a Separation of Powers Restoration Act in 2016, which would amend the Administrative Procedure Act, to require the courts to decide all de novo relevant questions of law, including the interpretation of constitutional and statutory provisions and rules. This bill would eliminate the Chevron deference, which, in my view, is blocking common sense being used and direction of this people's House and the Senate over our regulatory body.

This is not a new topic, Mr. Speaker. James Madison in Federalist No. 51 discussed the need of each branch of government to guard against overreach by another. He stated that when an overreach occurs, ambition must be to counteract ambition.

That is what we want to do in this House, Mr. Speaker. We have passed the REINS Act, Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act. The REINS Act, which passed this act overwhelmingly, said that any major rule like those that I described last night that cost the economy more than \$100 million would require coming back to Congress for approval. That will put the people's Representatives here in charge of the administrative state and not the other way around.

I referenced a few minutes ago The Washington Post story about uncovering \$125 billion of hidden-away, misdirected spending at the Pentagon that I awarded this month's Golden Fleece Award.

□ 2045

I brought back the Golden Fleece from the seventies. It was created by Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin. It is that kind of thing that I think calls attention to egregious behavior by the Executive and allows us to have policy changes here. I commend former Senator Tom Coburn and his successor Senator LANKFORD for the same kind of work.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to turn to the subject of the Community Empowerment Initiative, something that I have spent a lot of time on in my district in Little Rock, finding ways to fight poverty and use the talents and time of the private sector to do that, and also to identify ways that we can find a better way to enhance the lives of American citizens, get them out of poverty, get them the education they need and the skills they need to succeed in our economy.

This is the big challenge before the incoming Trump administration and this Congress. It is important that people have a vested interest in their community and have a sense of community engagement about how we do what I talked about last night, the idea that we let people closest to the problems solve those problems and not be dependent on one-size-fits-all challenges here.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to have been reelected and continue to serve the citizens of Arkansas and our country. I am humbled to be asked to raise my hand on January 3 and again affirm my allegiance to our country and our beloved Constitution.

Every Thursday morning, we assemble for the House prayer breakfast, and every Thursday morning I feel the prayers around our country, for our country. We in that group pray for all of our families. We pray for our men

and women in uniform around our world protecting our liberties and our freedoms. I pray for each of the families in my district, that they have the health and prosperity and the ability to pursue happiness under our great Constitution.

On behalf of my family, I wish all of the people of the Second Congressional District of Arkansas a blessed Christmas season. May God bless our troops overseas and our great Nation.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CLYBURN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 795. An act to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees.

S. 3395. An act to require limitations on prescribed burns.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 8, 2016, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7785. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Anthony G. Crutchfield, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7786. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Submission of Food and Drug Administration Import Data in the Automated Commer-

cial Environment [Docket No.: FDA-2016-N-1487] (RIN: 0910-AH41) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7787. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — New Animal Drugs for Use in Animal Feed; Category Definitions; Confirmation of Effective Date [Docket No.: FDA-2016-N-1896] received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7788. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Arkansas River; Little Rock, AR [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0992] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7789. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the twelfth annual Federal Trade Commission Report on Ethanol Market Concentration, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 7545(o)(10)(B); July 14, 1955, ch. 360, title II, Sec. 211 (amended by Public Law 109-58, Sec. 1501(a)(2)); (119 Stat. 1074); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7790. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Energy Labeling Rule (RIN: 3084-AB15) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7791. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Used Motor Vehicle Trade Regulation Rule (RIN: 3084-AB05) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7792. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the 2016 edition of the Department's annual "To Walk the Earth in Safety" report; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7793. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of Offer and Acceptance for the Government of Peru, Transmittal No. 16-76, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7794. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of Offer and Acceptance for the Government of Finland, Transmittal No. 16-65, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7795. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia, Transmittal No. 16-54, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7796. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-069, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7797. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-110, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7798. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-098, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7799. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-039, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7800. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-095, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7801. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-112, pursuant to Sections 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7802. A letter from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's FY 2014 and 2015 Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and of Commercial Activities, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7803. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Regulatory Affairs Law Division, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Freedom of Information Act Regulations [Docket No.: DHS-2009-0036] (RIN: 1601-AA00) received December 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7804. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7805. A letter from the Program Specialist, LRAD, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rules — Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold [Docket No.: OCC-2015-0021] (RIN: 1557-AD99) received December 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7806. A letter from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2016 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7807. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's Report of FY 2016 Audits, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. 8G(h)(2); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 8G(h)(2) (as added by Public Law 100-504, Sec. 104(a)); (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7808. A letter from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting the Performance and Accountability Report for the year

ended September 30, 2016, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7809. A letter from the Executive Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7810. A letter from the Special Counsel, U.S. Office of Special Counsel, transmitting the Counsel's FY 2016 Performance and Accountability Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7811. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment (RIN: 3133-AE59) received December 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7812. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Potomac River and Anacostia River, and adjacent waters; Washington, DC [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0675] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7813. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Great Egg Harbor Bay, Marmora, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2016-1011] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7814. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage Grounds; Delaware Bay and River, Philadelphia, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0110] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7815. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a memorandum of justification regarding the suspension of limitations under the Jerusalem Embassy Act, pursuant to Public Law 104-45(7)(a); (109 Stat. 400); jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3764. A bill to provide that an Indian group may receive Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe only by an Act of Congress, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-847). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOWDY: Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi Final Report of the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi (Rept. 114-848). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 949. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 612) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse" (Rept. 114-849). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 329 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SWALWELL of California (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 6447. A bill to establish the National Commission on Foreign Interference in the 2016 Election; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 6448. A bill to establish the National Wildlife Corridors System to provide for the protection and restoration of native fish, wildlife, and plant species and their habitats in the United States that have been diminished by habitat loss, degradation, fragmentation, and obstructions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6449. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide political advertising vouchers and payments to defray the costs of postage for candidates in general elections to the Senate or House of Representatives who agree to restrictions on the types of contributions such candidates raise and the types of expenditures such candidates make, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 6450. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. DENHAM (for himself and Mr. CHAFFETZ):

H.R. 6451. A bill to improve the Government-wide management of Federal property; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 6452. A bill to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 6453. A bill to clarify the effect of a Memorandum Opinion for the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, dated September 20, 2011, and pertaining to the lawfulness of proposals by Illinois and New York to use the Internet and out-of-state transaction processors to sell lottery tickets to in-state adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6454. A bill to require a certain percentage of LNG and crude oil exports be transported on United States-built and United States-flag vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee):

H.R. 6455. A bill to require a certain percentage of LNG and crude oil exports be transported on vessels documented under the laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6456. A bill to render the amounts authorized to be appropriated for U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for fiscal years 2018 through 2021 contingent upon the amount appropriated for the Executive Office for Immigration Review for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6457. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage of preventive services that are required to be covered by group and individual

health plans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6458. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to prohibit a State from requiring individuals to submit to drug testing as a condition of assistance under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance to needy families, to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to prohibit a public housing agency from requiring individuals to submit to drug testing as a condition of assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 6459. A bill to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. JONES, Mr. RUSH, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 6460. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require, for projects for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of treatment works funded through a State drinking water treatment revolving loan fund, the use of iron and steel products that are produced in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 6461. A bill to encourage school bus safety; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York (for himself, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 6462. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act for purposes of prioritizing the most vulnerable Medicaid patients; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York (for himself and Mr. LONG):

H.R. 6463. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance with respect to three-dimensional human tissue models, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 6464. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants for teacher-led projects to improve academic growth in elementary school and secondary school, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 6465. A bill to authorize the incorporation of water quality improvement partnership programs into Federal Water Pollution Control Act NPDES permit programs, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota (for himself and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H.R. 6466. A bill to establish a website for Federal Government apps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6467. A bill to provide that individuals may elect to retain work-related benefits when moving throughout the workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HARRIS (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BRAT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. YOHO, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. WALKER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. CONAWAY, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. PALMER, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 6468. A bill to prohibit any entity that receives Federal funds and does not comply with a lawful request for information or detention of an alien made by any officer or employee of the Federal government who is charged with enforcement of the immigration laws from receiving additional funding; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 6469. A bill to revise the Yurok Reservation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. MESSER):

H.R. 6470. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit fellowship and stipend compensation to be saved in an individual retirement account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 6471. A bill to expand retroactive eligibility of the Army Combat Action Badge to include members of the Army who participated in combat during which they personally engaged, or were personally engaged by, the enemy at any time on or after December 7, 1941; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 6472. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Volunteer Teacher Advisory Committee and a Volunteer Parents and Families Advisory Committee; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. UPTON:

H.R. 6473. A bill to express the sense of Congress that information security is critical to the economic security of the United States and to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a report on the costs of information security; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr.

RUSH, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. GUTHRIE):

H.R. 6474. A bill to eliminate the daily newspaper cross-ownership rule of the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 6475. A bill to remove reversionary clauses on property owned by the municipality of Anchorage, Alaska; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUSH:

H. Con. Res. 180. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that rates for inmate calling service should not exceed the affordable modified rates adopted by the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H. Con. Res. 181. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a certain correction in the enrollment of S. 1635; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia):

H. Con. Res. 182. Concurrent resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and the sinking of the U.S.S. West Virginia during that attack; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. LEE:

H. Res. 948. A resolution honoring the individuals who lost their lives in the tragic fire in Oakland, California, on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GARRETT:

H. Res. 950. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 23 as a national day of remembrance of the tragic 1983 terrorist bombing of the United States Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 6447.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 6448.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 3; Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2; and Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6449.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defense and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 6450.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 6451.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States), Clause 6 (relating to post offices and post roads), and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 6452.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 6453.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

In conjunction with the Commerce Clause (Article I Section 8 Clause 3) which states that Congress has the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6454.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6455.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6456.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6457.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6458.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida:

H.R. 6459.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 6460.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 6461.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section

8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:

H.R. 6462.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:

H.R. 6463.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 6464.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 6465.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota:

H.R. 6466.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6467.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HARRIS:

H.R. 6468.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 4 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 6469.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or office thereof.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 6470.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 6471.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution, wherein it reads: "Congress shall have the power . . . to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States . . ." and "Congress shall have the power to . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Miss RICE of New York:

H.R. 6472.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. UPTON:

H.R. 6473.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 6474.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 6475.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

"The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 239: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 446: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1095: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1098: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 1111: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1258: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 1305: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 1342: Mrs. RADEWAGEN and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 1401: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1459: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1571: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 1733: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1814: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2016: Mr. NORCROSS and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2067: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 2519: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 2798: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 2849: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2863: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 2972: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 3084: Mr. KATKO and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 3222: Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 3861: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 3970: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4298: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 4622: Mr. VELA.

H.R. 4794: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 4795: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 4796: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 4813: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 4833: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.

H.R. 4919: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 4932: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 4938: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 5008: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 5067: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. DELANEY, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5183: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 5235: Mr. RUIZ and Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.

- H.R. 5272: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 5369: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 5386: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 5474: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 5589: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 5654: Mr. DAVIDSON.
H.R. 5851: Ms. MENG, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 6041: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 6117: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 6159: Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 6166: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 6176: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 6205: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 6208: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 6226: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 6320: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 6340: Mr. KEATING, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 6343: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 6377: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 6382: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 6417: Mr. COHEN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 6421: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. DENT.
H.R. 6424: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
- H.R. 6428: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 6436: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. KIND, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 6446: Mr. PASCRELL.
H. Con. Res. 144: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. TIPTON.
H. Con. Res. 159: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. KEATING.
H. Con. Res. 175: Mr. NADLER.
H. Con. Res. 176: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H. Res. 12: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Res. 289: Mr. TONKO and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 590: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 833: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BEVERLY WINTERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Beverly Winters for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Beverly is the current Executive Director of Developmental Disabilities Resource Center (DDRC). She began pursuing her dream of building a community that provided responsive support to individuals and families after graduating from the University of Denver with a Master's degree in Social Work. At DDRC, Beverly assists people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and serves in a variety of roles such as Residential Counselor, Medicaid Waiver Coordinator, Case Manager, Director of Resource Coordination and Assistant Executive Director. During her tenure at DDRC she has developed case management services, established the first Family Support Council and the highly successful DDRC behavior health services program, and shaped the self-determination initiative.

Prior to her work at the DDRC, she was the administrator of a residential care facility and a clinical services coordinator for a mental health clinic in Des Moines, Iowa. Beverly has also been a champion for abuse prevention as a member of various county, state and legislative work groups and councils, including the HCPF Mental Health Advisory Committee, Conflict-Free Case-Management task force, Jefferson County Infant/Toddler Interagency Council, CORE Services Commission, Adult Protection Advisory Committee Jefferson County Child and Youth Leadership Commission, and Jeffco Thrives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Beverly Winters for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

RECOGNIZING THE 21ST CENTURY
WILBERFORCE INITIATIVE

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative for working towards a world of religious freedom.

On October 1, 2014, Dr. Randel Everett founded the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative. Dr. Everett has a long and distinguished record of service, which includes establishing

the John Leland Center for Theological Studies, serving as the Executive Director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and over 40 years of pastoring all over the nation including as my own pastor at First Baptist Church in Midland, Texas.

Under Dr. Everett's leadership, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has experienced remarkable growth and has left a lasting impact through their work. The organization has now grown to two offices: one in the Washington, D.C. area that focuses on the United States' engagement in protecting religious liberties and a second office in Dallas, Texas, which serves as a headquarters that mobilizes and engages with churches to help raise public awareness of people who are facing religious oppression around the world.

Since its conception, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has helped thousands of people worldwide by working alongside policymakers. In 2015, members from the organization traveled to Iraq and met with Christians and Yazidis impacted by the Islamic State. Their report, "Edge of Extinction," helped elevate the awareness regarding the atrocities of religious and ethnic minorities in the Nineveh Plain. Through their efforts, the organization was successful in establishing a Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South/Central Asia within the State Department and in passing H. Con. Res. 75, which officially declared ISIL's persecution and mass murder of Christians, Yazidis, and other groups in Iraq and Syria as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. This bill passed the House on March 14, 2016, by a vote of 393-0—a success I was proud to support.

The 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has become a leading advocate for religious minorities in other areas, such as northern and central Nigeria. Throughout 2016, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has traveled throughout areas of Nigeria that the UN describes as the world's worst current humanitarian crisis. During these trips, Wilberforce spoke with thousands of pastors and victims throughout the country and listened to their heartbreaking stories. The group's published report "Fractured and Forgotten" has been featured at numerous conferences and has been used to brief Congressional leaders. The group worked extensively with the Nigerian National Assembly to help confirm a new U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria in September of 2016.

In addition to raising awareness, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has trained more than 2,700 religious and government leaders from across the world on the importance of religious freedom, worked to expand religious liberties in Nepal's Constitution, and met with leaders within the Taiwanese government to discuss creating a Religious Freedom Caucus in the Legislative Yuan. These are just some of the many accomplishments the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has been able to ac-

complish in their efforts to advance religious freedom around the world.

As a nation that was built by those who escaped religious persecution in their homelands, we must not forget that thousands of others across the globe are facing the same persecution as our forefathers. The 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has given these people a voice and hope that one day they can share the same liberties that we all cherish here in this great nation. I applaud the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative for their hard work and pray that God blesses them and continues to provide them with the strength and courage to continue their mission to help save their fellow man.

CONGRATULATING HASTINGS COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL AND MEN'S SOCCER ON NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Volleyball and Men's Soccer teams from Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska, on their 2016 national championships.

This is the Bronco Volleyball team's first national title. Despite trailing by two sets in the final match, the Broncos confidently swept their final three sets for the championship. The team ends their season with a record of 33-3. Katie Placke of Grand Island and Logan Druempel of Schuyler were selected as first team All-Americans, with Katie also receiving a CoSIDA College Division Academic All-American and Logan being named the 2016 NAIA Volleyball National Championship MVP. They are joined by first team All-American Jill Bax of Lincoln, who is the 2016 NAIA Libero of the Year. Coach Matt Buttermore was named the 2016 NAIA Volleyball Coach of the Year.

The Bronco Men's Soccer team is celebrating their second national title, having first won a championship in 2010. The team finished with a record of 24-0-1 under head coach Aaron Champenoy in his first season at Hastings College. The team's roster includes players from seven states and nine countries. Daniel Whitehall was named the 2016 NAIA Player of the Year and the tournament's Most Valuable Offensive Player. Joe White was the tournament's Most Valuable Player and a second team All-American, and Marc Tautz is a third team All-American.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska's Third District, I commend these talented men and women on their athletic and academic achievements. They certainly have made our state proud, and it's a great day to be a Bronco.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF EDGAR "DOOKY" CHASE

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman SCALISE to honor a true New Orleans legend, Mr. Edgar "Dooky" Chase Jr. Mr. Chase is known in New Orleans not only for the decadent cuisine served at Dooky Chase's Restaurant, but also for his continued dedication to being a leader in the African-American community. He used food and music to bring people from all walks of life together under one roof. From the age of 16 to the age of 88, Mr. Chase worked tirelessly for the people of New Orleans.

During his teenage years, Mr. Chase was an active member of the Musicians Union and helped increase the pay for local entertainers. He also worked with the Musicians Union to promote the first racially integrated concert performed at the Municipal Auditorium in the historical Tremé neighborhood.

Mr. Chase and his wife Leah, graciously known as the "Queen of Creole Cuisine," turned his family po-boy restaurant into an eloquent dining experience for the likes of Martin Luther King Sr., Ray Charles, President Barack Obama, and everyday citizens like Rep. SCALISE and I. This restaurant served as a safe place where African-Americans could dine when other establishments did not serve them.

Even in hard times, Mr. Chase's faith did not waver. After Hurricane Katrina, he and his wife lived in a FEMA trailer across from their restaurant for more than a year until they could reopen their doors in 2007.

Because of Mr. Chase's relentless dedication and service to the New Orleans community, his legacy will live on through his iconic restaurant, and through his beloved wife.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF COM-
MANDER MICHAEL F. BRINCK ON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service, dedication, and accomplishments of Commander Michael F. Brinck (USN Ret.), Deputy Staff Director of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, upon the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives.

A native of West Point, Iowa, Commander Brinck received a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from St. Ambrose University in 1968. Following his graduation, Commander Brinck entered the Officer Candidate School for the United States Navy. In 1969, he received his Navy wings and reported to Helicopter Attack Light Squadron 3 in the Republic of Vietnam in support of Riverine operations in the Mekong Delta. Fleet assignments include

carrier deployments to the Gulf of Tonkin and the Mediterranean, flight instructor, three deployments in support of Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica, the Naval War College, Washington D.C. and assignments at the Navy Command Center at the Pentagon, the Bureau of Naval Personnel, and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. After two decades and a distinguished career, he retired from the United States Navy in 1988 with the rank of commander.

Commander Brinck began his career on Capitol Hill in 1995 as the Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Education, Training, Employment, and Housing and continued to serve as a Subcommittee Staff Director for the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the 104th, 105th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, and 113th Congresses.

Due to his steadfast commitment to his work and his expertise navigating the plethora of issues facing America's veterans, Commander Brinck was named the Deputy Staff Director of the full Committee in 2013.

Throughout his tenure on the Committee staff, Commander Brinck faithfully served three different Committee Chairmen—Bob Stump, Steve Buyer, and myself—as well as countless other Members. I know I speak for us all when I say that his wise advice and sage counsel was instrumental in assisting us in honoring the service and sacrifice of America's servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Commander Brinck was a key contributor in the drafting and passage of landmark pieces of veterans' education and training legislation and personally contributed to the creation of policies that continue to improve the daily lives and ongoing well-being of veterans and their families.

During my tenure as Chairman, Commander Brinck was instrumental in creating the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program or VRAP which provided job training for in-demand occupations for nearly 100,000 unemployed veterans. He was also a tireless advocate in drafting and pushing legislation that would ensure that returning veterans received in-state tuition when attending public schools, which became a reality with the passage of the Choice Act in 2014.

Over a long and multifaceted career of distinguished service in the halls of Congress, Commander Brinck has been a dogged advocate for the interests of America's veterans and taxpayers, embodying excellence and commitment in service to his fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, it gives me great pride to honor the selfless service of Commander Brinck.

My wife, Vicki, joins me in honoring him for his many years of exemplary service to our Nation, thanking him for his unyielding dedication to America's veterans, and wishing him and his wife, Marla, all of the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ANN DRAWDY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Ann Drawdy on her tremendous service to the people of Florida. This month, Mrs. Drawdy will retire after serving more than a quarter century as a constituent service representative. It gives me great pleasure to recognize her service to Floridians and the Central Florida community.

The lives of hundreds of citizens have been changed for the better thanks to Ann's knowledge and persistence in providing assistance with issues involving state and federal agencies. During her six years of service to the constituents in Florida Congressional Districts eight and ten, Ann assisted and closed over 200 constituent cases. Countless other constituent cases at the state level were the beneficiaries of her assistance during her time of service in the Florida Senate to Senators Dick Langley, Carey Baker and myself.

From asking for information or a status report on a pending case, or requesting clarification, to serving as a direct point of contact to liaisons in federal agencies, Ann was instrumental in our office successfully intervening on a person's behalf to answer questions, find solutions, or simply attempt to cut through the red tape.

It was a personal honor to have Ann Drawdy on my team serving Central Floridians. Her attitude of service and dedication to quietly assisting Floridians navigate state and federal agencies are a testimony to her kindness and humility. Ann's character, life, and efforts will surely inspire others to follow her example of serving.

I am truly grateful for Ann's faithful service to our state and her dedication to finding solutions on behalf of Floridians. Our community, our state and our country are better due to her service.

ANDREA BURCH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Andrea Burch for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Andrea is currently a Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at Lutheran Medical Center and has transcended expectations through her work both in the medical field and in leadership. During her nearly 25 years of nursing, Andrea has served in many roles, from certified nursing assistant to a critical care specialty nurse in neurosciences. She has also fulfilled several leadership positions, managing a variety of departments, initiatives, and committees.

Today, Andrea provides strategic direction for nursing professional excellence, quality and safety at Lutheran and serves as an advocate for staff and patients. She believes in collaborative, authentic leadership that helps nurses reach their highest professional potential. Andrea is a registered nurse with a Master's Degree in Leadership of Healthcare Systems from Regis University, and she is currently pursuing a Distinguished Leader Executive Certificate from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Andrea Burch for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
THE HONORABLE JOE PITTS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as members of Congress, we all know that our time in this chamber is limited. Each election brings new faces, while history records the names of members as they leave the chamber for the last time. Some members, however, will be remembered long after they have left for the work they do on behalf of the American people. JOE PITTS is one of those members. During his time in Congress, he became known for his dedication to helping his constituents. He was always someone who could be counted on to help create real solutions and to uphold the best traditions of this chamber. He took the lead on helping craft legislative solutions to some of the most difficult problems of our time, including fixes to Medicare and research for deadly diseases. He was also a dedicated fighter on behalf of the pro-life cause, and used the pulpit of elected office to give a voice to the unborn. But perhaps most of all, JOE will be remembered as a man who cared deeply about helping others, and his legacy will be one of working to improve the lives of the American people. Oh behalf of myself and all Pennsylvanians, thank you JOE for your years of dedicated service. I am honored to call you a friend, and wish you all the best in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF WELDON
BURGOON AND WELDON'S SADDLE SHOP & WESTERN WEAR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a long-time Denton business, Weldon's Saddle Shop & Western Wear. The community and I are saddened that the store will close its doors after nearly 60 years of business on January 14, 2017. Weldon's presence on the downtown Denton square will be long remembered.

Weldon Burgoon opened his shop in 1957, where he sold handmade leather saddles and

accessories. In the '60s and '70s Weldon's was surrounded by many feed shops and farming centers, and when ranchers and cowboys came into town, many made sure to stop by Weldon's before they left. Over the years, Mr. Burgoon worked with his daughter, Kippie, and grandson, Clint, to make Weldon's a staple in downtown Denton.

During his time as store owner, Mr. Burgoon crafted over 150 custom saddles and provided thousands of customers with quality Western wear, but he also offered more than just merchandise. Weldon's attracted many high school and college students who were members of the Future Farmers of America organization. These students would work at Burgoon's shop and on his ranch to get school credit and to gain valuable work experience. Mr. Burgoon also served as the rodeo chairman for the North Texas Fair and Rodeo for 14 years. Noted for his reputation for excellence, demonstrated work ethic and dedication to cowboy culture, he was inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2010. Last year, his store was named a Denton County Heritage Business for being in existence for over 50 years.

Mr. Burgoon, now 86, has decided to close the shop after the 2016 holiday season. He looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Joy, and seeing his grandson's new luxury leather store open in Weldon's original location. It is an honor to represent Mr. Burgoon, a local business icon, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
KAZAKHSTAN'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and the United States of America. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Kazakhstan on the tremendous progress achieved by their country during the past quarter century.

The U.S. is the first country to have recognized Kazakhstan's independence and since then we have significantly increased our areas of cooperation. However, the cornerstone of the U.S.-Kazakhstan relations has always been cooperation in nuclear non-proliferation and security.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan inherited the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world and the world's largest nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk. In the first years of Kazakhstan's independence, President Nazarbayev renounced nuclear weapons and closed the Semipalatinsk Test Site. The United States provided Kazakhstan with comprehensive assistance in the removal of nuclear warheads, weapons-grade materials, and their supporting infrastructure.

Five years after gaining its independence, Kazakhstan signed the Comprehensive-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and ratified it in May of

2002. The CTBT bans any nuclear weapon test explosion above or below ground or any other contained environment. Ratifying the CTBT was a milestone toward creating a safer world. However, as a universally recognized leader in nuclear non-proliferation, Kazakhstan understands that it is time to move from a nuclear test ban to a nuclear-weapons free world. This is why Kazakhstan and its neighbors—Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan—created the Central Asian Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone.

We should acknowledge that Kazakhstan has continued to show its commitment expanding its cooperation with the United States on matters of nuclear non-proliferation. As an important example, our two countries are collaborating in building the Nuclear Security Training Center (NSTC). The NSTC will provide training of personnel on security and safeguards essential for safe operation of nuclear facilities in Kazakhstan.

Twenty-five years of close cooperation between Kazakhstan and the United States are the foundation of an important strategic partnership focused on creating a world without nuclear weapons and ultimately a more stable peace around the globe. It is important that we recognize Kazakhstan's leadership in nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. Kazakhstan continues to serve as an example to the international community, and the United States must remain committed to supporting Kazakhstan's efforts to further prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and materials toward a goal of global security.

Mr. Speaker, it is a true pleasure to celebrate the quarter century of Kazakhstan's independence. I would like to extend my warm wishes to the people of Kazakhstan and President Nazarbayev.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of recorded votes on December 5, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "YES" on roll call vote No. 601, No. 602, and No. 603.

HONORING MR. DANIEL S.
CONDRON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel S. Condron upon his retirement after serving for 11 years as the Vice President of University Affairs at Sonoma State University. Mr. Condron has led an impressive career over 44 years and has been a leader in the areas of education, economic development and transportation.

A native of North Tonawanda, New York, Mr. Condron completed his B.S. and M.S. Degrees in Electrical Engineering at Stanford

University. Mr. Condron worked with Hewlett-Packard for 33 years in management positions across a number of business areas including research and development, production, and public affairs.

Mr. Condron has focused his career in education on increasing opportunities for all students from preschool through employment. In his role as Vice President, Mr. Condron's priorities have included community and governmental relations, marketing and communication, creative services and special events for Sonoma State. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Sonoma County Cradle to Career Operations Team. Mr. Condron has also served as President of the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education, Vice President for the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation, and Chairman of the Vice Presidents for Advancement for the California State University System. Mr. Condron has demonstrated a unique ability to bring people together to accomplish goals to improve the future for countless individuals in our community.

Mr. Condron is a proven community leader. He has served many community organizations including serving as President of the Boy Scouts of America Redwood Empire Council, the Luther Burbank Center for the Performing Arts, and the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Condron is also the Chair-elect of United Way of the Wine Country.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Condron has made tremendous, long-lasting contributions to Sonoma State University and to improving opportunities for students in our community. He is a true friend of Sonoma State University and a good friend of mine. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 591 on final passage of H.R. 5047, the Protecting Veterans' Educational Choice Act of 2016, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the First Church of God in Merced County. Their practice in faith and education has provided love and charity to the people of Merced County and the San Joaquin Valley for the last century. The future is looking even brighter for this outstanding center of community faith in the years to come.

The roots of the First Church of God found humble beginnings in 1916, when the Bowen and Houser families moved from Lodi, California to Atwater to begin their fellowship. Their first church services were held in their own homes until they found the opportunity to rent the old Winton Community Hall for larger gatherings, with nothing more than dirt floors and handmade backless benches. By 1924, the church was able to raise their first building with a \$350 credit and payments of \$25 a month. That very building would now fit in the lobby of the First Church of God's current place of worship, which was built in 1961. The First Church of God's Christian Preschool was born in 1964 and has grown into one of the largest places of faith based childcare and in the Atwater-Merced area.

The services provided by the First Church of God and Christian Preschool are as commendable as they are diverse. Sunday school, bible studies, troubled youth outreach, marriage counseling, finance and debt management, and shared missionary services in 87 countries are only a few of the programs offered by the Church and Preschool.

The coming years will prove to be a fruitful time for this place of worship and education. Their undertaking of a \$1.2 million project to furnish a new learning center, which will potentially double the enrollment of children in their facility over the next two years of operation. While it will certainly be challenging, their fellowship has said, "faith is tested and demonstrated in the midst of challenges God places in front of us. If we had everything we needed to start and/or finish, it wouldn't be faith—it would be fact."

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the First Church of God for their remarkable service to the people of Merced County over the last 100 years. Their history illustrates the uncompromising will that individuals with big dreams can exercise when brought together with enough faith in God and community.

MARY BERG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Mary Berg for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

For more than 21 years, Mary Berg has served the Jefferson County community in many different capacities. She is currently the Deputy Director of Jefferson County Department of Human Services. She is passionate about ensuring the safety and well-being of children and their families. Her actions at the local, state and national levels have promoted the expansion of child welfare training programs and systems of care as well as legislation impacting children and families.

Mary received her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and is also a graduate of the Leader-

ship Jefferson County class of 2008. She has co-authored publications on teamwork and has presented at multiple state and national conferences. Her tireless efforts to enable Jefferson County to serve more vulnerable children and families have improved the community greatly.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mary Berg for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

TRIBUTE TO JOEL HANRAHAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa native Joel Hanrahan upon his retirement from Major League Baseball (MLB) after a successful seven-year career, playing for 3 different MLB franchises.

Ever since the second grade, when his teachers or classmates would ask what he wanted to be when he grew up, Joel knew he wanted to be a baseball player. He became known to Iowans as a star pitcher for the Norwalk High School Warriors, later pitching for the University of Nebraska before being drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2000. After honing his skills in the minor leagues, he made his MLB debut with the Washington Nationals on July 28, 2007. He earned his first win as a pitcher a week later against the St. Louis Cardinals. Despite his love of the game, Joel ultimately had to make the difficult decision to retire in 2016. During his career, he compiled a 22–18 record with a 3.85 earned-run average and 100 saves. He also earned a coveted position in the 2011 and 2012 Major League Baseball All-Star games.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Joel for his years of dedication to a game he loves. I am certain that the drive that led him to become an MLB All-Star pitcher will lead to success no matter where his path takes him next. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COURAGE AND BRAVERY OF THE FALLEN OFFICER COLLIN ROSE IN THE LINE OF DUTY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Officer Collin Rose of the Wayne State University's Police Department, who was tragically lost in the line of duty. The Wayne State University Police serve a significant portion of the City of Detroit in addition to the university, and Officer Rose performed his duties with distinction. The community will miss his courage and bravery.

Officer Rose established a reputation as a kind and caring individual dedicated to solving

issues in his community. Rose was born and raised in Pittsburgh, where he excelled as a standout football player in high school. After graduating from Ferris State University in 2010, he began his career in law enforcement as an intern for the Springfield Police Department in southwest Michigan. He then was hired as a cadet in the New Baltimore Police Department, after which he became a police officer at the Village of Richland Police Department. Rose then took a position with the Wayne State University Police, where he had an outstanding record of service and was known for his selflessness and dedication in protecting the city of Detroit and its citizens. Rose also served the community through his involvement with various charitable causes, including the Police Unity Tour, which raises awareness of officers who have died in the line of duty.

Officer Rose's death at a young age is a heartbreaking tragedy. Officer Rose embodied the principles of service and duty, and having such a promising young man's life cut short is a tremendous loss for the law enforcement community and the city of Detroit. His sacrifice shows the extraordinary risks that our nation's police face on a daily basis, and my heart goes out to his family during this difficult period. Officer Rose is a true hero, and it is my hope that his family and the community find strength and come together to honor such an amazing life in the aftermath of his passing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the extraordinary life and courage of Officer Collin Rose. Rose was a fine young officer who was committed to improving the Detroit community, and we honor his life and work as the community mourns his passing.

TRUMP PROMOTES STRONG
MILITARY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a son of a World War II Flying Tiger who served in India and China, a 31-year veteran myself, and the grateful father of four sons who served overseas in the Global War on Terrorism, I truly appreciated the remarks of President-elect Donald J. Trump in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on December 6, 2016 promoting our military and our military families.

REMARKS AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY
PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD J. TRUMP

I am here today for one main reason: to say thank you to the people of North Carolina.

You went out and pounded the pavement, organized your fellow citizens, and propelled to victory a grassroots movement the likes of which the world has never seen before.

I want to give a very special thank you to the incredible military families, service members and Veterans of North Carolina.

Your state's legacy of service is an inspiration to us all. North Carolina has produced many of the finest soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines the world has ever seen.

Our men and women in uniform represent the very best of us. We must follow their ex-

ample: working in unison toward a shared goal across every social, racial and economic line. They understand that to accomplish the mission, we must all be pulling in the same direction. And they know that we must leave no man or woman behind.

These patriots have shed their blood to defend our country in distant fields of battle across the Earth. Our debt to them is eternal and everlasting.

We salute their sacrifice, and we salute the flag they fought to protect.

Tomorrow is the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. It is a milestone that marks the ultimate sacrifice of those who wear the uniform. It is a reminder, too, of the valiant efforts of America's fighting men and women who have liberated millions from tyranny and oppression.

Now, today, our brave men and women are the first line of defense against Radical Islamic Terrorism—an ideology of death that slaughters innocent men, women and children.

In every generation, a new threat to freedom arises. And just as we defeated the threats we faced in generations past, so too will we defeat the forces of terrorism. We will prevail.

We stand here today just miles from Fort Bragg, the home of heroes.

Our Special Forces at Fort Bragg have been the tip of the spear in fighting terrorism. The motto of our Army Special Forces is 'to free the oppressed' and that is exactly what they have been doing.

At this very moment, soldiers from Fort Bragg are deployed in 90 countries.

Based in Fort Bragg is the 82nd Airborne Division—also known as The All-American Division.

We stand in awe of their achievements.

Not far from here sits forty-five percent of the entire United States Marine Corps, at Camp Lejeune.

12,000 citizen-soldiers fill the ranks of the North Carolina Army and Air National Guard. The National Guard rushed to the scene to help the victims of Hurricane Matthew, and we continue to send our thoughts and prayers to those recovering in its wake.

The military families in North Carolina are a national treasure, and it will be the duty of my Administration to ensure that we protect those who protect us.

That brings me to the second reason I am here today: to discuss our Action Plan To Make America Great Again—beginning with the rebuilding of our military and taking care of our Vets.

Here are the priorities that will guide our Military and Veterans Policy:

—All men and women in uniform will have the supplies, support, equipment, training, services, medical care, and resources they need to get the job done.

—The best care in the world for our Veterans, both at public VA facilities, as well as the right to see a private doctor.

—And finally, a commitment to only engage the use of military forces when it is in the vital national security interests of the United States.

From now on, it's going to be: America First.

We will stop racing to topple foreign regimes. Instead, our focus must be on defeating terrorism and destroying ISIS.

Any nation that shares these goals will be our partner in this mission.

We want to strengthen old friendships and seek out new friendships. Rather than a rigid dogma, we are guided by the lessons of history and a desire to promote stability: this

destructive cycle of intervention and chaos must come to an end.

We seek harmony and goodwill among the nations of the world—and we believe that respect for mutual sovereignty helps form the basis of trust and understanding.

We build up our military not as an act of aggression, but as an act of prevention. We pursue and build up arms not in order to seek conflict, but in order to avoid conflict.

In short, we seek Peace Through Strength.

That is why, in my first budget report to Congress, I am going to ask for the elimination of the defense sequester.

We will show the world that America is going to be strong again.

But in order to succeed with our defense policy, we must find the right person to lead our Defense Department.

That is why I am proud to formally announce today my intention to nominate General James "Mad Dog" Mattis as the next Secretary of Defense for the United States of America.

Jim is a Marine Corps four-star general, the former Commander of U.S. Central Command and NATO's Supreme Allied Commander for Transformation. He led an assault battalion in Operation Desert Storm, led the Forces that went after the Taliban, and commanded the First Marine Division in Iraq.

He is one of the most effective generals and extraordinary leaders of our time, who has committed his life to his love for our country. General Mattis is the living embodiment of the Marine Corps motto, 'Semper Fidelis,' always faithful, and the American people are fortunate that a man of his character and integrity will now be the civilian leader atop the Department of Defense. Under his leadership, we will rebuild our military and alliances, destroy terrorists, face our enemies head on, and make America safe again . . ."

HONORING 2017 SOMALI
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minnesota's vibrant Somali-American community and the many cultural, economic and social contributions members make to our state as they begin preparations to celebrate 2017 Somali Independence Day week next summer in Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Annual commemoration of Somali Independence Day is the culmination of Somali Week celebrations in Minnesota, which drew together more than 30,000 participants last July. Somali Week has grown into the Minnesota Somali communities' largest community event of the year and is one of the largest gatherings of the Somali Diaspora.

Hosted in locations throughout Saint Paul and Minneapolis, this week-long festival unites people from around the world and around the state to share in cultural, entertainment and athletic events. The most notable of these activities include a multicultural soccer tournament known as 'The Cup of Nations,' hosted by Concordia University in Saint Paul and a family-friendly street festival on Somali Independence Day.

'Promoting Diversity through Unity and Inclusion' is the 2017 Somali Week theme established by organizers. Kajoog, a local Somali non-profit organization is leading efforts with other community partners to plan exhibitions, performances, and wide ranging panel discussions, aimed at uplifting the strengths of inclusivity. Kajoog Executive Director Daud Muhammad has forged strong collaborations with the Minnesota Historical Society, the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, the Somali Museum of Minnesota, among many others to plan this vibrant festival.

In addition to organizing Somali Week, Kajoog has earned recognition by local, state and federal officials, as well as law enforcement for their effective job-training and positive youth programs, and efforts to combat extremism throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, Minnesota's Somali community has added greatly to the fabric of our state and our nation. Please join me in paying tribute to community members who come together each year to celebrate Somali Week, and every day work to foster, educate, and promote cultural understanding and traditions among all Minnesotans.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR THE 2016 WASHINGTON POST TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nominees for the Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award for Prince William County Schools.

The Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award was designed to "recognize excellence in teaching, to encourage creative and quality instruction, and to contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area."

The annual recipients include one representative from each of the nineteen metropolitan public school systems, a representative from the Washington metropolitan area private schools and a representative from the District of Columbia Public Charter Schools.

The winner selected from the Prince William Public School Division will also be named the Prince William County Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Teachers who meet the criteria for the award are those who instill in students a desire to learn and achieve, understand the individual needs of students, and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and have the ability to share it effectively with students.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the 2016 Prince William County nominees for The Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Edward Abram, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Rebecca Anderson, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Amy Aylor, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Michael Ciampaglione, Bristow Run Elementary School.

Phyllis Cooke, Sudley Elementary School.
Andrew Cossaboon, Leesylvania Elementary School.

Sherrri Croghan, Pattie Elementary School.
Adam Dove, T. Clay Wood Elementary School.

Carmen Hankerson, Neabsco Elementary School.

Toni Anne Harris, Buckland Mills Elementary School.

Lisa Jacobsmeyer, Henderson Elementary School.

Elizabeth Johnson, Buckland Mills Elementary School.

Stacy Ross, King Elementary School.

Roberta Wallingford, Ashland Elementary School.

Timothy Wilson, Williams Elementary School.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

Christina Barcalow, Graham Park Middle School.

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Erin Anderson, Pennington Traditional School.

Stacie Bonat, Independent Hill School.

Kathleen Dail, New Directions Alternative Education Center.

Stephen Dittmer, Battlefield High School.
Nancy Dow, Independent Hill School.

Carrie Gahagan, Osbourn Park High School.

Megan Hostutler, Patriot High School.

Lorri Jones, Independent Hill School.

Kathleen Kieffer, Osbourn Park High School.

Ann Lightfoot, Potomac High School.

Stephanie Nash, Stonewall Jackson High School.

Juan Sampedro, Hylton High School.

Karen Shaver, Gar-Field High School.

Lauren Wilson, Hylton High School.

Alison Young, Forest Park High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the nominees for the 2016 Washington Post Teacher of the Year Award in Prince William County and in thanking them for their dedication to our children. Their continued service will ensure that Prince William County students are provided with a world class education in a more vibrant learning community.

RETIREMENT OF BELL COUNTY COMMISSIONER RICHARD CORTESE

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Bell County Commissioner Richard Cortese. His extraordinary commitment to community service over nearly a quarter century reflects the best values of Central Texas.

A native son of Little River-Academy, a growing community in the heart of Central Texas, Richard has led a life devoted to causes bigger than him. Upon completion of his U.S. Air Force career, he returned home to build a ranch while continuing to dedicate him-

self to his community. In 1992, he was elected to county commissioner and later was active in the Texas Farm Bureau.

Even outside of his professional career, Richard has dedicated himself to his community. He has been active in the Young Farmers of Texas Association and even served as president of the Little River-Academy Lions Club. He has been a member and has acted as president or chairman of various associations and committees that worked to make Texas a great place to live. He has even been involved with the development of the consolidated 9-1-1 dispatch center in Bell County as well as the planning and construction of additional courts and jail facilities for Bell County.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I heartily salute Richard Cortese's work and contributions to his community. I'm sure I echo the thoughts of all when I wish him the best in both his retirement and all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JUAN R. LOPEZ AS AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERV-
ANT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juan R. Lopez for his tireless work as my District Director.

Starting in 2004, Juan R. Lopez began his career working as a Constituent Advocate in the United States Senate. In 2008, I was elected to serve Florida's Eighth Congressional District for the 111th Congress. I asked Juan to join my team as my Director of Constituent Services. During the 111th Congress, Juan was instrumental to managing staff, casework, and assisting thousands of constituents. His work on behalf of veterans was outstanding.

When I returned to Congress in the 113th Congress, this time representing Florida's Ninth Congressional District, I once again asked Juan to join my team as my Director of Constituent Services. During the 113th Congress, Juan continued to excel at assisting my constituents and worked his way up to Deputy District Director, and in the 114th Congress, District Director.

As District Director, Juan was instrumental in assisting thousands of Floridians. In Juan's spare time, he ran for and won Chairman of the Orange County Florida, Democratic Executive Committee. Under his leadership, he helped guide the Orange County Democratic Party to wins in almost every local, state, and Congressional race in Orange County.

In recognition of all those in Florida that Juan has helped, I am honored to recognize Juan R. Lopez for his service to my office and the constituents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION
OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE
AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT
140TH RECRUIT CLASS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department on the graduation of the 140th Recruit Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 47 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 30-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed eight weeks of EMT training and twenty weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force I, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Recently, members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal last year.

As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 140th Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction.

It is my great honor to enter the names of the 140th Recruit Class into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Roberto C. Acha Melgar, Adam A. Boyd, Jr., Quincy D. Branch, Casey P. Braswell, Timothy G. Breslin, Jr., James M. Brittenham, Rachael A. Callison, Jesus E. Castro, Michael J. Coppersmith, James C. Cox, Erica L. Cruikshank, Joshua A. Eimers, Preston R. Elder III, Caroline A. Evey, Daniel P. Fitzhenry, Joseph E. Gallo III, Rodne W. Getgen, Garrett A. Green, Taylor, A. Grigg, Bryan M. Haring, Brian C. Harris, Grant M. Higginbotham, Robert E. Hunt, Matthew G. Ifert, Michael C. Johnson, Brian A. Krause, Mark C. Langmead, Burke W. M. Latimer, Jacob T. Maund, Justen A. Moreland, Ali S. Najjar, Jacqueline C. Norris, Shonay L. Owens, Gracie J. Pak, Bo Lam P. Park, Harold I. Parra Romero, Roberto Rodriguez, Jr., Jordan P. Scheutzow, Ian M. Sebastian, Shaun M. Serich, Joseph M. Shipman, Marcus E. Tines, Thomas M. Tippet, Zachary J. Webb, Joel W. Whitney, Robert W. Wine III, Cristina-Michael M. Wittlinger.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of

the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present, I say: "Stay safe."

RECOGNIZING THE LIFESAVING
EFFORTS OF JON PUTNAM AND
LARHONDA BRYSON

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize LaRhonda Bryson and Jon Putnam of Concord, North Carolina. Their quick decision making and immediate action saved the life of a man who collapsed while working out at the West Cabarrus YMCA located in Concord. Their selfless actions embody the principles of the YMCA and we are extremely fortunate to have these individuals in our community.

On June 22, 2016, a member of the West Cabarrus YMCA was running on a treadmill when he suddenly collapsed. Both LaRhonda and Jon instinctively reacted to assist the man. Upon initial examination they discovered the man was not breathing and his pulse had stopped. At this moment, Jon began CPR while LaRhonda applied an automated external defibrillator. Shortly after they delivered a jolt from the device the man's pulse returned and he began breathing again. LaRhonda and Jon remained by the man's side caring for him until paramedics arrived and he was taken to the hospital.

It brings me great pride whenever I can share stories like this that showcase the character of individuals in our community. The rapid response of both LaRhonda and Jon is an embodiment of the selfless attitude and commitment to serving others that we should all strive toward.

The West Cabarrus YMCA is part of the Cannon Memorial YMCA network. Since its founding in 1908, the Cannon Memorial YMCA has a rich history of serving the people of Cabarrus County and has become a staple of the community. Having served as a member of the West Cabarrus YMCA Board of Directors, I have seen firsthand the quality and commitment to excellence of its employees. Their commitment to the values driven and faith-based approach of the YMCA has made their community a better place as it continues to serve the people in our community. Again, I am extremely proud of all of those at West Cabarrus YMCA and especially LaRhonda and Jon.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the actions of LaRhonda Bryson and Jon Putnam for their lifesaving efforts and wishing them well as they continue to serve our community.

TRIBUTE TO HANK BOHLING

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Hank Bohling of Greenfield, Iowa, for being selected to receive the 2016 Aaron Eilert's Community Service Award. Hank is the son of Lynn and Elaine Bohling.

The Aaron Eilert's Community Service Award is presented to an individual who is dedicated to community service and positively impacting their fellow citizens. The award is named in honor of Aaron Eilert, who was known throughout his community for giving back and graciously dedicating his time to others. Hank has been involved in the Holidays for Heroes program for the last seven years through the American Red Cross, collecting over 14,000 holiday cards, and distributing them across the globe. He is also active in a number of leadership projects throughout his community, including the local 4-H Club.

Mr. Speaker, Hank has made his state and his community very proud. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for receiving this award and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING ELIZABETH AND HOWARD GREEN, ANGELS IN ADOPTION

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor two extraordinary parents, Dr. Howard and Elizabeth Green of Winchester, Virginia. Due to their unwavering dedication to children in need, I nominated the Greens as Congressional Angels in Adoption this year.

The loving generosity of Howard and Elizabeth has formed a family of 12 children, seven of them adopted, who are now between the ages of 15 and 22, and five biological children, between 16 and 24 years of age. Their adopted children all came from difficult circumstances, yet they worked tirelessly to provide them a warm and loving home. Their first adopted child came from China when she was 15 months old; shortly thereafter they adopted six children from Ethiopia, four siblings ages 11, 9, 6 and 3, followed by two brothers, 6 and 7 years old. They identified at-risk children and took it upon themselves to change their lives for the better.

After having been raised by the Greens in a loving home with strong spiritual guidance, all 12 children are extraordinary. For instance, the oldest three adopted children are thriving in college at Virginia Tech, James Madison University and Hillsdale College; while their biological children have either graduated or are currently in college. Meanwhile, their five youngest children are still in high school.

While the years have surely been filled with joyous moments, it has not always been easy. With all their children, the Greens have provided the necessary accommodations for all of them to succeed.

The story of the inspirational generosity on the part of Dr. Howard and Elizabeth Green has been celebrated for many years in the Shenandoah Valley and is recognized nationally, including by my colleague, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS of Washington, whose husband was a Naval Academy classmate of Howard Green. I am honored to count among my constituents, Elizabeth and Howard Green, whose faith in a loving God has inspired them to become such amazingly generous and loving adoptive parents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Howard and Elizabeth Green. The Greens are stellar examples of the generosity of Americans, who have a long tradition of opening their hearts and their homes in adopting children from all over the world.

ANNE BURKHOLDER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Anne Burkholder for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Anne Burkholder has served the Jefferson County community for more than 50 years. Her passion for education began in Seattle as the daughter of two university educators. While in high school, she had the opportunity to visit 15 countries, spawning an international awareness and deepening her appreciation of the freedoms afforded by U.S. citizenship. After completing her degree at CU Boulder, Anne settled into Jefferson County with her husband, Steve.

Anne has improved the community as a teacher, tutor, sponsor and leader, and she currently serves on the boards of the Jeffco Schools Foundation and the American Association of University Women, Lakewood Branch. Five years ago, Anne co-founded the Parent-Child Home Program Jeffco, which just successfully completed its three-year pilot program.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anne Burkholder for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

RECOGNIZING J.P. JOHANSON,
LENNOX KOHN AND JOHN THOMAS, V

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize J.P. Johanson, Lennox Kohn, and

John Thomas, V for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the autumn of the 114th Congress, Second Session.

The work of these young men has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these three and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All three of our interns have made plans to pursue careers in public service. I am certain they will continue in their great success and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize J.P. Johanson, Lennox Kohn, and John Thomas, V for their service this autumn.

HONORING THE JOHN MUIR LAND TRUST

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, rise today to honor the John Muir Land Trust, which earned Land Trust Accreditation status from the Land Trust Alliance in August 2016. The John Muir Land Trust is one of only 350 land trusts nationwide to receive this prestigious commendation.

The John Muir Land Trust began in 1989 as the Martinez Regional Land Trust in Contra Costa County, California. The Trust initially protected 150 acres of land in the Alhambra Valley, but its success soon attracted more supporters. Over the succeeding years, the renamed John Muir Land Trust grew to incorporate 13 properties throughout Contra Costa County and now protects 2,500 acres of multi-use land.

To demonstrate its ongoing commitment to future conservation, the John Muir Land Trust applied for formal accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance. For a decade, the Land Trust Alliance has provided accreditation to land trusts that demonstrate success in supporting the public interest and that meet high conservation standards. The John Muir Land Trust's recent accreditation is a testament to its tremendous accomplishments and importance within our Contra Costa community.

The Trust's work ensures that people throughout our community have access to trails for walking, hiking and cycling while also preserving agricultural lands. The John Muir Land Trust protects air and water quality and preserves habitats for endangered animal and plant species. Recently, the Trust expanded its community engagement by creating the POINTing to Success program to support STEM education for middle and high school students, enhancing students' education through exposure to natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, the John Muir Land Trust conserves vital parts of our community's natural resources and provides residents with magnificent open spaces and an enhanced quality of

life. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor the John Muir Land Trust here today.

THE RETIREMENT OF PIETRO PARRAVANO FROM THE BOARD OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY HARBOR DISTRICT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to Pietro Parravano as he retires after 21 years of distinguished service on the board of the San Mateo County Harbor District. Pietro is as much an institution at the district as the docks, hoists and loading ramps that make the facility such a community treasure. His thoughtful guidance during his time on the board assured the public of good stewardship and a perspective based upon hands-on experience.

Pietro was first appointed to the harbor district board in 1995 and won re-election every four years thereafter. It is easy to see why he has earned the confidence of the public.

Pietro commercially fished the Anne B. out of Pillar Point Harbor for many years and remains a fixture at the Half Moon Bay farmers market. He knows the sea, the fishing industry, and the long-term needs of both. He is also sensitive to other public needs, such as the need for recreation and visitor-serving facilities at the two ports.

Pietro, originally from Princeton, New Jersey, moved to the West Coast in 1966 when his father spent a sabbatical at Stanford University. He began his career as a teacher but dedicated most of his life to commercial fishing and environmental advocacy. He served as President of the Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association from 1988 to 1995. In 1997, he was one of two U.S. delegates to the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers in New Delhi. From 1992 to 2004 he was a member of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen. In 2005, Pietro started the San Mateo County Food Alliance. He currently serves on the Joint Oceans Commission Initiative, the Institute for Fisheries Resources, and the Culinary Institute of America/Singapore which brings students from Singapore to the Bay Area to learn about sustainable food sources.

His community service is legendary in Half Moon Bay and beyond. In 1996, Pietro was recognized by the Chamber of Commerce for his Community Service, and in 1999, he was recognized as an Environment Leader when he was president of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen. In 2008, Pietro was the fisheries representative at the opening of Ocean Hall at the Smithsonian in Washington DC. In 2013, he was awarded the Margi Grant Heart of Hospitality by the San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau. In sum, he is the "go-to" person in San Mateo County for sustainable food and good fishing policy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pietro Parravano for two decades of public service and a lifetime of dedication to our oceans and sustainable fisheries.

While Pietro is retiring from the Harbor District Commission, his contributions will continue to shape life on the coast and I have no doubt that he will remain active and an important voice in our community.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. DEPUTY
MARSHAL PATRICK CAROTHERS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a great loss that my home state of Georgia experienced on Friday, November 18th.

On that day, United States Deputy Marshal Patrick Carothers was killed in the line of duty while attempting to serve a warrant on a dangerous fugitive in Long County, Georgia.

At Marshal Carothers' memorial service, his son Paul remembered him, saying, "The day he went to heaven, he showed great heroism. But I believe he is a hero because of his character—because of who he chose to be every day."

I had the honor of meeting this man who, as a U.S. Marshal, protected our families and friends for 26 years. His legacy encourages us to reflect each day on who we choose to be.

I remain grateful for individuals like Deputy Marshal Patrick Carothers who selflessly serve, and, Mr. Speaker, I ask that we keep his wife and five children in our prayers in the coming days.

EDINA GIRLS' SWIMMING AND
DIVING TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Edina High School Girls' Swimming and Diving team for winning the Minnesota state title.

The Hornets' victory was a complete team effort as competitors from every grade level contributed to the win. Edina took the lead over their rivals after the third event and never looked back. Senior Rachel Wittmer led the way in swimming by winning the 50 freestyle for the fourth year in a row, and setting a new state record in the 200 and 400 freestyle relays with her teammates. In the diving competition, freshman Megan Phillip defeated the defending state champion on her final dive to claim the title.

Excelling in swimming and diving takes incredible dedication, and their championship is a testament to that continued discipline. These athletes pushed themselves every day to shave hundredths of a second off their personal best or repeated dive after dive until it was perfect. When adding in schoolwork, family obligations, and other commitments, it is remarkable these student-athletes accomplish all that they do.

Mr. Speaker, once again, congratulations to the Edina High School Girls' Swimming and Diving Team on a job well done.

IN RECOGNITION OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES CHARLES B. RANGEL AND
CORRINE BROWN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the legacies of two of my esteemed colleagues, CHARLES B. RANGEL and CORRINE BROWN. At the close of this Congress, Representative RANGEL and Representative BROWN will be concluding a combined sixty-nine years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I am truly appreciative and honored to have worked with these two dedicated and respected individuals. Today, I want to especially recognize their work for the Veterans Braintrust Forum, founded by Congressman RANGEL in 1988. The Veterans Braintrust Forum serves as a virtual advisory group for the Congressional Black Caucus on veteran's issues. This year's forum focused on the VA's Commission on Care report. I am so thankful for the unwavering commitment that these two Members of Congress have for our nation's military, veterans, and African Americans, and I am proud to call them my friends.

Representative RANGEL began his work in Congress forty-six years ago, and I am proud to have been able to work beside him. A Korean War veteran, he entered public service fighting for civil rights and military veterans. In 1965, he participated in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery and in 1971 he was elected to the United States House of Representatives for the first time.

During his tenure in Congress, Representative RANGEL provided decades of leadership on veteran's issues by increasing educational and health benefits for the Vietnam Era and Desert Storm veterans, securing the creation of the Harlem Veterans Outreach Center, and implementing tax protection for members of our Armed Forces and veterans. He also was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, an organization dedicated to advancing the global African American community.

Representative RANGEL is not the only one transitioning from the House at the end of this term. Over two decades ago Representative CORRINE BROWN and I began serving together in Congress. She has been an effective advocate for our nations' veterans. Her leadership on the House Veterans Affairs Committee has helped to ensure that veterans have the resources they need to live healthy and productive lives. She also spent her time supporting the concerns of women veterans and fighting to end homelessness among veterans. Through her efforts, the first African American Marines, the Montford Point Marines, also were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Representatives CHARLES RANGEL and CORRINE BROWN, as they enter this next chapter in both of their lives. The U.S. House of Representatives will surely not be the same without their leadership.

IN MEMORY OF JUDITH
MONASTRA DAVIS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sadly, on November 24, 2016, the Midlands of South Carolina lost a beloved business leader and civic volunteer with the death of Judy Davis. As Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer for BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, she achieved extraordinary professional success. The following obituary was published in The State newspaper of Columbia, South Carolina on November 30, 2016:

COLUMBIA.—Judith Monastra Davis, 57, of Columbia, South Carolina passed away unexpectedly on November 24, 2016 at Palmetto Health Richland following an extended illness. She was born on January 13, 1959 in Mansfield, Ohio to Basil Herman Monastra and Carmella Greer Monastra of Lexington, Ohio, who survive. She also is survived by her husband of thirty years, Gerald L. (Jerry) Davis, Jr. of Columbia, South Carolina. In addition, she is survived by a brother, James Monastra and aunt, Carol Greer, both of Lexington, Ohio.

Judy earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from Ohio Northern University, graduating summa cum laude in 1981. She earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from The Ohio State University in 1984, where she also was recognized as the Moot Court Distinguished Oralist.

She began her corporate law career and met her husband at Lincoln National Corporation in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1984. They were married on March 15, 1986 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Wayne where they have maintained their parish membership.

At Lincoln National, Judy worked in various legal, strategic planning, and domestic and international mergers and acquisitions positions over 10 years. She helped that company to develop and receive one of the first U.S. patents in the insurance industry for the use of artificial intelligence in the underwriting of life reinsurance and she led the spinoff of a subsidiary health insurance company in a billion-dollar public offering. Recruited to BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina in 1995 as Vice President and General Counsel, her intellect, expertise, broad and deep experience, and emotional intelligence made her a valuable member of the corporation's senior leadership team. In 2007, she was promoted to Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer where she served as the senior officer responsible for five of the corporation's subsidiaries including Companion Life Insurance Company, Companion Captive Insurance, Companion Property & Casualty Insurance Company, and UCI Medical Affiliates, as well as having three corporate divisions reporting to her—Law, Government Affairs and Corporate Marketing Communications. She also served as the corporation's Secretary.

Judy lived a full and engaging life as a champion for her community, leaving an indelible imprint. She served on the boards of directors and in leadership positions for many nonprofit, civic and educational entities, lending her gracious and genuine leadership style and skills to each organization. In 2006, she was pressed into replacement

service as chairman for the United Way of the Midlands campaign and helped to raise \$9.5 million. She worked tirelessly and shared her passion for connecting people and ideas with the United Way of the Midlands, the Central Carolina Community Foundation, the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Trinity Housing Corporation, EngenuitySC, SC Launch, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, Columbia College and the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, as well as many other organizations.

Judy was especially known and appreciated throughout the state as a mentor, cheerleader and champion to countless people from all walks of life for whom she served as an inspiration and role model. She always valued kindness and often would wake up early in the morning and ask her husband, "Who can I help today?" She believed that if you put yourself out there and convince others to join in, meaningful differences can be made with only modest efforts to improve people's lives. For colleagues and friends alike, Judy took it as a personal responsibility and challenge to find ways to lift people up and to help them to realize their untapped potential. She did this because it was an important part of who she was. It was never a job requirement.

A recipient of numerous awards and accolades for her professional and philanthropic efforts, in 2010, the Girl Scouts of South Carolina Mountains to Midlands recognized her as a Woman of Distinction. In 2011, Insurance Networking News (INN) named her one of six nationally recognized Women in Insurance Leadership winners. In 2014, Judy received the prestigious Humanitarian of the Year award from the United Way of the Midlands.

Her family wishes to express its deep and heartfelt thanks to the caring and loving staff at South Carolina Oncology Associates in Columbia, as well as to the other health professionals who contributed to her care over the past year.

At Judy's request, the family will hold a brief reception for her friends and colleagues on Thursday, December 15 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the new United Way of the Midlands Center at 1818 Blanding Street in downtown Columbia, South Carolina. A private, family interment service will be held later in Mansfield, Ohio. Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel, is assisting the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the United Way of the Midlands Legacy Fund, the Central Carolina Community Foundation, Columbia College South Carolina, and The Northern Fund at Ohio Northern University.

JESS WIEDERHOLT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Jess Wiederholt for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Jess Wiederholt has used her medical knowledge and selfless heart to not only to

make a difference in Jefferson County, but on a global scale as she strives to improve the well-being of HIV-positive women and children in Africa. Mother of seven—four of which were adopted from East Africa—Jess entered the pediatric health care world as a therapist, helping patients in Illinois and Kentucky for 10 years.

Today, Jess pursues her passion for collaborating with other mothers to help them dream, grow and unleash their full potential through her personal health and wellness business, Isagenix, which assists parents and families in Jefferson County in finding solutions for weight loss, healthy aging, energy, performance and additional income opportunities. In addition to her passion for empowering families and promoting healthy lifestyles, Jess takes her family to Ethiopia and Uganda each year to give business grants to single mothers who are HIV-positive. Through this act of servitude, Jess demonstrates her belief that every woman deserves to be empowered to live out her life with hope, dignity and confidence—regardless of surroundings or circumstance.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jess Wiederholt for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

TRIBUTE TO EVAN BURNHAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Evan Burnham, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Evan is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. Evan is known for being a naturally good test taker, and went into the ACT examination well-prepared. He has not yet decided what will be his field of study but his interests are chemistry and environmental science. With the work ethic he has displayed on his ACT examination, I am confident he will excel no matter what route he decides to take.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Evan for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Evan and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 599 on final passage of H.R. 6392, the Systemic Risk Designation Improvement Act of

2016, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax Education Association (FEA) and two of its remarkable leaders.

For over 50 years FEA has served as the voice of Fairfax County educators. Throughout its history FEA has upheld its mission of service to educators while demanding the highest standards of education for the children of Fairfax County.

FEA leadership is largely responsible for setting the goals of the organization and focusing resources necessary to achieve those goals. Kimberly Adams, who has served as President of the FEA since 2013, has embraced the mission of the FEA and worked to expand community outreach programs to garner support for and understanding of the contributions of public education to the prosperity and quality of life for Fairfax County residents. Throughout her tenure, Kimberly has been a fierce advocate for funding our school system as well as providing support to our educators.

As a former member and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I understand firsthand that the success of our local communities is tied directly to the quality of our school system. I have been proud to partner with the FEA on many occasions to ensure that Fairfax County public schools remain among the best in the country.

I have often said that public service is a noble profession and this is especially true when it comes to the issue of education. I commend Kimberly for her advocacy and thank her for lending her voice for these last three years as FEA President. Although she may be returning to her "former life" as a librarian, I have no doubt that she will continue to stay engaged in the important issues facing our community, our educators, and our children.

Succeeding Kimberly in the role of President of the FEA is Kevin Hickerson. I congratulate him on his election and wish him great success going forward. Kimberly's shoes will certainly be difficult to fill, but I have no doubt that Kevin will continue the progress that has been made by the FEA during the last 50 years.

It is possible to tell a great deal about the health of a community by the level of civic engagement that is exhibited by its residents. If the spirited conversations held throughout our community on education are any indication, then Fairfax County remains a picture of civic health. The efforts of Kimberly Adams, Kevin Hickerson, and the FEA are a large part of that, and I trust that they and the FEA as a whole will continue to play a vital role in ensuring that our teachers and our students succeed for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Kimberly Adams and

Kevin Hickerson as well as all of the members of the FEA for their immeasurable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
WORK OF ROBERT I. THOMAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the significant leadership of a selfless motivator and inspirational man, Robert Thomas. Robert Thomas touched countless lives in his storied career within the Dallas Independent School District as a teacher, coach and administrator. Though he is now passed, his attention to people will survive him.

Mr. Thomas is a real Dallasite and a native of one of the finest neighborhoods in south Dallas—Oak Cliff, or more specifically, “The Bottom.” He attended Lincoln High School where he played football and ran track. After high school, Mr. Thomas went on to Wiley College for one year, before leaving to serve his country in the United States Army for two years. After his service, he returned to Wiley College, where he won two national championships in 1956 and 1957, and was named an All-American.

After his storied athletic career, he was determined to dedicate his passion for sports to the generation younger than he. In 1958, he became a physical education instructor at George Carver Elementary School, yet he would truly start his coaching career at Lincoln High School as a football and track coach in 1962. Robert would go on to enjoy a storied career in coaching and athletic administration work that included a staggering win record, city championships, two district championships and one co-championship.

In reward for his hard work, Robert was appointed to the position of Assistant Athletic Director for the Dallas Independent School District in 1982. He served in this position until 1993, when he was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Athletics in 1993. He held this position until he retired in 2000.

Robert Thomas brought success in athletics to Dallas throughout his entire career. But more important than any of that, he touched the lives of so many young people, showing them that hard work can give them what they deserve, in a world with more resources than he ever enjoyed. He was never bitter, and always loving. He will be sorely missed.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife, Eula Faye Thomas, parents, Hester and Lindon Thomas, sister Dorothy Thomas Mayes. He is survived by his three sons, Kenneth, Gregory and Ricky Thomas; brothers, L.T. Thomas, Wilson Thomas and Bernard Thomas; three grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, as well as by several nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and the children and adults that loved him so in Dallas.

CLERMONT COUNTY SHERIFF A.J.
“TIM” RODENBERG

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clermont County Sheriff A.J. “Tim” Rodenberg on a distinguished career serving the residents of Clermont County and southern Ohio.

With over 25 years of law enforcement experience, including leadership as the sheriff and assistant prosecuting attorney, Tim’s involvement and acumen has been invaluable in helping make Clermont County a safe place to live and work.

A great American committed to service, Tim served on active duty as an officer with the U.S. Marines, during which he was appointed to the Commanding General’s Honor List for outstanding academic and leadership performance.

Originally elected sheriff in 1997, Tim has effectively guided the Clermont County Sheriff’s office into the 21st Century. He has been involved in everything from the Senior Visitation Program, a program that pairs deputies with senior citizens in the community, to the Summer Junior Police Academy, an introduction into police and emergency service work for middle and high school students. Tim has worked tirelessly to improve Clermont County over the years, devoted to the big picture and listening to the people he serves without expectation.

Tim also serves as a state certified police and corrections academy instructor and has taught criminal justice and legal courses at four Greater Cincinnati colleges and universities.

As he prepares to retire, I commend him for his hard work and leadership to make southern Ohio a better place. Our community is lucky to have someone so committed to service.

Thank you Tim, and God bless you.

RECOGNIZING THE VFW POST 7327
AMERICANISM AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7327 in Springfield, Virginia and the winners of its annual Americanism Awards. As combat veterans, members of this post understand the importance of patriotism and public service, and they have continued their legacy of service right here in our community.

Through programs like Adopt-a-Unit, clothing drives, America’s Promise—Alliance for Youth, the March of Dimes, volunteering with local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts troops, and many others, nearly two million VFW members worldwide continue to contribute to their fellow veterans as well others in our community.

Each year VFW Post 7327 recognizes the winners of the Patriot’s Pen, in which students

from grades 6–8 are encouraged to examine our nation’s history as well as their own experiences in modern American society. The VFW also recognizes the winners of the Voice of Democracy contest. Established in 1947, the Voice of Democracy provides students from grades 9–12 the opportunity to voice their opinions on democratic ideas and principles through spoken essays.

VFW Post 7327 also recognizes Teachers of the Year, members of the local police and fire departments, and local businesses who have supported the military and veterans.

On behalf of the 11th District of Virginia, I commend the members and auxiliary of VFW Post 7327 for their ongoing service to our country and community, and I congratulate the following honorees on their awards:

PATRIOT’S PEN

1st Place—Melanie M. Jimenez.
2nd Place—Ella S. Harrison.
3rd Place—Grace F. Lemley.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

1st Place—Abigail E. Mills.
2nd Place—Cynthia L. Johns.
3rd Place—Diana L. Haemer.

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Elementary—Donna Ruggles.
Middle School—Beauregard Patrick Fay.

PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

Master Police Officer James “JT” Frey.
Emergency Medical Technician Susan Yu.
Advanced Life Support Medical Technician Victor Popovich.

COMMUNITY AMERICANISM AWARDS

Kenneth Morrisette, Jr., Interstate International.
Matt Rose, The Forge Brew Works.
Bruce Donato, K&A First Aid and Safety.
John Blake, K&A First Aid and Safety.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking VFW Post 7327 for its continued efforts on behalf of our community and in congratulating the honorees of the 2016 Americanism Awards.

TRIBUTE TO CAYDEN CODEL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cayden Codel, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Cayden is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school’s history. Cayden was able to accomplish this impressive feat while still remaining active in a number of extracurricular activities, including: Knowledge Bowl, Mock Trial, Moody’s Mega Math Challenge Team, swim team, National Honor Society’s student tutoring committee, Valley High School show choir, Iowa Opus Honor Choir, Iowa All-State Orchestra, summer junior counselor at the

Science Center of Iowa and the Plymouth Congregational Church Youth Choir.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Cayden for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN SUPPORT OF STRONGER TIES
WITH TAIWAN

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend President-Elect Trump on his phone call with the President of Taiwan last week.

Taiwan has long been a friend of America, a beacon of democracy in a complicated region. A phone call is not complicated.

I was fortunate enough to travel to Taiwan earlier this year and meet President Tsai. She is a balanced and judicious leader who is well aware of her nation's realities and promotes peace and prosperity with her neighbors. I would be honored if I could return the courtesy and extend some Texas hospitality to the President during her trip to South America in January and pledge to work with the new Administration to re-establish official diplomatic relations in Taiwan.

Our nation's reality is that Taiwan is our friend and we should nurture and value that relationship. Over \$67 billion dollars in trade flows between our countries and 148 sister cities connect us at a local level. A phone call doesn't change that.

RECOGNIZING LIZY PRICE AS AN
OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lizy Price for her tireless work as Director of Constituent Services.

During her time as a staffer in my office, Lizy managed our staff, casework, and the processing of over 3,000 constituent requests for assistance. Her commitment to improving the lives of constituents in my district resulted in the release of over a million dollars in benefit payments.

Lizy's dedication led to many families in our district securing much-needed answers and resolutions as they waited to be reunited with their loved ones. Whether they were parents adopting children from a foreign country or constituents with spouses, parents, or siblings hoping to immigrate to the United States, they were all aided through Lizy's tireless efforts.

Her work on behalf of veterans was also invaluable to many who felt they were being ignored in their hour of need. Veterans seeking immediate appointments at VA Medical Centers, veterans whose claims were among the many in the VA backlog, and veterans seeking

aid and attendance benefits, were all grateful to not only have received help in obtaining answers, but grateful for her showing them the respect and attention they rightfully deserve for their service to our country.

Lizy's parents, Jorge and Martha, immigrated to New York City from Honduras. Together they raised four daughters, Lizy, Peggy, Esther and Patricia in The Bronx. Lizy attended the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, the oldest continuously operating Catholic college preparatory high school in New York State. She has been a resident of Central Florida since 2004 and is the proud mother of Alexander. Her grandson Elijah is the apple of her eye.

I am honored to recognize Lizy Price for her service to my office and the constituents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

MICHELLE POOLET

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Michelle Poollet for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Michelle is the Co-Founder and President of Mount Vernon Data Systems LLC which focuses on database administration, OLTP engine performance tuning, database architecture and data modeling. She has created and delivered courseware on all facets of database systems for academic environments and corporate training facilities. Michelle has been part of IT and database management systems since 1965, on computers ranging from mainframes to PCs and beyond. She pioneered the computer programming world in the Master of Computer Information Systems program at the University of Denver and as a Zachman-Certified Enterprise Architect.

Michelle has been teaching and training since 1989 as adjunct faculty at the University of Denver and as a technical trainer with ProTech and UCI/AmeriTeach. She is the author of 13 books, almost 200 database articles, and innumerable white papers and blog posts on database design and programming. Michelle's technological endeavors make it easier and quicker for businesses to progress in the modern age of communication.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Michelle Poollet for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

IN MEMORY OF CATHY
BLACKBURN NOVINGER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolinians are mourning the recent

passing of Cathy Blackburn Novinger who achieved the highest levels of business, civic, and philanthropic success. Her affection for the citizens of South Carolina is evident from the following obituary published in The State newspaper of Columbia, South Carolina on November 29, 2016:

CHERAW.—Cathy Blackburn Novinger passed away November 27, 2016 at her home in Cheraw, SC after a heroic battle with ovarian cancer. She was the CEO of Palmetto AgriBusiness Council and President and CEO of Novinger QTR, Inc.

Born April 7th, 1949 in Portsmouth, Ohio, she was the daughter of Leona Collingsworth Blackburn and the late Donald Everett Blackburn. She is survived by her mother; her husband of 48 years, Robert L. Novinger; her son, Dr. Travis Novinger and daughter in law, Laurie Novinger; grandchildren, Taylor Novinger and Abbey Novinger; sister, Donna Blackburn Jumper and brother in law, Henry Jumper; niece, Cristie Russell; nephew, Tyler Russell (Sarah); great niece, Emma Grace Russell; and brother in law Dean Novinger (Lisa).

Cathy received her Business Administration Degree from Southeastern Business College and was a graduate of the Edison Electric Institute's Electric Utility Executive Management Program. She moved to her adopted city of Columbia, SC in 1968 where she went to work for SCANA Corporation as a file clerk and rose to Vice President at the early age of 32, retiring as Senior Vice President in 1999. Her career as a Senior Officer and Senior Public Policy Maker for SCANA included roles in economic development, communications, labor relations, governmental affairs, strategic planning, human resources and public relations. After retiring from SCANA, she was chosen to lead the state's new agribusiness association, Palmetto AgriBusiness Council and under her leadership for 16 years, the Council became a unified voice for South Carolina's largest industry of agriculture and forestry. It was also at this time she formed her consulting company, Novinger QTR, Inc.

After her diagnosis of ovarian cancer and seeing the need to educate women about this deadly disease, Cathy founded an ovarian cancer organization, today known as the Ovarian Cancer Coalition of Central SC, which brings awareness to the symptoms and the importance of early detection. She served as the organization's Board chair since 2006. She began the Coalition's signature event, the Ovarian Cancer Butterfly Release which is held every September at the State House to honor and remember those affected by ovarian cancer. She became a symbol of inspiration and hope to women who were battling this disease.

An advocate for improving the quality of life in her community, Cathy earned a lifetime of achievements and honors including: the University of South Carolina Honorary Doctorate Degree of Public Service, 2011 Humanitarian of the Year, 2010 Ag Advocate of the Year, 2010 West Metro Chamber Lifetime Achievement Award, 2006 Ambassador of the Year, 1999 Order of the Palmetto, SC Historical Foundation Society Businesswoman of the Year, SC Schools Public Relations Association Outstanding Leader in Education, Ohio Council of Colleges Outstanding Private Career Graduate, SC Business & Professional Women's Career Woman of the Year, Columbia Metropolitan Magazine's Five Women of the Decade and Midlands Top 25 Influential Leaders. During her professional career, Cathy served on numerous Boards

and Commissions including: Midlands Business Leadership Group, Advocates for Agriculture, SC Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, SC Office of Rural Health Board, SC State University Board of Trustees, USC School of Medicine Partnership Board, SC State Board for Technical & Comprehensive Education (past chair), Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors (past chair), Lexington Medical Center Foundation Board, SC Civil Justice Coalition (past chair), SC Department of Commerce Executive Committee, Midlands Housing Alliance (past chair), The River Alliance Executive Committee, USC Dean's Council-College of Hospitality, SC Research Authority Board of Trustees (past chair) and Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties (past chair). On the national level, she served on the White House Council on Rural America as chair, Southern States Energy Board Utility Advisory Council, the U.S. Business & Industry Council Board of Trustees and the Junior Achievement National Liaison.

Cathy lived her life devoted to her God, her family and her community. As much as she loved her work, she loved her family even more. Her legacy will live on in the paths she has blazed, the many lives she has impacted and her profound sense of service to others. We will miss her goodness and grace. The family would like to thank Dr. Greg Konduras, Lexington Family Practice; the staff at SC Oncology Associates, especially Dr. Terry Smith and Dr. William Merritt and nurses, Kathy Chavis and Mary Leitch; Ultra Med Plus, Cheryl Evans; Gentiva and the staff at Embrace Hospice, especially Jamie Perkins, Cathy's Administrative Assistant, NRS Sandy Boozer and the Eleventh floor, Palmetto Health Richland.

Funeral service will be held Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church, 2003 Charleston Highway, Cayce. Burial will be in Elmwood Cemetery, Columbia. A visitation will be held Saturday, December 3, 2016 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial may be made to the Ovarian Cancer Coalition of Central SC, 602 Meeting Street, Suite B, West Columbia, SC 29169.

RECOGNIZING THE AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE CENTREVILLE IMMIGRATION FORUM ANNUAL DINNER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centreville Immigration Forum on the occasion of its 2nd Annual Dinner. The theme of this year's gala is "Our Global Community" and will celebrate the rich diversity of cultures in Northern Virginia.

Northern Virginia is blessed by its diversity. In Fairfax County, nearly 1 in 4 residents were born in another country, more than 100 languages are spoken in our schools, and we are home to more minority-owned technology firms than anywhere else in the nation. Our different cultures and heritages do not divide us; they make us stronger.

Three exceptional individuals will be honored during this gala who have gone above and beyond in ensuring that everyone, regardless of their country of origin, has full access

to the benefits and opportunities this community and our nation provide. I am pleased to include the names of the following 2016 Annual Dinner honorees.

Walter Tejada, Former Chairman of the Arlington County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Tejada is well known for his extensive knowledge and experience on the issues of cultural outreach and public service. He has served in numerous leadership roles including as Chairman of the Arlington County Board of Supervisors and with the National Council of La Raza. Prior to his election to the Board, Mr. Tejada served in various positions with the League of United Latin American Citizens, Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations, the American Salvadoran Association of Virginia and the Virginia Latino Leaders Council, where he currently serves as President. He has received several awards for his work, including the Phyllis Campbell Newsome Award from the Center for Non-Profit Advancement and the Legacy Award from the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Grace Community Clinic. Grace Community Clinic was opened in October 2013 by Dr. Tong S. Park and other leaders from the Korean Central Presbyterian Church, which I am proud to represent. The clinic provides free medical services to 40–50 people each month. More than 40 volunteers support the Clinic, including five doctors as well as nurses, receptionists, and translators. In addition to primary care consultations, the Clinic offers limited referrals for free dental care to a nearby dentist, and free radiology and lab work through donations from INOVA and Fairfax Radiology. The clinic also makes referrals to specialists who provide low-cost care on an as needed basis.

Ibrahim Choudhary, Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth of Northern Virginia. The motto of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, "love for all, hatred for none", is a vision that it seeks to fulfill through peaceful dialogue and public service. Mr. Choudhary and the members of his youth group have focused their efforts on correcting misunderstandings and misconceptions about Muslim youth by serving their local communities through various projects, from food drives for the poor to handing out flyers with messages of peace. Local Ahmadiyya Muslim youths have also volunteered regularly with the Capital Area Food Bank to help hand out food to those in need in the DC Metro area.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of these individuals are noteworthy not only because they are rooted in an appreciation for our region's cultural and ethnic diversity, but also because they help to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation in our community. I congratulate them on their awards and ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for their service to the Northern Virginia region.

HONORING MS. CAROL GIOVANATTO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sonoma, California City

Manager Carol Giovanatto upon retirement from an impressive career in local government that has spanned 41 years.

A native of Cloverdale, California Ms. Giovanatto graduated from Cloverdale High School and attended classes at Santa Rosa Junior College. In addition to her work with the City of Sonoma, Ms. Giovanatto has brought her strong leadership skills to many committees and boards on which she serves.

During her tenure as City Manager, Carol was instrumental in addressing important city issues and preventing conflicts. Ms. Giovanatto negotiated a contract to preserve the historic Sebastiani Theater, formed a joint powers agreement for the Valley of the Moon Fire Protection District and proposed a sales tax measure to protect continued city services. A dedicated public servant, Ms. Giovanatto strengthened the economic development partnership with the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce, created a grant funding program for non-profits, completed a new mobile home ordinance and raised the funds needed for the proposed community pool.

Ms. Giovanatto will be recognized long after her retirement for her foresight in identifying 22 measures for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and establishing the City of Sonoma as the first Evergreen City in Sonoma County. Ms. Giovanatto was a founding board member and past President of the Cloverdale Youth and Family Services Partnership, a member of the Leadership of Sonoma Valley Class of 2008, and a board member of the Sonoma Tourism Improvement District.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Giovanatto has dedicated her career to improving the lives of the people of the City of Sonoma. She is known for her unflinching kindness, loyalty and commitment to high ethical standards. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

CELEBRATING DAVID FLORES

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and work of David Flores of Georgetown, Texas. After nearly four decades of impeccable work as County Auditor, David is beginning his richly-deserved retirement.

County Auditors play a vital role in maintaining the fiscal integrity in county government and few have taken on this important responsibility with greater professionalism than David. He knows that second-rate work isn't acceptable. The people of Texas deserve that level of excellence when it comes to managing their precious tax dollars. David doesn't let them down.

David's positive impacts on the counties he's served cannot be overstated. Under his leadership, Williamson County's bond rating went from "low investment grade" to AAA, the highest rating available. He's established thoughtful standards for county purchases and has provided superb oversight for \$1 billion in

capital projects. Central Texas is better because of his leadership and hard work.

David's commitment to excellence doesn't stop when the work day ends. He has been a trustee for the Texas County and District Retirement System and is a past president for the Texas Association of County Auditors. David shouldered the demanding responsibilities as the Chairman of the Investment Committee for the Texas Association of Counties from 2008 to 2012. Over the years, he's deservedly received numerous awards and commendations as well as the admiration of his peers and colleagues.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I heartily salute David Flores' work and contributions to his community. I'm sure I echo the thoughts of all when I wish him the best in both his retirement and all his future endeavors.

280TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNION FIRE COMPANY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 280th anniversary of the Union Fire Company. Founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1736, the Union Fire Company was Philadelphia's first volunteer fire company.

Dr. Franklin established the Union Fire Company as the very first fire suppression unit which universally responded when summoned. This overcame the issues surrounding prior firefighting clubs that existed in Boston, which also paid for fire wards or watchmen as early as 1711. The difference between Franklin's Union Fire Company and the other clubs in Boston and New York was that Franklin saw the advantage of protecting all the homes and businesses of the community, not just those who had joined the club. Franklin formed the Union Fire company from roughly 30 volunteers from what is today the Old City section of Philadelphia. Their equipment included leather buckets, with strong bags and baskets (for packing and transporting goods), which were to be brought to every fire. All homeowners were required to have these leather fire-fighting buckets in their houses. Recognizing the efficacy of Dr. Franklin's model, similar volunteer fire companies began to spring up throughout Philadelphia.

In the late 1860's, Philadelphia city officials spoke of transforming Franklin's volunteer service into a professional fire department to meet the demands of the ever-growing city. Finally, on December 29, 1870, Philadelphia city council enacted an ordinance to professionalize the fire service into a singular department. The Philadelphia Fire Department, administered by seven Commissioners chosen by the City Council, officially entered into service on March 15, 1871.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this Congress to pause and reflect on the unquestionable courage of all firefighters throughout America, be they volunteer or professional. As we are indebted to

the many thousands of America's firefighters who died in the line of duty, I ask that the list of the 289 Philadelphia firefighters who have given their lives in the line of duty be recorded with the year, rank, and company to which they served:

1994, Acey, Vincent, Firefighter, Rescue 01; 1960, Adgie, William, Lieutenant, Engine 54; 1962, Ahlers, Thomas, Firefighter, Engine 71; 2003, Allen, James, Firefighter, Ladder 16; 1964, Anderson, Albert, J, Fireman, Ladder 9; 1918, Anderson, John, Hoseman, Engine 54; 1975, Andrews, John, Firefighter, Engine 49; 1933, Arnold, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 44; 1921, Atkinson, George, Captain, Engine 36; 1965, Balkie, Alfred, Firefighter, Engine 61; 1954, Bandos, Joseph, Firefighter, Engine 02; 1892, Barnes, William, Hoseman, Engine 12; 1884, Barr, Phillip, Hoseman, Engine 11; 1961, Berg, Rolla, Firefighter, Engine 02; 1908, Berry, William Dick, Foreman, Truck 04; 1910, Bertolet, Harry, Hoseman, Chemical 2; 1910, Bihlmire, William, Ladderman, Truck 01.

1961, Bordier, Raymond, Firefighter, Engine 06; 1905, Boyle, Aloysius, Ladderman, Truck 05; 1975, Brenek, Carroll, Firefighter, Engine 57; 1978, Brightcliffe, John, Firefighter, Ladder 03; 1982, Brown, Stanley, Firefighter, Engine 09; 1879, Burke, Francis, Ladderman, Truck B; 1960, Bushfield, Joseph, Firefighter, Engine 59; 1969, Caldwell, Charles, Firefighter, Engine 35; 1975, Campana, Ralph, Firefighter, Ladder 19; 1875, Carlin, Francis, Ladderman, Truck A; 1910, Carroll, John, F., Ladderman, Truck 07; 1999, Casiano, Eric, Firefighter, Engine 02; 1933, Cavanaugh, George, Ladderman, Truck 24; 2004, Champion, Tracy, Firefighter, Engine 54; 1899, Chance, William, Hoseman, Engine 32; 1991, Chappell, James A., Firefighter, Engine 11; 1884, Clayton, James, Foreman, Engine 18; 1900, Cocker, Frank B., Hoseman, Engine 14; 1910, Collins, John, Ladderman, Truck 04; 1925, Connison, Walter R., Ladderman, Truck 12.

1900, Cook, John, Hoseman, Engine 21; 2009, Cospelich, Stephen, Lieutenant, Ladder 08; 1913, Costello, Walter, Hoseman, Engine 23; 1907, Cox, John J., Asst. Foreman, Truck 04; 2014, Craig, Joyce, Firefighter, Engine 64; 1898, Craven, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 02; 1955, Crawford, Robert, Firefighter, Engine 26; 1985, Cronin, David, Firefighter, Ladder 16; 1950, Crupp, John J., Lieutenant, Truck 10; 1901, Davis, Frank, Ladderman, Truck 09; 1910, DeHaven, Frank, Hoseman, Engine 47; 1896, Dever, Edward, Hoseman, Engine 20; 1999, Devine, Joseph, Firefighter, Engine 28; 1874, Devitt, George, Hoseman, Engine 03; 1894, Dickel, George, Ladderman, Truck C; 1942, Doman, Francis J., Hoseman, Engine 59; 1954, Donahue, Thomas, Firefighter, Engine 01; 1888, Donnelly, Felix, Hoseman, Engine 08; 1980, Donovan, William, Batt. Aide, Battalion 07; 1920, Dorff, Millford St., Hoseman, Pipe Line 2.

1933, Douglas, Charles, Batt. Chief, Battalion 4; 1918, Doyle, James, Ladderman, Truck 09; 1954, Doyle, James, Firefighter, Engine 29; 1895, Doyle, Michael, Ladderman, Truck 01; 1927, Duane, Thomas A., Lieutenant, Engine 05; 1899, Duffy, Hugh, Hoseman, Engine 32; 1943, Dugan, Joseph, Fireman, Fireboat 2; 1880, Dungan, George, Ladderman, Truck B; 1908, Dunlap, Samuel, Engineer, BC; 1967, Dusenberry, Wilm., Batt. Chief, Battalion 2; 1910, Edelman, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 06; 1909, Ellinger, Alfred, Foreman, Engine 11; 1944, Ennis, James, Ladderman, Truck 14; 1910, Entwistle, Thomas, Asst. Foreman, Engine 21; 1881, Exley, Oliver, Ladderman, Truck E; 1975, Fagan,

John R., Batt. Aide, Battalion 03; 1913, Fahey, Joseph A., Hoseman, Engine 32; 1901, Fells, James A., Foreman, Engine 49; 1922, Fisher, Albert, Hoseman, Engine 21; 1975, Fisher, Robert J., Firefighter, Engine 33.

1916, Fitzgerald, Thomas, Hoseman, Engine 03; 1949, Ford, James, Captain, Engine 26; 1891, Forsythe, James, Driver, Engine 11; 1933, France, George, Hoseman, Engine 62; 1916, Fredericks, Frank, Ladderman, Truck 12; 1938, Friedenberger, W., Hoseman, Rescue 01; 1986, Friel, Edward D., Firefighter, Engine 27; 1982, Gallagher, Kenneth, Firefighter, Ladder 21; 1929, Gallop, William, Hoseman, Engine 41; 1955, Garrett, Leonard, Firefighter, Engine 44; 1894, Geissel, George, Hoseman, Engine 21; 1886, Gibson, John, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1922, Gilloway, Thomas J., Ladderman, Truck 02; 2013, Goodwin, Michael, Firefighter, Engine 53; 1934, Gordon, Frederick, Ladderman, Truck 11; 1937, Gormley, John B., Ladderman, Truck 05; 1906, Gray, James B., Ladderman, Truck 09; 1919, Green, John J., Hoseman, Engine 21; 1952, Guenther, Edward, Hoseman, Engine 45; 1952, Hacker, Allen, Firefighter, Ladder 08.

1875, Hanley, James C., Ladderman, Truck D; 1887, Harbauer, George, Ladderman, Truck D; 1894, Hart, Joseph W., Hoseman, Fireboat; 2004, Harvy, Derrick, Lieutenant, Engine 72; 1940, Hassell, Thomas, Firefighter, Boat 2; 1897, Heller, William, Engineer, Engine 01; 1986, Henz, Harry, Firefighter, Engine 33; 1902, Hetzell, Charles, Ladderman, Truck 02; 1900, Hicks, John, Hoseman, Engine 41; 1877, Hill, John, Ladderman, Truck C; 1964, Hiller, Carl, Firefighter, Engine 08; 1915, Hillman, John R. Jr., Ladderman, Truck 07; 1991, Holcombe, David P., Captain, Engine 11; 1954, Holtzman, Charles, Firefighter, Ladder 03; 1872, Humphreys, David, Engineer, BC; 1997, Hynes, James, Firefighter, Engine 63; 1976, Iannacone, Richard, Firefighter, Ladder 34; 1975, Iaquinta, Michael, Firefighter, Engine 55; 1919, Innes, Thomas, Hoseman, Engine 13; 1958, Jackson, Joseph, Firefighter, Ladder 22. 1915, James William F., Batt. Chief, Battalion 6; 1886, Johnson, John, Ladderman, Truck B; 1926, Jones, Charles G., Hoseman, Engine 34; 1926, Jones, John C., Captain, Engine 50; 1954, Junod, Bernard, Firefighter, Engine 02; 1910, Kalberer, John, Foreman, Engine 23; 1933, Kasper, Joseph, Hoseman, Engine 55; 1905, Kelly, James, Ladderman, Truck 05; 1919, Kelly, Thomas, Lieutenant, Engine 21; 1961, Kennedy, Robert, Lieutenant, Photo Lab.; 1909, Keyser, Robert C., Foreman, Engine 20; 1888, Killen, Robert, Hoseman, Chemical 2; 1913, King, Frank L., Hoseman, Engine 23; 1877, King, Patrick E., Driver, Engine 22; 1966, Klemmer, Albert, Firefighter, Engine 59; 1895, Klinberger, C., Hoseman, Engine 02.

1954, Kline, Thomas, Deputy Chief, Division 2; 1900, Knouff, Edward, Ladderman, Truck 02; 1984, Konrad, Joseph, Firefighter, Engine 25; 1962, Krewson, Lynford, Batt. Aide, Battalion 11; 1949, Krol, Edward, Hoseman, Engine 06; 1919, LaGrand, Harry, Ladderman, Truck 02; 1939, Lawson, James J., Hoseman, Engine 19; 1933, LeHart, Edward, Hoseman, Engine 43; 1901, Lehman, George, Hoseman, Engine 22; 1938, Limaka, John, Hoseman, Rescue 01; 1974, Long, Walter, Batt. Chief, Battalion 06; 1892, Lowery, Francis M., Ladderman, Truck D; 1973, MacDonald, Warren, Firefighter, Lad. 20 [Eng. 65]; 1898, Magee, James, Hoseman, Engine; 1954, Magrann, John, Batt. Chief, Battalion 3; 1973, Malley, Robert F., Firefighter, Engine 24; 1904, Malloy, William, Hoseman, Engine 45; 1928, Mangarano, Silvio, Hoseman, Engine 49; 1942, Martin, Frank, Hoseman, Engine 12.

1904, Mason, Edwin, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1910, Matchinsky, George, Ladderman, Truck

07; 1969, McAlister, John, Firefighter, Engine 13; 1991, McAllister, Phyllis, Firefighter, Engine 11; 1876, McClintock, Hugh, Engineer, BC; 1911, McClister, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 52; 1928, McConaghy, George, Batt. Chief, Battalion 1; 1910, McConnell, William, Hoseman, Engine 23; 1889, McCuen, James, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1901, McCullen, John, Hoseman, Engine 49; 1997, McElveen, Terry, Lieutenant, Engine 63; 1894, McFarland, James, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1930, McGee, Daniel C., Hoseman, Engine 49; 1915, McGowan, John, Hoseman, Engine 49; 1896, McGranaghan, Hugh, Ladderman, Truck 01; 1975, McIntyre, Hugh, Firefighter, Engine 56; 1965, McIntyre, Joseph, Firefighter, Boat 3; 1963, McKernan, John, Firefighter, Ladder 14; 1976, McSloy, Bernard, Firefighter, Ladder 28; 1918, Merges, Charles C., Lieutenant, Engine 45.

1953, Meskill, James, Captain, Battalion 4; 1925, Metzger, Charles H., Hoseman, Engine 25; 1925, Minnick, John R., Ladderman, Truck 05; 1940, Monaghan, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 03; 1873, Mooney, Frank, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1912, Moore, James, Ladderman, Truck 01; 1919, Moorehead, Robert, Lieutenant, Engine; 1913, Moritz, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 23; 1954, Mortimer, Louis, Captain, Battalion 9; 1955, Mumbauer, Arthur, Firefighter, Engine 17; 1926, Murdock, Robert, Hoseman, Engine 34; 1960, Murphy, David J., Firefighter, Ladder 24; 1998, Murphy, Stephen, Lieutenant, Ladder 01; 1937, Murray, George J., Hoseman, Engine 20; 1991, Murray, John, Asst. Foreman, Truck F; 1922, Murray, Patrick A., Hoseman, Engine 21; 1933, Murray, Peter, Hoseman, Engine 54; 1940, Murtha, James, A. Hoseman, Engine 30; 2012, Neary, Robert, Lieutenant, Ladder 10; 1954, News, John, Batt. Chief, Battalion 6.

1942, O'Brien, William, Hoseman, Engine 47; 1874, O'Neill, Charles, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1910, Park, Samuel A., Ladderman, Truck 01; 1975, Parker, Roger, Firefighter, Ladder 27; 1946, Parsons, George R., Ladderman, Truck 08; 1910, Pass, Thomas M., Hoseman, Chemical 2; 1922, Paxson, Edward T., Ladderman, Truck 02; 1894, Peck, John, Foreman, Engine 39; 1903, Pflueger, Albert, Hoseman, Fireboat Stuart; 1971, Pietrak, Constantine, Captain, Engine 35; 1928, Piper, Henry, Batt. Chief, Battalion 9; 1918, Pollick, James, Hoseman, Chemical 1; 1975, Pouliot, James, Lieutenant, Engine 20; 1907, Presco, Stephen, Hoseman, Engine 11; 1879, Raymond, Francis, Hoseman, Engine 07; 1994, Redmond, John J., Firefighter, Ladder 11; 1930, Rein, Paul, Hoseman, Engine 10; 1920, Rishall, Ward A., Driver, Fire Hdqtrs.; 1905, Robinson, William J., Hoseman, Engine 28; 1918, Roller, Samuel, G., Hoseman, Chemical 1.

1947, Rothfuss, Jacob, Hoseman, Engine 38; 1970, Rotondo, Vincent, Batt. Chief, Battalion 13; 2004, Rubio, Rey, Firefighter, Engine 28; 1895, Ryder, Joseph F., Hoseman, Engine 18; 1946, Saraullo, Vincent, Hoseman, Engine 46; 1898, Schimmel, Walter, Hoseman, Engine 22; 1939, Schultz, Frank B., Hoseman, Engine 09; 1924, Schulze, George, Hoseman, Engine 55; 1951, Schwartz, Charles, Lieutenant, Ladder 23; 1920, Schwartzkopf, Edw., Batt. Chief, Engine 26; 1955, Senderling, George, Firefighter, Rescue 04; 1963, Senior, Charles, Firefighter, Engine 20; 1895, Sergeant, William, Foreman, Engine 32; 1902, Seveall, William, Hoseman, Engine 10; 1945, Shane, William, Ladderman, Truck 12; 1899, Shea, James, Hoseman, Engine 01; 1932, Sheppard, Curtis C., Hoseman, Boat 3; 1920, Sherman, Ambrose, Hoseman, Engine 53; 1889, Showers, George, Hoseman, Engine 04; 1941, Silbert, Joseph W., Captain, Engine 03.

1937, Slinkard, Oscar, Hoseman, Engine 13; 1977, Smedley, Edward T., Firefighter, Lad. 28 [Eng. 58]; 1909, Smith, Eugene, Hoseman, Engine 41; 1890, Snyder, Charles, Foreman, Engine 16; 1900, Sowney, James, Foreman, Engine 48; 1953, Spencer, William, Captain, Engine 19; 1878, Spisky, Wm, Foreman, Engine 2; 1914, St. Ledger, George, Lieutenant, Engine 25; 1896, Stagart, William, Engineer, District 03; 1961, Steger, William, Lieutenant, Engine 31; 1899, Steinle, George, Hoseman, Engine 32; 1919, Stevenson, Albert, Batt. Chief, Battalion; 1976, Steward, David, Firefighter, Ladder 20; 1951, Stewart, Charles, Lieutenant, Engine 50; 1948, Stewart, Howard A., Batt. Chief, Battalion 11; 1918, Stewart, James D., Captain, Truck 06; 1910, Stewart, Robert, Hoseman, Engine 02; 1965, Stewart, Thomas F., Firefighter, Rescue 12; 1943, Struble, David, Lieutenant, Truck 10; 1907, Sullivan, John J., Hoseman, Engine 11.

2012, Sweeney, Daniel Firefighter, Ladder 10; 1926, Sykes, John J., Hoseman, Engine 50; 2004, Taylor, John, Captain, Engine 28; 1893, Taylor, Joseph, Hoseman, Engine 14; 1941, Thumm, William, Hoseman, Engine 58; 1912, Titus, Walter, Hoseman, Engine 19; 1913, Tobin, Michael J., Captain, Engine 24; 1909, Toner, Joseph, Hoseman, Engine 18; 1954, Tygh, James F., Firefighter, Engine 29; 1904, Vaughan, Thomas, Hoseman, Engine 28; 1949, Vegenberg, Frank, Hoseman, Engine 45; 1942, Vernon, John, Hoseman, Engine 62; 1954, Vivian, Joseph, Firefighter, Ladder 03; 1961, Walsh, Walter T., Firefighter, Engine 02; 1969, Wannop, Thomas, Firefighter, Eng. 73 [Lad. 13]; 1976, Welsh, Aloysius, Firefighter, Ladder 20; 1973, Welsh, John, Firefighter, Ladder 05; 1955, Wendt, Charles, Captain, Engine 55; 1912, Wentz, George, Hoseman, Engine 06; 1965, Weres, John F., Firefighter, Ladder 07.

1919, Wiest, George S., Jr., Ladderman, Truck 02; 1975, Wiley, Joseph R., Firefighter, Ladder 27; 1920, Wilfrin, Harry, Hoseman, Engine 43; 1949, Wilkinson, Ray, Batt. Chief, Battalion 4; 1884, Williams, Henry, Hoseman, Engine 27; 1907, Wilson, Charles E., Foreman, Engine 11; 1945, Wilson, Howard, Hoseman, Engine 01; 1954, Wilson, Thomas, Firefighter, Engine 29; 1918, Wirth, Harry, Lieutenant, Engine 41; 1910, Wittig, Gustave, Foreman, Engine 15; 1942, Wolf, Frank W., Hoseman, Engine 33; 1872, Wolf, George W., Ladderman, Truck A; 1944, Woodruff, Francis, Hoseman, Engine 30; 1880, Woolston, William, Hoseman, Engine 23; 1991, Yale, Stephen D., Firefighter, Ladder 29; 1951, Young, Frank J., Batt. Chief, Battalion 2; 1919, Zorr, Charles, Hoseman, Pipe Line 2.

tural, social, and political trauma stemming from this civic wound still scars our community today.

Old Rondo was Saint Paul's largest and most prominent African American community centered around a once thriving street called Rondo Avenue. From the 1900 to the early 1960's African Americans migrated from the south to seek good jobs and Saint Paul's rich and vibrant quality of life. Generations created and invested in businesses, schools, civic organizations and families.

When plans were made for a National Interstate Highway System, people of color, those of limited means or political representation were not at the table. Designs for Interstate 94 landed squarely on Rondo. Over the cries and protest of its residents, bulldozers were brought in, and Rondo Avenue and the homes and businesses nearby were razed. This tight-knit community was devastated. During the decades since the freeway was built, longtime residents have worked hard to rebuild a community lost. Thanks to them today the spirit of Rondo's neighbors still burns bright.

Immutable leaders like Marvin "Roger" Anderson, Floyd Smaller, Nathaniel Khaliq, Debbie Montgomery and countless others have brought tireless dedication and commitment to restoring the Rondo spirit and community. They've begun successful local festivals like Rondo Days and the Selby Avenue Jazz Festival which bring community together in new ways to celebrate and chart a new future.

While, nothing can be done to undo the injustice that was done to the Rondo community more than four decades ago, that doesn't mean nothing should be done to help our residents remember our history so that we don't repeat it again. Anderson and other Rondo leaders are planning the Rondo Commemorative Plaza as a tangible place to acknowledge and confront the dark chapter in Saint Paul's relationship with its African American community. It will be a place to remember the vibrant Rondo neighborhood, and continue moving forward into the 21st century—with all voices at the table.

This plaza will be a beautiful community gathering spot to learn about Rondo through written and oral presentations, music and art. It will serve as a social gathering place for all generations, for visitors to appreciate and remember the history of Rondo and the strength of residents that lives on.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the strong will and unassailable pride of the Rondo community as they build the Rondo Commemorative Plaza. We look forward to the grand opening of this special place and the big step in healing and reconciliation of the past.

HONORING RONDO PLAZA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize residents of the historic Rondo neighborhood of Saint Paul, Minnesota as the community comes together to seek hope and healing. Earlier this fall, it was an honor to join community leaders to break ground on a Rondo Commemorative Plaza as a first step toward reconciliation for this neighborhood that was torn apart during the construction of the National Interstate Highway System in the 1960s. Like so many predominately black urban neighborhoods around the nation, cul-

TRIBUTE TO ARJUN GANGA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Arjun Ganga, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score

on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Arjun is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. He was able to accomplish this impressive feat while still remaining active in a number of extracurricular activities, including: co-founding and co-directing the Des Moines Student-to-Student STEM Speaker Series, Science Bowl, tennis team, the Principal's Advisory Council, National Honor Society, student government, National Council on Youth Leadership, and the Silver Cord Volunteer Program.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Arjun for his hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the 21st Century Cures Act. The bill is not perfect, but it makes important progress on key health and addiction treatments that will help people in Maryland and across the country.

Maryland's drug poisoning death rate is higher than the national average, with both urban and rural areas facing the scourge of opioid addiction and death. This bill will provide \$1 billion in funding to states for new programs to combat the opioid and heroin epidemic. It also takes critical steps to improve our nation's mental health system by reauthorizing several grant programs aimed at crisis response, behavioral health integration in pediatric primary care, and diversion from the criminal justice system to community-based services.

Additionally, the 21st Century Cures Act aims to improve the discovery, development, and delivery of medical treatments. It creates incentives for new scientists to begin their career in research, requires more input from patients, and modernizes clinical trials—all of which will help advance treatments for rare diseases such as childhood cancer.

The bill allocates over \$6 billion in new investments to implement vital health priorities such as the President's Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative that will help us to better understand the human brain and could lead to cures to diseases such as Alzheimer's. Additionally, the funding will go towards the President's Precision Medicine and the Vice President's Cancer Moonshot Initiatives by dedicating \$4.8 billion to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The inclusion of \$500 million for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will help make its approval process more efficient and accelerate treatments to patients.

Maryland is proud to be home to so many federal agencies that are leading the fight to improve the health of all Americans, and I will keep fighting to provide the resources they need in this effort.

Furthermore, the package includes legislation I authored—Advancing Research for Neurological Diseases Act. It will create a neurological disease surveillance program at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which would provide a foundation for evaluating and understanding factors of neurological diseases like Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's.

While the bill includes important bipartisan provisions, I am concerned that this bill includes far less funding than what was included in the Cures package considered by the House last year. Additionally, Congressional Republicans refused to allow for the funding in this bill to be mandatory. Instead, Congress will have to vote annually to make the funding available as part of the appropriations process—the American people must hold us accountable to deliver on this promise. Finally, I still have concerns with some provisions that might impact patient safety, but I understand that FDA worked with Congress on the provisions that relate to their agency to provide feedback—much of which was incorporated. I look forward to continuing to work with the FDA through implementation to safeguard patients.

As a country, we must work together to combat drug addiction and prioritize medical research. The Cures Act moves this effort forward, but we are far from finished.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 600 on final passage of S. 294, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR THE 2016 WASHINGTON POST PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2016 Washington Post Principal of the Year Award nominees for Prince William County Public Schools.

The Principal of the Year for Prince William County will receive the Washington Post Principal of the Year Award. Nominees must demonstrate the ability to:

1. Manage effectively.
2. Demonstrate and encourage creativity and innovation.
3. Foster cooperation between the school and the community.

4. Maintain a continuing dialogue with students, parents, faculty, and staff.

5. Keep abreast of developments in the field of education.

6. Encourage team spirit.

7. Demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment.

8. Continue to play an active role in the classroom.

9. Maintain their position as principal throughout the 2016–2017 school year.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the 2016 nominees for Prince William County Schools, Principal of the Year Award.

Neil Beech—Osborn Park High School.
Andrew Jacks—Ashland Elementary School.

Michael Lint—New Dominion Alternative Center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Principal of the Year Award nominees for Prince William County Public Schools, and in thanking them for their dedication to leadership in our school system. Their continued service will ensure that Prince William County students are provided with a world-class education in a more vibrant learning community.

HONORING COLLEEN AND RICHARD DAVIS, ANGELS IN ADOPTION

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to introduce you and my colleagues to Colleen and Richard Davis, constituents of mine from the Shenandoah Valley in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia who have provided extraordinary support for mothers in crisis and their children.

I nominated Colleen and Richard Davis for the Angels in Adoption program of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute this year because, even with three children of their own, including one special needs adopted child, Colleen and Richard Davis opened their home to two infants in need.

Colleen had been dedicating her time and energy to residents of the New Eve Maternity Home in Winchester, Virginia, a home for pregnant women in need. At the New Eve home, Colleen met a young woman with twin newborn boys who was having difficulty caring for her babies. Colleen and Richard generously offered to take the twins into their home and care for them until the mother was able to provide a stable home.

For more than two years now, Colleen and Richard Davis have welcomed these two children into their family and have raised them as their own. These acts of extraordinary generosity are inspired by a sense of loving compassion for their neighbors in need.

Mr. Speaker, stories of unsung heroes like Colleen and Richard Davis are taking place throughout our nation and I ask that we remember with gratitude these "Angels in Adoption" who are making a significant difference in our communities. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Colleen and Richard

Davis, and wishing them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JOSE R. RODRIGUEZ
AS AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC
SERVANT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jose R. Rodriguez for his tireless work as Director of Operations and Grants Coordinator.

I first met Jose when he began an internship in my office in 2013 and from the beginning he stood out as an exceptional worker. After only a few weeks, he was hired as Constituent Services Representative where he helped many of my constituents and their families with housing, immigration, and veterans issues. He was part of the team of case-workers that helped recover and save over \$500,000 for residents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

After a few months on the job, he proved to be a valuable asset, capable of handling multiple roles with great knowledge and skill. For this reason he was promoted to Director of Operations, where he was responsible, among other things, for overseeing the administrative operations of my district offices. He also served in a dual role as Grants Coordinator and helped many local municipalities and non-profit organizations seek federal funding. Jose was able to help bring over \$7 million dollars in federal funds for various local organizations, including money for education and first responders.

As further proof of his tenacity, Jose was able to complete his law degree while working fulltime and raising two beautiful children, Josue and Deborah.

As Jose's tenure in my office comes to an end, I want to recognize his service to my office and the community, and I wish all the best to him and his family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ALLEN
PARK HISTORICAL MUSEUM ON
THE DATE OF ITS PEARL HAR-
BOR REMEMBRANCE DAY 75TH
ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Allen Park Historical Museum on the date of its Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 75th Anniversary Fundraiser. The Allen Park Historical Museum has served as an important venue for the metro Detroit community to educate individuals about the background of historically significant events that have shaped our country.

Located in a farmhouse built in 1888, the Allen Park Historical Museum has provided Allen Park and the surrounding communities

with a free and accessible forum to learn about the history of the city and pivotal events in American history. The Museum displays police and firefighter memorabilia as well as military artifacts and cultural objects like furniture and toys that showcase life from different eras. In addition to regular exhibits, the Allen Park Historical Museum also periodically sponsors fundraisers to engage with the community while providing resources for the museum. These additional events allow historians and other experts to further explore our nation's heritage in different contexts.

The Allen Park Historical Museum not only serves as a venue for residents of Allen Park and surrounding areas, but also provides important resources that help educate southeast Michigan about historically significant events. The underwriting of experiences like Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day underscore the community's commitment to ensuring that critical milestones in American history are placed in the proper context. It is heartening to see the Allen Park community play a leading role in promoting American history, and I am confident that the museum will continue to host engaging and relevant exhibits that educate and entertain individuals of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the success of the Allen Park Historical Museum on the date of its Pearl Harbor Day fundraiser. The museum provides cultural enrichment through its documentation of historical events through its exhibits.

TRIBUTE TO JIM DERMODY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jim Dermody, Principal of Lewis Central Middle School in Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being named the Administrator of the Year by the Iowa Talented and Gifted (ITAG) Association.

Jim has been an outspoken advocate for ITAG programs at Lewis Central Middle School, recognizing that success requires participation from the whole school, not just special ITAG instructors. He utilizes partnerships with each teacher in the middle school to ensure they have the resources and training to promote and encourage ITAG students. It is an honor to represent educators like Jim, who take the extra steps to ensure student success. ITAG's 44th Annual Conference officials noted that Jim Dermody believes "learning isn't about books, worksheets, and presentations. It's about using learning to improve the world."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Jim for being named the ITAG Administrator of the Year and for shaping our future generations into bright, young leaders. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jim for this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

NORMA ANDERSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Norma Anderson for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Norma Anderson, former Colorado State Senator and Jefferson County resident since 1950, served as a legislator for nearly 19 years helping to improve the education system, transportation planning, criminal justice reform and healthcare policy. Norma has served her community in many capacities including on numerous boards and committees.

Norma was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1986 where she prioritized the needs of her community through her support of the School Finance Act of 1994 and the Third Grade Literacy Act of 1996. She sponsored other education legislation including the College Opportunity Fund and accountability for K-12 schools. Norma also helped establish the Colorado Department of Transportation's 20-year transportation plan, sponsored Lifetime Parole and Probation for Sex Offenders, and assisted in the restructuring of the Departments of Social Services and Institutions saving Colorado ten million dollars. From 1997 to 1998, she served as the House Majority Leader, and in 2003 she served as the Senate Majority Leader, making her the first woman in Colorado history to serve in this role in both houses. Norma always kept her commitment to Jefferson County and was instrumental in promoting progress in Colorado.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Norma Anderson for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

TRIBUTE TO NORANNE DOWNS,
P.E.

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to recognize and honor Ms. Noranne Downs, P.E. as she marks 25 years of service with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

After eleven years of public works experience with the City of Daytona Beach and in the private sector, Ms. Downs was hired by FDOT in September of 1991 as a project manager. Her talent and ability were recognized, and in October of 2006, Ms. Downs was named District Five Secretary.

Soon after her joining FDOT 25 years ago, I was honored to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent Florida's Seventh Congressional District and assigned, at

my request, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. While we worked together prior to this, our shared focus of maintaining Central Florida's infrastructure and preparing our region for the future cemented our bond and our friendship.

For over two decades, Noranne and I worked on the many transportation projects important to our community. Together we helped bring our region into the 21st Century and laid a solid foundation for Central Florida's infrastructure to thrive in the future. In addition to working to meet the Transportation requirements of one of America's fastest growing regions, I am extremely proud of our work together on projects such as SunRail which brought fixed commuter rail service to the region, the I-4 Ultimate and Beyond the Ultimate projects which will increase capacity and reimagine the main interstate roadway serving our area and updating our roadways and traffic management systems with the latest technologies to most effectively and efficiently manage traffic flows. Noranne played an integral role in these projects and so many more.

It is with much appreciation and admiration that I recognize my friend and a great public servant, Noranne Downs at this milestone in her career. It is also with regret that Noranne will be retiring from her position at FDOT in January 2017. Her pivotal work has truly left an indelible mark on Central Florida and our State.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Noranne Downs for her 25 years of service to our community and at FDOT, and in wishing her the best as she turns the page of her remarkable career.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
PEGGY KIRK BELL

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Margaret Anne "Peggy" Kirk Bell who passed away peacefully in the comfort of her home on Wednesday, November 23, 2016. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Bell family as they mourn the loss of this extraordinary woman.

A native of Findlay, Ohio, Mrs. Bell dedicated her life to sharing the joys of golf with those around her. At the age of seventeen, she picked up the sport that would transform her life and define her legacy. Mrs. Bell would go on to establish what has been described as "one of the best amateur records ever compiled" before becoming a charter member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) and competing for several years professionally.

Best known as a teacher of the game, Mrs. Bell's reach expanded around the world as she shared her passion with golfers of all ages and abilities. Her achievements include being named LPGA Teacher of the Year, Golf Digest's "One of the Six Best Women Teachers in the World," and winning the first ever LPGA Senior Championship. Her lifetime of dedication and love for golf was recognized several

times including when she received the Bob Jones Award in 1990, which is the United States Golf Association's highest award for distinguished sportsmanship in golf.

In 1953, the opportunity of a lifetime presented itself to Mrs. Bell and her husband, Warren "Bullet" Bell, when they purchased Pine Needles Golf Course in Southern Pines, North Carolina. From there the couple transformed the golf course to what is today one of the premier golfing destinations in the world. Mrs. Bell quickly became a staple at the resort, taking a hands-on approach to its management and personally investing her time and effort in the lives of its staff and visitors. On any given day at the course you could expect a challenging round of golf and the warmest of welcomes from a smiling Mrs. Bell. Her focus was always to serve others and make certain that everyone was having fun.

Compassionate, kind, and loving, Mrs. Bell's impact resonated through the entire sport of golf. She served as both a pioneer of the game and teacher for future generations. To say that she will be missed would be a gross understatement. While we mourn the loss of this extraordinary woman, there is no doubt that her legacy will continue to be celebrated for generations to come. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Bell family, especially her children, Bonnie, Peggy Ann, and my dear friend, Kirk.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Mrs. Peggy Kirk Bell.

REMEMBERING TERRY BELCOE

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Terry Belcoe, who passed away on Friday, September 23, 2016, after fighting a courageous battle with cancer.

Mr. Belcoe was born in Mount Vernon, Washington on April 19, 1956, and spent most of his life in Bellingham, Washington. After completing his Associates degree at Whatcom Community College, he earned his Bachelor's degree in Administration and Accounting, and later his Master's in Business Administration at Western Washington University.

Throughout his career, Mr. Belcoe was known for forging partnerships to improve the community. He served as the Board Chair of the United Way of Whatcom, Skagit County Community Action Agency, United Way of Skagit County and the Oversight Committee for Leadership Skagit program. His advocacy extended to acting as a guest speaker and mentor to students at WWU and volunteering with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program of Whatcom County.

In line with his passion for fighting for children in need of nutrition and housing, Mr. Belcoe actively engaged with legislators and communities to support low-income families. Recently, he celebrated 15 years as the President and CEO of North Coast Credit Union in Whatcom and Skagit counties and in October of 2016, he was selected as the Washington

Credit Union Advocate of the Year, but unfortunately he passed away less than three weeks before the honor could be presented.

Mr. Speaker, Terry Belcoe was a dedicated public servant and I would like to honor him for his many contributions to our community and our state. My thoughts are with his partner Karen, his daughters and his sister. Terry will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent December 1st and 2nd due to a medical appointment. Had I been present I would have voted:

On Roll Call Vote 594, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 595, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 596, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 597, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 598, I would have voted Aye. On Roll Call Vote 599, I would have voted No. On Roll Call Vote 600, I would have voted No.

HONORING ERICA STRIEBEL

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my Chief of Staff, Erica Striebel, for her service and commitment to the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, and to our country.

For the last 15 years, Erica has been one of my closest advisers. She was a sounding board for me on legislative issues as Congress fought through many difficult challenges facing our country. Erica has been my chief strategist during my time on the House Appropriations Committee and my right hand for my work on the Defense Subcommittee.

The late management consultant Peter Drucker said, "Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things." Fortunately for me, my staff, and the people I have had the privilege to represent, Erica is both an excellent manager and an inspiring leader. She has a special talent for seeing around corners to identify the next challenges and leading others to solutions.

Erica's devotion to the servicemen and women who protect our nation at home and around the globe sets an example for all to follow. Erica Striebel is a patriot. She values those who serve today and respects the veterans of yesteryear. Her knowledge was acquired through her Bachelor's degree in International Affairs and Security Policy from The George Washington University and her Master's degree in National Security from the Naval War College. She shares my strong belief that national security is our country's number one priority. Erica fights on the policy front to ensure our military can effectively defend

the United States of America. An integral portion of her work—traveling to military bases to meet with commanders—is a vital part of how Erica makes sure that she is prepared to fight for what is needed to keep our military the best trained and best equipped in the world. Military leaders in Northeast Florida at Naval Air Station Jacksonville and Naval Station Mayport remind me often that their confidence in Erica is unique. Her command of the missions and the intricacies of military assets is well respected. She is the staffer who makes things happen. Also, in a spirit of teamwork, Erica unselfishly shares her expertise with other Capitol Hill staffers. She fully appreciates that all Members of Congress need to work together to support our military.

Erica is diligent in ensuring that the contributions of our veterans are recognized, and they receive the benefits they have earned and deserve. With her support, more than 2,400 veterans in the 4th Congressional District have attended ceremonies and received my Veterans' Special Recognition Certificate. She also played a key role in ensuring all the necessary steps were accomplished to locate the Jacksonville National Cemetery on Florida's First Coast.

I have no doubt that Erica will bring the same drive and determination she has shown in my office to the next chapter in her professional career. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in thanking Erica Striebel for her leadership and for her commitment to public service and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

God bless and Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO GABRIEL MINTZER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gabriel Mintzer, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Gabriel is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. He was able to accomplish this impressive feat while still remaining active in a number of extracurricular activities, including: co-founding and co-directing the Des Moines Student-to-Student STEM Speaker Series, Science Bowl and Knowledge Bowl teams, Central Academy mathematics team, and treasurer of Valley High School's National Honors Society chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Gabriel for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Gabriel and in wishing him nothing but continued success in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE BURKE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department on the occasion of its 68th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet, and to thank its volunteers for filling an essential role in keeping our community safe.

The Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was founded in January 1948, and for more than 6 decades it has provided life-saving fire suppression/prevention and emergency medical and rescue services to the residents of Burke and the surrounding communities. It also provides, houses, and maintains firefighting and emergency medical equipment; provides opportunities for professional growth and development for the membership; and maintains and fosters a strong viable organization.

As one of the county's most active volunteer fire and rescue departments, the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department works in cooperation with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to serve the community. Last year alone, the Burke VFD provided more than 3,000 hours of volunteer time as well as an additional 2,159 hours of supplemental staffing.

I am honored to recognize the dedicated men and women of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department who have volunteered for extra duty as officers or as members of the board of directors.

Board of Directors—President Patrick Owens, Vice President John Powers, Secretary Tonya McCreary, Treasurer Ian Dickinson, Larry Bockneck, Rich Guarrasi, Becky Dobbs.

Officers—Chief Thomas Warnock, Deputy Chief Tina Godfrey, Deputy Chief John Hudak, Captain Melissa Ashby, Captain Keith O'Connor, Lieutenant Emily Fincher, Lieutenant Kevin Grottle, Sergeant Jennifer Babic, Sergeant Peter Hamilton, Sergeant Shaun Kurry, Sergeant James Reyes, Team Leader Paul Stracke, Team Leader/Chaplain Harry Chelpon.

In addition to the men and women who have generously assumed the responsibilities of serving as an Officer or a member of the Board of Directors, the Burke Volunteer Fire Department is also presenting awards to the following individuals in recognition of their exemplary service during the last year:

Rookie of the Year—Lindsay Fox and Blaine Reis

Firefighter of the Year—Ian Dickinson
EMS Provider of the Year—Caitlin Curran
Officer of the Year—Shaun Kurry, James Reyes

Administrative Member of the Year—Charlene Murphy

Career Member of the Year—FireMedic Anthony Tran

Team Award—BVFRD Bingo Team (Tina Godfrey, Matt Bryant, Charlene Murphy)

Chief's Award—E414 Procurement Team (John Hudak, Larry Bockneck, Peter Hamilton,

Mike Istvan, George Hahn, Sam Sandeen, Robin Clement)

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the department for 68 years of service and in thanking all of the brave volunteers who do not hesitate to drop everything when the community calls in need of help. To all of these men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect our residents I say: "Stay safe."

H.R. 34, THE 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 34, the 21st Century Cures Act, a bill which aims to authorize and promote biomedical research, mental health, opioid abuse assistance, and advance medical future research, but falls woefully short.

Unfortunately, this bill is a missed opportunity for Congress to take meaningful action to address skyrocketing drug prices. It also falls far short of the funding that is needed to support the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and to address the growing opioid abuse epidemic. I also believe that this bill puts the goals of pharmaceutical and medical device companies ahead of the needs of individuals.

As a Member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee and as an ardent supporter of biomedical research and public health funding, I was disappointed in the inadequate funding levels in this bill. Last year, this bill included \$10 billion in mandatory funding for the NIH. Unfortunately, the revised version that passed the House Floor last week included only \$3.8 billion for the NIH, and it is not mandatory spending.

And to make matters worse, this bill strips \$3.5 billion from the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which provides critical investments to improve health outcomes through prevention activities like screenings and public health workforce training. We should be increasing support for public health programs, not robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Additionally, I am concerned that this legislation loosens Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards for approving pharmaceuticals and medical devices. While we do need to ensure that new, lifesaving treatments are available to consumers, we cannot do so at the expense of safety and efficacy. We need to make the FDA's standards stronger—not weaker.

Lastly, despite outcry from constituents and despite months of hearings and press conferences on the issue of rising prescription drug prices, H.R. 34 did not include any provisions to make drugs more affordable.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we have a shared obligation to ensure that ALL Americans have access to equitable, high-quality and affordable healthcare. While this bill does include a few good provisions, like positive steps to address mental health reform, it ultimately puts industry and profits

over patients, and I therefore cannot support it.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
DAVID SIMAS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service, dedication, and brilliance of our good friend and distinguished Portuguese American, White House Political Director David Simas. After eight years guiding the policy of the Obama Administration it is both fitting and appropriate to honor his service to the United States of America where he helped craft policy that improves the lives of countless Americans.

A self-proclaimed "Kid from Taunton, Massachusetts," Mr. Simas is the son of Portuguese immigrants, Antonio and Deolinda Simas. Although his parents did not attain more than an elementary school education, Mr. Simas ever excelled under their parentage. His father taught him the impact political policy has on everyday lives and his mother instilled in him the importance of family and the support they lend in times of need.

From his upbringing in Taunton, Mr. Simas went on to attend Stonehill College and later Boston College Law School. Returning home after graduation, he started a law practice and launched a political career of his own running for and winning a seat on the school board. Lending his talents to the local Portuguese community, Mr. Simas defended those in need and led successful political movements on behalf his friends and neighbors.

Later, as an advisor to the mayor of Taunton Mr. Simas helped devise a strategy to bring down the city's health care costs, working with the public sector unions to reach an agreement that saved the city money while ensuring access to good health care. Mr. Simas became well known in Massachusetts policy circles, and in 2006, he joined the office of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick where he served as Deputy Chief of Staff.

It was not long after the 2008 election of President Barack Obama that Governor Patrick connected the two, officially introducing Mr. Simas to the President and starting a run of eight years of service to the President and our country.

Calm, unflappable, clinical, and humble are just a few of the words used to describe Mr. Simas. He has taken his knowledge and political acumen and applied them to the service of the American people. He dedicated himself to pass health care reform, bringing coverage to millions who previously were left out of the American health care system.

Mr. Simas has always thought about how the decisions he makes and the issues he fights for impact everyday people. From his childhood in Taunton's Portuguese Village to the West Wing of the White House he has always been an advocate for the disadvantaged and underrepresented. I wish him, his wife Shauna, and daughters Rowan and Payton the best of luck in the years to come. In what-

ever endeavor he finds himself next, I know he will continue to ask himself the same question President Obama asked of him: "Are you doing something every day to help people?"

I am confident he will.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the service of Mr. David Simas and his many contributions to the wellbeing of the American people.

HONORING MS. LINDA SEIFERT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Seifert upon her retirement from the Solano County Board of Supervisors. Ms. Seifert has represented the Second District on the board since 2008 and served as the Chair of the Board from 2012 through 2014.

Ms. Seifert has been a longtime leader in our state's legal community. She earned her bachelor's degree from the California State University, Fullerton and then went on to complete her law degree at the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law. Ms. Seifert led a tremendously successful law career and became the first female partner at the McNamara Law Firm in Walnut Creek, before she went on to serve as General Counsel for the California Dental Association.

Since her election as Supervisor in 2008, Ms. Seifert has been a champion for Solano County's citizens and our community's future. She has worked to preserve the agricultural heritage and resources of our community and to create more park space and recreational services. For instance, Ms. Seifert successfully pushed to dedicate open space in Rockville Hills and secured \$13 million to permanently protect the land for future generations.

Education and responsive social services have also been Ms. Seifert's priorities as supervisor. To protect victims of domestic violence, she secured the site for the Family Justice Center in Fairfield. She believes that investing in members of our community improves both their well-being and our economy.

Mr. Speaker, Supervisor Linda Seifert has been a champion of our community for the past eight years. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 592 on final passage of H.R. 34, the 21st Century Cures Act, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO GUOWEI QI

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Guowei Qi, a senior at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, for earning a perfect score on his American College Testing (ACT) examination.

Guowei is one of only 2,235 students out of 2.1 million 2017 high school test-takers who earned this very rare honor. He was one of five students in his Valley High School class to earn the top composite score of 36, a milestone that had never before been reached in the school's history. Guowei was able to accomplish this impressive feat while still remaining active in a number of extracurricular activities, including: Science Bowl, Valley High School honors program, concertmaster of the Valley High School Chamber Orchestra, volunteering at Iowa Lutheran Hospital, and organizing "Blank Tales," a non-profit publication by Valley High School students to raise awareness of homelessness in the Des Moines area.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Guowei for his hard-work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE 1965 INTEGRATION
OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA'S
WOODLAWN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor six individuals—Myrtice Chamblin, Cynthia Holder, Leon Humphries, Lillie Humphries, Cedric King, and Rita Eileen King—for courageously integrating Woodlawn High School in Birmingham, Alabama during September of 1965. We applaud these six individuals for their noble act to recognize the historic precedence they established and to acknowledge the exceptional bravery they displayed.

The mid-20th century was an extraordinarily turbulent time for Alabama, especially Birmingham. The city and surrounding area had become a crucible for civil rights activity and peaceful protests that were often met with inconceivable hostility. Segregation and discrimination both had a strong grip on Birmingham society, which affected all aspects of life for African Americans. Despite the enactments of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments nearly a century beforehand, Birmingham's black citizens had yet to fully experience the promises that these constitutional changes intended to engender. Thankfully, the Supreme Court's unanimous decision of *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954 overturned the long-standing decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which had

emboldened and reinforced the ferociousness of "separate but equal."

While these successive legislative modifications and landmark cases created a platform for diversity in theory, racial inclusiveness was still confronted with horrific opposition in actuality. It would take solemn individuals animated with daring spirits to truly produce the social changes needed to foster an integrated and equal United States of America. Today, we honor these six outstanding individuals who are exemplary of the heroism herein described.

The integration of Woodlawn High School by these stellar young people was not an occurrence of happenstance. It was not the decision of adults or older citizens who had completed school many years earlier. Instead, it was a strategic act by six underclassmen eager to learn. By boldly encountering aggression and animosity, they knew it was a sacrifice necessary to create a better city, state, and nation.

Disciplined with the tools of non-violence and aided with the support of their caregivers and community, these six champions of equality and freedom that we praise today stood against injustice to impact future generations. Armed with nothing more than a consciousness of integrity and dignity, these six young people chose to walk in the line of danger and take a stand for human equality.

In the spirit of grace and appreciation, we salute Myrtice Chamblin, Cynthia Holder, Leon Humphries, Lillie Humphries, Cedric King, and Rita Eileen King for their act of valor. Let their testimony and story of triumph continue to be a lesson to us all as we stand on their shoulders to combat oppression. Most importantly, let us not be remiss in our effort to shine light on exemplars that have moved mountains for us to walk through and paved paths for us to walk on. The routes we travel are easier because of you.

TRIBUTE TO GARY MERSON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I, together with Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security Ranking Member ZOE LOFGREN of California, would like to pay tribute to Mr. Gary Merson for his outstanding service to the House of Representatives and the House Judiciary Committee in particular. For the past 15 months, Gary has served as the chief counsel to the Judiciary Committee's Immigration Subcommittee.

A native of Lewiston, Maine, Gary's passionate dedication to the advancement of immigration law and policy is reflected in his distinguished 18-year legal career spanning private practice, non-profit advocacy, and government service. Gary will return as the Acting Director of the Office of the Ombudsman at United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, where he has served since 2005.

Gary previously served as counsel to the Immigration Subcommittee from February 2012 through December 2012 during which he

played an important role in advancing the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. Prior to joining the Ombudsman's Office, Gary was Government Affairs Counsel with Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy from 1999 to 2005, and prior to that an Advocacy Associate with the American Immigration Lawyers Association from 1998 to 1999. Gary is a graduate of Tulane Law School and Vanderbilt University.

Gary's wide-ranging expertise on immigration law and policy and his longstanding leadership in the area of employment-based immigration have greatly benefitted both sides of the aisle during the 114th Congress and this Committee in particular. Gary was exceptionally instrumental in the efforts of 225 Congressional Democrats (186 in the House and 39 in the Senate) to file an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in *United States v. Texas*, a case considering whether certain aspects of President Obama's executive actions on immigration will be allowed to move forward. Gary also led committee efforts on a variety of immigration issues in the areas of refugees, immigration enforcement, high-skilled immigration, the EB-5 program, the H2-A/H2-B programs and executive authority.

Although Gary entered the chief counsel role during a time of transition, he was able to handle committee matters with ease and grace. His rhetorical skills and natural political inclinations made the transition seamless. Gary's professionalism, dedication to committee business and pleasant demeanor earned him the universal respect of members and his colleagues. Gary is easily approachable and able to provide a witty remark even during difficult moments. While his guidance and leadership on immigration law and policy will be sorely missed, we are pleased that he will continue to serve immigrants and the American people through his work at the Ombudsman's Office.

Mr. Speaker, we applaud Gary's tireless, principled and loyal public service to the U.S. House of Representatives and the American people and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN TAYLOR AS AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of my Deputy Director of Constituent Services, Mr. Justin Taylor, for his tireless dedication to the residents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

Throughout his tenure with my district office, Justin has proven himself to be a vital part of our team. As a caseworker, he has collaborated with management to improve our case-work system so that my constituents could better receive meaningful, timely responses to their requests for assistance.

Although Justin is not a native of Central Florida, his commitment to serving our diverse

community is apparent. Since joining my office in 2014, he has made a positive difference in the lives of countless individuals. Some highlights of his work include assisting veterans in obtaining critical financial benefits, as well as helping to secure medical care for the sick and elderly. Furthermore, as an advocate for LGBT rights in Florida and across the country, Justin played an important role in assisting family members of the deceased following the tragedy at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

As the 114th Congress comes to an end, so too will Justin's tenure in my office. I wish him all the best in the next stage of his career in public service.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on December 7, 1941, our nation was attacked. Today marks the 75th anniversary of the day that will live in infamy of the surprise attack.

Today is a time to honor the courage and sacrifice of those two thousand service members that lost their lives in this devastating attack. President Franklin Roosevelt stated that "no matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory."

As the son of a World War II Flying Tiger of the U.S. Army Air Corps, 14th Air Force, who served in India and China, I am inspired by the service from this time. They are stories of how the American people met this unspeakable tragedy head on with remarkable determination. I believe that it is this same strength that has carried our great nation through trials since World War II and will be a firm foundation for our future, learning the importance of peace through strength.

As a grateful 31-year veteran and the father of four sons who have all served overseas in the Global War on Terrorism, I believe in the power of our armed forces and the righteous might they demonstrate in the face of conflicts around the world promoting peace through strength while liberating dozens of countries.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War of Terrorism. September 11th was the Pearl Harbor of our era with a surprise attack to destroy our civilization.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGE'S SHOE-SHINE IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize George Manias of Peoria, Illinois on

the 70th anniversary of his Peoria business, George's Shoeshine and Hatters World Headquarters, a fixture in the Peoria community since George began his shoeshine business 70 years ago.

As a small child, George moved from America to Crete, a Greek isle, before World War II. George, his family, and their community worked tirelessly to fight off Nazi invasions, often having to shoot Nazi paratroopers before they could land on the island. Despite their gallant efforts, however, the Nazis did eventually invade the island. George's father, a U.S. citizen, was imprisoned numerous times throughout Nazi occupation during World War II. During this difficult time, young George went four years without a pair of shoes.

In 1946, as a teenager, George returned to Peoria, Illinois, where he would become an integral member of our community. He started his shoeshine business with one seat, charging 25 cents a shine. A model of the American entrepreneur, George steadily grew his business, making it the national landmark it is today.

During his 70 years of business in Peoria, countless public figures have walked through George's doors in hopes of meeting this industrious man and having the opportunity to place a signed photo in his place of business. Over the past 70 years, George has met various public figures, including four U.S. Presidents, numerous U.S. Vice Presidents, Governors, U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, White House Chiefs of Staff, Mayors, world champion athletes, CEOs, and local leaders.

George's Shoeshine business is known throughout Central Illinois for the personal service, craftsmanship, and incredible attention to detail he puts into every shoe he shines. I am honored to share the same hometown as George, where a humble man can achieve the American dream through dedication, commitment, and hard work. I extend my sincere congratulations to George Manias on a successful 70 years and I look forward to seeing his legacy carry on in downtown Peoria.

PAMELA NISSLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Pamela Nissler for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Pamela has been working to support and advance education in Colorado for more than 45 years. Currently, she serves as the Executive Director of Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL). Prior to that role, she has served as the Library Manager, Substitute Librarian, Director of Community Services, and Director of Library Programs. Pam's seven years at the JCPL have elevated the institution to new levels in terms of historical importance and educational value in the community.

Pam is a member of both the American and Public Library Associations, as well as a past president of the Colorado Library Association. Pam's involvement in Jefferson County expands outside of the library as a member of the West Chamber Board of Directors and the Child and Youth Leadership Commission of Jefferson County. She has also served on community leadership associations throughout Douglas County and Highlands Ranch. Pam has a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's degree in Library Science.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Pamela Nissler for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. DAWN DICKERSON FOR RECEIVING THE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY'S SIGMA MU MU CHAPTER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Dawn Dickerson of Broadlands, Virginia, for being named the Educator of the Year by the Sigma Mu Mu chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Ms. Dickerson is the Assistant Principal at Rock Ridge High School located in Ashburn. This award was granted to Ms. Dickerson for her work to improve inclusion and acceptance within the student body at Rock Ridge High School.

Ms. Dickerson has been instrumental in organizing special events to help her students become introduced to new topics as our country's next generation of leaders. One such instance of her devotion was when she put together a visit from Freedom Rider Joan Trumpauer Mulholland to speak with students during Black History Month last year. Ms. Dickerson was also a key component in the Loudoun International Youth Leadership Summit. This Summit enables students to engage in discussion with, and learn from, a number of international delegations who attended the event.

Ms. Dickerson's role as Assistant Principal at Rock Ridge High places her in a position where she can have a positive impact on the lives of countless young minds. This recognition from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity comes as a result of her dedication to the students of Loudoun County, and it is a reflection of the wonderful and civic-minded citizens we have throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Dawn Dickerson from Rock Ridge High School for receiving this Educator of the Year Award from the Sigma Mu Mu chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax County Alcohol Service Action Program (ASAP) on the occasion of the 25th Annual Excellence in Community Service and Public Safety Awards. This year's awards are being jointly sponsored with Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

ASAP is a criminal justice program which uses community and state services to reduce the problem of driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. It identifies and provides appropriate services to offenders convicted of driving under the influence or other substance abuse-related charges as referred by the local courts. The goal of ASAP is to improve transportation safety by decreasing the incidence of driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs and thereby reducing the number of alcohol or other drug-related crashes.

According to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, in 2014 nearly 36 percent of all traffic fatalities in the Commonwealth were alcohol-related. Tragically, more than 40 percent of those killed in alcohol related deaths were ages 21-35. While alcohol-related traffic deaths in Virginia have been on the decline, we are still averaging a crash nearly every hour as a result of drunk driving. Sadly, national statistics reflect an 8 percent increase in alcohol related traffic deaths in the first 6 months of 2015 when compared to 2014. We can only hope that, thanks to the work of organizations like ASAP and MADD, that trend begins to reverse.

Every year, ASAP honors those in the law-enforcement community who have been instrumental in fighting impaired driving. I am pleased to include the names of this year's recipients.

City of Alexandria: Officer Anthony LaRusso.

Arlington County: Officer Brett Kooharian.

Fairfax County: APO Donald Brodie, PFC James Burleson, PFC Hyun Chang, Ms. Annette Dodson, Officer Harrison R. Gamble, OFC Sameer A. Kahn, APO William Ridgeway, APO Richard Zhu.

City of Fairfax: Officer Bryan P. Nelson.

City of Falls Church: Officer Kevin Hedden, PFC Dimitri Issaev.

George Mason University: Sergeant Michael F. Lighthiser, MPO Edward T. Gannon.

Town of Herndon: PFC Eliezer A. Cabo, PFC Charles W. Findley.

City of Leesburg: Officer Bradley Schultz.

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office: Deputy Ruben Cardenas, Deputy Glenn P. Keough.

City of Manassas Park: Officer Christopher Koglin.

Prince William County: Officer Simon Chu, Officer Christopher LaFarree, Officer Jeremy Schenck, Officer Brett Tillett.

Town of Purcellville: Officer Kristopher Fraley, Corporal Clark McDaniel.

United States Park Police: Sergeant Jonathan Daniels, Officer Pentti Gillespie, Officer Christopher Gogarty, Officer Greg Harper, Officer David Lamond, Officer Lisa Marie Weisbaum, Officer Charles Whiteman, Sergeant Adam Zielinski.

Town of Vienna: Officer Ara Post, Officer Brad Reedy.

Virginia State Police, Division Seven: Trooper Nicholas Casey, Trooper Diego A. Espinosa, Trooper Lorenzo Goode, Trooper Kevin Fleenor, Trooper Adam Hassan, Trooper Andre D. Jones, Trooper Tomasz Karbowski, Trooper Zachary Koon, Trooper Wesley Paul, Trooper Michael Walton, Trooper John Yacek.

Town of Warrenton: Sergeant Arthur Leeper, Officer Matthew McGuirk.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2016 award recipients, and thank each of the men and women listed above for their service to our community. Their efforts are selfless acts of heroism that save innocent lives and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending this extraordinary group of law enforcement professionals.

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR—75 YEARS LATER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the sun was lazily rising on the horizon over the islands of Hawaii. It was around breakfast time on a stunning Sunday morning. It was quiet, peaceful, calm. People felt secure. There was a small tropical breeze as the American flag was being raised on a nearby flagpole. On December 7, 1941, America was at peace and unprepared for war.

Suddenly, large formations of aircraft swarmed the blue Hawaii sky. The rising sun was darkened by hundreds of Japanese planes as they strafed and bombed Pearl Harbor. The Japanese unleashed a fury of deadly, devastating bombs and torpedoes on the small island. The first attack of the Second World War on American soil was underway. It was 75 years ago today when Luke Trahin, a 22-year-old sailor from Beaumont, in southeast Texas and his fellow sailors, soldiers, and marines saw war unleashed upon America.

Until that moment World War II was a far-off conflict. America watched silently, abstaining from the violence. But the days of innocence were over. America was under attack.

The Japanese had caught America by surprise and took advantage of an unprepared nation. And after the smoke cleared on that morning of madness, 98 Navy planes and 64 Army aircraft were destroyed. Luke's unit, Patrol Wing One, lost all but three of its 36 aircraft. 2,471 Americans, servicemen, and civilians were killed by this unwarranted invasion of terror from the skies.

The pride of the United States Navy, the battleships—*West Virginia, California, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, Maryland, Nevada,* and *Arizona*—were trapped in the harbor. They made easy targets for the Japanese pi-

lots. The sailors onboard these battle wagons fought with the courage of entire legions of warriors when they were attacked by a skillful, fanatical, and tyrannical enemy. All of these fierce U.S. Navy battleships were sunk or damaged. Their guns, Mr. Speaker, are now silent.

The hull of the USS *Arizona* became the sacred graveyard in the peaceful Pacific for more than 1,177 American sailors and marines. Luke Trahin and his Navy buddies in Patrol Wing One quickly got organized, prepared, and waited for two days for the expected land invasion of the Japanese. It never came. But America was at war.

World War II had long been raging before America officially entered into the conflict. Spreading from the Pacific to Europe all the way to Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

The Japanese, then the Nazis; seemed undefeatable. But even the Japanese were concerned about the spirit of America. The Japanese commander of the Pearl Harbor invasion remarked that what Japan had done was wake a sleeping giant. Millions served in uniform overseas; millions served on the home front; all sacrificed for the cause of America. The nation woke from a somber sleep of neutrality and, with our allies, defeated the tyrants that would rule over the world. That was a time when Americans put aside all differences and united to defend freedom in our Nation. When the war was won, over 400,000 Americans had given their lives for this nation.

Until September 11th, this was the deadliest attack on U.S. soil. "December 7, 1941, a date that will live in infamy," were words spoken by President Franklin D. Roosevelt that became forever embedded in the minds of patriots across our land, igniting and launching a nation into the fiery trenches of battle throughout the world.

Those of that Greatest Generation proved that when the peace of this nation is threatened, our people will stand up and fight back, bringing the thunder of God upon our enemies. Defending freedom and liberty was the battle cry of the sailors and soldiers that died 75 years ago at Pearl Harbor. We must continue to remember December 7th, 1941 and the Americans who stood tall and kept the flame of America glowing brightly.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BRUCE RICKER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Bruce Ricker, of Mount Ayr, Iowa, for being inducted into the Mount Ayr Community Schools Hall of Fame.

Dr. Ricker graduated from Mount Ayr Community Schools in 1975, where he played on two state tournament basketball teams in 1973 and 1975. He earned his degrees from the University of Iowa and the Iowa College of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences. After interning and practicing medicine in Phoenix, Arizona, Dr. Ricker returned to Mount Ayr in

1997. He practices medicine at the Mount Ayr Medical Clinic and serves as the Medical Examiner for Ringgold County, Medical Director for HCl Hospice Care Services, as well as for Clearview Home and Mount Ayr Health Care Center. In 2003, Dr. Ricker was named Physician of the Year by the Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association and was presented the Spirit of Hospice Award by the Iowa Hospice Association.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ricker's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dr. Ricker for his achievements and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING GARY ELLIS

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Gary Ellis. Mr. Ellis is retiring from medical technology leader Medtronic this month after 27 years of service, including 11 years as the company's chief financial officer.

Mr. Ellis's leadership and vision dramatically contributed to Medtronic's financial well-being and the well-being of thousands of Medtronic employees. During his tenure with the company, Medtronic's revenue increased from \$837 million in 1989 to \$28.8 billion in 2016, a 34 times increase. Importantly, he helped oversee the growth of the company from approximately 7,000 employees in 1989 to more than 88,000 employees today. Mr. Ellis is known for his sound advice, mentorship and positive outlook, and has provided honest and insightful counsel to the Medtronic Board of Directors, the chief executive officer, his peers and his team.

Importantly, as part of Medtronic's Mission to alleviate pain, restore health and extend life for people around the world, the company's impact on people's lives grew exponentially during Mr. Ellis's leadership. In 2005, when Mr. Ellis became chief financial officer, the company proudly improved the life of someone every 6 seconds. Today, as a result of strong leadership, growth and innovation, Medtronic technology improves the lives of two people every single second, or more than 65 million people per year.

In addition, Mr. Ellis has demonstrated his commitment and passion for community through philanthropic activities and Board service, including service as Chairman of the American Heart Association Board in 2007 through 2008, as well as dedicated service on the boards of the Greater Twin Cities United Way and the Science Museum of Minnesota. He has also played an active leadership role and contributed many years of Board service to his local church.

Prior to joining Medtronic in 1989, Mr. Ellis was a senior audit manager for Price Waterhouse, where, in addition to several other responsibilities, he managed the Medtronic audit for nearly 10 years. He

worked with several large corporate organizations, as well as providing audit services to numerous non-profit organizations.

Mr. Ellis grew up on a farm in Sac City, Iowa, and originally aspired to be a math teacher. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting in 1978 from the University of South Dakota. Above all, Mr. Ellis is a family man, who cherishes spending time at the lake with his wife, Sue, their two children, and five grandchildren. Though his leadership will be sincerely missed, I wish him the best in his retirement and thank him for everything he has done within the business community and within the Twin Cities community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 593 on final passage of H.R. 6393, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

ROUGH RIDGE AND ROCK MOUNTAIN FOREST FIRES

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires that have recently impacted Northeast Georgia.

Over the past few months, my district has experienced a severe drought that at one point led to a rainfall deficit of more than a foot and especially affected thousands of farmers in Northeast Georgia.

This October, I had the opportunity to learn more about the drought's repercussions from the Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture, Gary Black, and about 40 local farmers who have struggled with the historic drought.

Unfortunately, the effects of the drought went beyond affecting our farmers, and, as wildfires continued to burn in Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain, I was deeply concerned.

In fact, the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires have each affected over 20,000 acres of land in Northeast Georgia.

Today, I am grateful to report that the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires have been 95 percent contained. I would like to thank the firefighters, police, emergency management and medical teams, and many others who have worked long hours at demanding jobs to ensure the security and safety of the public during this uncertain time.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward, in the near future, to sharing the good news that the Rough Ridge and Rock Mountain forest fires have been completely contained.

IN RECOGNITION OF PACTV

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of PACTV's 20th anniversary. PACTV is a non-profit public access television station that operates six channels whose content is available to over 35,000 households in Duxbury, Kingston, Pembroke and Plymouth, Massachusetts.

This community-based television station, first established in 1996 by the cable committee and selectmen in Plymouth, was founded with the idea that community television programming could be vastly improved. Over the past 20 years, PACTV has flourished and benefitted the communities it serves. PACTV has provided a state-of-the-art community multimedia facility and encourages citizens to participate in the democratic process by providing access to local government coverage and programming. Further, PACTV provides video production classes, has meeting spaces and an art gallery open to the public and helps local non-profits and community service providers to organize and promote events.

Over the years, PACTV has accumulated a highly qualified staff that is constantly working with the community and a dedicated board of directors from both industry and non-profit organizations to bring greater quality programming to the Commonwealth. To this day, PACTV continues in the fine tradition of community access television providing a first amendment forum undiluted by commercial considerations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor PACTV on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing PACTV continued success in providing high quality television programming.

HONORING DEBORAH HUNT

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Deborah Hunt. With her retirement approaching, she will soon close out over twenty years of incredible service to her community and begin the next chapter of her life.

Deborah has fulfilled her duties with dedication and innovation. Her commitment to public service started in 1994 when she served as Justice of the Peace in Williamson County. Through the years, she continued to serve her community through various public positions, including her appointment to the Board of Tax Professional Examiners by Former Governor George Bush and later appointed Chair of the Board by Former Governor Rick Perry.

Deborah is well known throughout the state for paving the way to modernize her department. She led the implementation of on-line payments and simplification of tax collections. Her office has served as a test site for the

Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to pilot upgrades and new systems. Deborah's leadership in this arena has made a real difference in the lives of Texans.

Deborah's commitment to service and the highest standard of excellence has not gone unnoticed. Recognized by her colleagues for her devotion and hard work, she has achieved a long list of accolades, including Person of the Year as well as the Earl Luna Award, and the Marilyn Albert Achievement, the highest honor recognized by the Texas Association of Assessing Officers.

Deborah Hunt's extraordinary commitment to service reflects the best values of Central Texas. There's no doubt that Williamson County is a better place because of her. I heartily salute her work and wish her the best of luck in all her new endeavors.

12TH ANNUAL OHIO STATEWIDE TRIBUTE TO ROSA PARKS

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Rosa Parks, "the Mother of the Modern Civil Rights Movement."

On December 1st, we marked the 61st anniversary of Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery City Bus.

Her defiance sparked the peaceful 381-day Montgomery bus boycott, leading to the desegregation of our Nation's public transportation system.

Rosa Parks, though small in stature, embodies the enormous impact one person can make.

In recognition, 50 years later in 2005, as a member of the Ohio General Assembly, I spearheaded a bill to designate December 1st Rosa Parks Day, making Ohio the first State in the Nation to do so.

This year marks the 12th annual tribute to Rosa Parks and I look forward to joining all Ohioans in celebration tomorrow on December 8th.

In that spirit, today and every day, let us be inspired by Rosa Parks and never forget that one person can ignite change.

RECOGNIZING MS. DEEDEE CHOWDHURY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ms. DeeDee Chowdhury on her selection as a recipient of the KinderCare Education Legacy Award.

KinderCare Education is the largest private early childhood education provider in the US, and plays a critical role in preparing young children for school. KinderCare Education serves 150,000 children in 39 states and the District of Columbia. Approximately 23 percent of their children are infants and toddlers. For

over 40 years, KinderCare Learning Centers have been a place where every child can learn, explore, and discover in a safe and nurturing environment in more than 1,400 community-based centers. KinderCare leads the nation in accredited centers and is passionate about providing children a sense of discovery while preparing them for success in school and beyond.

Every year, KinderCare recognizes a select few teachers by naming them recipients of its Legacy Awards. This year, one of the honorees is my constituent: Ms. DeeDee Chowdhury. Ms. Chowdhury is an educator at the Silverbrook KinderCare Learning Center located in Lorton, Virginia. As a result of winning this prestigious award, Ms. Chowdhury will receive a \$10,000.00 prize and will also travel to the National Association for the Education of Young Children's Annual Conference.

Ms. Chowdhury is dedicated to educating the youngest members of our society. Early education has been proven to directly impact future academic performance as well as economic opportunities for children who have enrolled in Pre-K programs. Through her commitment and efforts, she is helping to ensure the future success of not only her students but of our community. As a parent and former member and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I understand that how the success of our communities is largely dependent upon the quality of our local schools, and that the quality of our schools is inextricably linked to the professionalism and expertise of their teachers.

I have always considered public service to be one of the most noble of professions and the services provided by our educators are no exception. I commend Ms. Chowdhury for her service to our children and the Northern Virginia community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on receiving a 2016 Legacy Award and wishing her great success in all future endeavors.

PAMELA GOFF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Pamela Goff for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Pamela Goff has been President and CEO of PG Construction Services, Inc. for more than 21 years. She is known for her strong community engagement, willingness to jump right in, and her ability to plan and execute major projects. Pam obtained her Bachelor's degree in Accounting from CU Denver and completed her graduate course work in Management Accounting. She has maintained a CPA license for more than 30 years and also holds a Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) certification.

Pam currently serves on the Board of Directors and on the Finance Committee for

LocalWorks in Wheat Ridge, and has been involved in numerous other committees to support small businesses and the larger community. Pam was one of the founding members of the Wheat Ridge Business Association (formerly Enterprise Wheat Ridge) and served as the past president for four years. Pam has been recognized as a recipient of the 'CPAs Who Make a Difference' Award and has served as the Grande Parade Marshall for the Annual Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Pamela Goff for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE CHIEF STEPHAN M. HUDSON

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the career of Prince William County Police Chief Stephan M. Hudson and to congratulate him on his retirement following 34-years of dedicated service to county residents.

Founded on July 1, 1970, the Prince William County Police Department serves as the primary form of law enforcement for the county and the towns of Dumfries, Occoquan, Haymarket, and Quantico. At the time of its founding, the Department had a staff of 52, which included police officers, commanders, dispatchers, and secretaries, and an operating budget of \$750,000. Today, the Department has grown to more than 845 individuals with an FY16 annual operating budget of \$96.6 million. Over his three-year tenure as the head of the department, Chief Hudson has increased the number of sworn officers and increased the budget by over \$20 million to better serve the growing community.

In 2013, Stephan M. Hudson was sworn in as the third police chief of the Prince William County Police Department. Since his installation, Chief Hudson has stressed the importance of creating a diverse police force reflective of Prince William County's minority-majority makeup. Police Chief Hudson has also made increased police contact and transparency with Prince William County residents one of his top priorities. In his short tenure, Chief Hudson has done just that. The Police Department has achieved a 93 percent satisfaction rate in the community and has made significant strides to increase diversity in the police force, including in leadership positions. In the past three years, the department has promoted its first ethnic minority and first female assistant chiefs. As a strong advocate for police accountability, Chief Hudson successfully lobbied the Board of County Supervisors to equip 500 of the department's officers with body cameras. Later this year, the Prince William County Police Department will become the largest municipality with officers to don the device and utilize the technology in the Commonwealth. To preserve the quality of police services, the Department continues to work on three capital improvement programs:

the Central District Station, the Animal Control Facility, and the Public Safety Training Center Rifle Range.

Chief Hudson is not only admired by the police department's rank and file but by county residents for his strong personal ties to the community. While his childhood was spent in Boston, Massachusetts, Hudson graduated from Gar-Field High School and has resided in the county ever since. As a proud resident of Prince William County for the past 40 years, Chief Hudson and his family are actively engaged in the community. His wife Roxana is the current principal at Belmont Elementary School. Together, Chief Hudson and his wife have two children and three grandchildren who were all born and raised in Prince William County. Devoted to his faith, Chief Hudson and his family worship at McLean Bible Church where they travel twice a year to participate in mission trips to rural Kenyan villages.

Over the span of his career with the Prince William County Police Department, Chief Hudson has displayed the true meaning of civil service through his commitment to the rule of law while maintaining professionalism and diligence in serving the community. His values have endured the test of time and shaped the present culture of our Police Department. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the 34-year career of Chief Stephan M. Hudson with the Prince William County Police Department and in thanking him for his tireless service to our community. As a fearless leader, Chief Hudson rose quickly through the ranks with the Department. I have full confidence he will do the same in all future endeavors. I wish Chief Stephan M. Hudson and his family continued happiness and success in all future ventures.

TRIBUTE TO MICHELL RICKER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Michell Ricker of Mount Ayr, Iowa, for being inducted into the Mount Ayr Community Schools Hall of Fame.

Michell, a 1975 graduate of Mount Ayr Community Schools, is a licensed social worker. Upon her return to Mount Ayr after college, she was employed by Ringgold County Public Health and served as a well-known community leader and advocate. She is an avid volunteer, holding a number of positions on community and state boards, including South Central Iowa Community Fund, Ringgold County Teen Center, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and the Iowa chapter of International Cooperating Ministries. In 2014 she was also awarded a Governors Volunteer Award for her outstanding commitment to helping others.

Mr. Speaker, Michell's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her for this recognition and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.

This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this infor-

mation, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, December 8, 2016

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House as they anticipate returning to their home districts. Once they return home, may they find rest and renewal during their time with family and friends.

Bless our Nation as the holy days of the religious traditions for so many of our citizens approach and as the year comes to a close. Help us to look to the future with hope, committed to a renewed effort to work together as citizens of a united America.

Help us all to be truly grateful for the blessings of this past year.

As always, we pray that whatever is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Ms. GABBARD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

RECOGNIZING JOANN VAN TASSEL OF LAKE ORION

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

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize JoAnn Van Tassel of Lake Orion. She has devoted her life to selfless acts to benefit others and is being recognized as 2016 Citizen of the Year by the Orion Area Parade Group.

JoAnn has been a champion in the community by always supporting local events and important causes. She is active with many agencies, including the North Oakland Community Coalition and the Downtown Development Authority. Among her many charitable acts, JoAnn has organized fundraising events to help those in need and cleans up our roadways to ensure that our community stays beautiful.

While serving as Orion Township supervisor for 13 years, JoAnn has dedicated countless hours to improving the Lake Orion community. Her generosity has touched the lives of many, and her efforts will have a profound impact on generations to come.

So, thank you to JoAnn Van Tassel for making the Lake Orion community a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Your generous contributions have not gone unnoticed.

DRAIN THE SWAMP

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the Drain the Swamp Act. My bill would make violations of President-elect Trump's recently announced revolving door lobby ban punishable by law. He said that he will bar political appointees from lobbying for 5 years after they serve in his administration and permanently from lobbying for foreign governments.

Unfortunately, his proposal lacks any enforcement mechanism. I want this to be more than a press release. I

want to help him in this effort. Just look at the Office of Special Trade Representative. Why is our trade policy so bad? Because those people worked for industry and then come back to work for the government and go work for industry and promote their own interests. That goes on in many agencies.

This would be a good thing for America.

So I would extend the existing penalties which apply to very few people over a shorter period of time with penalties up to \$50,000 and 1 year in jail to cover all of the 3,648 executive branch political appointees.

I am introducing it today knowing it is the end of the Congress, but I am going to provide it to the Trump transition team in the hope that they will endorse this bill, which I will introduce on the first day of the next Congress and hope to have President-elect Trump's support to keep the law behind his promise.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent several Texas colleges and universities in my Texas 25th Congressional District, but it is Austin's first institution of higher education that I would like to speak about today.

Huston-Tillotson University is referred to by many as the jewel of the east Austin community. I have had the pleasure of meeting the school's president, Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette. She is only the second female president in the institution's rich history. I can tell you, Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette is an experienced leader who is committed to the success of her students.

Huston-Tillotson College was chartered by the State of Texas in 1952 and was renamed to Huston-Tillotson University in 2005. Its name derives from the merger of Tillotson College and Samuel Huston College.

The school's focus is on liberal arts. It offers associate and master's degrees, in addition to bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees, in more than 19 areas of study.

I would like to thank President Colette Pierce-Burnette, the faculty, and the administration for their devotion to higher education, and I expect they will keep up the good work for many years to follow.

In God we trust.

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

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

RECOGNIZING AIRBORNE FIRST
CLASS IRVING MUNROE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Airborne First Class Irving Munroe, a veteran of the United States Air Force from my district in Rhode Island.

On June 1, 1951, just few days shy of his 20th birthday, Airman Munroe went missing in action after his aircraft was shot down over Kwaksan, North Korea.

Airman Munroe was a devoted son and brother, and our Nation will never be able to fully repay his family for their loss. Airman Munroe was finally laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on October 13, 2016, in a ceremony attended by those closest to him.

His family, which has accumulated more than 100 years of total military service over two generations, truly understands the meaning of service to our country.

Americans are fortunate to live in a free and safe country because of the extraordinary sacrifices of those who have served in our Armed Forces. We owe all who serve and their families our genuine gratitude and deep respect.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I want to sincerely thank the Munroe family for their service.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
JAMES "J.H." LANGDON

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, it was 16 years ago when I was embarking on a run for North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture that my uncle told me there was a man I needed to meet. That man was James H. Langdon, whom we all call J.H. Today I rise to honor his service in the North Carolina House, which will soon officially come to a close.

A former ag education teacher, J.H. has served six terms in the North Carolina House and has either taught or represented practically every citizen in Johnston County and beyond. As chairman of the house agriculture committee, J.H. has been a tireless advocate for agriculture and our farm families.

I know of no one who talks less but does more, which I attribute to his great and abiding love for and faith in our Creator. J.H.'s legacy will be felt across the State of North Carolina for generations to come.

On behalf of the citizens of Johnston County and the countless individuals he has touched, I wish him and his wife, Lena, much happiness as they continue their wonderful journey together.

EVERYONE MUST BEAR THE COST
OF OUR MILITARY

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, those who have truly borne the cost of the wars that we have waged since 9/11 have been the men and women who wear the uniform and their families—fewer than 1 percent of the people in this country. For the rest of us, we have deferred our obligations and our payments to future generations.

Harvard's Linda Bilmes estimates that the wars that we are waging since 9/11 will cost this country nearly \$1 trillion in healthcare costs and support costs for the veterans who have fought those wars. That is why I am asking my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in sponsoring the Veterans Health Care Trust Fund Act, which would create a surtax on each and every American who has not served to ensure that we pay for our wars as we wage them and have the resources to take care of the veterans who fight them. It is going to ensure transparency in the cost of these wars; it is going to ensure that everyone bears their fair share of the burden; and it is going to ensure that we always have the resources to always take care of the veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that everyone join me in this important effort.

FAREWELL ADDRESS

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, on one of the last days to be able to come and address the House before the end of this Congress, I want to take this opportunity, really, to thank the people that work here in the House.

We up here talk about our constituents back at home, and Congresses will come and go, but it is the staff here that make this institution run. I want to thank them for the great work that they do. Frankly, there are far too few of us that actually recognize the work that happens.

From the folks down in the wood shop, to the people who are working behind the rostrum, to our Capitol police officers, to Father Conroy, who keeps us on the straight and narrow, we thank you for your service.

I do want to take this opportunity, as we are about to embark on the holidays, to thank them for the great work that they do for each and every one of us and for our Nation, because they are the ones that truly keep this institution running and make sure that we have a sense of history and that, again, this august body is one that will be represented well for years and, hopefully, centuries to come.

PENTAGON'S WASTEFUL BACK
OFFICE BUREAUCRACY

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon this body to protect our national security by ensuring that the billions we spend through the Pentagon are, in fact, well spent.

We are currently embarking on enacting a CR that is inadequate for education, health care, and economic and job development. It contains a bloated Defense Department with even more money, despite documentation of \$125 billion in waste and inefficiencies that their own investigation showed.

This does not relate to our servicemen and -women who do a great job for our country protecting freedom around the world. This is money that we could use to fund all the war spending and drive down the costs of the Pentagon and Department of Defense almost 20 percent without affecting existing programs.

I think we need to declassify the Department of Defense study and use that money for the taxpayers to drive down our debt and deficit and make this country great again.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF KJIL AND
GREAT PLAINS CHRISTIAN RADIO

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

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, this year marks 25 years of KJIL and Great Plains Christian Radio in Meade, Kansas, providing Christian music, weather, sports news, and inspiration to farmers, ranchers, businesses, and into the homes and vehicles of thousands of Kansas families.

The process of going from dream to reality took nearly 10 years; but within 24 hours after completing their transmission tower, KJIL took to the air September 5, 1992, at 99.1 FM. In 2001, they added another station in Abilene, Kansas, at 105.7 FM.

Since then, their story is one of God's constant faithfulness and provision. What started as a small dream for a rural county and my home county of southwest Kansas now includes nearly 40 translators, including the neighboring States of Oklahoma, Texas, and Colorado. Nearly my entire congressional district receives radio signals from Great Plains Christian Radio.

Not only has KJIL served our region so faithfully for 25 years, they have also done so with excellence. The Kansas Association of Broadcasters has awarded them Station of the Year twice. They have also been the recipients of a trio of awards from Focus on the Family Station of the Year—the list goes on and on.

Any opportunity to commend KJIL and their history of humbly serving

Kansas requires recognition of the people who made it happen, such as Don Hughes, Jim Fairchild, and my good friend, Michael Luskey, who is currently the CEO and GM. I sincerely hope and pray that KJIL will have service for another 25 years.

STOP ARMING TERRORISTS

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, under U.S. law, it is illegal for you or me or any American to provide any type of assistance to al Qaeda, ISIS, or other terrorist groups. If we broke this law, we would be thrown in jail. Yet the U.S. Government has been violating this law for years, directly and indirectly supporting allies and partners of groups like al Qaeda and ISIS with money, weapons, intelligence, and other support in their fight to overthrow the Syrian Government.

A recent New York Times article confirmed that “rebel groups” supported by the U.S. “have entered into battlefield alliances with the affiliate of al Qaeda in Syria, formerly known as Al Nusra.”

The Wall Street Journal reports that rebel grounds are “doubling down on their alliance” with al Qaeda. This alliance has rendered the phrase “moderate rebels” meaningless. We must stop this madness. We must stop arming terrorists.

I am introducing the Stop Arming Terrorists Act today to prohibit taxpayer dollars from being used to support terrorists.

□ 0915

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2028, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 612, GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 949 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 949

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment with an

amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-70 modified by the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 612) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-69 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the respective chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, when you asked me to clarify the number of the resolution, I am reminded of my mother when she used to ask me if I wanted to take out the trash. She was not asking me if I wanted to take out the trash. She was suggesting, very politely, that it was my responsibility to get out of my chair and get out there and take out that trash. I think about all of the folks that invest themselves in our success here. When you give me a chance to clarify, candidly, I am a little surprised that I need to because I am surrounded by a team of excellence. I should have just spoken it right back to you.

We have two bills today, Mr. Speaker, that are the result of a whole lot of mothers, a whole lot of staffers, and a whole lot of constituents asking the Members of Congress if they would like

to take out the trash, telling folks that they have responsibilities that need to be handled and they need to be handled now.

It is two bills that this rule makes in order for consideration today, Mr. Speaker. It is S. 612, which is the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. That is what they call it on the Senate side. On our side, it is the Water Resources Development Act, the WRDA bill, a bill that authorizes projects one by one, considered by the U.S. House of Representatives, not led by the agencies, but led by the people's House, and directed to the agencies for accomplishment.

The second bill is H.R. 2028. It is the continuing resolution bill for FY 2017 funding, Mr. Speaker. I don't need to tell you—you know the Appropriations Committee well—but this year, for the first time since the people of the Seventh District of Georgia entrusted me with a voting card, we passed an appropriations bill on time. We did it for our veterans. It was signed by the President of the United States before the end of the fiscal year. We took a step at getting back towards regular order a commitment we have all made to one another, and a commitment that this funding bill will bring to fruition.

It is not what any of us would have wanted on day one, it is not the way any of us believed that we could have completed this process had we had more time, but it is the proper way to make sure that certainty, rather than uncertainty, governs this land.

I have got my colleague from the Rules Committee and the Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) here with me, Mr. Speaker, so I won't belabor that side of the issue. But what I do want to talk about is something I know well, and that is the WRDA bill.

The WRDA bill, Mr. Speaker, this Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, came out of the Transportation Committee on which I have the great privilege of serving.

The Transportation Committee, Mr. Speaker, is one of those rare committees that you don't read about on CNN's Web site, you don't see it on FOX News, or MSNBC. On the Transportation Committee, we get together—Republicans and Democrats—and we talk it out. We talk it out because it turns out that if what you are interested in, as citizens of Florida and the Everglades and Port Everglades and the restoration of those marvelous natural resources down there, that is not just a Florida issue, that is an American issue. If you are interested, as my friends from South Carolina are, in dredging the port in Charleston and making that a world class shipping opportunity, that is not just a South Carolina issue, that is an American issue.

If you are like my friends all across this country, Mr. Speaker, from New

Hampshire to California, to Texas, to Colorado, you have projects that are vitally important not just to your constituency, but to the economy of the United States of America; and that is what we do on the Transportation Committee. The Transportation Committee is a success if we can help you get to work a little bit faster. We are a success if we can get your kids to that soccer game just a little bit faster. But we are committed to moving freight, goods, and services produced by American hands with American labor to their destinations not just across this land, but across this planet. That is what the WRDA bill, controlling those ports and waterways through which so much commerce moves, controls.

Mr. Speaker, I talked about regular order a little bit earlier. I have to brag, if I can here, at what may be our last day together. When the chairman of the Transportation Committee, BILL SHUSTER from the great State of Pennsylvania, took over the Transportation Committee, he said: These projects are so important. This bipartisan commitment to the American economy is so important. I am not going to let it get delayed.

Now, I confess that we are here on the last day, perhaps, of our time together. It looked for awhile like we might not be able to move this through; but our chairman, through the power of persuasion, fought day in and day out not for 1 year, but for 2 years, to ensure that we could build on the success, which was the WRDA bill in 2014, and bring yet another WRDA bill in 2016.

I will say to my friends: If you did not get everything you wanted, I promise you, as our friend, KEVIN MCCARTHY, from California likes to say, You needed everything you got. Even if you didn't get everything that you needed, we are going to do this again.

That is what is so great about regular order here, Mr. Speaker. When there is only one train leaving the station, we can't work together on issues. We have got to jam it all in there and we have got to pack everything in because we have only got one chance to serve the people who elected us.

When we get back to regular order, when we know there is another bill coming tomorrow and another bill coming the next day, and another bill coming the next day, it gives us an opportunity to achieve these things one small step at a time. If your constituents are like mine, Mr. Speaker, they didn't send me here to yank the pendulum back and forth from left to right. They sent me here to make a little bit of progress one day at a time.

The WRDA bill exemplifies the very best of us in that way. It represents small steps in almost every jurisdiction in this institution to grow the American economy, to serve our constituents back home, to make sure

that the American taxpayer is getting a dollar's worth of value out of a dollar's worth of their tax dollar.

If you can't tell, Mr. Speaker, I am tremendously proud of this work that has gone into this bill. My great hope is that my colleagues will support this rule so that we can move on to support that underlying legislation later on this morning.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to present my opposing view. I thank my colleague for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the new fiscal year began more than 2 months ago. Yet, here we are again, considering another continuing resolution just hours ahead of a midnight Friday deadline to fund the Federal Government. Make no mistake, we are here today up against the threat of another shutdown because of the majority's inability to do its most basic job of funding the government.

It is a shame that we have, once again, resorted to short-term measures instead of passing long-term appropriations bills. In fact, the last time that Congress enacted all 12 regular appropriations bills on time was 1994.

As a result, the Chamber continues lurching from crisis to crisis. This is the same type of leadership that has brought our Nation years of political brinksmanship, including fiscal cliffs, near defaults on our national debt, and a government shutdown as recently as 2013, which experts from Standard & Poor's estimate to have taken \$24 billion out of our economy.

And for what, Mr. Speaker?

So that the majority can play politics with government spending and try to negotiate a more conservative, partisan appropriations package with a Trump administration and a Congress under one-party Republican rule.

It is especially troubling that the majority has taken the unprecedented step of including a provision in this spending bill to change the congressional rules to hasten the confirmation of President-elect Trump's nominee for Secretary of Defense, retired General James Mattis. That should not be in this bill, Mr. Speaker, but was stuck in here to expedite that movement.

The law that was changed clearly states that a Defense Secretary must be out of uniform for 7 years to qualify for a waiver. Certainly that was not done capriciously. It was done so that we can keep civilian control of the military, which is one of the pillars of our democracy.

Now, I join with my colleagues in respecting General Mattis' lifetime of service and his dedication to our Nation. At the same time, the civilian leadership, as I have said, has been the

cornerstone of our democracy. To risk losing it risks losing a very precious and important tenet of democracy that states that the United States military must be under civilian control. That is no small thing, Mr. Speaker, but it will be done here with a single vote.

I am pleased to see, however, that this package includes \$100 million in grant funding to Flint, Michigan, to address the ongoing water crisis that has forced residents to drink and bathe in poisoned water for years. Mr. Speaker, I am painfully aware of the lifelong impacts that children will be forced to live with as a result of toxic metal in their water. The neurodevelopmental damage will be staggering, in addition to impacts including hypertension, renal impairment, and anemia. We know that we have to protect the water we have, Mr. Speaker, because we don't manufacture it.

The resolution before us today would also bring up the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. I join my colleague from Georgia in saying how important a bill this is. Those of us who abut the Great Lakes are happy that the Great Lakes Restoration money is there, which will help to remediate 20 percent of the world's fresh water contained in those five lakes.

It will also increase funding for dredging small harbors, like the Port of Rochester, which ships and receives an average of 95,000 tons of material each year. Commodities that pass through this port generate more than \$6 million in local salaries through my district each year.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the majority has stripped important language from it, including the Buy American provisions, which we are perplexed by, since they have been in there for years in the past.

□ 0930

When asked the question of why it is not there, we really didn't get a straight answer; but the Buy American provisions would require the Federal Government projects to use steel that was made here in America. It is especially disappointing, since President-elect Donald Trump has built several of his hotels with Chinese-made steel despite his pledging to "Make America Great Again." The majority also removed a provision that would have allowed us to utilize funds to improve port and harbor reliability that sit idle in the U.S. Treasury.

One other issue that was concerning to us was that the CR does not extend a provision from all of the past years' omnibus bills that exempt returning foreign workers from the H-2B visa. I don't know of any issue most recently that has caused more consternation in my office. I have had almost 100 calls from all over the country saying that they are very dependent on it; and our

colleague, Congressman LONG from Missouri, said yesterday that it was critical to the State of Missouri to get this in. Unfortunately, we were unable to do that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), a member both of the Rules Committee and a subcommittee chairman on the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. COLE. I thank my good friend for being so generous in yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of both the rule and the underlying legislation.

I begin by sharing my friend from Georgia's enthusiasm for the WRDA bill. I think this was an absolutely masterful piece of work by three chairmen. Obviously, primarily, Chairman SHUSTER is the architect; but I was also working with him on several important Indian issues and with Chairman BISHOP from the Committee on Natural Resources and, on the Flint issue in particular, with Chairman UPTON from Energy and Commerce.

I share my friend's belief that these projects have been worked through in a bipartisan way. Many, many good things, literally, in every part of the country will take place, and our friends on the other side of the aisle were very cooperative in that as well. This is usually a bipartisan effort. It certainly was in this case.

I am very pleased about Flint. There was, frankly, failure at every level of government—Federal, State, and local. I am glad that the Congress is following up on the commitment of the Speaker and of our good friend from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), who has been the leader, obviously, in this and is doing the right thing there.

Again, the water projects, themselves, touch almost every district in the country—certainly, every State in the country.

I want to particularly point out the Indian provisions in here, which often get overlooked. We did some really important things in working with Mr. BISHOP and Mr. SHUSTER in common. We settled a number of really important individual Indian water case issues. I think the Pechanga case, for instance, which I know my friend the Speaker is familiar with, has been around for many years. We also changed the definitions in law so Indian tribes can now compete for water projects and water funding, particularly in some of the areas. Again, my friend the Speaker has seen some of these shortages in infrastructure as we traveled to reservations around the country together; so putting these people in a position to make sure they have access to funds to deal with water is important.

Finally, for my own State—extremely important—and at no cost to

the Federal Government, the Chickasaws, the Choctaws, the city of Oklahoma City, and the State of Oklahoma negotiated a water settlement arrangement inside of Oklahoma for the appropriate distribution of water. That requires Federal approval because there is a trust responsibility. We got the deal done, frankly, relatively late this year. We got tremendous cooperation in Congress and in the Senate. Certainly, JIM INHOFE played a big role over there by getting it in the bill in order to get that memorialized and done in an expeditious fashion. We are very grateful for that.

When it comes to the CR, I certainly support the CR, and I certainly appreciate very much the work that Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY did to adjust, as much as possible, this short-term funding measure to try and deal with what we call around here "anomalies" and try to get the money to where it is supposed to go. There are many good things, again, in this short-term funding bill through April 28, my birthday, so perhaps this will work out in the end. Of course, it is also Saddam Hussein's birthday, so that doesn't always work out too well.

At the end of the day, we ought to look at this process. I find myself in agreement with my good friend from New York on many of the things that she had to say. We should be negotiating an omnibus bill. We have the time to do it. We were told, when we passed the short-term CR in late September, that that is what we would do in this timeframe. I can assure you, because they did it last year, that Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY could do it again this year. We are pretty close on all of these issues. It is a mistake, in my view, to push this into next year. Next year, we will have to write the FY18 budget and do the appropriations while we are simultaneously doing this, and the temptation will be very great to just do another CR and pass this on.

While all of this seems like budget double-talk to the average American, the reality is we have passed a lot of good legislation this year, but the funding isn't matched up with the legislation that we have passed. That is because we are relying on a continuing resolution as opposed to doing the real hard work of appropriations. Last year, when we did that, by the way, it provided us budget stability this year. It got us out of a lot of the fights—and guess what. All of a sudden, you end up with cures. All of a sudden, you end up with WRDA. All of a sudden, you get a national defense authorization done, because we have done the appropriate things.

The Appropriations Committee, I am quick to add, has done its work. All 12 bills that fund the Federal Government passed out of Appropriations—5 of

them across this floor. I believe, with some of the most contentious, like Interior, our problem partly is our friends in the Senate who blocked up the deal, but we could have still finished an omnibus bill this year.

I support this. I don't think we made a wise decision in the manner in which we are proceeding, but, certainly, we don't want to shut down the government. I just want to serve notice to my friends who made the decision that I am going to hold their feet to the fire so that, in April, we actually do what we said we were going to do and that we go back to regular order.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of the rule and the underlying legislation.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI).

Ms. MATSUI. I thank my colleague for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to address my concerns regarding WRDA. My home district of Sacramento is the most at-risk major American city for flooding, and with the damaging effects of our changing climate, that risk is not going away. We sit at the confluence of two great rivers, making flood control absolutely essential for the safety of my constituents. That is why I have worked diligently for years to ensure we are making the investments we need to protect our region; but our levees are aging, which is why I have worked so strongly and fought for the inclusion of two projects in this bill: the American River Common Features and the West Sacramento projects. Combined, these projects will result in almost \$3 billion worth of lifesaving investments in my region.

This isn't just about protecting a few buildings. The area that these projects support protect upwards of 400,000 people. It includes four major highway systems, an international airport, the State capitol, and a major water and electric grid.

This is about protecting the future of my beloved city of Sacramento, which is why I am so disappointed that WRDA has become a vehicle for a poison pill. The drought language that was airdropped into this bill at the last minute pits one region of California against another. It will be detrimental to northern California's economy and environment, and I am concerned about its impact on our region's water supply.

I share my colleagues' concerns about the drought, but we need to work together on a solution that takes the well-being of every part of our State into account. It is extremely unfortunate that WRDA is being used as a vehicle for legislation that we should consider as a stand-alone bill, especially given the careful bipartisan work that our colleagues have put into this legislative package.

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

I thank my friend from California for her comments.

She is absolutely right. I talked so much about the economics of WRDA, and she talked about the truly life-saving aspects of WRDA. We are talking about flood control in so many of these projects. She mentioned the West Sacramento projects in California. Just going through California alone, Mr. Speaker, the American River Common Features project, the San Diego County storm risk reduction project, the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline project, the Los Angeles River project are all being worked through and approved. These projects are not just going to put people to work. These projects are going to make people safer.

I thank my colleague for recognizing that and for helping to celebrate that with me.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, if we can defeat the previous question this morning, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up legislation that would set aside excess funds from the Abandoned Mine Land fund for the miners' health benefits and pension plans. We must do everything we can to protect the benefits that our hardworking miners have earned throughout the years.

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. I thank the gentlewoman from New York.

Mr. Speaker, 70 years ago, United Mine Workers of America President John L. Lewis—a lifetime Republican—crossed party lines to work with President Roosevelt and his administration to make a deal to end a nationwide coal strike. The deal ended up promising health and pension benefits for miners in this country in exchange for their lifetime of hard work. It was a promise that the Federal Government has kept since then. Every year, no matter who the President is, no matter who is in control of the Congress, it is a promise that our Nation has kept every single year for 70 years; but, Mr. Speaker, that is about to change.

Right now, 22,500 coal miners in West Virginia, in Ohio, in my own home State of Pennsylvania, and across coal country are facing a complete loss of their health and pension benefits during 2017. It breaks the long-time promise between the coal industry, its workers, and the Federal Government.

The continuing resolution before us purports to fix this problem by ensuring that 16,300 miners who would lose their health care on December 31 are taken care of. However, this is only a short-term Band-Aid, 4-month patch for health care, which leaves miners worse off in April than they are today. Most importantly, this CR does absolutely nothing to solve the pension problem—this in return for a lifetime of hard and dangerous work.

There are actual long-term solutions available that this body should be considering. The Miners Protection Act would fix both the health care and pensions for miners permanently. I repeat, it fixes the problems permanently.

Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no reason for the short-term patch the majority is proposing here today. Miners across Pennsylvania have risked their health and safety to secure better lives for their families. They have dedicated their careers to ensuring that U.S. factories have the energy to continue to work and that our homes, schools, and workplaces can keep their lights on. This country became a great country on the backs of our hardworking coal miners. We should not be turning our backs on them now.

Mr. Speaker, the great American lawyer, Clarence Darrow, came to Scranton in the midst of one of these coal strikes, and he got to know the coal miners. Here is what he said about them:

These are men who toil while other men grow rich, men who go down into the Earth and face greater dangers than men who go out upon the sea or out upon the land in battle, men who have little to hope for, little to think of excepting work. These are men, men like any others, who, in the midst of sorrow, travail, and a severe and cruel crisis, demeaned themselves as nobly, as bravely, as loyally as any body of men who ever lived and suffered and died for the benefit of the generations that are yet to come.

Darrow was right, Mr. Speaker. We need to protect the health care and pensions of our miners and create new jobs throughout our coal regions. The commonsense, bipartisan Miners Protection Act would give miners across Pennsylvania and the rest of coal country the peace of mind of knowing that the retirements they worked all of their lives for are secure.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot continue to fix our partisan spending issues at the expense of the American worker. We have to keep the promises we made to our hardworking men and women. That is why I urge my colleagues to do just that and agree to this motion to defeat the previous question so that we can bring up and include important legislation to protect our coal miners' pensions and health care.

□ 0945

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman

from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Democrat leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her superior service on the Rules Committee.

Mr. Speaker, across America today, hardworking people and seniors find that their retirement security is under threat and in doubt. Congress has a responsibility to strengthen Americans' retirement security, and we dishonor that responsibility with the half measure for coal miners in the CR today—less than a half measure.

I commend Congressman CARTWRIGHT of Pennsylvania. He knows full well the contribution that the coal miners have made to our economy. He knows the stress that they are under from what is happening now and how this is exacerbated by the continuing resolution.

Mr. Speaker, 22,500 coal miners in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, and across coal country are facing a complete loss of their health and pension benefits in 2017. However, the continuing resolution offers these men and women only a short term.

Senator MANCHIN has been making the pitch, and many of us have joined him, that these health and pension benefits should be in our legislation at least for 5 years, preferably in perpetuity.

What the CR says is: not in perpetuity, not in 5 years—for 4 months; for 4 months and only health benefits, completely ignoring the pension part of it.

Coal miners are on the Hill today to make their case, to tell their personal stories about how this has affected them. After a lifetime of service and in a culture built around that industry, they trusted that their pension and their health benefits would be there. But their companies went bankrupt.

Think of this, my colleagues. If you, anyone in your family, or any of your constituents were working a lifetime in a company, in an industry, and that company went bankrupt, and the answer to you is: Tough luck. We went bankrupt. Your pension went down the drain.

It is absolutely criminal. It is absolutely criminal.

The CR offers a short-term, 4-month patch for health care and leaves the miners worse off in April than they are now.

I thank Senator MANCHIN for taking the lead in such a forceful way, and I thank MATT CARTWRIGHT for leading us here.

In hope that we could defeat this rule, I urge my Republican colleagues who are from coal country in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia—and coal country goes beyond. Virginia is one of the biggest coal-producing States, though you might not realize it. The CR does nothing, does nothing to solve the critical pension problem that

threatens the future of these miners and their families.

With our previous question, Democrats, led by Congressman CARTWRIGHT, are calling on Republicans to do better. We should be voting on commonsense, bipartisan legislation that would give miners in coal country the peace of mind of knowing that their retirements that they worked for all their lives are secure.

Mr. MCKINLEY of West Virginia, a Republican, has led the way with the Miners Protection Act. It is a bipartisan bill. It has 87 cosponsors, and we would like to defeat this rule so that we can bring up Mr. MCKINLEY's Miners Protection Act.

The bipartisan bill would transfer funds in excess of the amounts needed to meet existing legislation under the Abandoned Mine Land fund to the United Mine Workers 1974 pension plan to prevent its insolvency. The funds are there. They just need to be transferred. Mr. MCKINLEY's bill does that.

Make certain retirees who lose healthcare benefits following the bankruptcy or insolvency of his or her employer eligible for benefits.

As these families head toward the holiday season, we must ensure they can celebrate knowing that the health and pension benefits they earned—they have earned—will always be there for them.

I was disappointed that, in the CR, we did not have an extender for some renewable initiatives, renewable alternatives. But we were told by the Speaker's Office that our guys are fossil fuel guys. They are not interested in the renewables.

Okay. I respect that. If you are fossil fuel guys, why aren't you looking out for the fossil fuel people who have worked under dangerous circumstances for their lives, going into unsafe situations, breathing air that has created problems for their health, and now the companies have declared bankruptcy or insolvency. Tough luck for the workers.

Mr. MCKINLEY knows that is not right. That is why he introduced the bill. Mr. CARTWRIGHT knows that is not right. That is why he is supporting the bill. And that is why Democrats come to the floor today to urge Republicans to express their concern for their constituents in the fossil fuel industry to do justice to them for the service they have provided for the benefits, pension, and health care they are entitled to.

So we will see what the commitment is of the Republicans in Congress to the fossil fuel guys and gals. We will see on their vote here today.

Vote "no" on the bill so we can vote "yes" on the McKinley Miners Protection Act.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am quoting from The Washington Post. It says, "The United

Mine Workers of America's retirement and health-care funds currently support about 120,000 former miners and their families nationwide, but the account balances have rapidly declined as some coal companies shed dues-paying workers and others filed for bankruptcy protection."

Mr. Speaker, this isn't unique to coal country. The promises are unique to coal country, but bankruptcy is not unique to coal country. What is unique about the bankruptcy in coal country is that institutions like this helped to drive it along.

Mr. Speaker, what you haven't heard in this absolutely heartbreaking tale is the government's complicity through shedding of dues-paying workers and driving companies into bankruptcy, that the coal coming out of the ground in America today is being brought out of the ground by companies that are being forced into bankruptcy today. But that this continuing resolution, while a partial fix, is a 100 percent fix for the duration of the continuing resolution.

My friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) is my friend, and what he says when he is talking passionately about the lives and what we can do to make a difference in the lives of retired miners, he says with 100 percent heartfelt sincerity, and I am grateful to him for it.

And my friend from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY), whose legislation is the subject of this motion, believes in these people, believes in work, believes in commitment to promises like no one else in this institution, and I am proud to call him a friend as well.

Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no question in my mind that we have a shared commitment, shared values, and we will find a shared solution.

I am reminded that the last time I found myself in this situation a friend of mine from Michigan was standing right over there at that podium. He too had a motion: if we defeated the previous question, he would offer to help the people of Flint. And I stood here at this microphone and said to my friend that he had a shared concern, that he had a concern that was on the hearts of all of us in this institution, and that we would come back and address his concern, though the forum was not this one today.

With no sense of irony at all, Mr. Speaker, I tell you that this underlying bill has those dollars for Flint in it today, that the authorization for those projects are in the underlying bill today.

So I say to my friend from Pennsylvania, as I said to my friend from Michigan, this is absolutely a shared concern. I am frustrated about how we got here, and I believe we are going to disagree about where blame lies in how we got here. How we fix it, however, is not dependent on who is to blame for

getting here. How we fix it is dependent on our shared commitment to getting it done.

This is not the bill for that long-term fix. We have not had those long-term conversations, Mr. Speaker, but we do have a 100 percent commitment for the duration of the continuing resolution to make sure those healthcare benefits continue. And I am proud that we, in a bipartisan, bicameral way, found those dollars to do that right thing.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for her continued leadership, and let me also acknowledge my support of her stance on the previous question and the eloquence of Mr. CARTWRIGHT on a very, very important issue. I rise to be part of that.

Let me also join my good friend from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) who said that the appropriators did their work. The American people need to know that. That is regular order, that the appropriation bills should have come forward, and the needs of the American people, through their Representatives in the people's House, should have been addressed. That is not the case, Mr. Speaker.

So I rise with deep concern—one, as a neighbor to Louisiana, which I know that funds are being allocated, but I realize the devastation there; but also as a Representative of the State of Texas and the 18th Congressional District, where we face a continuous barrage of rains and flooding, that we need continued relief from flooding and, of course, the additional amendment that I had passed in the Energy and Water Appropriations to finally do a study of Houston's bayous. I am not going to give up on that.

Now, there is money here on a short-term basis for the Army Corps of Engineers' community development block grant, the \$1 billion for Federal Highway Administration, but we don't know whether these moneys will, in fact, be able to solve the problems that we have. So regular order would have been appropriate.

I know that the Senate asked for \$240 million-plus for Flint, a place where I have traveled to more than one time. I know our good friend from Michigan, Congressman KILDEE, has laid himself on the line for those people. There is \$100 million here. They need \$200 million-plus now—now.

This bill goes until April of 2017; and, frankly, I would argue that there are emergency instances where we need the full funding, and that is what is wrong with this CR. It is a compromise to go down even worse in April. That is my fear. It is a compromise to undermine employees of the Federal Government

in April. Who knows what will be on the horizon.

So this is not the response that we need for the American people. This is not regular order. This is not full funding. This does not allow for amendments.

And then let me say this, Mr. Speaker. The last time we provided a waiver for a general—I think everybody can read their history books, and they know who General George C. Marshall was, in 1950. We have not done that now for 66 years. Where is the oversight of Congress? As a member of the Judiciary Committee, to be able to implement a waiver willy-nilly in the CR—no hearings, no legislation, no understanding.

There is a definitive core in the American psyche and the constitutional premise of the civilian-military relationship, that there is a separation.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. To be able to defend the Nation, we have the military. They are excellent. I am sure “Mad Dog” Mattis is excellent. But a waiver? Is this going to be the administration of waivers?

We have already heard from the top Democrat in the Senate, changing the rules governing nominations he opposes. We know that, changing the rules in a CR, we should oppose. This is not regular order or regular legislation. This is a continuing resolution.

For the American people, let me tell you what is happening. They are trying to ease under the door a process of eliminating the basic principle of separating the fact that you are in the military and you must have a separate period of time before you come into civilian leadership.

This is a bad process, a bad bill. Let's not fool the American people. Let's treat them with fairness. This is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to the Rule for Senate Amendment to H.R. 2028, the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016.”

I oppose this rule for four reasons:

This rule does not follow the regular order process for House consideration of each appropriations bill; allow the full funding of the federal government for fiscal year 2017; allow for amendments; and support a long standing prohibition of not legislating on an appropriations bill.

The rule before the House addresses consideration of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, which includes the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, and a Continuing Resolution to fund the federal government until April 28, 2017.

The WIIN Act, which contains the WRDA Act, authorizes much needed water projects

around the nation that will improve water resources infrastructure.

On April 17–18, 2016 Houston experienced a historic flood event that claimed the lives of eight people; damaged over 1,150 households; disrupted hundreds of businesses; closed community centers, schools, and places of worship due to flood waters.

I appreciate the support I received from the Transportation Infrastructure Committee, which authorized projects that directs the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct studies into the conditions that lead to flooding.

Although the funding has not been appropriated to conduct studies on conditions that lead to flooding, as it should have been if Congress had followed regular order for the appropriations' process, the efforts to address flooding issues such what was seen in Houston over the last three years is essential to saving lives and property.

The Jackson Lee Amendment to H.R. 5055, the Energy and Water Appropriations Act which will help facilitate the \$3 million needed to fund the Army Corps of Engineers' Houston Regional Watershed Assessment flood risk management feasibility study.

When funding is appropriated for this type of project the Army Corps of Engineers will conduct the first water system studies that looks at all factors that contribute to flooding not only in the City of Houston, but around the nation.

Should the funding become available a special emphasis of the study if conducted in Houston would covers 22 primary watersheds within Harris County's 1,756 square miles, will be placed on extreme flood events that exceed the system capacity resulting in impacts to asset conditions/functions and loss of life.

Because of this Jackson Lee Amendment to authorize flood studies, I know that the WIIN and WRDA bills could have been improved through amendments; unfortunately, this rule does not allow amendments.

I am a strong proponent of regular order and for the House to take seriously its responsibility to fund the federal government in a responsible and prudent manner.

The leadership of the House is using the last days the 114th Congress will be in session to do appropriations work that should take 8 months to complete in a regular appropriations process.

If we do not act, and pass this bill—the federal government would be under threat of shutting down.

The fiscal year of the Federal government for 2016 ended on September 30, and the Fiscal Year for 2017 began on October 1, 2016.

The use of Continuing Resolutions was historically used for the few bills that did not finish the full legislative process prior to October 1.

Now Continuing Resolutions and Omnibus Appropriations bills are an annual part of the House budget and appropriations process—this is wrong and I will work in the next Congress to make sure that we are focused on bringing transparency back to the budgetary and appropriations process by following regular order.

Mr. Speaker, Senate Amendment to H.R. 2028, “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016,”

which extends current Fiscal Year 2017 government funding through April 28, 2017, at its current rate, which includes an across-the-board cut of .19% for all accounts, defense and non-defense.

The federal government operates under budgetary and authorization constraints that cannot be met if administrators of agencies are unable to plan because they do not know what their funding levels will be from year to year.

This short term Continuing Resolution does the most harm to Fiscal Year 2017 because we have already passed one CR and now this body is about to pass another that will end in April.

This creates uncertainty not only for the work of federal agencies, but for programs that fund local and state programs and projects that include infrastructure, education, food programs and much more.

This haphazard appropriations process also causes problems and uncertainty for companies and businesses that provide goods and services to the federal government.

Further, this rule keeps in place sequestration the most damaging and fiscally irrespirable thing done by the 114th Congress to the American people.

Under the conditions that the two bills under this rule have been managed by the leadership of the House, it would have benefited from amendments to make improvements to the bill.

Because this bill changes a law that has nothing to do with appropriations, it would have been beneficial to allow the House to clearly speak to this single issue through the amendment process, which would support debate and a clear affirmation for the change in law governing the appointment of the Secretary of Defense.

Senate Amendment to H.R. 2028 also does something very serious, which has nothing to do with funding the federal government.

This short term CR has language that changes the number of years a retired member of the armed services must wait before being considered for the position of Secretary of Defense.

The bill's critical imperfection has nothing to do with funding the federal government—it is a change in law that would allow a retired military person to serve after only 3 years of retirement instead of 7.

The service to our nation and the honor and integrity of the person under consideration at present to be the next Secretary of Defense is not in question—it is the reason why there is a waiting period and why that is important.

By placing this change in a continuing resolution—a bill designed not to allow more than an hour of debate and not changes is not the vehicle we should use to make this change.

If President Obama has suggested a change in law to be accomplished in a continuing resolution appropriations bill his request would have been denied.

The politicization of the legislative process has seriously undermined the credibility of the Congress to do the important work of funding the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that we have again been placed in the position of having to fund the government through the device

of a continuing resolution rather through the normal appropriations process of considering and voting on the twelve separate spending bills reported by the Committee on Appropriations.

The use of this appropriations measure to further a political objective adds further insult to this body and the appropriations process.

There are oversight committees with the knowledge, expertise and experience to make the determination on whether this change is prudent and if they determine that it is—to make the appropriate changes in law.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in opposition to this Rule and in support of Congress returning to regular order for the consideration of authorization and appropriations bills.

[From CQ Roll Call, Dec. 6, 2016]

NEW CR WOULD EASE CONFIRMATION FOR
MATTIS

(by John M. Donnelly)

The new stopgap spending bill would clear a path for lawmakers to exempt President-elect Donald Trump's Defense secretary nominee from a law requiring a seven-year waiting period before retired military officers can take that job.

Many Democrats oppose the move and they could make trouble for the continuing resolution as a result, though it is unclear if they will risk a government shutdown to make their point.

The House expects to pass the CR on Thursday and the Senate on Friday, just in time for President Barack Obama to sign the bill into law and keep the federal government operating, as the current CR expires that day.

The new CR, unveiled Tuesday night, contains a provision that would expedite consideration of legislation that would enable the Senate to confirm retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis, Trump's now-official pick for Pentagon chief, even though he retired from military service three years ago.

EXPEDITED PROCESS

The provision provides that the Senate may consider under expedited procedures legislation that would give Mattis an exception to a nearly decade-old law requiring a seven-year interlude after military service.

The seven-year mandate was itself a shortened version of the original in-year requirement in the National Security Act of 1947 (PL 80-253), to which Congress granted an exception only once, in 1950, in the case of Army Gen. George C. Marshall.

The legislation to grant the exception can be introduced in the first 30 days of the next Congress's first session. It would have to pass both houses, but the CR seeks to knock down possible dilatory procedures Democrats might use in the Senate.

The Senate Armed Services Committee would have five days to report it. If they did not do so, it would go straight to the floor anyway. Once there, it would still require 60 votes to pass, unless leaders of both parties agreed to waive that requirement.

But the CR provision would knock down a number of other time-consuming procedural hurdles.

The Senate would debate it for 10 hours.

Arizona Republican John McCain, chairman of Senate Armed Services, had said earlier Tuesday that it is critical to confirm a new Defense secretary as soon as possible.

"Apparently, Democrats are saying they want to drag it out," he said, referring to the

confirmation process. "You can't drag out the secretary of Defense. . . . It's absolutely disgraceful. It puts the nation's security at risk."

Democrats have said they will resist an attempt to bobtail congressional debate over the Mattis nomination and the larger issue of civilian control of the military, which they believe deserves scrutiny.

Whether they will oppose the expedited process detailed in the CR provision remains to be seen.

OPPOSITION TO RULE CHANGES

Asked before the CR provision was unveiled publicly whether the Mattis provision could doom the whole stopgap, incoming Senate Minority Whip Richard J. Durbin said: "I hope it doesn't come to it . . . There's a strong sentiment opposing any rules changes in the CR."

Jack Reed of Rhode Island, the top Democrat on Senate Armed Services, said in a statement he opposes "changing the rules" governing nominations.

"Trying to jam an historic change like this through on a year-end spending bill, or changing the rules before a serious debate can take place, is not the way to conduct the people's business," Reed said. "Surely, at the very least, it is worth having bipartisan hearings and debate before taking any action that could unintentionally disrupt the long established principle of civilian control of the military."

New York Democrat Charles E. Schumer, the Senate's incoming minority leader, told reporters prior to release of the new spending legislation that the Mattis nomination should not be "short-shrived through a CR."

"There should be a full process, and our caucus feels very strongly about that," Schumer said. "And changing the rules in a CR? That's never been done before."

Along the same lines, in the House, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said earlier in the day that using a CR to address a forthcoming nomination would set a "terrible precedent."

"The American people are entitled to regular order and thoughtful scrutiny of nominees and any potential waivers," Pelosi said.

Likewise, the top Democrat on House Intelligence, Californian Adam B. Schiff, said in a statement prior to the CR's release: "Members of Congress would benefit from knowing not only General Mattis' views on civilian control of the military, but who else from the military the President-elect intends to nominate for other key positions in his Cabinet. This ill-considered idea of rushing to judgment and including the waiver in a must-pass spending bill should be rejected."

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I say to my friend from New York that I do not have any speakers remaining, and I am prepared to close after she does.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL).

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to stand here in support of the Water Infrastructure Improvements Act for the Nation, also known as WIIN, because this legislation is a big win for my home State of Florida. There are two projects in there that I would like to talk about: the restoration of our Everglades and actually the expansion of Port Everglades, which is a different project.

□ 1000

Our Everglades is the crown jewel of Florida. We also call it the river of grass. It is the home to an extraordinary natural habitat which attracts thousands and thousands of visitors every year, but, more important, it is where we store and clean the water for 7 million Floridians each year. Within WIIN is CEPP, Central Everglades Planning Project, which will continue the promise of this Congress to restore the natural flow of our river of grass that was interrupted years ago by Federal agencies.

Also in this winning legislation is the expansion of Port Everglades, one of Florida's premier ports. Last year I was able to travel with our Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to Panama. We witnessed the opening of the canal, and we have seen the massive ships that are now traveling the seas, ships that will not be allowed into many of our ports unless we have an expansion. This bill will allow the expansion of Port Everglades to go forward.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to let you know that it has taken us 20 years to get this authorized. So when I say this is a big win, this is a big economic win for south Florida because we expect, with the expansion 7,000 new jobs, 135,000 indirect new jobs, and \$500 million of economic impact for our State.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support what will be a big win for our country.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I urge the majority, once again, to get back to regular order and get to work on long-term appropriations to end this long cycle of political brinksmanship. These short-term appropriations stifle economic growth and fail to provide stability to the American people. CBS News has highlighted that it costs the taxpayers an estimated \$24 million a week just to run the House of Representatives. It is disappointing that this session of Congress is ending much the same way it began, with taxpayers failing to get their money's worth.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the kind words my friend from Florida just had to say about the WRDA bill. Twenty years was her testimony. Twenty years the folks in south Florida have been waiting for a solution. We came to that in a bipartisan way, bicameral way. If we support this rule, we are going to make that the law of the land.

Before I spend a little more time bragging about the content of the bill, Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you that these things don't happen by accident. On the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure alone, we have got a

whole team of folks, again, who have been working for not days, not weeks, not even months, but years on this final project. Our staff director on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Matt Sturges, tireless in this effort; the subcommittee staff director, Geoff Bowman; Collin McCune on the committee, working with every single member to make sure no balls get dropped, that we don't miss a single opportunity to make a difference.

You look at all the work that goes on behind the scenes, Mr. Speaker, and it culminates right here in just this 1 hour of debate. We have talked about what went on in California. We have talked about what goes on in Florida; in Texas, years waiting for the Brazos Island Harbor project, Mr. Speaker, years waiting for the Upper Trinity River project, the Houston Ship Channel. Thanks to WRDA, all of these projects are going to happen. Projects in Alaska, New Hampshire, Maine, Louisiana, North Carolina, Missouri, Kansas, Washington all inside this bill, all the result of individual members working together to make those a reality.

With the passage of this bill, Mr. Speaker, we are going to get back to a regular order process, exerting our constituents' control over executive branch agencies as it relates to water projects. We are going to get back in the habit of doing the annual work of coming together, looking at what the national infrastructure priorities are of America, and getting about that business, prioritizing those projects, focusing on those projects, getting the red tape out of the way, making sure we are delivering for folks back home.

It has been a long time coming. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to slow it down any longer. I ask all of my colleagues to support this rule so that we can consider the underlying bills, and I ask all of my colleagues to cast an enthusiastic "yes" vote for those underlying bills.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SLAUGHTER is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 949 OFFERED BY
MS. SLAUGHTER

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2403) to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Re-

sources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 2403.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled

"Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reluctant opposition to S. 612, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN), a bill which reauthorizes water infrastructure projects and includes authorizing language regarding Flint aid.

First, let me acknowledge Congressman DAN KILDEE, who has worked tirelessly to bring justice to the Flint families. His work and the work of the Michigan delegation, is essential to ensuring the people of Flint have the resources that they need to recover.

Mr. Speaker, while I strongly support that this bill included \$170 million for Flint and other communities impacted by lead to replace water infrastructure and provide needed health care, I am deeply concerned about the poison pill California drought rider.

This shameful rider would gut environmental protections in California's Bay-Delta, threatening thousands of fishing jobs, water quality, and endangered species. This harmful rider also fails to adequately address critical elements of California's complex water challenges and will only worsen the effects of the drought.

Mr. Speaker, it is completely unacceptable to hold Flint funding hostage to this anti-environmental rider.

Since the beginning of this crisis, I have long supported providing robust funding for the families in Flint.

And let me also say that I was part of a Congressional Delegation that traveled to Flint, Michigan to listen to the residents regarding the horrendous impact of these government decisions that led to the poisoning of those on children and families.

However, while this bill does include funding for Flint, Republicans played partisan politics by inserting a poison pill drought rider, and sadly I cannot support it.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for the bipartisan Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, which combines parts of the House and Senate Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bills passed through each chamber earlier this year. The WIIN Act takes an important step forward in addressing the water needs of Southern California by reauthorizing infrastructure projects nationwide to reduce flood damage, replenish our water supply, and restore our ecosystem.

This final bill includes many bright spots. I was particularly pleased that, following the efforts of Congressman XAVIER BECERRA, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, and myself, this bill

reflects a strong commitment to the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration project. The project will rejuvenate Los Angeles park space and wetlands, build new public spaces, create recreational opportunities, and boost the regional economy, creating a healthier, revitalized Los Angeles River. I am also heartened that this bill contains significant improvements for local water suppliers to complete water reuse and recycling projects, and authorizes long-overdue aid to combat the Flint water crisis.

This bill is not perfect. For example, I would have liked it to have shown a much deeper commitment to protecting the Endangered Species Act. However, it was urgent that we pass this bill instead of waiting until next year and the uncertainties of a new Congress and new President.

My vote for the WIIN Act is a vote for our state's long-term water infrastructure. I believe this legislation will provide California with critical help in addressing our ongoing drought crisis.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adopting House Resolution 949, if ordered; and suspending the rules and passing H.R. 4919.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 234, nays 181, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 617]

YEAS—234

Abraham Chaffetz Fleming
Aderholt Coffman Flores
Allen Cole Fortenberry
Amash Collins (GA) Foxx
Amodel Collins (NY) Franks (AZ)
Babin Comer Frelinghuysen
Barletta Comstock Garrett
Barr Conaway Gibbs
Barton Cook Gibson
Benishek Costa Gohmert
Billirakis Costello (PA) Goodlatte
Bishop (MI) Cramer Gosar
Bishop (UT) Crawford Gowdy
Black Crenshaw Granger
Blackburn Culberson Graves (GA)
Blum Curbelo (FL) Graves (LA)
Bost Davidson Griffith
Boustany Davis, Rodney Grothman
Brady (TX) Denham Guinta
Brat Dent Guthrie
Bridenstine DeSantis Hanna
Brooks (AL) DesJarlais Hardy
Brooks (IN) Diaz-Balart Harper
Buchanan Dold Harris
Buck Donovan Hartzler
Bucshon Duffy Heck (NV)
Burgess Duncan (SC) Hensarling
Byrne Duncan (TN) Herrera Beutler
Calvert Emmer (MN) Hice, Jody B.
Carter (GA) Farenthold Hill
Carter (TX) Fitzpatrick Holding
Chabot Fleischmann Hudson

Huelskamp Meehan
Huizenga (MI) Messer
Hultgren Mica
Hunter Miller (FL)
Hurd (TX) Miller (MI)
Hurt (VA) Moonenar
Issa Mooney (WV)
Jenkins (KS) Mullin
Jenkins (WV) Mulvaney
Johnson (OH) Murphy (PA)
Johnson, Sam Neugebauer
Jolly Newhouse
Jones Noem
Jordan Nugent
Joyce Nunes
Katko Palazzo
Kelly (MS) Palmar
Kelly (PA) Paulsen
King (IA) Pearce
King (NY) Perry
Kinzinger (IL) Pittenger
Kline Pitts
Knight Poliquin
Labrador Posey
LaHood Ratcliffe
LaMalfa Reed
Lamborn Reichert
Lance Renacci
Latta Ribble
LoBiondo Rice (SC)
Long Rigell
Loudermilk Roby
Love Roe (TN)
Lucas Rogers (AL)
Luetkemeyer Rogers (KY)
Lummis Rohrabacher
MacArthur Rokita
Marchant Rooney (FL)
Marino Ros-Lehtinen
Massie Roskam
McCarthy Ross
McClintock Rothfus
McHenry Rouzer
McMorris Royce
Rodgers Russell
McSally Salmon
Meadows Sanford

NAYS—181

Adams DeSaulnier Kind
Aguilar Deutch Kuster
Bass Dingell Langevin
Beatty Doggett Larsen (WA)
Becerra Doyle, Michael Larson (CT)
Bera F. Lawrence
Beyer Duckworth Lee
Bishop (GA) Edwards Levin
Blumenaucr Ellison Lewis
Bonamici Engel Lieu, Ted
Boyle, Brendan Eshoo Lipinski
F. Esty Loebsock
Brady (PA) Evans Lotgren
Brown (FL) Farr Lowenthal
Brownley (CA) Foster Lowey
Bustos Frankel (FL) Lujan Grisham
Butterfield Fudge (NM)
Capps Gabbard Lujan, Ben Ray
Capuano Gallego (NM)
Cardenas Garamendi Lynch
Carney Graham Maloney,
Carson (IN) Grayson Carolyne
Cartwright Green, Al Maloney, Sean
Castor (FL) Green, Gene Matsui
Castro (TX) Grijalva McCollum
Chu, Judy Gutierrez McDermott
Ciilline Hanabusa McGovern
Cucilline Clark (MA) McKinley
Clarke (NY) Heck (WA) McNerney
Clay Higgins Meeks
Cleaver Himes Meng
Cohen Hinojosa Moore
Connelly Honda Moulton
Conyers Hoyer Murphy (FL)
Cooper Huffman Nadler
Courtney Israel Napolitano
Crowley Jackson Lee Neal
Cuellar Jeffries Nolan
Cummings Johnson (GA) Norcross
Davis (CA) Johnson, E. B. O'Rourke
Davis, Danny Kaptur Pallone
DeFazio Keating Pascrell
DeGette Kelly (IL) Payne
Delaney Kennedy Pelosi
DeLauro Kildee Perlmutter
DelBene Kilmer Peters

Scalise Peterson
Schweikert Pingree
Scott, Austin Pocan
Sensenbrenner Polis
Sessions Price (NC)
Shimkus Quigley
Shuster Rangel
Simpson Rice (NY)
Smith (MO) Roybal-Allard
Smith (NE) Ruiz
Smith (NJ) Ruppberger
Smith (TX) Rush
Stefanik Ryan (OH)
Stewart Sanchez, Linda
Stivers T.
Stutzman Sarbanes
Thompson (PA) Schakowsky
Thornberry

Tiberi Ashford
Tipton Clawson (FL)
Trott Clyburn
Turner Ellmers (NC)
Upton Poe (TX)
Valadao Forbes
Wagner Pompeo
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Schiff Tonko
Schrader Torres
Scott (VA) Tsongas
Scott, David Vargas
Serrano Veasey
Sewell (AL) Vela
Sherman Velazquez
Sinema Visclosky
Sires Walz
Slaughter Wasserman
Smith (WA) Schultz
Speier Waters, Maxine
Swalwell (CA) Takano Watson Coleman
T. Thompson (CA) Welch
Thompson (MS) Wilson (FL)
Titus Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—18

Graves (MO) Price, Tom
Kirkpatrick Richmond
McCaul Sanchez, Loretta
Olson Van Hollen
Poe (TX) Wenstrup
Pompeo Westmoreland

□ 1031

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

(By unanimous consent, Ms. LEE was allowed to speak out of order.)

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR VICTIMS OF OAKLAND WAREHOUSE FIRE

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a very heavy heart. Last weekend, my home city of Oakland, California, suffered a horrific tragedy. Constituents from Congressman SWALWELL's district and Congressman DESAULNIER's district suffered a tremendous tragedy and were killed. A devastating fire at an artist collective warehouse in the Fruitvale neighborhood in Oakland killed 36 young, talented individuals.

I want to first thank my colleagues, all of you, for your condolences and offers of assistance.

These were young men and women who had their whole futures ahead of them. Their lives were tragically cut short. We want to extend our deepest condolences and prayers to the victims' families and their loved ones during this anguishing time. We are in mourning for these young people.

But know that Oakland residents are resilient, compassionate, and caring. We will continue to support all of our residents during this very difficult time with any recovery efforts.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCARTHY). Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 235, nays 180, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 618]

YEAS—235

Abraham	Graves (LA)	Nunes
Aderholt	Griffith	Palazzo
Allen	Grothman	Palmer
Amash	Guinta	Paulsen
Amodei	Guthrie	Pearce
Babin	Hanna	Perry
Barletta	Hardy	Pittenger
Barr	Harper	Pitts
Barton	Harris	Poliquin
Benishek	Hartzler	Posey
Bilirakis	Heck (NV)	Ratcliffe
Bishop (MI)	Hensarling	Reed
Bishop (UT)	Herrera Beutler	Reichert
Black	Hice, Jody B.	Renacci
Blackburn	Hill	Ribble
Blum	Holding	Rice (SC)
Bost	Hudson	Rigell
Boustany	Huelskamp	Roby
Brady (TX)	Huizenga (MI)	Roe (TN)
Brat	Hultgren	Rogers (AL)
Bridenstine	Hunter	Rogers (KY)
Brooks (AL)	Hurd (TX)	Rohrabacher
Brooks (IN)	Hurt (VA)	Rokita
Buchanan	Issa	Rooney (FL)
Buck	Jenkins (KS)	Ros-Lehtinen
Bucshon	Jenkins (WV)	Roskam
Burgess	Johnson (OH)	Ross
Byrne	Johnson, Sam	Rothfus
Calvert	Jolly	Rouzer
Carter (GA)	Jones	Royce
Carter (TX)	Jordan	Russell
Chabot	Joyce	Salmon
Chaffetz	Katko	Sanford
Coffman	Kelly (MS)	Scalise
Cole	Kelly (PA)	Schweikert
Collins (GA)	King (IA)	Scott, Austin
Collins (NY)	King (NY)	Sensenbrenner
Comer	Kinzinger (IL)	Sessions
Comstock	Kline	Shimkus
Conaway	Knight	Shuster
Cook	Labrador	Simpson
Costa	LaHood	Smith (MO)
Costello (PA)	LaMalfa	Smith (NE)
Cramer	Lamborn	Smith (NJ)
Crawford	Lance	Smith (TX)
Crenshaw	Latta	Stefanik
Culberson	LoBiondo	Stewart
Curbelo (FL)	Long	Stivers
Davidson	Loudermilk	Stutzman
Davis, Rodney	Love	Thompson (PA)
Denham	Lucas	Thornberry
Dent	Luetkemeyer	Tiberi
DeSantis	Lummis	Tipton
DesJarlais	MacArthur	Trott
Diaz-Balart	Marchant	Turner
Dold	Marino	Upton
Donovan	Massie	Valadao
Duffy	McCarthy	Walberg
Duncan (SC)	McClintock	Wagner
Duncan (TN)	McHenry	Walsh
Emmer (MN)	McKinley	Walden
Farenthold	McMorris	Walker
Fitzpatrick	Rodgers	Walorski
Fleischmann	McSally	Walters, Mimi
Fleming	Meadows	Weber (TX)
Flores	Meehan	Webster (FL)
Fortenberry	Messer	Westerman
Fox	Mica	Williams
Franks (AZ)	Miller (FL)	Wilson (SC)
Frelinghuysen	Miller (MI)	Wittman
Garrett	Moolenaar	Womack
Gibbs	Mooney (WV)	Woodall
Gibson	Mullin	Yoder
Gohmert	Mulvaney	Yoho
Goodlatte	Murphy (PA)	Young (AK)
Gosar	Neugebauer	Young (IA)
Gowdy	Newhouse	Young (IN)
Granger	Noem	Zeldin
Graves (GA)	Nugent	Zinke

NAYS—180

Adams	Boyle, Brendan	Carson (IN)
Aguilar	F.	Cartwright
Bass	Brady (PA)	Castor (FL)
Beatty	Brown (FL)	Castro (TX)
Becerra	Brownley (CA)	Chu, Judy
Bera	Bustos	Cicilline
Beyer	Butterfield	Clark (MA)
Bishop (GA)	Capps	Clarke (NY)
Blumenauer	Capuano	Clay
Bonamici	Cárdenas	Cleaver
	Carney	Cohen

Connolly	Johnson (GA)	Peters
Conyers	Johnson, E. B.	Peterson
Cooper	Kaptur	Pingree
Courtney	Keating	Pocan
Crowley	Kelly (IL)	Polis
Cuellar	Kennedy	Price (NC)
Cummings	Kildee	Quigley
Davis (CA)	Kilmer	Rangel
Davis, Danny	Kind	Rice (NY)
DeFazio	Kuster	Roybal-Allard
DeGette	Langevin	Ruiz
Delaney	Larsen (WA)	Ruppersberger
DeLauro	Larson (CT)	Rush
DeBene	Lawrence	Ryan (OH)
DeSaulnier	Lee	Sánchez, Linda
Deutch	Levin	T.
Dingell	Lewis	Sarbanes
Doggett	Lieu, Ted	Schakowsky
Doyle, Michael	Lipinski	Schiff
F.	Loebsack	Schrader
Duckworth	Loftgren	Scott (VA)
Edwards	Lowenthal	Scott, David
Ellison	Lowey	Serrano
Engel	Lujan Grisham	Sewell (AL)
Eshoo	(NM)	Sherman
Esty	Lujan, Ben Ray	Sinema
Evans	(NM)	Sires
Farr	Lynch	Slaughter
Foster	Maloney,	Smith (WA)
Frankel (FL)	Carolyn	Speier
Ross	Maloney, Sean	Swalwell (CA)
Gabbard	Matsui	Takano
Gallego	McCollum	Takano
Garamendi	McDermott	Thompson (CA)
Graham	McGovern	Thompson (MS)
Grayson	McNerney	Titus
Green, Al	Meeks	Tonko
Green, Gene	Meng	Torres
Grijalva	Moore	Tsongas
Gutiérrez	Moulton	Vargas
Hanabusa	Murphy (FL)	Veasey
Hastings	Nadler	Vela
Heck (WA)	Napolitano	Velázquez
Higgins	Neal	Visclosky
Himes	Nolan	Walz
Hinojosa	Norcross	Wasserman
Honda	O'Rourke	Schultz
Hoyer	Pallone	Waters, Maxine
Huffman	Pascrell	Watson Coleman
Israel	Payne	Welch
Jackson Lee	Pelosi	Wilson (FL)
Jeffries	Perlmutter	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—18

Ashford	Graves (MO)	Price, Tom
Clawson (FL)	Kirkpatrick	Richmond
Clyburn	McCaul	Sanchez, Loretta
Elmers (NC)	Olson	Van Hollen
Fincher	Poe (TX)	Wenstrup
Forbes	Pompeo	Westmoreland

□ 1042

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

KEVIN AND AVONTE'S LAW OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4919) to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 346, nays 66, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 619]

YEAS—346

Abraham	DelBene	Kildee
Adams	Denham	Kilmer
Aderholt	Dent	Kind
Aguilar	DeSantis	King (NY)
Barletta	DeSaulnier	Kinzinger (IL)
Barr	Deutch	Kline
Barton	Diaz-Balart	Knight
Bass	Dingell	Kuster
Beatty	Doggett	LaHood
Becerra	Dold	LaMalfa
Benishek	Donovan	Lamborn
Bera	Doyle, Michael	Lance
Beyer	F.	Langevin
Bilirakis	Duckworth	Larsen (WA)
Bishop (GA)	Duffy	Larson (CT)
Bishop (MI)	Duncan (TN)	Latta
Bishop (UT)	Edwards	Lawrence
Black	Ellison	Lee
Blackburn	Engel	Levin
Blum	Eshoo	Lewis
Blumenauer	Esty	Lieu, Ted
Bonamici	Evans	Lipinski
Bost	Farr	LoBiondo
Boustany	Fitzpatrick	Loebsack
Boyle, Brendan	Fleischmann	Lofgren
F.	Fortenberry	Lowenthal
Brady (PA)	Foster	Lowey
Brady (TX)	Frankel (FL)	Lucas
Brooks (IN)	Franks (AZ)	Luetkemeyer
Brown (FL)	Franks (AZ)	Lujan Grisham
Brownley (CA)	Frelinghuysen	(NM)
Buchanan	Fudge	Luján, Ben Ray
Bucshon	Gabbard	(NM)
Burgess	Gallego	Lynch
Bustos	Garamendi	MacArthur
Butterfield	Gibbs	Maloney
Calvert	Goodlatte	Maloney
Capps	Gowdy	Maloney, Sean
Capuano	Graham	Marino
Cárdenas	Granger	Matsui
Carney	Grayson	McCarthy
Carson (IN)	Green, Al	McClintock
Carter (GA)	Green, Gene	McCollum
Carter (TX)	Grijalva	McDermott
Cartwright	Grothman	McGovern
Castor (FL)	Guinta	McHenry
Castro (TX)	Gutiérrez	McKinley
Chabot	Hanabusa	McMorris
Chu, Judy	Hanna	Rodgers
Cicilline	Hardy	McNerney
Clark (MA)	Harper	McSally
Clarke (NY)	Hartzler	Meehan
Clay	Hastings	Meeks
Cleaver	Heck (NV)	Meng
Coffman	Heck (WA)	Messer
Cohen	Herrera Beutler	Mica
Cole	Higgins	Miller (FL)
Collins (GA)	Himes	Miller (MI)
Collins (NY)	Hinojosa	Moolenaar
Comstock	Holding	Moore
Conaway	Honda	Moulton
Connolly	Hoyer	Mullin
Conyers	Hudson	Murphy (FL)
Cook	Huffman	Murphy (PA)
Cooper	Hultgren	Nadler
Costa	Hurd (TX)	Napolitano
Costello (PA)	Hurt (VA)	Neal
Courtney	Israel	Newhouse
Cramer	Jackson Lee	Noem
Crawford	Jeffries	Nolan
Crenshaw	Jenkins (KS)	Norcross
Crowley	Jenkins (WV)	Nugent
Cuellar	Johnson (GA)	Nunes
Culberson	Johnson (OH)	O'Rourke
Cummings	Johnson, E. B.	Pallone
Curbelo (FL)	Jolly	Pascrell
Davis (CA)	Joyce	Paulsen
Davis, Danny	Kaptur	Pelosi
Davis, Rodney	Katko	Perlmutter
DeFazio	Keating	Peterson
DeGette	Kelly (IL)	Pingree
Delaney	Kelly (PA)	Pittenger
DeLauro	Kennedy	Pitts

Pocan
 Poliquin
 Polis
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Rangel
 Ratcliffe
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Rice (NY)
 Rice (SC)
 Rigell
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney (FL)
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruiz
 Ruppberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Salmon
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sarbanes

NAYS—66

Allen
 Amash
 Babin
 Brat
 Bridenstine
 Brooks (AL)
 Buck
 Byrne
 Chaffetz
 Comer
 Davidson
 DesJarlais
 Duncan (SC)
 Emmer (MN)
 Farenthold
 Fleming
 Foxx
 Garrett
 Gohmert
 Gosar
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (LA)

NOT VOTING—21

Amodei
 Ashford
 Clawson (FL)
 Clyburn
 Ellmers (NC)
 Fincher
 Forbes

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1050

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

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 617, “yea” on rollcall No. 618, and “yea” on rollcall No. 619.

Tonko
 Torres
 Trott
 Tsongas
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walorski
 Walters, Mimi
 Walz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters, Maxine
 Watson Coleman
 Webster (FL)
 Welch
 Westerman
 Wilson (FL)
 Wilson (SC)
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yarmuth
 Yoder
 Young (IA)
 Young (IN)
 Zeldin
 Zinke

Meadows
 Guthrie
 Mooney (WV)
 Mulvaney
 Neugebauer
 Palazzo
 Palmer
 Payne
 Pearce
 Perry
 Posey
 Rouzer
 Russell
 Sanford
 Smith (MO)
 Stewart
 Stutzman
 Walker
 Weber (TX)
 Williams
 Wittman
 Yoho
 Young (AK)

Pompeo
 Price, Tom
 Richmond
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Van Hollen
 Wenstrup
 Westmoreland

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 and Thursday, December 8, 2016, I missed rollcall votes due to my participation in a flyover demonstration in memorial of the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor at the George Bush Presidential Library in Houston, TX. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall Nos. 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, and 619.

TO ENSURE FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the bill (S. 2974) to ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection. The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2974

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

SECTION 1. FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE; PERFECTING AMENDMENT.

(a) HHS FUNDING FOR TRAFFICKING HOTLINE.—Section 107(b)(1)(B)(ii) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(B)(ii)) is amended by striking “of amounts made available for grants under paragraph (2).”.

(b) PERFECTING AMENDMENT.—Section 603 of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–22; 129 Stat. 259) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Victims of Crime Trafficking” and inserting “Victims of Trafficking”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect as if enacted as part of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–22; 129 Stat. 227).

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION TO POSTPONE PROCEEDINGS ON MOTION TO RECOMMIT ON S. 612, GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question of adopting a motion to recommit on S. 612 be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

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

There was no objection.

GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 949, I call up the bill (S. 612) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse” and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 949, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–69 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

S. 612

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act” or the “WIIN Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 TITLE I—WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 1001. Short title.
- Sec. 1002. Secretary defined.
 Subtitle A—General Provisions
- Sec. 1101. Youth service and conservation corps organizations.
- Sec. 1102. Navigation safety.
- Sec. 1103. Emerging harbors.
- Sec. 1104. Federal breakwaters and jetties.
- Sec. 1105. Remote and subsistence harbors.
- Sec. 1106. Alternative projects to maintenance dredging.
- Sec. 1107. Great Lakes Navigation System.
- Sec. 1108. Funding for harbor maintenance programs.
- Sec. 1109. Maintenance of harbors of refuge.
- Sec. 1110. Donor ports and energy transfer ports.
- Sec. 1111. Harbor deepening.
- Sec. 1112. Implementation guidance.
- Sec. 1113. Non-Federal interest dredging authority.
- Sec. 1114. Transportation cost savings.
- Sec. 1115. Reservoir sediment.
- Sec. 1116. Water supply conservation.
- Sec. 1117. Drought emergencies.
- Sec. 1118. Leveraging Federal infrastructure for increased water supply.
- Sec. 1119. Indian tribes.
- Sec. 1120. Tribal consultation reports.
- Sec. 1121. Tribal partnership program.
- Sec. 1122. Beneficial use of dredged material.
- Sec. 1123. Great Lakes fishery and ecosystem restoration.
- Sec. 1124. Corps of Engineers operation of unmanned aircraft systems.
- Sec. 1125. Funding to process permits.
- Sec. 1126. Study of water resources development projects by non-Federal interests.
- Sec. 1127. Non-Federal construction of authorized flood damage reduction projects.
- Sec. 1128. Multistate activities.
- Sec. 1129. Planning assistance to States.
- Sec. 1130. Regional participation assurance for levee safety activities.
- Sec. 1131. Participation of non-Federal interests.

- Sec. 1132. Post-authorization change reports.
 Sec. 1133. Maintenance dredging data.
 Sec. 1134. Electronic submission and tracking of permit applications.
 Sec. 1135. Data transparency.
 Sec. 1136. Quality control.
 Sec. 1137. Report on purchase of foreign manufactured articles.
 Sec. 1138. International outreach program.
 Sec. 1139. Dam safety repair projects.
 Sec. 1140. Federal cost limitation for certain projects.
 Sec. 1141. Lake Kemp, Texas.
 Sec. 1142. Corrosion prevention.
 Sec. 1143. Sediment sources.
 Sec. 1144. Prioritization of certain projects.
 Sec. 1145. Gulf Coast oyster bed recovery assessment.
 Sec. 1146. Initiating work on separable elements.
 Sec. 1147. Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir Project, Fannin County, Texas.
 Sec. 1148. Recreational access at Corps of Engineers reservoirs.
 Sec. 1149. No wake zones in navigation channels.
 Sec. 1150. Ice jam prevention and mitigation.
 Sec. 1151. Structural health monitoring.
 Sec. 1152. Kennewick Man.
 Sec. 1153. Authority to accept and use materials and services.
 Sec. 1154. Munitions disposal.
 Sec. 1155. Management of recreation facilities.
 Sec. 1156. Structures and facilities constructed by Secretary.
 Sec. 1157. Project completion.
 Sec. 1158. New England District headquarters.
 Sec. 1159. Buffalo District headquarters.
 Sec. 1160. Future facility investment.
 Sec. 1161. Completion of ecosystem restoration projects.
 Sec. 1162. Fish and wildlife mitigation.
 Sec. 1163. Wetlands mitigation.
 Sec. 1164. Debris removal.
 Sec. 1165. Disposition studies.
 Sec. 1166. Transfer of excess credit.
 Sec. 1167. Hurricane and storm damage reduction.
 Sec. 1168. Fish hatcheries.
 Sec. 1169. Shore damage prevention or mitigation.
 Sec. 1170. Enhancing lake recreation opportunities.
 Sec. 1171. Credit in lieu of reimbursement.
 Sec. 1172. Easements for electric, telephone, or broadband service facilities.
 Sec. 1173. Study on performance of innovative materials.
 Sec. 1174. Conversion of surplus water agreements.
 Sec. 1175. Projects funded by the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.
 Sec. 1176. Rehabilitation assistance.
 Sec. 1177. Rehabilitation of Corps of Engineers constructed dams.
 Sec. 1178. Columbia River.
 Sec. 1179. Missouri River.
 Sec. 1180. Chesapeake Bay oyster restoration.
 Sec. 1181. Salton Sea, California.
 Sec. 1182. Adjustment.
 Sec. 1183. Coastal engineering.
 Sec. 1184. Consideration of measures.
 Sec. 1185. Table Rock Lake, Arkansas and Missouri.
 Sec. 1186. Rural western water.
 Sec. 1187. Interstate compacts.
 Sec. 1188. Sense of Congress.
 Sec. 1189. Dredged material disposal.
- Subtitle B—Studies
- Sec. 1201. Authorization of proposed feasibility studies.
 Sec. 1202. Additional studies.
 Sec. 1203. North Atlantic Coastal Region.
 Sec. 1204. South Atlantic coastal study.
- Sec. 1205. Texas coastal area.
 Sec. 1206. Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.
 Sec. 1207. Kanaauha River Basin.
- Subtitle C—Deauthorizations, Modifications, and Related Provisions
- Sec. 1301. Deauthorization of inactive projects.
 Sec. 1302. Backlog prevention.
 Sec. 1303. Valdez, Alaska.
 Sec. 1304. Los Angeles County Drainage Area, Los Angeles County, California.
 Sec. 1305. Sutter Basin, California.
 Sec. 1306. Essex River, Massachusetts.
 Sec. 1307. Port of Cascade Locks, Oregon.
 Sec. 1308. Central Delaware River, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 Sec. 1309. Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.
 Sec. 1310. Rivercenter, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 Sec. 1311. Salt Creek, Graham, Texas.
 Sec. 1312. Texas City Ship Channel, Texas City, Texas.
 Sec. 1313. Stonington Harbour, Connecticut.
 Sec. 1314. Red River below Denison Dam, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana.
 Sec. 1315. Green River and Barren River, Kentucky.
 Sec. 1316. Hannibal Small Boat Harbor, Hannibal, Missouri.
 Sec. 1317. Land transfer and trust land for Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
 Sec. 1318. Cameron County, Texas.
 Sec. 1319. New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam, Georgia and South Carolina.
 Sec. 1320. Hamilton City, California.
 Sec. 1321. Conveyances.
 Sec. 1322. Expedited consideration.
- Subtitle D—Water Resources Infrastructure
- Sec. 1401. Project authorizations.
 Sec. 1402. Special rules.
- TITLE II—WATER AND WASTE ACT OF 2016
- Sec. 2001. Short title.
 Sec. 2002. Definition of Administrator.
- Subtitle A—Safe Drinking Water
- Sec. 2101. Sense of Congress on appropriations levels.
 Sec. 2102. Preconstruction work.
 Sec. 2103. Administration of State loan funds.
 Sec. 2104. Assistance for small and disadvantaged communities.
 Sec. 2105. Reducing lead in drinking water.
 Sec. 2106. Notice to persons served.
 Sec. 2107. Lead testing in school and child care program drinking water.
 Sec. 2108. Water supply cost savings.
 Sec. 2109. Innovation in the provision of safe drinking water.
 Sec. 2110. Small system technical assistance.
 Sec. 2111. Definition of Indian Tribe.
 Sec. 2112. Technical assistance for tribal water systems.
 Sec. 2113. Materials requirement for certain Federally funded projects.
- Subtitle B—Drinking Water Disaster Relief and Infrastructure Investments
- Sec. 2201. Drinking water infrastructure.
 Sec. 2202. Sense of Congress.
 Sec. 2203. Registry for lead exposure and advisory committee.
 Sec. 2204. Other lead programs.
- Subtitle C—Control of Coal Combustion Residuals
- Sec. 2301. Approval of State programs for control of coal combustion residuals.
- TITLE III—NATURAL RESOURCES
- Subtitle A—Indian Dam Safety
- Sec. 3101. Indian dam safety.
- Subtitle B—Irrigation Rehabilitation and Renovation for Indian Tribal Governments and Their Economies
- Sec. 3201. Definitions.
- PART I—INDIAN IRRIGATION FUND
- Sec. 3211. Establishment.
 Sec. 3212. Deposits to fund.
 Sec. 3213. Expenditures from fund.
 Sec. 3214. Investments of amounts.
 Sec. 3215. Transfers of amounts.
 Sec. 3216. Termination.
- PART II—REPAIR, REPLACEMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECTS
- Sec. 3221. Repair, replacement, and maintenance of certain indian irrigation projects.
 Sec. 3222. Eligible projects.
 Sec. 3223. Requirements and conditions.
 Sec. 3224. Study of Indian irrigation program and project management.
 Sec. 3225. Tribal consultation and user input.
 Sec. 3226. Allocation among projects.
- Subtitle C—Weber Basin Preparations
- Sec. 3301. Prepayment of certain repayment obligations under contracts between the United States and the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District.
- Subtitle D—Pechanga Water Rights Settlement
- Sec. 3401. Short title.
 Sec. 3402. Purposes.
 Sec. 3403. Definitions.
 Sec. 3404. Approval of the Pechanga Settlement Agreement.
 Sec. 3405. Tribal Water Right.
 Sec. 3406. Satisfaction of claims.
 Sec. 3407. Waiver of claims.
 Sec. 3408. Water facilities.
 Sec. 3409. Pechanga Settlement Fund.
 Sec. 3410. Miscellaneous provisions.
 Sec. 3411. Authorization of appropriations.
 Sec. 3412. Expiration on failure of enforceability date.
 Sec. 3413. Antideficiency.
- Subtitle E—Delaware River Basin Conservation
- Sec. 3501. Findings.
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- Sec. 3507. Sunset.
- Subtitle F—Miscellaneous Provisions
- Sec. 3601. Bureau of Reclamation Dakotas Area Office permit fees for cabins and trailers.
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 Sec. 3603. Lake Tahoe Restoration.
 Sec. 3604. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians.
 Sec. 3605. San Luis Rey settlement agreement implementation.
 Sec. 3606. Tule River Indian Tribe.
 Sec. 3607. Morongo Band of Mission Indians.
 Sec. 3608. Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Chickasaw Nation Water Settlement.
- Subtitle G—Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement
- Sec. 3701. Short title.
 Sec. 3702. Purposes.
 Sec. 3703. Definitions.
 Sec. 3704. Ratification of compact.
 Sec. 3705. Milk river water right.
 Sec. 3706. Water delivery through milk river project.
 Sec. 3707. Bureau of reclamation activities to improve water management.
 Sec. 3708. St. Mary canal hydroelectric power generation.
 Sec. 3709. Storage allocation from Lake Elwell.
 Sec. 3710. Irrigation activities.

- Sec. 3711. Design and construction of MR&I System.
- Sec. 3712. Design and construction of water storage and irrigation facilities.
- Sec. 3713. Blackfeet water, storage, and development projects.
- Sec. 3714. Easements and rights-of-way.
- Sec. 3715. Tribal water rights.
- Sec. 3716. Blackfeet settlement trust fund.
- Sec. 3717. Blackfeet water settlement implementation fund.
- Sec. 3718. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 3719. Water rights in Lewis and Clark National Forest and Glacier National Park.
- Sec. 3720. Waivers and releases of claims.
- Sec. 3721. Satisfaction of claims.
- Sec. 3722. Miscellaneous provisions.
- Sec. 3723. Expiration on failure to meet enforceability date.
- Sec. 3724. Antideficiency.
- Subtitle H—Water Desalination
- Sec. 3801. Reauthorization of Water Desalination Act of 1996.
- Subtitle I—Amendments to the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990
- Sec. 3901. Amendments to the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990.
- Subtitle J—California Water
- Sec. 4001. Operations and reviews.
- Sec. 4002. Scientifically supported implementation of OMR flow requirements.
- Sec. 4003. Temporary operational flexibility for storm events.
- Sec. 4004. Consultation on coordinated operations.
- Sec. 4005. Protections.
- Sec. 4006. New Melones Reservoir.
- Sec. 4007. Storage.
- Sec. 4008. Losses caused by the construction and operation of storage projects.
- Sec. 4009. Other water supply projects.
- Sec. 4010. Actions to benefit threatened and endangered species and other wildlife.
- Sec. 4011. Offsets and water storage account.
- Sec. 4012. Savings language.
- Sec. 4013. Duration.
- Sec. 4014. Definitions.

TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 5001. Congressional notification requirements.
- Sec. 5002. Reauthorization of Denali Commission.
- Sec. 5003. Recreational access for floating cabins at TVA reservoirs.
- Sec. 5004. Gold King Mine spill recovery.
- Sec. 5005. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
- Sec. 5006. Rehabilitation of high hazard potential dams.
- Sec. 5007. Chesapeake Bay grass survey.
- Sec. 5008. Water infrastructure finance and innovation.
- Sec. 5009. Report on groundwater contamination.
- Sec. 5010. Columbia River Basin restoration.
- Sec. 5011. Regulation of aboveground storage at farms.
- Sec. 5012. Irrigation districts.
- Sec. 5013. Estuary restoration.
- Sec. 5014. Environmental banks.

TITLE I—WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Water Resources Development Act of 2016”.

SEC. 1002. SECRETARY DEFINED.

In this title, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Army.

Subtitle A—General Provisions

SEC. 1101. YOUTH SERVICE AND CONSERVATION CORPS ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 213 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2339) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) YOUTH SERVICE AND CONSERVATION CORPS ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, shall enter into cooperative agreements with qualified youth service and conservation corps organizations for services relating to projects under the jurisdiction of the Secretary and shall do so in a manner that ensures the maximum participation and opportunities for such organizations.”.

SEC. 1102. NAVIGATION SAFETY.

The Secretary shall use section 5 of the Act of March 4, 1915 (38 Stat. 1053, chapter 142; 33 U.S.C. 562), to carry out navigation safety activities at those projects eligible for operation and maintenance under section 204(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2232(f)).

SEC. 1103. EMERGING HARBORS.

Section 210 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3) by striking “for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2022” and inserting “for each fiscal year”; and

(2) by striking subsection (d)(1)(A) and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, if priority funds are available, the Secretary shall use at least 10 percent of such funds for emerging harbor projects.”.

SEC. 1104. FEDERAL BREAKWATERS AND JETTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, at Federal expense, shall establish an inventory and conduct an assessment of the general structural condition of all Federal breakwaters and jetties protecting harbors and inland harbors within the United States.

(b) CONTENTS.—The inventory and assessment carried out under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) compiling location information for all Federal breakwaters and jetties protecting harbors and inland harbors within the United States;

(2) determining the general structural condition of each breakwater and jetty;

(3) analyzing the potential risks to navigational safety, and the impact on the periodic maintenance dredging needs of protected harbors and inland harbors, resulting from the general structural condition of each breakwater and jetty; and

(4) estimating the costs, for each breakwater and jetty, to restore or maintain the breakwater or jetty to authorized levels and the total of all such costs.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the inventory and assessment carried out under subsection (a).

SEC. 1105. REMOTE AND SUBSISTENCE HARBORS.

Section 2006 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2242) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3) by inserting “in which the project is located, or the long-term viability of a community that is located in the region that is served by the project and that will rely on the project,” after “community”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by inserting “and communities that are located in the region to be served by the project and that will rely on the project” after “community”;

(B) in paragraph (4) by striking “local population” and inserting “regional population to be served by the project”; and

(C) in paragraph (5) by striking “community” and inserting “local community and communities that are located in the region to be served by the project and that will rely on the project”.

SEC. 1106. ALTERNATIVE PROJECTS TO MAINTENANCE DREDGING.

The Secretary may enter into agreements to assume the operation and maintenance costs of

an alternative project to maintenance dredging for a Federal navigation channel if the costs of the operation and maintenance of the alternative project, and any remaining costs necessary for maintaining the Federal navigation channel, are less than the costs of maintaining such channel without the alternative project.

SEC. 1107. GREAT LAKES NAVIGATION SYSTEM.

Section 210(d)(1)(B) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238(d)(1)(B)) is amended in the matter preceding clause (i) by striking “For each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024” and inserting “For each fiscal year”.

SEC. 1108. FUNDING FOR HARBOR MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS.

Section 2101 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2238b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “The target total” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (c), the target total”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) EXCEPTION.—If the target total budget resources for a fiscal year described in subparagraphs (A) through (J) of subsection (b)(1) is lower than the target total budget resources for the previous fiscal year, the target total budget resources shall be adjusted to be equal to the lesser of—

“(1) 103 percent of the total budget resources appropriated for the previous fiscal year; or

“(2) 100 percent of the total amount of harbor maintenance taxes received in the previous fiscal year.”.

“(1) 103 percent of the total budget resources appropriated for the previous fiscal year; or

“(2) 100 percent of the total amount of harbor maintenance taxes received in the previous fiscal year.”.

SEC. 1109. MAINTENANCE OF HARBORS OF REFUGE.

The Secretary is authorized to maintain federally authorized harbors of refuge to restore and maintain the authorized dimensions of the harbors.

SEC. 1110. DONOR PORTS AND ENERGY TRANSFER PORTS.

Section 2106 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2238c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectively;

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) DISCRETIONARY CARGO.—The term ‘discretionary cargo’ means maritime cargo for which the United States port of unloading is different than the United States port of entry.”.

(C) in paragraph (3) (as redesignated)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(ii) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as redesignated) by striking “The term” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) CALCULATION.—For the purpose of calculating the percentage described in subparagraph (A)(iii), payments described under subsection (c)(1) shall not be included.”;

(D) in paragraph (5)(A) (as redesignated), by striking “Code of Federal Regulation” and inserting “Code of Federal Regulations”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) MEDIUM-SIZED DONOR PORT.—The term ‘medium-sized donor port’ means a port—

“(A) that is subject to the harbor maintenance fee under section 24.24 of title 19, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation);

“(B) at which the total amount of harbor maintenance taxes collected comprise annually more than \$5,000,000 but less than \$15,000,000 of

the total funding of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund established under section 9505 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

“(C) that received less than 25 percent of the total amount of harbor maintenance taxes collected at that port in the previous 5 fiscal years; and

“(D) that is located in a State in which more than 2,000,000 cargo containers were unloaded from or loaded onto vessels in fiscal year 2012.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “donor ports” and inserting “donor ports, medium-sized donor ports.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) shall be made available to a port as either a donor port, medium-sized donor port, or an energy transfer port, and no port may receive amounts from more than 1 designation; and

“(C) for donor ports and medium-sized donor ports—

“(i) 50 percent of the funds shall be equally divided between the eligible donor ports as authorized by this section; and

“(ii) 50 percent of the funds shall be divided between the eligible donor ports and eligible medium-sized donor ports based on the percentage of the total harbor maintenance tax revenues generated at each eligible donor port and medium-sized donor port.”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “donor port” and inserting “donor port, a medium-sized donor port.”; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “or shippers transporting cargo”;

(ii) by striking “U.S. Customs and Border Protection” and inserting “the Secretary”; and

(iii) by striking “amount of harbor maintenance taxes collected” and inserting “value of discretionary cargo”;

(4) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) ADMINISTRATION OF PAYMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If a donor port, a medium-sized donor port, or an energy transfer port elects to provide payments to importers under subsection (c), the Secretary shall transfer to the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection an amount equal to those payments that would otherwise be provided to the port under this section to provide the payments to the importers of the discretionary cargo that is—

“(A) shipped through the port; and

“(B) most at risk of diversion to seaports outside of the United States.

“(2) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary, in consultation with a port electing to provide payments under subsection (c), shall determine the top importers at the port, as ranked by the value of discretionary cargo, and payments shall be limited to those top importers.”;

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “2018” and inserting “2020”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) DIVISION BETWEEN DONOR PORTS, MEDIUM-SIZED DONOR PORTS, AND ENERGY TRANSFER PORTS.—For each fiscal year, amounts made available to carry out this section shall be provided in equal amounts to—

“(A) donor ports and medium-sized donor ports; and

“(B) energy transfer ports.”; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “2015 through 2018” and inserting “2016 through 2020”; and

(ii) by striking “2019 through 2022” and inserting “2021 through 2025”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section waives any statutory requirement related to the transportation of merchandise as authorized under chapter 551 of title 46, United States Code.”.

SEC. 1111. HARBOR DEEPENING.

Section 101(a)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “the date of enactment of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121)”;

(2) in subparagraph (B) by striking “45 feet” and inserting “50 feet”; and

(3) in subparagraph (C) by striking “45 feet” and inserting “50 feet”.

SEC. 1112. IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE.

Section 2102 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121; 128 Stat. 1273) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, the Secretary shall publish on the website of the Corps of Engineers guidance on the implementation of this section and the amendments made by this section.”.

SEC. 1113. NON-FEDERAL INTEREST DREDGING AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may permit a non-Federal interest to carry out, for an authorized navigation project (or a separable element of an authorized navigation project), such maintenance activities as are necessary to ensure that the project is maintained to not less than the minimum project dimensions.

(b) COST LIMITATIONS.—Except as provided in this section and subject to the availability of appropriations, the costs incurred by a non-Federal interest in performing the maintenance activities described in subsection (a) shall be eligible for reimbursement, not to exceed an amount that is equal to the estimated Federal cost for the performance of the maintenance activities, with any reimbursement subject to the non-Federal interest complying with all Federal laws and regulations that would apply to such maintenance activities if carried out by the Secretary.

(c) AGREEMENT.—Before initiating maintenance activities under this section, a non-Federal interest shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary that specifies, for the performance of the maintenance activities, the terms and conditions that are acceptable to the non-Federal interest and the Secretary.

(d) PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT.—In carrying out maintenance activities under this section, a non-Federal interest shall—

(1) provide equipment at no cost to the Federal Government; and

(2) hold and save the United States free from any and all damage that arises from the use of the equipment of the non-Federal interest, except for damage due to the fault or negligence of a contractor of the Federal Government.

(e) REIMBURSEMENT ELIGIBILITY LIMITATIONS.—Costs that are eligible for reimbursement under this section are the costs of maintenance activities directly related to the costs associated with operation and maintenance of a dredge based on the lesser of—

(1) the costs associated with operation and maintenance of the dredge during the period of time that the dredge is being used in the performance of work for the Federal Government during a given fiscal year; or

(2) the actual fiscal year Federal appropriations that are made available for the portion of

the maintenance activities for which the dredge was used.

(f) AUDIT.—Not earlier than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary may conduct an audit on any maintenance activities for an authorized navigation project (or a separable element of an authorized navigation project) carried out under this section to determine if permitting a non-Federal interest to carry out maintenance activities under this section has resulted in—

(1) improved reliability and safety for navigation; and

(2) cost savings to the Federal Government.

(g) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Secretary under this section terminates on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1114. TRANSPORTATION COST SAVINGS.

Section 210(e)(3) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238(e)(3)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—In the first report submitted under subparagraph (A) following the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, the Secretary shall identify, to the maximum extent practicable, transportation cost savings realized by achieving and maintaining the constructed width and depth for the harbors and inland harbors referred to in subsection (a)(2), on a project-by-project basis.”.

SEC. 1115. RESERVOIR SEDIMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 215 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2326c) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 215. RESERVOIR SEDIMENT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 and after providing public notice, the Secretary shall establish, using available funds, a pilot program to accept services provided by a non-Federal interest or commercial entity for removal of sediment captured behind a dam owned or operated by the United States and under the jurisdiction of the Secretary for the purpose of restoring the authorized storage capacity of the project concerned.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall—

“(1) review the services of the non-Federal interest or commercial entity to ensure that the services are consistent with the authorized purposes of the project concerned;

“(2) ensure that the non-Federal interest or commercial entity will indemnify the United States for, or has entered into an agreement approved by the Secretary to address, any adverse impact to the dam as a result of such services;

“(3) require the non-Federal interest or commercial entity, prior to initiating the services and upon completion of the services, to conduct sediment surveys to determine the pre- and post-services sediment profile and sediment quality; and

“(4) limit the number of dams for which services are accepted to 10.

“(c) LIMITATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not accept services under subsection (a) if the Secretary, after consultation with the Chief of Engineers, determines that accepting the services is not advantageous to the United States.

“(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—If the Secretary makes a determination under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate written

notice describing the reasoning for the determination.

“(d) **DISPOSITION OF REMOVED SEDIMENT.**—In exchange for providing services under subsection (a), a non-Federal interest or commercial entity is authorized to retain, use, recycle, sell, or otherwise dispose of any sediment removed in connection with the services and the Corps of Engineers may not seek any compensation for the value of the sediment.

“(e) **CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.**—Prior to accepting services provided by a non-Federal interest or commercial entity under this section, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate written notice of the acceptance of the services.

“(f) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Upon completion of services at the 10 dams allowed under subsection (b)(4), the Secretary shall make publicly available and submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report documenting the results of the services.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 is amended by striking the item relating to section 215 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 215. Reservoir sediment.”

SEC. 1116. WATER SUPPLY CONSERVATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In a State in which a drought emergency has been declared or was in effect during the 1-year period ending on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary is authorized—

(1) to conduct an evaluation for purposes of approving water supply conservation measures that are consistent with the authorized purposes of water resources development projects under the jurisdiction of the Secretary; and

(2) to enter into written agreements pursuant to section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–5b) with non-Federal interests to carry out the conservation measures approved by such evaluations.

(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Water supply conservation measures evaluated under subsection (a) may include the following:

(1) Stormwater capture.

(2) Releases for ground water replenishment or aquifer storage and recovery.

(3) Releases to augment water supply at another Federal or non-Federal storage facility.

(4) Other conservation measures that enhance usage of a Corps of Engineers project for water supply.

(c) **COSTS.**—A non-Federal interest shall pay only the separable costs associated with the evaluation, implementation, operation, and maintenance of an approved water supply conservation measure, which payments may be accepted and expended by the Corps of Engineers to cover such costs.

(d) **STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to modify or alter the obligations of a non-Federal interest under existing or future agreements for—

(1) water supply storage pursuant to section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b); or

(2) surplus water use pursuant to section 6 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 890, chapter 665; 33 U.S.C. 708).

(e) **LIMITATIONS.**—Nothing in this section—

(1) affects, modifies, or changes the authorized purposes of a Corps of Engineers project;

(2) affects existing Corps of Engineers authorities, including its authorities with respect to navigation, flood damage reduction, and environmental protection and restoration;

(3) affects the Corps of Engineers ability to provide for temporary deviations;

(4) affects the application of a cost-share requirement under section 101, 102, or 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211, 2212, and 2213);

(5) supersedes or modifies any written agreement between the Federal Government and a non-Federal interest that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act;

(6) supersedes or modifies any amendment to an existing multistate water control plan, including those water control plans along the Missouri River and those water control plans in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint and Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa basins;

(7) affects any water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; or

(8) preempts or affects any State water law or interstate compact governing water.

SEC. 1117. DROUGHT EMERGENCIES.

(a) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—With respect to a State in which a drought emergency is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, or was in effect at any time during the 1-year period ending on such date of enactment, and upon the request of the Governor of the State, the Secretary is authorized to—

(1) prioritize the updating of the water control manuals for control structures under the jurisdiction of the Secretary that are located in the State; and

(2) incorporate into the update seasonal operations for water conservation and water supply for such control structures.

(b) **COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall carry out the update under subsection (a) in coordination with all appropriate Federal agencies, elected officials, and members of the public.

(c) **STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section affects, modifies, or changes the authorized purposes of a Corps of Engineers project, or affects the applicability of section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b).

SEC. 1118. LEVERAGING FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INCREASED WATER SUPPLY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—At the request of a non-Federal interest, the Secretary may review proposals to increase the quantity of available supplies of water at a Federal water resources development project through—

(1) modification of the project;

(2) modification of how the project is managed; or

(3) accessing water released from the project.

(b) **PROPOSALS INCLUDED.**—A proposal under subsection (a) may include—

(1) increasing the storage capacity of the project;

(2) diversion of water released or withdrawn from the project—

(A) to recharge groundwater;

(B) to aquifer storage and recovery; or

(C) to any other storage facility;

(3) construction of facilities for delivery of water from pumping stations constructed by the Secretary;

(4) construction of facilities to access water; and

(5) a combination of the activities described in paragraphs (1) through (4).

(c) **EXCLUSIONS.**—This section shall not apply to a proposal that—

(1) reallocates existing water supply or hydro-power storage; or

(2) reduces water available for any authorized project purpose.

(d) **OTHER FEDERAL PROJECTS.**—In any case in which a proposal relates to a Federal project that is not operated by the Secretary, this section shall apply only to activities under the authority of the Secretary.

(e) **REVIEW PROCESS.**—

(1) **NOTICE.**—On receipt of a proposal submitted under subsection (a), the Secretary shall

provide a copy of the proposal to each entity described in paragraph (2) and, if applicable, the Federal agency that operates the project, in the case of a project operated by an agency other than the Department of the Army.

(2) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**—In reviewing proposals submitted under subsection (a), and prior to making any decisions regarding a proposal, the Secretary shall comply with all applicable public participation requirements under law, including consultation with—

(A) affected States;

(B) power marketing administrations, in the case of reservoirs with Federal hydropower projects;

(C) entities responsible for operation and maintenance costs;

(D) any entity that has a contractual right from the Federal Government or a State to withdraw water from, or use storage at, the project;

(E) entities that the State determines hold rights under State law to the use of water from the project; and

(F) units of local government with flood risk reduction responsibilities downstream of the project.

(f) **AUTHORITIES.**—A proposal submitted to the Secretary under subsection (a) may be reviewed and approved, if applicable and appropriate, under—

(1) the specific authorization for the water resources development project;

(2) section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (33 U.S.C. 549a);

(3) section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b); and

(4) section 14 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1152, chapter 425; 33 U.S.C. 408).

(g) **LIMITATIONS.**—The Secretary shall not approve a proposal submitted under subsection (a) that—

(1) is not supported by the Federal agency that operates the project, if that agency is not the Department of the Army;

(2) interferes with an authorized purpose of the project;

(3) adversely impacts contractual rights to water or storage at the reservoir;

(4) adversely impacts legal rights to water under State law, as determined by an affected State;

(5) increases costs for any entity other than the entity that submitted the proposal; or

(6) if a project is subject to section 301(e) of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b(e)), makes modifications to the project that do not meet the requirements of that section unless the modification is submitted to and authorized by Congress.

(h) **COST SHARE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), 100 percent of the cost of developing, reviewing, and implementing a proposal submitted under subsection (a) shall be provided by an entity other than the Federal Government.

(2) **PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO STATES.**—In the case of a proposal from an entity authorized to receive assistance under section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–16), the Secretary may use funds available under that section to pay 50 percent of the cost of a review of a proposal submitted under subsection (a).

(3) **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), the operation and maintenance costs for the non-Federal sponsor of a proposal submitted under subsection (a) shall be 100 percent of the separable operation and maintenance costs associated with the costs of implementing the proposal.

(B) **CERTAIN WATER SUPPLY STORAGE PROJECTS.**—For a proposal submitted under subsection (a) for constructing additional water

supply storage at a reservoir for use under a water supply storage agreement, in addition to the costs under subparagraph (A), the non-Federal costs shall include the proportional share of any joint-use costs for operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, or rehabilitation of the reservoir project determined in accordance with section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b).

(C) VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.—An entity other than an entity described in subparagraph (A) may voluntarily contribute to the costs of implementing a proposal submitted under subsection (a).

(i) CONTRIBUTED FUNDS.—The Secretary may receive and expend funds contributed by a non-Federal interest for the review and approval of a proposal submitted under subsection (a).

(j) ASSISTANCE.—On request by a non-Federal interest, the Secretary may provide technical assistance in the development or implementation of a proposal under subsection (a), including assistance in obtaining necessary permits for construction, if the non-Federal interest contracts with the Secretary to pay all costs of providing the technical assistance.

(k) EXCLUSION.—This section shall not apply to reservoirs in—

- (1) the Upper Missouri River;
- (2) the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river system;
- (3) the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa river system; and
- (4) the Stones River.

(l) EFFECT OF SECTION.—Nothing in this section affects or modifies any authority of the Secretary to review or modify reservoirs.

SEC. 1119. INDIAN TRIBES.

Section 1156 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2310) is amended—

(1) in the section heading by inserting “AND INDIAN TRIBES” after “TERRITORIES”; and

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “projects in American” and inserting “projects—

“(1) in American”;
 (B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and
 (C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) for any Indian tribe (as defined in section 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5130)).”.

SEC. 1120. TRIBAL CONSULTATION REPORTS.

(a) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives the following:

(1) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, all reports of the Corps of Engineers developed pursuant to its Tribal Consultation Policy, dated November 2012, and submitted to the Office of Management and Budget before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) Not later than 30 days after the date of the submission to the Committees under paragraph (1), all reports of the Corps of Engineers developed pursuant to its Tribal Consultation Policy, dated November 2012, or successor policy, and submitted to the Office of Management and Budget after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, a report that describes the results of a review by the Secretary of existing policies, regulations, and guidance related to consultation with Indian tribes on water resources development projects or other activities that require the approval of, or the issuance of a permit by, the Secretary and that may have an impact on tribal cultural or natural resources.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In completing the review under subsection (a)(3), the Secretary shall provide for public and private meetings with Indian tribes and other stakeholders.

(c) NO DELAYS.—During the review required under subsection (a)(3), the Secretary shall ensure that—

(1) all existing tribal consultation policies, regulations, and guidance continue to be implemented; and

(2) the review does not affect an approval or issuance of a permit required by the Secretary.

SEC. 1121. TRIBAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2269) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “the Secretary” and all that follows through “projects” and inserting “the Secretary may carry out water-related planning activities, or activities relating to the study, design, and construction of water resources development projects,”;

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking “(2) MATTERS TO BE STUDIED.—A study” and inserting the following:

“(2) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—An activity”;

and
 (C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) FEASIBILITY STUDY AND REPORTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—On the request of an Indian tribe, the Secretary shall conduct a study on, and provide to the Indian tribe a report describing, the feasibility of a water resources development project described in paragraph (1).

“(B) RECOMMENDATION.—A report under subparagraph (A) may, but shall not be required to, contain a recommendation on a specific water resources development project.

“(4) DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out the design and construction of a water resources development project described in paragraph (1) that the Secretary determines is feasible if the Federal share of the cost of the project is not more than \$10,000,000.

“(B) SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION.—If the Federal share of the cost of a project described in subparagraph (A) is more than \$10,000,000, the Secretary may only carry out the project if Congress enacts a law authorizing the Secretary to carry out the project.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “studies” and inserting “an activity”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B) by striking “carrying out projects studied” and inserting “an activity conducted”; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A) by striking “a study” and inserting “an activity conducted”; and
 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) CREDIT.—The Secretary may credit toward the non-Federal share of the costs of an activity conducted under subsection (b) the cost of services, studies, supplies, or other in-kind contributions provided by the non-Federal interest.

“(3) SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.—The Secretary shall not require an Indian tribe to waive the sovereign immunity of the Indian tribe as a condition to entering into a cost-sharing agreement under this subsection.

“(4) WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The non-Federal share of costs for the study of a water resources development project described in subsection (b)(1) shall be 50 percent.

“(B) OTHER COSTS.—The non-Federal share of costs of design and construction of a project described in subparagraph (A) shall be assigned to the appropriate project purposes described in sections 101 and 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211, 2213) and shared in the same percentages as the purposes to which the costs are assigned.

“(5) WATER-RELATED PLANNING ACTIVITIES.—
 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The non-Federal share of costs of a watershed and river basin assessment conducted under subsection (b) shall be 25 percent.

“(B) OTHER COSTS.—The non-Federal share of costs of other water-related planning activities described in subsection (b)(1) shall be 50 percent.”.

SEC. 1122. BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program to carry out projects for the beneficial use of dredged material, including projects for the purposes of—

- (1) reducing storm damage to property and infrastructure;
- (2) promoting public safety;
- (3) protecting, restoring, and creating aquatic ecosystem habitats;
- (4) stabilizing stream systems and enhancing shorelines;
- (5) promoting recreation;
- (6) supporting risk management adaptation strategies; and
- (7) reducing the costs of dredging and dredged material placement or disposal, such as projects that use dredged material for—

- (A) construction or fill material;
- (B) civic improvement objectives; and
- (C) other innovative uses and placement alternatives that produce public economic or environmental benefits.

(b) PROJECT SELECTION.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

- (1) identify for inclusion in the pilot program and carry out 10 projects for the beneficial use of dredged material;
 - (2) consult with relevant State agencies in selecting projects; and
 - (3) select projects solely on the basis of—
- (A) the environmental, economic, and social benefits of the projects, including monetary and nonmonetary benefits; and
 - (B) the need for a diversity of project types and geographical project locations.

(c) REGIONAL BENEFICIAL USE TEAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall establish regional beneficial use teams to identify and assist in the implementation of projects under the pilot program.

(2) COMPOSITION.—

(A) LEADERSHIP.—For each regional beneficial use team established under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall appoint the Commander of the relevant division of the Corps of Engineers to serve as the head of the team.

(B) MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of each regional beneficial use team shall include—

- (i) representatives of relevant Corps of Engineers districts and divisions;
- (ii) representatives of relevant State and local agencies; and
- (iii) representatives of Federal agencies and such other entities as the Secretary determines appropriate, consistent with the purposes of this section.

(d) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program in a manner that—

- (1) maximizes the beneficial placement of dredged material from Federal and non-Federal navigation channels;
- (2) incorporates, to the maximum extent practicable, 2 or more Federal navigation, flood control, storm damage reduction, or environmental restoration projects;
- (3) coordinates the mobilization of dredges and related equipment, including through the use of such efficiencies in contracting and environmental permitting as can be implemented under existing laws and regulations;
- (4) fosters Federal, State, and local collaboration;

(5) implements best practices to maximize the beneficial use of dredged sand and other sediments; and

(6) ensures that the use of dredged material is consistent with all applicable environmental laws.

(e) **COST SHARING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Projects carried out under this section shall be subject to the cost-sharing requirements applicable to projects carried out under section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2326).

(2) **ADDITIONAL COSTS.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if the cost of transporting and depositing dredged material for a project carried out under this section exceeds the cost of carrying out those activities pursuant to any other water resources project in accordance, if applicable, with the Federal standard (as defined in section 335.7 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations), the Secretary may not require the non-Federal interest to bear the additional cost of such activities.

(f) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) a description of the projects selected to be carried out under the pilot program;

(2) documentation supporting each of the projects selected;

(3) the findings of regional beneficial use teams regarding project selection; and

(4) any recommendations of the Secretary or regional beneficial use teams with respect to the pilot program.

(g) **TERMINATION.**—The pilot program shall terminate after completion of the 10 projects carried out pursuant to subsection (b)(1).

(h) **EXEMPTION FROM OTHER STANDARDS.**—The projects carried out under this section shall be carried out notwithstanding the definition of the term “Federal standard” in section 335.7 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations.

(i) **REGIONAL SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT.**—Section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2326) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “For sediment” and inserting the following:

“(A) **SEDIMENT FROM FEDERAL WATER RESOURCES PROJECTS.**—For sediment”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) **SEDIMENT FROM OTHER FEDERAL SOURCES AND NON-FEDERAL SOURCES.**—For purposes of projects carried out under this section, the Secretary may include sediment from other Federal sources and non-Federal sources, subject to the requirement that any sediment obtained from a non-Federal source shall not be obtained at Federal expense.”; and

(2) in subsection (d) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **SPECIAL RULE.**—Disposal of dredged material under this subsection may include a single or periodic application of sediment for beneficial use and shall not require operation and maintenance.

“(4) **DISPOSAL AT NON-FEDERAL COST.**—The Secretary may accept funds from a non-Federal interest to dispose of dredged material as provided under section 103(d)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213(d)(1)).”

(j) **CLARIFICATION.**—Section 156(e) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-5(f)) is amended by striking “3” and inserting “6”.

SEC. 1123. GREAT LAKES FISHERY AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.

Section 506(g) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-22(g)) is repealed.

SEC. 1124. CORPS OF ENGINEERS OPERATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall designate an individual, within the headquarters office of the Corps of Engineers, who shall serve as the coordinator and principal approving official for developing the process and procedures by which the Corps of Engineers—

(1) operates and maintains small unmanned aircraft (as defined in section 331 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note)) systems in support of civil works and emergency response missions of the Corps of Engineers; and

(2) acquires, applies for, and receives any necessary Federal Aviation Administration authorizations for such operations and systems.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—A small unmanned aircraft system acquired, operated, or maintained for carrying out the missions specified in subsection (a) shall be operated in accordance with regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration as a civil aircraft or public aircraft, at the discretion of the Secretary, and shall be exempt from regulations of the Department of Defense, including the Department of the Army, governing such system.

(c) **LIMITATION.**—A small unmanned aircraft system acquired, operated, or maintained by the Corps of Engineers is excluded from use by the Department of Defense, including the Department of the Army, for any mission of the Department of Defense other than a mission specified in subsection (a).

SEC. 1125. FUNDING TO PROCESS PERMITS.

Section 214(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2352(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) **RAILROAD CARRIER.**—The term ‘railroad carrier’ has the meaning given the term in section 20102 of title 49, United States Code.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “or natural gas company” and inserting “, natural gas company, or railroad carrier”; and

(B) by striking “or company” and inserting “, company, or carrier”;;

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “or natural gas company” and inserting “, natural gas company, or railroad carrier”; and

(B) by striking “7 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(4) in paragraph (5) by striking “and natural gas companies” and inserting “, natural gas companies, and railroad carriers, including an evaluation of the compliance with the requirements of this section and, with respect to a permit for those entities, the requirements of applicable Federal laws”.

SEC. 1126. STUDY OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BY NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.

Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2231) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—At the request of a non-Federal interest, the Secretary may provide to the non-Federal interest technical assistance relating to any aspect of a feasibility study if the non-Federal interest contracts with the Secretary to pay all costs of providing such technical assistance.”.

SEC. 1127. NON-FEDERAL CONSTRUCTION OF AUTHORIZED FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECTS.

Section 204(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2232(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **DISCRETE SEGMENTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may authorize credit or reimbursement under this sub-

section for a discrete segment of a flood damage reduction project, or separable element thereof, before final completion of the project or separable element if—

“(i) except as provided in clause (ii), the Secretary determines that the discrete segment satisfies the requirements of paragraphs (1) through (4) in the same manner as the project or separable element; and

“(ii) notwithstanding paragraph (1)(A)(ii), the Secretary determines, before the approval of the plans under paragraph (1)(A)(i), that the discrete segment is technically feasible and environmentally acceptable.

“(B) **DETERMINATION.**—Credit or reimbursement may not be made available to a non-Federal interest pursuant to this paragraph until the Secretary determines that—

“(i) the construction of the discrete segment for which credit or reimbursement is requested is complete; and

“(ii) the construction is consistent with the authorization of the applicable flood damage reduction project, or separable element thereof, and the plans approved under paragraph (1)(A)(i).

“(C) **WRITTEN AGREEMENT.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—As part of the written agreement required under paragraph (1)(A)(iii), a non-Federal interest to be eligible for credit or reimbursement under this paragraph shall—

“(I) identify any discrete segment that the non-Federal interest may carry out; and

“(II) agree to the completion of the flood damage reduction project, or separable element thereof, with respect to which the discrete segment is a part and establish a timeframe for such completion.

“(ii) **REMITTANCE.**—If a non-Federal interest fails to complete a flood damage reduction project, or separable element thereof, that it agreed to complete under clause (i)(II), the non-Federal interest shall remit any reimbursements received under this paragraph for a discrete segment of such project or separable element.

“(D) **DISCRETE SEGMENT DEFINED.**—In this paragraph, the term ‘discrete segment’ means a physical portion of a flood damage reduction project, or separable element thereof—

“(i) described by a non-Federal interest in a written agreement required under paragraph (1)(A)(iii); and

“(ii) that the non-Federal interest can operate and maintain, independently and without creating a hazard, in advance of final completion of the flood damage reduction project, or separable element thereof.”.

SEC. 1128. MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES.

Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-16) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “or other non-Federal interest” and inserting “, group of States, or non-Federal interest”;;

(B) by inserting “or group of States” after “working with a State”; and

(C) by inserting “or group of States” after “boundaries of such State”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1) by adding at the end the following: “The Secretary may allow 2 or more States to combine all or a portion of the funds that the Secretary makes available to the States in carrying out subsection (a)(1).”.

SEC. 1129. PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO STATES.

Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-16) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) **SPECIAL RULE.**—The cost-share for assistance under this section provided to Indian tribes, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands shall

be as provided under section 1156 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2310)."

SEC. 1130. REGIONAL PARTICIPATION ASSURANCE FOR LEVEE SAFETY ACTIVITIES.

(a) NATIONAL LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM.—Section 9002 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3301) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (11) by striking "State or Indian tribe" and inserting "State, regional district, or Indian tribe";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (12) through (16) as paragraphs (13) through (17), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

"(12) REGIONAL DISTRICT.—The term 'regional district' means a subdivision of a State government, or a subdivision of multiple State governments, that is authorized to acquire, construct, operate, and maintain projects for the purpose of flood damage reduction."

(b) INVENTORY AND INSPECTION OF LEVEES.—Section 9004 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3303) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking "one year after the date of enactment of this Act" and inserting "1 year after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016";

(B) in paragraph (2)(A) by striking "States, Indian tribes, Federal agencies, and other entities" and inserting "States, regional districts, Indian tribes, Federal agencies, and other entities"; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the heading for subparagraph (A) by striking "FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL" and inserting "FEDERAL, STATE, REGIONAL, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A) by striking "Federal, State, and local" and inserting "Federal, State, regional, tribal, and local"; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the paragraph heading by striking "STATE AND TRIBAL" and inserting "STATE, REGIONAL, AND TRIBAL"; and

(ii) by striking "State or Indian tribe" each place it appears and inserting "State, regional district, or Indian tribe"; and

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by striking "State or Indian tribe" and inserting "State, regional district, or Indian tribe"; and

(ii) by striking "chief executive of the tribal government" and inserting "chief executive of the regional district or tribal government".

(c) LEVEE SAFETY INITIATIVE.—Section 9005 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3303a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking "1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection" and inserting "1 year after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016"; and

(II) by striking "State, local, and tribal governments and organizations" and inserting "State, regional, local, and tribal governments and organizations"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A) by striking "Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies" and inserting "Federal, State, regional, local, and tribal agencies";

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A) by striking "State, local, and tribal governments," and inserting "State, regional, local, and tribal governments"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B) by inserting ", regional, or tribal" after "State" each place it appears; and

(C) in paragraph (5)(A) by striking "States, non-Federal interests, and other appropriate stakeholders" and inserting "States, regional districts, Indian tribes, non-Federal interests, and other appropriate stakeholders";

(2) in subsection (e)(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking "States, communities, and levee owners" and inserting "States, regional districts, Indian tribes, communities, and levee owners";

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) in the subsection heading by striking "STATE AND TRIBAL" and inserting "STATE, REGIONAL, AND TRIBAL";

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking "1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection" and inserting "1 year after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016"; and

(II) by striking "State or tribal" and inserting "State, regional, or tribal"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking "State and Indian tribe" and inserting "State, regional district, and Indian tribe"; and

(II) by striking "State or Indian tribe" and inserting "State, regional district, or Indian tribe"; and

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading by striking "STATES" and inserting "STATES, REGIONAL DISTRICTS, AND INDIAN TRIBES";

(ii) in subparagraph (A) by striking "States and Indian tribes" and inserting "States, regional districts, and Indian tribes";

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i) by striking "State or Indian tribe" and inserting "State, regional district, or Indian tribe";

(II) in clause (ii) by striking "levees within the State" and inserting "levees within the State or regional district"; and

(III) in clause (iii) by striking "State or Indian tribe" and inserting "State, regional district, or Indian tribe";

(iv) in subparagraph (C)(ii) in the matter preceding subclause (I) by striking "State or tribal" and inserting "State, regional, or tribal"; and

(v) in subparagraph (E)—

(I) by striking "States and Indian tribes" each place it appears and inserting "States, regional districts, and Indian tribes";

(II) in clause (ii)(II)—

(aa) in the matter preceding item (aa) by striking "State or Indian tribe" and inserting "State, regional district, or Indian tribe";

(bb) in item (aa) by striking "miles of levees in the State" and inserting "miles of levees in the State or regional district"; and

(cc) in item (bb) by striking "miles of levees in all States" and inserting "miles of levees in all States and regional districts"; and

(III) in clause (iii)—

(aa) by striking "State or Indian tribe" and inserting "State, regional district, or Indian tribe"; and

(bb) by striking "State or tribal" and inserting "State, regional, or tribal"; and

(4) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking "States, Indian tribes, and local governments" and inserting "States, regional districts, Indian tribes, and local governments";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking "State, Indian tribe, or local government" and inserting "State, regional district, Indian tribe, or local government"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (E) in the matter preceding clause (i) by striking "State or tribal" and inserting "State, regional, or tribal";

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A) by striking "State, Indian tribe, or local government" and inserting

"State, regional district, Indian tribe, or local government"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D) by striking "180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection" and inserting "180 days after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016"; and

(D) in paragraph (4)(A)(i) by striking "State or tribal" and inserting "State, regional, or tribal".

(d) REPORTS.—Section 9006 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3303b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking "1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection" and inserting "1 year after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking "State and tribal" and inserting "State, regional, and tribal";

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking "2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection" and inserting "2 years after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016"; and

(ii) by striking "State, tribal, and local" and inserting "State, regional, tribal, and local";

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking "State and tribal" and inserting "State, regional, and tribal"; and

(C) in paragraph (4) by striking "State and local" and inserting "State, regional, tribal, and local"; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking "1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection" and inserting "1 year after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016"; and

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking "State or tribal" and inserting "State, regional, or tribal".

SEC. 1131. PARTICIPATION OF NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.

Section 221(b)(1) of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–5b(b)(1)) is amended by inserting "and, as defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602), a Native village, Regional Corporation, and Village Corporation" after "Indian tribe".

SEC. 1132. POST-AUTHORIZATION CHANGE REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The completion of a post-authorization change report prepared by the Corps of Engineers for a water resources development project—

(1) may not be delayed as a result of consideration being given to changes in policy or priority with respect to project consideration; and

(2) shall be submitted, upon completion, to—

(A) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(b) COMPLETION REVIEW.—With respect to a post-authorization change report subject to review by the Secretary, the Secretary shall, not later than 120 days after the date of completion of such report—

(1) review the report; and

(2) provide to Congress any recommendations of the Secretary regarding modification of the applicable water resources development project.

(c) PRIOR REPORTS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, with respect to any post-authorization change report that was completed prior to the date of enactment of this Act and is subject to a review by the Secretary that has yet to be completed, the Secretary shall complete review of, and provide recommendations to Congress with respect to, the report.

(d) **POST-AUTHORIZATION CHANGE REPORT INCLUSIONS.**—In this section, the term “post-authorization change report” includes—

- (1) a general reevaluation report;
- (2) a limited reevaluation report; and
- (3) any other report that recommends the modification of an authorized water resources development project.

SEC. 1133. MAINTENANCE DREDGING DATA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish, maintain, and make publicly available a database on maintenance dredging carried out by the Secretary, which shall include information on maintenance dredging carried out by Federal and non-Federal vessels.

(b) **SCOPE.**—The Secretary shall include in the database maintained under subsection (a), for each maintenance dredging project and contract, estimated and actual data on—

- (1) the volume of dredged material removed;
- (2) the initial cost estimate of the Corps of Engineers;
- (3) the total cost;
- (4) the party and vessel carrying out the work; and
- (5) the number of private contractor bids received and the bid amounts, including bids that did not win the final contract award.

SEC. 1134. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION AND TRACKING OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2040 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2345) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2040. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION AND TRACKING OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS.

“(a) **DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEM.**—“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall research, develop, and implement an electronic system to allow the electronic preparation and submission of applications for permits and requests for jurisdictional determinations under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

“(2) **INCLUSION.**—The electronic system required under paragraph (1) shall address—

- “(A) applications for standard individual permits;
- “(B) applications for letters of permission;
- “(C) joint applications with States for State and Federal permits;
- “(D) applications for emergency permits;
- “(E) applications or requests for jurisdictional determinations; and
- “(F) preconstruction notification submissions, when required for a nationwide or other general permit.

“(3) **IMPROVING EXISTING DATA SYSTEMS.**—The Secretary shall seek to incorporate the electronic system required under paragraph (1) into existing systems and databases of the Corps of Engineers to the maximum extent practicable.

“(4) **PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.**—The electronic system required under paragraph (1) shall provide for the protection of personal, private, privileged, confidential, and proprietary information, and information the disclosure of which is otherwise prohibited by law.

“(b) **SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.**—The electronic system required under subsection (a) shall—

- “(1) enable an applicant or requester to prepare electronically an application for a permit or request;
- “(2) enable an applicant or requester to submit to the Secretary, by email or other means through the Internet, the completed application form or request;
- “(3) enable an applicant or requester to submit to the Secretary, by email or other means through the Internet, data and other information in support of the permit application or request;
- “(4) provide an online interactive guide to provide assistance to an applicant or requester at any time while filling out the permit application or request; and

“(5) enable an applicant or requester (or a designated agent) to track the status of a permit application or request in a manner that will—

- “(A) allow the applicant or requester to determine whether the application is pending or final and the disposition of the request;
- “(B) allow the applicant or requester to research previously submitted permit applications and requests within a given geographic area and the results of such applications or requests; and
- “(C) allow identification and display of the location of the activities subject to a permit or request through a map-based interface.

“(c) **DOCUMENTATION.**—All permit decisions and jurisdictional determinations made by the Secretary shall be in writing and include documentation supporting the basis for the decision or determination. The Secretary shall prescribe means for documenting all decisions or determinations to be made by the Secretary.

“(d) **RECORD OF DETERMINATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall maintain, for a minimum of 5 years, a record of each permit decision and jurisdictional determination made by the Secretary, including documentation supporting the basis of the decision or determination.

“(2) **ARCHIVING OF INFORMATION.**—The Secretary shall explore and implement an appropriate mechanism for archiving records of permit decisions and jurisdictional determinations, including documentation supporting the basis of the decisions and determinations, after the 5-year maintenance period described in paragraph (1).

“(e) **AVAILABILITY OF DETERMINATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall make the records of all permit decisions and jurisdictional determinations made by the Secretary available to the public for review and reproduction.

“(2) **PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.**—The Secretary shall provide for the protection of personal, private, privileged, confidential, and proprietary information, and information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law, which may be excluded from disclosure.

“(f) **DEADLINE FOR ELECTRONIC SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall develop and implement, to the maximum extent practicable, the electronic system required under subsection (a) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

“(2) **REPORT ON ELECTRONIC SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 180 days after the expiration of the deadline under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report describing the measures implemented and barriers faced in carrying out this section.

“(g) **APPLICABILITY.**—The requirements described in subsections (c), (d), and (e) shall apply to permit applications and requests for jurisdictional determinations submitted to the Secretary after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

“(h) **LIMITATION.**—This section shall not preclude the submission to the Secretary, acting through the Chief of Engineers, of a physical copy of a permit application or a request for a jurisdictional determination.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 is amended by striking the item relating to section 2040 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 2040. Electronic submission and tracking of permit applications.”.

SEC. 1135. DATA TRANSPARENCY.

Section 2017 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2342) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2017. ACCESS TO WATER RESOURCE DATA.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Using available funds, the Secretary shall make publicly available, including on the Internet, all data in the custody of the Corps of Engineers on—

- “(1) the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of water resources development projects; and
- “(2) water quality and water management of projects owned, operated, or managed by the Corps of Engineers.

“(b) **LIMITATION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to compel or authorize the disclosure of data or other information determined by the Secretary to be confidential information, privileged information, law enforcement information, national security information, infrastructure security information, personal information, or information the disclosure of which is otherwise prohibited by law.

“(c) **TIMING.**—The Secretary shall ensure that data is made publicly available under subsection (a) as quickly as practicable after the data is generated by the Corps of Engineers.

“(d) **PARTNERSHIPS.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may develop partnerships, including through cooperative agreements, with State, tribal, and local governments and other Federal agencies.”.

SEC. 1136. QUALITY CONTROL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (a) of the first section of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 888, chapter 665; 33 U.S.C. 701–1(a)), is amended by inserting “and shall be made publicly available” before the period at the end of the last sentence.

(b) **PROJECT ADMINISTRATION.**—Section 2041(b)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2346(b)(1)) is amended by inserting “final post-authorization change report,” after “final reevaluation report.”.

SEC. 1137. REPORT ON PURCHASE OF FOREIGN MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

Section 213(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–580; 106 Stat. 4831) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) **REPORT ON PURCHASE OF FOREIGN MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In the first annual report submitted to Congress after the date of enactment of this paragraph in accordance with section 8 of the Act of August 11, 1888 (25 Stat. 424, chapter 860; 33 U.S.C. 556), and section 925(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2295(b)), the Secretary shall include a report on the amount of acquisitions in the prior fiscal year made by the Corps of Engineers for civil works projects from entities that manufactured the articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States.

“(B) **CONTENTS.**—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall indicate, for each category of acquisition—

- “(i) the dollar value of articles, materials, and supplies purchased that were manufactured outside of the United States; and
- “(ii) a summary of the total procurement funds spent on goods manufactured in the United States and the total procurement funds spent on goods manufactured outside of the United States.

“(C) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—Not later than 30 days after the submission of the report required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall make such report publicly available, including on the Internet.”.

SEC. 1138. INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM.

Section 401(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2329(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may engage in activities to inform the United States of technological innovations abroad that could significantly improve water resources development in the United States.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—Activities under paragraph (1) may include—

“(A) development, monitoring, assessment, and dissemination of information about foreign water resources projects that could significantly improve water resources development in the United States;

“(B) research, development, training, and other forms of technology transfer and exchange; and

“(C) offering technical services that cannot be readily obtained in the private sector to be incorporated into water resources projects if the costs for assistance will be recovered under the terms of each project.”

SEC. 1139. DAM SAFETY REPAIR PROJECTS.

The Secretary shall issue guidance—

(1) on the types of circumstances under which the requirement in section 1203(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 467n(a)) relating to state-of-the-art design or construction criteria deemed necessary for safety purposes applies to a dam safety repair project;

(2) to assist district offices of the Corps of Engineers in communicating with non-Federal interests when entering into and implementing cost-sharing agreements for dam safety repair projects; and

(3) to assist the Corps of Engineers in communicating with non-Federal interests concerning the estimated and final cost-share responsibilities of the non-Federal interests under agreements for dam safety repair projects.

SEC. 1140. FEDERAL COST LIMITATION FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS.

Section 506(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–22(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) RECREATION FEATURES.—A project carried out pursuant to this subsection may include compatible recreation features as determined by the Secretary, except that the Federal costs of such features may not exceed 10 percent of the Federal ecosystem restoration costs of the project.”

SEC. 1141. LAKE KEMP, TEXAS.

Section 3149(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–114; 121 Stat. 1147) is amended—

(1) by striking “2020” and inserting “2025”; and

(2) by striking “this Act” and inserting “the Water Resources Development Act of 2016”.

SEC. 1142. CORROSION PREVENTION.

Section 1033 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2350) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) REPORT.—In the first annual report submitted to Congress after the date of enactment of this subsection in accordance with section 8 of the Act of August 11, 1888 (25 Stat. 424, chapter 860; 33 U.S.C. 556), and section 925(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2295(b)), the Secretary shall report on the corrosion prevention activities encouraged under this section, including—

“(1) a description of the actions the Secretary has taken to implement this section; and

“(2) a description of the projects utilizing corrosion prevention activities, including which activities were undertaken.”

SEC. 1143. SEDIMENT SOURCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to undertake a study of the economic and non-economic costs, benefits, and impacts of acquiring by purchase, exchange, or otherwise sedi-

ment from domestic and nondomestic sources for shoreline protection.

(b) REPORT.—Upon completion of the study, the Secretary shall report to Congress on the availability, benefits, and impacts, of using domestic and nondomestic sources of sediment for shoreline protection.

SEC. 1144. PRIORITIZATION OF CERTAIN PROJECTS.

The Secretary shall give priority to a project for flood risk management if—

(1) there is an executed project partnership agreement for the project; and

(2) the project is located in an area—

(A) with respect to which—

(i) there has been a loss of life due to flood events; and

(ii) the President has declared that a major disaster or emergency exists under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170); or

(B) that is at significant risk for catastrophic flooding.

SEC. 1145. GULF COAST OYSTER BED RECOVERY ASSESSMENT.

(a) GULF STATES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Gulf States” means each of the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

(b) GULF COAST OYSTER BED RECOVERY ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Gulf States, shall conduct an assessment relating to the recovery of oyster beds on the coasts of the Gulf States that were damaged by events, including—

(1) Hurricane Katrina in 2005;

(2) the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010; and

(3) floods in 2011 and 2016.

(c) INCLUSION.—The assessment conducted under subsection (b) shall address the beneficial use of dredged material in providing substrate for oyster bed development.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the assessment conducted under subsection (b).

SEC. 1146. INITIATING WORK ON SEPARABLE ELEMENTS.

With respect to a water resources development project that has received construction funds in the previous 6-year period, for purposes of initiating work on a separable element of the project—

(1) no new start or new investment decision shall be required; and

(2) the work shall be treated as ongoing work.

SEC. 1147. LOWER BOIS D'ARC CREEK RESERVOIR PROJECT, FANNIN COUNTY, TEXAS.

(a) FINALIZATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall ensure that environmental decisions and reviews related to the construction of, impoundment of water in, and operation of the Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir Project, including any associated water transmission facilities, by the North Texas Municipal Water District in Fannin County, Texas, are made on an expeditious basis using the fastest applicable process.

(b) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than June 30, 2017, the Secretary shall report to Congress on the implementation of subsection (a).

SEC. 1148. RECREATIONAL ACCESS AT CORPS OF ENGINEERS RESERVOIRS.

Section 1035 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121; 128 Stat. 1234) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) RECREATIONAL ACCESS.—The Secretary shall allow the use of a floating cabin on waters under the jurisdiction of the Secretary in the Cumberland River basin if—

“(1) the floating cabin—

“(A) is in compliance with, and maintained by the owner to satisfy the requirements of, regulations for recreational vessels, including health and safety standards, issued under chapter 43 of title 46, United States Code, and section 312 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322); and

“(B) is located at a marina leased by the Corps of Engineers; and

“(2) the Secretary has authorized the use of recreational vessels on such waters.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize the Secretary to impose requirements on a floating cabin or on any facility that serves a floating cabin, including marinas or docks located on waters under the jurisdiction of the Secretary in the Cumberland River basin, that are different or more stringent than the requirements imposed on all recreational vessels authorized to use such waters.

“(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the following definitions apply:

“(A) VESSEL.—The term ‘vessel’ has the meaning given that term in section 3 of title 1, United States Code.

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—The term ‘requirement’ includes a requirement imposed through the utilization of guidance.”

SEC. 1149. NO WAKE ZONES IN NAVIGATION CHANNELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the request of a State or local official, the Secretary, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, shall promptly identify and, subject to the considerations in subsection (b), allow the implementation of measures for addressing navigation safety hazards in a covered navigation channel resulting from wakes created by recreational vessels identified by such official, while maintaining the navigability of the channel.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In identifying measures under subsection (a) with respect to a covered navigation channel, the Secretary shall consider, at a minimum, whether—

(1) State or local law enforcement officers have documented the existence of safety hazards in the channel that are the direct result of excessive wakes from recreational vessels present in the channel;

(2) the Secretary has made a determination that safety concerns exist in the channel and that the proposed measures will remedy those concerns without significant impacts to the navigable capacity of the channel; and

(3) the measures are consistent with any recommendations made by the Commandant of the Coast Guard to ensure the safety of vessels operating in the channel and the safety of the passengers and crew aboard such vessels.

(c) COVERED NAVIGATION CHANNEL DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered navigation channel” means a navigation channel that—

(1) is federally marked or maintained;

(2) is part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; and

(3) is adjacent to a marina.

(d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to relieve the master, pilot, or other person responsible for determining the speed of a vessel from the obligation to comply with the inland navigation regulations promulgated pursuant to section 3 of the Inland Navigational Rules Act of 1980 (33 U.S.C. 2071) or any other applicable laws or regulations governing the safe navigation of a vessel.

SEC. 1150. ICE JAM PREVENTION AND MITIGATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out projects under section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s), including planning, design, construction, and monitoring of

structural and nonstructural technologies and measures, for preventing and mitigating flood damages associated with ice jams.

(b) **INCLUSION.**—The projects described in subsection (a) may include the development and demonstration of cost-effective technologies and designs developed in consultation with—

(1) the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory of the Corps of Engineers;

(2) universities;

(3) Federal, State, and local agencies; and

(4) private organizations.

(c) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—During fiscal years 2017 through 2022, the Secretary shall identify and carry out not fewer than 10 projects under this section to demonstrate technologies and designs developed in accordance with this section.

(2) **PROJECT SELECTION.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the projects are selected from all cold regions of the United States, including the Upper Missouri River Basin and the Northeast.

SEC. 1151. STRUCTURAL HEALTH MONITORING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall design and develop a structural health monitoring program to assess and improve the condition of infrastructure constructed and maintained by the Corps of Engineers, including research, design, and development of systems and frameworks for—

(1) response to flood and earthquake events;

(2) predisaster mitigation measures;

(3) lengthening the useful life of the infrastructure; and

(4) identifying risks due to sea level rise.

(b) **CONSULTATION AND CONSIDERATIONS.**—In developing the program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) consult with academic and other experts; and

(2) consider models for maintenance and repair information, the development of degradation models for real-time measurements and environmental inputs, and research on qualitative inspection data as surrogate sensors.

SEC. 1152. KENNEWICK MAN.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) **CLAIMANT TRIBES.**—The term “claimant tribes” means the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Wanapum Band of Priest Rapids.

(2) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

(3) **HUMAN REMAINS.**—The term “human remains” means the human remains that—

(A) are known as Kennewick Man or the Ancient One, which includes the projectile point lodged in the right ilium bone, as well as any residue from previous sampling and studies; and

(B) are part of archaeological collection number 45BN495.

(b) **TRANSFER.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law, including the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), or law of the State of Washington, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall transfer the human remains to the Department, on the condition that the Department, acting through the State Historic Preservation Officer, disposes of the human remains and repatriates the human remains to the claimant tribes.

(c) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The transfer shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

(1) The release of the human remains to the claimant tribes is contingent upon the claimant tribes following the Department’s requirements in the Revised Code of Washington.

(2) The claimant tribes verify to the Department their agreement on the final burial place of the human remains.

(3) The claimant tribes verify to the Department their agreement that the human remains will be buried in the State of Washington.

(4) The claimant tribes verify to the Department their agreement that the Department will take legal custody of the human remains upon the transfer by the Secretary.

(d) **COST.**—The Corps of Engineers shall be responsible for any costs associated with the transfer.

(e) **LIMITATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The transfer shall be limited solely to the human remains portion of the archaeological collection.

(2) **SECRETARY.**—The Secretary shall have no further responsibility for the human remains transferred pursuant to subsection (b) after the date of the transfer.

SEC. 1153. AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT AND USE MATERIALS AND SERVICES.

Section 1024 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2325a) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary is authorized to accept and use materials, services, or funds contributed by a non-Federal public entity, a nonprofit entity, or a private entity to repair, restore, replace, or maintain a water resources project in any case in which the District Commander determines that—

“(1) there is a risk of adverse impacts to the functioning of the project for the authorized purposes of the project; and

“(2) acceptance of the materials and services or funds is in the public interest.”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d);

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(1) **APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary may only use materials or services accepted under this section if such materials and services comply with all applicable laws and regulations that would apply if such materials and services were acquired by the Secretary.

“(2) **SUPPLEMENTARY SERVICES.**—The Secretary may only accept and use services under this section that provide supplementary services to existing Federal employees, and may only use such services to perform work that would not otherwise be accomplished as a result of funding or personnel limitations.”; and

(4) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “Not later than 60 days after initiating an activity under this section,” and inserting “Not later than February 1 of each year after the first fiscal year in which materials, services, or funds are accepted under this section.”; and

(B) by striking “a report” and inserting “an annual report”.

SEC. 1154. MUNITIONS DISPOSAL.

Section 1027 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 426e–2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, at full Federal expense,” after “The Secretary may”; and

(2) in subsection (b) by striking “funded” and inserting “reimbursed”.

SEC. 1155. MANAGEMENT OF RECREATION FACILITIES.

Section 225 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2328) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) **USER FEES.**—

“(1) **COLLECTION OF FEES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may allow a non-Federal public entity that has entered into an agreement pursuant to subsection (b) to collect user fees for the use of developed recreation sites and facilities, whether developed or constructed by that entity or the Department of the Army.

“(B) **USE OF VISITOR RESERVATION SERVICES.**—A non-Federal public entity described in subparagraph (A) may use, to manage fee collections and reservations under this section, any visitor reservation service that the Secretary has provided for by contract or interagency agreement, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(2) **USE OF FEES.**—A non-Federal public entity that collects user fees under paragraph (1)—

“(A) may retain up to 100 percent of the fees collected, as determined by the Secretary; and

“(B) notwithstanding section 210(b)(4) of the Flood Control Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. 460d–3(b)(4)), shall use any retained amount for operation, maintenance, and management activities at the recreation site at which the fee is collected.

“(3) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The authority of a non-Federal public entity under this subsection shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines necessary to protect the interests of the United States.”.

SEC. 1156. STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED BY SECRETARY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 14 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1152, chapter 425; 33 U.S.C. 408), is amended—

(1) by striking “That it shall not be lawful” and inserting the following:

“(a) **PROHIBITIONS AND PERMISSIONS.**—It shall not be lawful”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **CONCURRENT REVIEW.**—

“(1) **NEPA REVIEW.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In any case in which an activity subject to this section requires a review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), review and approval of the activity under this section shall, to the maximum extent practicable, occur concurrently with any review and decisions made under that Act.

“(B) **CORPS OF ENGINEERS AS A COOPERATING AGENCY.**—If the Corps of Engineers is not the lead Federal agency for an environmental review described in subparagraph (A), the Corps of Engineers shall, to the maximum extent practicable and consistent with Federal laws—

“(i) participate in the review as a cooperating agency (unless the Corps of Engineers does not intend to submit comments on the project); and

“(ii) adopt and use any environmental document prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) by the lead agency to the same extent that a Federal agency could adopt or use a document prepared by another Federal agency under—

“(1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

“(11) parts 1500 through 1508 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

“(2) **REVIEWS BY SECRETARY.**—In any case in which the Secretary must approve an action under this section and under another authority, including sections 9 and 10 of this Act, section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413), the Secretary shall—

“(A) coordinate applicable reviews and, to the maximum extent practicable, carry out the reviews concurrently; and

“(B) adopt and use any document prepared by the Corps of Engineers for the purpose of complying with the same law and that addresses the same types of impacts in the same geographic area if such document, as determined by the Secretary, is current and applicable.

“(3) CONTRIBUTED FUNDS.—The Secretary may accept and expend funds received from non-Federal public or private entities to evaluate under this section an alteration or permanent occupation or use of a work built by the United States.

“(c) TIMELY REVIEW.—

“(1) COMPLETE APPLICATION.—On or before the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an application for permission to take action affecting public projects pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary shall inform the applicant whether the application is complete and, if it is not, what items are needed for the application to be complete.

“(2) DECISION.—On or before the date that is 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a complete application for permission under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

“(A) make a decision on the application; or

“(B) provide a schedule to the applicant identifying when the Secretary will make a decision on the application.

“(3) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—In any case in which a schedule provided under paragraph (2)(B) extends beyond 120 days from the date of receipt of a complete application, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives an explanation justifying the extended timeframe for review.”

(b) GUIDANCE.—Section 1007 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 408a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) GUIDANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall issue guidance on the implementation of this section.

“(2) INCORPORATION.—In issuing guidance under paragraph (1), or any other regulation, guidance, or engineering circular related to activities covered under section 14 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1152, chapter 425; 33 U.S.C. 408), the Secretary shall incorporate the requirements under this section.

“(g) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary shall prioritize and complete the activities required of the Secretary under this section.”

SEC. 1157. PROJECT COMPLETION.

(a) COMPLETION OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For any project or program of assistance authorized under section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-580; 106 Stat. 4835), the Secretary is authorized to carry out the project to completion if—

(A) as of the date of enactment of this Act, the project has received more than \$4,000,000 in Federal appropriations and those appropriations equal an amount that is greater than 80 percent of the authorized amount;

(B) as of the date of enactment of this Act, significant progress has been demonstrated toward completion of the project or segments of the project but the project is not complete; and

(C) the benefits of the Federal investment will not be realized without completion of the project.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subsection \$50,000,000 for fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

(b) MODIFICATION OF PROJECTS OR PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 7001(f) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.—The term ‘water resources development project’ includes a project under an environmental infrastructure assistance program if authorized before the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.”

SEC. 1158. NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), using amounts available in the revolving fund established by the first section of the Act of July 27, 1953 (67 Stat. 199, chapter 245; 33 U.S.C. 576), and not otherwise obligated, the Secretary may—

(1) design, renovate, and construct additions to 2 buildings located on Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts, for the headquarters of the New England District of the Corps of Engineers; and

(2) carry out such construction and infrastructure improvements as are required to support the headquarters of the New England District of the Corps of Engineers, including any necessary demolition of the existing infrastructure.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that the revolving fund established by such first section is appropriately reimbursed from funds appropriated for programs that receive a benefit under this section.

SEC. 1159. BUFFALO DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), using amounts available in the revolving fund established by the first section of the Act of July 27, 1953 (67 Stat. 199, chapter 245; 33 U.S.C. 576), and not otherwise obligated, the Secretary may—

(1) design and construct a new building in Buffalo, New York, for the headquarters of the Buffalo District of the Corps of Engineers; and

(2) carry out such construction and infrastructure improvements as are required to support the headquarters and related installations and facilities of the Buffalo District of the Corps of Engineers, including any necessary demolition or renovation of the existing infrastructure.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that the revolving fund established by such first section is appropriately reimbursed from funds appropriated for programs that receive a benefit under this section.

SEC. 1160. FUTURE FACILITY INVESTMENT.

The first section of the Act of July 27, 1953 (67 Stat. 199, chapter 245; 33 U.S.C. 576), is amended—

(1) by striking “For establishment of a revolving fund” and inserting the following:

“(a) REVOLVING FUND.—For establishment of a revolving fund”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) PROHIBITION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds may be expended or obligated from the revolving fund described in subsection (a) to newly construct, or perform a major renovation on, a building for use by the Corps of Engineers unless specifically authorized by law.

“(2) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to—

“(A) change any authority provided under subchapter I of chapter 169 of title 10; or

“(B) change the use of funds under subsection (a) for purposes other than those described in paragraph (1).

“(c) TRANSMISSION TO CONGRESS OF PROSPECTUS.—To secure consideration for an authorization under subsection (b), the Secretary

shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a prospectus of the proposed construction or major renovation of a building that includes—

“(1) a brief description of the building;

“(2) the location of the building;

“(3) an estimate of the maximum cost to be provided by the revolving fund for the building to be constructed or renovated;

“(4) the total size of the building after the proposed construction or major renovation;

“(5) the number of personnel proposed to be housed in the building after the construction or major renovation;

“(6) a statement that other suitable space owned by the Federal Government is not available;

“(7) a statement of rents and other housing costs currently being paid for the tenants proposed to be housed in the building; and

“(8) the size of the building currently housing the tenants proposed to be housed in the building.

“(d) PROVISION OF BUILDING PROJECT SURVEYS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If requested by resolution by the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate or the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Secretary shall create a building project survey for the construction or major renovation of a building described in subsection (b).

“(2) REPORT.—Within a reasonable time after creating a building project survey under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the survey that includes the information required to be included in a prospectus under subsection (c).

“(e) MAJOR RENOVATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘major renovation’ means a renovation or alteration of a building for use by the Corps of Engineers with a total expenditure of more than \$20,000,000.”

SEC. 1161. COMPLETION OF ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS.

Section 2039 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2330a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) INCLUSIONS.—A monitoring plan under subsection (b) shall include a description of—

“(1) the types and number of restoration activities to be conducted;

“(2) the physical action to be undertaken to achieve the restoration objectives of the project;

“(3) the functions and values that will result from the restoration plan; and

“(4) a contingency plan for taking corrective actions in cases in which monitoring demonstrates that restoration measures are not achieving ecological success in accordance with criteria described in the monitoring plan.

“(e) CONCLUSION OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY.—The responsibility of a non-Federal interest for operation and maintenance of the nonstructural and nonmechanical elements of a project, or a component of a project, for ecosystem restoration shall cease 10 years after the date on which the Secretary makes a determination of success under subsection (b)(2).

“(f) FEDERAL OBLIGATIONS.—The Secretary is not responsible for the operation or maintenance of any components of a project with respect to which a non-Federal interest is released from obligations under subsection (e).”

SEC. 1162. FISH AND WILDLIFE MITIGATION.

Section 906 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2283) is amended—

(1) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) include measures to protect or restore habitat connectivity;”;

(B) in paragraph (6)(C) by striking “impacts” and inserting “impacts, including impacts to habitat connectivity”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (11) and inserting the following:

“(11) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection—

“(A) requires the Secretary to undertake additional mitigation for existing projects for which mitigation has already been initiated, including the addition of fish passage to an existing water resources development project; or

“(B) affects the mitigation responsibilities of the Secretary under any other provision of law.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(j) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, with the consent of the applicable non-Federal interest, may use funds made available for preconstruction engineering and design after authorization of project construction to satisfy mitigation requirements through third-party arrangements or to acquire interests in land necessary for meeting mitigation requirements under this section.

“(2) NOTIFICATION.—Prior to the expenditure of any funds for a project pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate.

“(k) MEASURES.—The Secretary shall consult with interested members of the public, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, States, including State fish and game departments, and interested local governments to identify standard measures under subsection (h)(6)(C) that reflect the best available scientific information for evaluating habitat connectivity.”;

SEC. 1163. WETLANDS MITIGATION.

Section 2036(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2317b) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) MITIGATION BANKS AND IN-LIEU FEE ARRANGEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, the Secretary shall issue implementation guidance that provides for the consideration in water resources development feasibility studies of the entire amount of potential in-kind credits available at mitigation banks approved by the Secretary and in-lieu fee programs with an approved service area that includes the location of the projected impacts of the water resources development project.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—All potential mitigation bank and in-lieu fee credits that meet the criteria under paragraph (1) shall be considered a reasonable alternative for planning purposes if—

“(A) the applicable mitigation bank—

“(i) has an approved mitigation banking instrument; and

“(ii) has completed a functional analysis of the potential credits using the approved Corps of Engineers certified habitat assessment model specific to the region; and

“(B) the Secretary determines that the use of such banks or in-lieu fee programs provide reasonable assurance that the statutory (and regulatory) mitigation requirements for a water resources development project are met, including monitoring or demonstrating mitigation success.

“(3) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection—

“(A) modifies or alters any requirement for a water resources development project to comply with applicable laws or regulations, including section 906 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2283); or

“(B) shall be construed as to limit mitigation alternatives or require the use of mitigation banks or in-lieu fee programs.”.

SEC. 1164. DEBRIS REMOVAL.

Section 3 of the Act of March 2, 1945 (59 Stat. 23, chapter 19; 33 U.S.C. 603a), is amended—

(1) by striking “\$1,000,000” and inserting “\$5,000,000”;

(2) by striking “accumulated snags and other debris” and inserting “accumulated snags, obstructions, and other debris located in or adjacent to a Federal channel”; and

(3) by striking “or flood control” and inserting “, flood control, or recreation”.

SEC. 1165. DISPOSITION STUDIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out a disposition study for a project of the Corps of Engineers, including a disposition study under section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (33 U.S.C. 549a) or an assessment under section 6002 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121; 128 Stat. 1349), the Secretary shall consider the extent to which the property concerned has economic, cultural, historic, or recreational significance or impacts at the national, State, or local level.

(b) COMPLETION OF ASSESSMENT AND INVENTORY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete the assessment and inventory required under section 6002(a) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121; 128 Stat. 1349).

SEC. 1166. TRANSFER OF EXCESS CREDIT.

Section 1020(a) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2223(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through “Subject to subsection (b)” and inserting the following:

“(a) APPLICATION OF CREDIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) APPLICATION PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF PROJECT.—On request of a non-Federal interest, the credit described in paragraph (1) may be applied prior to completion of a study or project, if the credit amount is verified by the Secretary.”.

SEC. 1167. HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION.

Section 3(c)(2)(B) of the Act of August 13, 1946 (60 Stat. 1056, chapter 960; 33 U.S.C. 426g(c)(2)(B)), is amended by striking “\$5,000,000” and inserting “\$10,000,000”.

SEC. 1168. FISH HATCHERIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may operate a fish hatchery for the purpose of restoring a population of fish species located in the region surrounding the fish hatchery that is listed as a threatened species or an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or a similar State law.

(b) COSTS.—A non-Federal entity, another Federal agency, or a group of non-Federal entities or other Federal agencies shall be responsible for 100 percent of the additional costs associated with managing a fish hatchery for the purpose described in subsection (a) that are not authorized as of the date of enactment of this Act for the fish hatchery.

SEC. 1169. SHORE DAMAGE PREVENTION OR MITIGATION.

Section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968 (33 U.S.C. 426i) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b) by striking “measures” and all that follows through “project” and inserting “measures, including a study, shall be cost-shared in the same proportion as the cost-sharing provisions applicable to construction of the project”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) REIMBURSEMENT FOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection, in any case in which the Secretary implements a project under this section, the Secretary shall reimburse or credit the non-Federal interest for any amounts contributed for the study evaluating the damage in excess of the non-Federal share of the costs, as determined under subsection (b).”.

SEC. 1170. ENHANCING LAKE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

Section 3134 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–114; 121 Stat. 1142) is amended by striking subsection (e).

SEC. 1171. CREDIT IN LIEU OF REIMBURSEMENT.

Section 1022 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2225) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking “that has been constructed by a non-Federal interest under section 211 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 701b–13) before the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “for which a written agreement with the Corps of Engineers for construction was finalized on or before December 31, 2014, under section 211 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 701b–13) (as it existed before the repeal made by section 1014(c)(3))”; and

(2) in subsection (b) by striking “share of the cost of the non-Federal interest of carrying out other flood damage reduction projects or studies” and inserting “non-Federal share of the cost of carrying out other water resources development projects or studies of the non-Federal interest”.

SEC. 1172. EASEMENTS FOR ELECTRIC, TELEPHONE, OR BROADBAND SERVICE FACILITIES.

(a) DEFINITION OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.—In this section, the term “water resources development project” means a project under the administrative jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers that is subject to part 327 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(b) NO CONSIDERATION FOR EASEMENTS.—The Secretary may not collect consideration for an easement across water resources development project land for the electric, telephone, or broadband service facilities of nonprofit organizations eligible for financing under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.).

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Nothing in this section affects the authority of the Secretary under section 2695 of title 10, United States Code, or under section 9701 of title 31, United States Code, to collect funds to cover reasonable administrative expenses incurred by the Secretary.

SEC. 1173. STUDY ON PERFORMANCE OF INNOVATIVE MATERIALS.

(a) INNOVATIVE MATERIAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term “innovative material”, with respect to a water resources development project, includes high performance concrete formulations, geosynthetic materials, advanced alloys and metals, reinforced polymer composites, including any coatings or other corrosion prevention methods used in conjunction with such materials, and any other material, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer to enter into a contract with the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences—

(A) to develop a proposal to study the use and performance of innovative materials in water resources development projects carried out by the Corps of Engineers; and

(B) after the opportunity for public comment provided in accordance with subsection (c), to carry out the study proposed under subparagraph (A).

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The study under paragraph (1) shall identify—

(A) the conditions that result in degradation of water resources infrastructure;

(B) the capabilities of innovative materials in reducing degradation;

(C) any statutory, fiscal, regulatory, or other barriers to the expanded successful use of innovative materials;

(D) recommendations on including performance-based requirements for the incorporation of innovative materials into the Unified Facilities Guide Specifications;

(E) recommendations on how greater use of innovative materials could increase performance of an asset of the Corps of Engineers in relation to extended service life;

(F) additional ways in which greater use of innovative materials could empower the Corps of Engineers to accomplish the goals of the Strategic Plan for Civil Works of the Corps of Engineers; and

(G) recommendations on any further research needed to improve the capabilities of innovative materials in achieving extended service life and reduced maintenance costs in water resources development infrastructure.

(c) **PUBLIC COMMENT.**—After developing the study proposal under subsection (b)(1)(A) and before carrying out the study under subsection (b)(1)(B), the Secretary shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the study proposal.

(d) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out the study under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary, at a minimum, shall consult with relevant experts on engineering, environmental, and industry considerations.

(e) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the results of the study under subsection (b)(1).

SEC. 1174. CONVERSION OF SURPLUS WATER AGREEMENTS.

For the purposes of section 6 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 890, chapter 665; 33 U.S.C. 708), in any case in which a water supply agreement with a duration of 30 years or longer was predicated on water that was surplus to a purpose and provided for the complete payment of the actual investment costs of storage to be used, and that purpose is no longer authorized as of the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall provide to the non-Federal entity an opportunity to convert the agreement to a permanent storage agreement in accordance with section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b), with the same payment terms incorporated in the agreement.

SEC. 1175. PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE INLAND WATERWAYS TRUST FUND.

Beginning on June 10, 2014, and ending on the date of the completion of the project for navigation, Lower Ohio River, Locks and Dams 52 and 53, Illinois and Kentucky, authorized by section 3(a)(6) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1988 (102 Stat. 4013), section 1001(b)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 579a(b)(2)) shall not apply to any project authorized to receive funding from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund established by section 9506(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 1176. REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE.

Section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (55 Stat. 650, chapter 377; 33 U.S.C. 701n), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **NONSTRUCTURAL ALTERNATIVES DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term ‘non-structural alternatives’ includes efforts to restore or protect natural resources, including streams, rivers, floodplains, wetlands, or coasts, if those efforts will reduce flood risk.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **INCREASED LEVEL OF PROTECTION.**—In conducting repair or restoration work under subsection (a), at the request of the non-Federal sponsor, the Chief of Engineers may increase the level of protection above the level to which the system was designed, or, if the repair or restoration includes repair or restoration of a pumping station, increase the capacity of a pump, if—

“(1) the Chief of Engineers determines the improvements are in the public interest, including consideration of whether—

“(A) the authority under this section has been used more than once at the same location;

“(B) there is an opportunity to decrease significantly the risk of loss of life and property damage; or

“(C) there is an opportunity to decrease total life cycle rehabilitation costs for the project; and

“(2) the non-Federal sponsor agrees to pay the difference between the cost of repair or restoration to the original design level or original capacity and the cost of achieving the higher level of protection or capacity sought by the non-Federal sponsor.

“(e) **NOTICE.**—The Secretary shall notify and consult with the non-Federal sponsor regarding the opportunity to request implementation of nonstructural alternatives to the repair or restoration of a flood control work under subsection (a).”.

SEC. 1177. REHABILITATION OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONSTRUCTED DAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary determines that the project is feasible, the Secretary may carry out a project for the rehabilitation of a dam described in subsection (b).

(b) **ELIGIBLE DAMS.**—A dam eligible for assistance under this section is a dam—

(1) that has been constructed, in whole or in part, by the Corps of Engineers for flood control purposes;

(2) for which construction was completed before 1940;

(3) that is classified as “high hazard potential” by the State dam safety agency of the State in which the dam is located; and

(4) that is operated by a non-Federal entity.

(c) **COST SHARING.**—Non-Federal interests shall provide 35 percent of the cost of construction of any project carried out under this section, including provision of all land, easements, rights-of-way, and necessary relocations.

(d) **AGREEMENTS.**—Construction of a project under this section shall be initiated only after a non-Federal interest has entered into a binding agreement with the Secretary—

(1) to pay the non-Federal share of the costs of construction under subsection (c); and

(2) to pay 100 percent of any operation, maintenance, and replacement and rehabilitation costs with respect to the project in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

(e) **COST LIMITATION.**—The Secretary shall not expend more than \$10,000,000 for a project at any single dam under this section.

(f) **FUNDING.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2026.

SEC. 1178. COLUMBIA RIVER.

(a) **ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.**—Section 536(g) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-541; 114 Stat. 2662; 128 Stat. 1314) is amended by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$75,000,000”.

(b) **WATERCRAFT INSPECTION STATIONS.**—Section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may establish, operate, and maintain new or existing watercraft inspection stations to protect the Columbia River Basin to be located in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington at locations, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with such States, with the highest likelihood of preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species at reservoirs operated and maintained by the Secretary. The Secretary shall also assist the States referred to in this paragraph with rapid response to any aquatic invasive species, including quagga or zebra mussel, infestation.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A) by inserting “Governors of the” before “States”; and

(2) in subsection (e) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) assist States in early detection of aquatic invasive species, including quagga and zebra mussels; and”.

(c) **TRIBAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon the request of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary may provide assistance on land transferred by the Department of the Army to the Department of the Interior pursuant to title IV of Public Law 100-581 (102 Stat. 2944; 110 Stat. 766; 110 Stat. 3762; 114 Stat. 2679; 118 Stat. 544) to Indian tribes displaced as a result of the construction of the Bonneville Dam, Oregon.

(B) **CLARIFICATION.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is authorized to provide the assistance described in subparagraph (A) based on information known or studies undertaken by the Secretary prior to the date of enactment of this subsection.

(ii) **ADDITIONAL STUDIES.**—To the extent that the Secretary determines necessary, the Secretary is authorized to undertake additional studies to further examine any impacts to Indian tribes identified in subparagraph (A) beyond any information or studies identified under clause (i), except that the Secretary is authorized to provide the assistance described in subparagraph (A) based solely on information known or studies undertaken by the Secretary prior to the date of enactment of this subsection.

(2) **STUDY OF IMPACTS OF JOHN DAY DAM, OREGON.**—The Secretary shall—

(A) conduct a study to determine the number of Indian tribes displaced by the construction of the John Day Dam, Oregon; and

(B) recommend to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a plan to provide assistance to Indian tribes displaced as a result of the construction of the John Day Dam, Oregon.

SEC. 1179. MISSOURI RIVER.

(a) **RESERVOIR SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT.**—

(1) **DEFINITION OF SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—In this subsection, the term “sediment management plan” means a plan for preventing sediment from reducing water storage capacity at a reservoir and increasing water storage capacity through sediment removal at a reservoir.

(2) **UPPER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN PILOT PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall carry out a pilot program for the development and implementation of sediment management plans for reservoirs owned and operated by the Secretary in the Upper Missouri River Basin, on request by project beneficiaries.

(3) **PLAN ELEMENTS.**—A sediment management plan under paragraph (2) shall—

(A) provide opportunities for project beneficiaries and other stakeholders to participate in sediment management decisions;

(B) evaluate the volume of sediment in a reservoir and impacts on storage capacity;

(C) identify preliminary sediment management options, including sediment dikes and dredging;

(D) identify constraints;

(E) assess technical feasibility, economic justification, and environmental impacts;

(F) identify beneficial uses for sediment; and
(G) to the maximum extent practicable, use, develop, and demonstrate innovative, cost-saving technologies, including structural and non-structural technologies and designs, to manage sediment.

(4) **COST SHARE.**—The beneficiaries requesting a sediment management plan shall share in the cost of development and implementation of the plan and such cost shall be allocated among the beneficiaries in accordance with the benefits to be received.

(5) **CONTRIBUTED FUNDS.**—The Secretary may accept funds from non-Federal interests and other Federal agencies to develop and implement a sediment management plan under this subsection.

(6) **GUIDANCE.**—The Secretary shall use the knowledge gained through the development and implementation of sediment management plans under paragraph (2) to develop guidance for sediment management at other reservoirs.

(7) **PARTNERSHIP WITH SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program established under this subsection in partnership with the Secretary of the Interior, and the program may apply to reservoirs managed or owned by the Bureau of Reclamation on execution of a memorandum of agreement between the Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior establishing the framework for a partnership and the terms and conditions for sharing expertise and resources.

(B) **LEAD AGENCY.**—The Secretary that has primary jurisdiction over a reservoir shall take the lead in developing and implementing a sediment management plan for that reservoir.

(8) **OTHER AUTHORITIES NOT AFFECTED.**—Nothing in this subsection affects sediment management or the share of costs paid by Federal and non-Federal interests relating to sediment management under any other provision of law (including regulations).

(b) **SNOWPACK AND DROUGHT MONITORING.**—Section 4003(a) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121; 128 Stat. 1310) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **LEAD AGENCY.**—The Corps of Engineers shall be the lead agency for carrying out and coordinating the activities described in paragraph (1).”

SEC. 1180. CHESAPEAKE BAY OYSTER RESTORATION.

Section 704(b)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2263(b)(1)) is amended by striking “\$60,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”.

SEC. 1181. SALTON SEA, CALIFORNIA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3032 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–114; 121 Stat. 1113) is amended—

(1) in the section heading by inserting “**PROGRAM**” after “**RESTORATION**”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading by striking “**PILOT PROJECTS**” and inserting “**PROGRAM**”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively;

(ii) by inserting before subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(A) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall carry out a program to implement projects to re-

store the Salton Sea in accordance with this section.”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B) (as redesignated by clause (i)) by striking “the pilot”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C)(i) (as redesignated by clause (i))—

(I) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “the pilot projects referred to in subparagraph (A)” and inserting “the projects referred to in subparagraph (B)”;

(II) in subclause (I) by inserting “, Salton Sea Authority, or other non-Federal interest” before the semicolon; and

(III) in subclause (II) by striking “pilot”;

(C) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “pilot”;

(D) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “pilot” each place it appears; and

(ii) by inserting “, Salton Sea Authority, or other non-Federal interest” after “State”; and

(3) in subsection (c) by striking “pilot”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–114; 121 Stat. 1041) is amended by striking the item relating to section 3032 and inserting the following: “3032. Salton Sea restoration program, California.”

SEC. 1182. ADJUSTMENT.

Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–580) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (25) (113 Stat. 336)—

(A) by inserting “Berkeley,” before “Calhoun,”; and

(B) by striking “Orangeberg, and Sumter” and inserting “and Orangeberg”; and

(2) in paragraph (78) (121 Stat. 1258)—

(A) in the paragraph heading by striking “ST. CLAIR COUNTY,” and inserting “ST. CLAIR COUNTY, BLOUNT COUNTY, AND CULLMAN COUNTY,”; and

(B) by striking “St. Clair County,” and inserting “St. Clair County, Blount County, and Cullman County.”

SEC. 1183. COASTAL ENGINEERING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4014(b) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2803a(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by inserting “Indian tribes,” after “nonprofit organizations,”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

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

“(3) give priority to projects in communities the existence of which is threatened by rising sea level, including projects relating to shoreline restoration, tidal marsh restoration, dunal habitats to protect coastal infrastructure, reduction of future and existing emergency repair costs, and the beneficial reuse of dredged materials.”

(b) **INTERAGENCY COORDINATION ON COASTAL RESILIENCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall convene an interagency working group on resilience to extreme weather, which will coordinate research, data, and Federal investments related to sea level rise, resiliency, and vulnerability to extreme weather, including coastal resilience.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—The interagency working group convened under paragraph (1) shall participate in any activity carried out by an organization authorized by a State to study and issue recommendations on how to address the impacts on Federal assets of recurrent flooding and sea level rise, including providing consultation regarding policies, programs, studies, plans, and best practices relating to recurrent flooding and sea level rise in areas with significant Federal assets.

(c) **REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may conduct regional assessments of coastal and back bay

protection and of Federal and State policies and programs related to coastal water resources, including—

(A) an assessment of the probability and the extent of coastal flooding and erosion, including back bay and estuarine flooding;

(B) recommendations for policies and other measures related to regional Federal, State, local, and private participation in shoreline and back bay protection projects;

(C) an evaluation of the performance of existing Federal coastal storm damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and navigation projects, including recommendations for the improvement of those projects; and

(D) recommendations for the demonstration of methodologies for resilience through the use of natural and nature-based infrastructure approaches, as appropriate.

(2) **COOPERATION.**—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall cooperate with—

(A) heads of appropriate Federal agencies;

(B) States that have approved coastal management programs and appropriate agencies of those States;

(C) local governments; and

(D) the private sector.

(d) **STREAMLINING.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) to the maximum extent practicable, use existing research done by Federal, State, regional, local, and private entities to eliminate redundancies and related costs;

(2) receive from any of the entities described in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) contributed funds; or

(B) research that may be eligible for credit as work-in-kind under applicable Federal law; and

(3) enable each District or combination of Districts of the Corps of Engineers that jointly participate in carrying out an assessment under this section to consider regionally appropriate engineering, biological, ecological, social, economic, and other factors in carrying out the assessment.

(e) **REPORTS.**—The Secretary shall submit in the 2019 annual report submitted to Congress in accordance with section 8 of the Act of August 11, 1888 (25 Stat. 424, chapter 860; 33 U.S.C. 556), and section 925(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2295(b)) all reports and recommendations prepared under this section, together with any necessary supporting documentation.

SEC. 1184. CONSIDERATION OF MEASURES.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) **NATURAL FEATURE.**—The term “natural feature” means a feature that is created through the action of physical, geological, biological, and chemical processes over time.

(2) **NATURE-BASED FEATURE.**—The term “nature-based feature” means a feature that is created by human design, engineering, and construction to provide risk reduction in coastal areas by acting in concert with natural processes.

(b) **REQUIREMENT.**—In studying the feasibility of projects for flood risk management, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and ecosystem restoration the Secretary shall, with the consent of the non-Federal sponsor of the feasibility study, consider, as appropriate—

(1) natural features;

(2) nature-based features;

(3) nonstructural measures; and

(4) structural measures.

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than February 1, 2020, and 5 and 10 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of subsection (b).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(A) A description of guidance or instructions issued, and other measures taken, by the Secretary and the Chief of Engineers to implement subsection (b).

(B) An assessment of the costs, benefits, impacts, and trade-offs associated with measures recommended by the Secretary for coastal risk reduction and the effectiveness of those measures.

(C) A description of any statutory, fiscal, or regulatory barriers to the appropriate consideration and use of a full array of measures for coastal risk reduction.

SEC. 1185. TABLE ROCK LAKE, ARKANSAS AND MISSOURI.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary—

(1) shall include a 60-day public comment period for the Table Rock Lake Master Plan and Table Rock Lake Shoreline Management Plan revision; and

(2) shall finalize the revision for the Table Rock Lake Master Plan and Table Rock Lake Shoreline Management Plan during the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) SHORELINE USE PERMITS.—During the period described in subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall lift or suspend the moratorium on the issuance of new, and modifications to existing, shoreline use permits based on the existing Table Rock Lake Master Plan and Table Rock Lake Shoreline Management Plan.

(c) OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish an oversight committee (referred to in this subsection as the “Committee”).

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Committee shall be—

(A) to review any permit to be issued under the existing Table Rock Lake Master Plan at the recommendation of the District Engineer; and

(B) to advise the District Engineer on revisions to the new Table Rock Lake Master Plan and Table Rock Lake Shoreline Management Plan.

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of the Committee shall not exceed 6 members and shall include—

(A) not more than 1 representative each from the State of Missouri and the State of Arkansas;

(B) not more than 1 representative each from local economic development organizations with jurisdiction over Table Rock Lake; and

(C) not more than 1 representative each representing the boating and conservation interests of Table Rock Lake.

(4) STUDY.—The Secretary shall—

(A) carry out a study on the need to revise permit fees relating to Table Rock Lake to better reflect the cost of issuing those permits and achieve cost savings;

(B) submit to Congress a report on the results of the study described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) begin implementation of a new permit fee structure based on the findings of the study described in subparagraph (A).

SEC. 1186. RURAL WESTERN WATER.

Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-53; 113 Stat. 383; 128 Stat. 1316) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i);

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) ELIGIBILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Assistance under this section shall be made available to all eligible States and locales described in subsection (b) consistent with program priorities determined by the Secretary in accordance with criteria devel-

oped by the Secretary to establish the program priorities.

“(2) SELECTION OF PROJECTS.—In selecting projects for assistance under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to a project located in an eligible State or local entity for which the project sponsor is prepared to—

“(A) execute a new or amended project cooperation agreement; and

“(B) commence promptly after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

“(3) RURAL PROJECTS.—The Secretary shall consider a project authorized under this section and an environmental infrastructure project authorized under section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-580; 106 Stat. 4835) for new starts on the same basis as any other similarly funded project.”; and

(3) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) by striking “which shall—” and all that follows through “remain” and inserting “to remain”.

SEC. 1187. INTERSTATE COMPACTS.

Section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b) is amended by striking subsection (f).

SEC. 1188. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) State water quality standards that impact the disposal of dredged material should be developed collaboratively, with input from all relevant stakeholders;

(2) open-water disposal of dredged material should be reduced to the maximum extent practicable; and

(3) where practicable, the preference is for disputes between States related to the disposal of dredged material and the protection of water quality to be resolved between the States in accordance with regional plans and with the involvement of regional bodies.

SEC. 1189. DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL.

Disposal of dredged material shall not be considered environmentally acceptable for the purposes of identifying the Federal standard (as defined in section 335.7 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)) if the disposal violates applicable State water quality standards approved by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under section 303 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313).

Subtitle B—Studies

SEC. 1201. AUTHORIZATION OF PROPOSED FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

The Secretary is authorized to conduct a feasibility study for the following projects for water resources development and conservation and other purposes, as identified in the reports titled “Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development” submitted to Congress on January 29, 2015, and January 29, 2016, respectively, pursuant to section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d) or otherwise reviewed by Congress:

(1) OUACHITA-BLACK RIVERS, ARKANSAS AND LOUISIANA.—Project for navigation, Ouachita-Black Rivers, Arkansas and Louisiana.

(2) CACHE CREEK SETTLING BASIN, CALIFORNIA.—Project for flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, Cache Creek Settling Basin, California.

(3) COYOTE VALLEY DAM, CALIFORNIA.—Project for flood control, water conservation, and related purposes, Russian River Basin, California, authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 177), to modify the Coyote Valley Dam to add environmental restoration as a project purpose and to increase water supply and improve reservoir operations.

(4) DEL ROSA CHANNEL, CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA.—Project for flood

damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, Del Rosa Channel, city of San Bernardino, California.

(5) MERCED COUNTY STREAMS, CALIFORNIA.—Project for flood damage reduction, Merced County Streams, California.

(6) MISSION-ZANJA CHANNEL, CITIES OF SAN BERNARDINO AND REDLANDS, CALIFORNIA.—Project for flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, Mission-Zanja Channel, cities of San Bernardino and Redlands, California.

(7) SOBOBA INDIAN RESERVATION, CALIFORNIA.—Project for flood damage reduction, Soboba Indian Reservation, California.

(8) INDIAN RIVER INLET, DELAWARE.—Project for hurricane and storm damage reduction, Indian River Inlet, Delaware.

(9) LEWES BEACH, DELAWARE.—Project for hurricane and storm damage reduction, Lewes Beach, Delaware.

(10) MISPELLION COMPLEX, KENT AND SUSSEX COUNTIES, DELAWARE.—Project for hurricane and storm damage reduction, Mispillion Complex, Kent and Sussex Counties, Delaware.

(11) DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.—Project for flood damage reduction, Daytona Beach, Florida.

(12) BRUNSWICK HARBOR, GEORGIA.—Project for navigation, Brunswick Harbor, Georgia.

(13) DUBUQUE, IOWA.—Project for flood damage reduction, Dubuque, Iowa.

(14) ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LOUISIANA.—Project for flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.

(15) CATTARAUGUS CREEK, NEW YORK.—Project for flood damage reduction, Cattaraugus Creek, New York.

(16) CAYUGA INLET, ITHACA, NEW YORK.—Project for navigation and flood damage reduction, Cayuga Inlet, Ithaca, New York.

(17) DELAWARE RIVER BASIN, NEW JERSEY, NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, AND DELAWARE.—Projects for flood control, Delaware River Basin, New Jersey, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, authorized by section 408 of the Act of July 24, 1946 (60 Stat. 644, chapter 596), and section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 1182), to review operations of the projects to enhance opportunities for ecosystem restoration and water supply.

(18) SILVER CREEK, HANOVER, NEW YORK.—Project for flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, Silver Creek, Hanover, New York.

(19) STONYCREEK AND LITTLE CONEMAUGH RIVERS, PENNSYLVANIA.—Project for flood damage reduction and recreation, Stonycreek and Little Conemaugh Rivers, Pennsylvania.

(20) TIOGA-HAMMOND LAKE, PENNSYLVANIA.—Project for ecosystem restoration, Tioga-Hammond Lake, Pennsylvania.

(21) BRAZOS RIVER, FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS.—Project for flood damage reduction in the vicinity of the Brazos River, Fort Bend County, Texas.

(22) CHACON CREEK, CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS.—Project for flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and recreation, Chacon Creek, city of Laredo, Texas.

(23) CORPUS CHRISTI SHIP CHANNEL, TEXAS.—Project for navigation, Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Texas.

(24) CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS.—Project for flood damage reduction, city of El Paso, Texas.

(25) GULF INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY, BRAZORIA AND MATAGORDA COUNTIES, TEXAS.—Project for navigation and hurricane and storm damage reduction, Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Brazoria and Matagorda Counties, Texas.

(26) PORT OF BAY CITY, TEXAS.—Project for navigation, Port of Bay City, Texas.

(27) CHINCOTEAGUE ISLAND, VIRGINIA.—Project for hurricane and storm damage reduction, navigation, and ecosystem restoration, Chincoteague Island, Virginia.

(28) **BURLEY CREEK WATERSHED, KITSAP COUNTY, WASHINGTON.**—Project for flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, Burley Creek Watershed, Kitsap County, Washington.

(29) **SAVANNAH RIVER BELOW AUGUSTA, GEORGIA.**—Project for ecosystem restoration, water supply, recreation, and flood control, Savannah River below Augusta, Georgia.

(30) **JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA.**—Project for flood damage reduction, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

SEC. 1202. ADDITIONAL STUDIES.

(a) **TULSA AND WEST TULSA, ARKANSAS RIVER, OKLAHOMA.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of modifying the projects for flood risk management, Tulsa and West Tulsa, Oklahoma, authorized by section 3 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (55 Stat. 645, chapter 377).

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In carrying out the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall address project deficiencies, uncertainties, and significant data gaps, including material, construction, and subsurface, which render the project at risk of overtopping, breaching, or system failure.

(3) **PRIORITIZATION TO ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT RISKS.**—In any case in which a levee or levee system (as defined in section 9002 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3301)) is classified as Class I or II under the levee safety action classification tool developed by the Corps of Engineers, the Secretary shall expedite the project for budget consideration.

(b) **CINCINNATI, OHIO.**—

(1) **REVIEW.**—The Secretary shall review the Central Riverfront Park Master Plan, dated December 1999, and the Ohio Riverfront Study, Cincinnati, Ohio, dated August 2002, to determine the feasibility of carrying out flood risk reduction, ecosystem restoration, and recreation components beyond the ecosystem restoration and recreation components that were undertaken pursuant to section 5116 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114; 121 Stat. 1238) as a second phase of that project.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The project authorized under section 5116 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114; 121 Stat. 1238) is modified to authorize the Secretary to undertake the additional flood risk reduction and ecosystem restoration components described in paragraph (1), at a total cost of \$30,000,000, if the Secretary determines that the additional flood risk reduction, ecosystem restoration, and recreation components, considered together, are feasible.

(c) **ARCTIC DEEP DRAFT PORT DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS.**—Section 2105 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2243) is amended—

(1) by striking “(25 U.S.C. 450b)” each place it appears and inserting “(25 U.S.C. 5304) and a Native village, Regional Corporation, or Village Corporation (as those terms are defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602))”;

(2) in subsection (d) by striking “the Secretary of Homeland Security” and inserting “the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) **CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.**—In carrying out a study of the feasibility of an Arctic deep draft port, the Secretary—

“(1) shall consult with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to identify benefits in carrying out the missions specified in section 888 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468) associated with an Arctic deep draft port;

“(2) shall consult with the Secretary of Defense to identify national security benefits associated with an Arctic deep draft port; and

“(3) may consider such benefits in determining whether an Arctic deep draft port is feasible.”

(d) **MISSISSIPPI RIVER SHIP CHANNEL, GULF TO BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA.**—The Secretary shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of modifying the project for navigation, Mississippi River Ship Channel, Gulf to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, authorized by section 201(a) of the Harbor Development and Navigation Improvement Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662; 100 Stat. 4090), to deepen the channel approaches and the associated area on the left descending bank of the Mississippi River between mile 98.3 and mile 100.6 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to a depth equal to the Channel.

SEC. 1203. NORTH ATLANTIC COASTAL REGION.

Section 4009 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 128 Stat. 1316) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking “conduct a study to determine the feasibility of carrying out projects” and inserting “carry out a comprehensive assessment and management plan”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading by striking “STUDY” and inserting “ASSESSMENT AND PLAN”; and

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “study” and inserting “assessment and plan”; and

(3) in subsection (c)(1) by striking “study” and inserting “assessment and plan”.

SEC. 1204. SOUTH ATLANTIC COASTAL STUDY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall conduct a study of the coastal areas located within the geographical boundaries of the South Atlantic Division of the Corps of Engineers to identify the risks and vulnerabilities of those areas to increased hurricane and storm damage as a result of sea level rise.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In carrying out the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct a comprehensive analysis of current hurricane and storm damage reduction measures with an emphasis on regional sediment management practices to sustainably maintain or enhance current levels of storm protection;

(2) identify risks and coastal vulnerabilities in the areas affected by sea level rise;

(3) recommend measures to address the vulnerabilities described in paragraph (2); and

(4) develop a long-term strategy for—

(A) addressing increased hurricane and storm damages that result from rising sea levels; and

(B) identifying opportunities to enhance resiliency, increase sustainability, and lower risks in—

(i) populated areas;

(ii) areas of concentrated economic development; and

(iii) areas with vulnerable environmental resources.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report recommending specific and detailed actions to address the risks and vulnerabilities of the areas described in subsection (a) due to increased hurricane and storm damage as a result of sea level rise.

SEC. 1205. TEXAS COASTAL AREA.

In carrying out the comprehensive plan authorized by section 4091 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114; 121 Stat. 1187), the Secretary shall consider studies, data, and information developed by the Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District to expedite completion of the plan.

SEC. 1206. UPPER MISSISSIPPI AND ILLINOIS RIVERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall conduct a study of the riverine areas located within the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River basins to identify the risks and vulnerabilities of those areas to increased flood damages.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In carrying out the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct a comprehensive analysis of flood risk management measures to maintain or enhance current levels of protection;

(2) identify risks and vulnerabilities in the areas affected by flooding;

(3) recommend specific measures and actions to address the risks and vulnerabilities described in paragraph (2);

(4) coordinate with the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, the Governors of the States within the Upper Mississippi and Illinois River basins, the appropriate levee and drainage districts, nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties;

(5) develop basinwide hydrologic models for the Upper Mississippi River System and improve analytical methods needed to produce scientifically based recommendations for improvements to flood risk management; and

(6) develop a long-term strategy for—

(A) addressing increased flood damages; and

(B) identifying opportunities to enhance resiliency, increase sustainability, and lower risks in—

(i) populated areas;

(ii) areas of concentrated economic development; and

(iii) areas with vulnerable environmental resources.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and make publicly available a report describing the results of the study conducted under subsection (b).

SEC. 1207. KANAWHA RIVER BASIN.

The Secretary shall conduct studies to determine the feasibility of implementing projects for flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, navigation, water supply, recreation, and other water resource related purposes within the Kanawha River Basin, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina.

Subtitle C—Deauthorizations, Modifications, and Related Provisions

SEC. 1301. DEAUTHORIZATION OF INACTIVE PROJECTS.

(a) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to identify \$10,000,000,000 in water resources development projects authorized by Congress that are no longer viable for construction due to—

(A) a lack of local support;

(B) a lack of available Federal or non-Federal resources; or

(C) an authorizing purpose that is no longer relevant or feasible;

(2) to create an expedited and definitive process for Congress to deauthorize water resources development projects that are no longer viable for construction; and

(3) to allow the continued authorization of water resources development projects that are viable for construction.

(b) **INTERIM DEAUTHORIZATION LIST.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall develop an interim deauthorization list that identifies—

(A) each water resources development project, or separable element of a project, authorized for construction before November 8, 2007, for which—

(i) planning, design, or construction was not initiated before the date of enactment of this Act; or

(ii) planning, design, or construction was initiated before the date of enactment of this Act, but for which no funds, Federal or non-Federal, were obligated for planning, design, or construction of the project or separable element of the project during the current fiscal year or any of the 6 preceding fiscal years; and

(B) each project or separable element identified and included on a list to Congress for deauthorization pursuant to section 1001(b)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 579a(b)(2)).

(2) PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSULTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall solicit comments from the public and the Governors of each applicable State on the interim deauthorization list developed under paragraph (1).

(B) COMMENT PERIOD.—The public comment period shall be 90 days.

(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the close of the comment period under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

(A) submit a revised interim deauthorization list to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(B) publish the revised interim deauthorization list in the Federal Register.

(c) FINAL DEAUTHORIZATION LIST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop a final deauthorization list of water resources development projects, or separable elements of projects, from the revised interim deauthorization list described in subsection (b)(3).

(2) DEAUTHORIZATION AMOUNT.—

(A) PROPOSED FINAL LIST.—The Secretary shall prepare a proposed final deauthorization list of projects and separable elements of projects that have, in the aggregate, an estimated Federal cost to complete that is at least \$10,000,000,000.

(B) DETERMINATION OF FEDERAL COST TO COMPLETE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the Federal cost to complete shall take into account any allowances authorized by section 902 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2280), as applied to the most recent project schedule and cost estimate.

(3) IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECTS.—

(A) SEQUENCING OF PROJECTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall identify projects and separable elements of projects for inclusion on the proposed final deauthorization list according to the order in which the projects and separable elements of the projects were authorized, beginning with the earliest authorized projects and separable elements of projects and ending with the latest project or separable element of a project necessary to meet the aggregate amount under paragraph (2)(A).

(ii) FACTORS TO CONSIDER.—The Secretary may identify projects and separable elements of projects in an order other than that established by clause (i) if the Secretary determines, on a case-by-case basis, that a project or separable element of a project is critical for interests of the United States, based on the possible impact of the project or separable element of the project on public health and safety, the national economy, or the environment.

(iii) CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.—In making determinations under clause (ii), the Secretary shall consider any comments received under subsection (b)(2).

(B) APPENDIX.—The Secretary shall include as part of the proposed final deauthorization list an appendix that—

(i) identifies each project or separable element of a project on the interim deauthorization list developed under subsection (b) that is not included on the proposed final deauthorization list; and

(ii) describes the reasons why the project or separable element is not included on the proposed final list.

(4) PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSULTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall solicit comments from the public and the Governor of each applicable State on the proposed final deauthorization list and appendix developed under paragraphs (2) and (3).

(B) COMMENT PERIOD.—The public comment period shall be 90 days.

(5) SUBMISSION OF FINAL LIST TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the close of the comment period under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall—

(A) submit a final deauthorization list and an appendix to the final deauthorization list in a report to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(B) publish the final deauthorization list and the appendix to the final deauthorization list in the Federal Register.

(d) DEAUTHORIZATION; CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the expiration of the 180-day period beginning on the date of submission of the final deauthorization list and appendix under subsection (c), a project or separable element of a project identified in the final deauthorization list is hereby deauthorized, unless Congress passes a joint resolution disapproving the final deauthorization list prior to the end of such period.

(2) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A project or separable element of a project identified in the final deauthorization list under subsection (c) shall not be deauthorized under this subsection if, before the expiration of the 180-day period referred to in paragraph (1), the non-Federal interest for the project or separable element of the project provides sufficient funds to complete the project or separable element of the project.

(B) TREATMENT OF PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), each project and separable element of a project identified in the final deauthorization list shall be treated as deauthorized for purposes of the aggregate deauthorization amount specified in subsection (c)(2)(A).

(3) PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN APPENDIX.—A project or separable element of a project identified in the appendix to the final deauthorization list shall remain subject to future deauthorization by Congress.

(e) SPECIAL RULE FOR PROJECTS RECEIVING FUNDS FOR POST-AUTHORIZATION STUDY.—A project or separable element of a project may not be identified on the interim deauthorization list developed under subsection (b), or the final deauthorization list developed under subsection (c), if the project or separable element received funding for a post-authorization study during the current fiscal year or any of the 6 preceding fiscal years.

(f) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(A) POST-AUTHORIZATION STUDY.—The term “post-authorization study” means—

(i) a feasibility report developed under section 905 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2282);

(ii) a feasibility study, as defined in section 105(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2215(d)); or

(iii) a review conducted under section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (33 U.S.C. 549a), including an initial appraisal that—

(I) demonstrates a Federal interest; and

(II) requires additional analysis for the project or separable element.

(B) WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.—The term “water resources development project” includes an environmental infrastructure assistance project or program of the Corps of Engineers.

(2) TREATMENT OF PROJECT MODIFICATIONS.—For purposes of this section, if an authorized water resources development project or separable element of the project has been modified by an Act of Congress, the date of the authorization of the project or separable element shall be deemed to be the date of the most recent modification.

(g) REPEAL.—Subsection (a) and subsections (c) through (f) of section 6001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 579b) are repealed.

SEC. 1302. BACKLOG PREVENTION.

(a) PROJECT DEAUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A water resources development project, or separable element of such a project, authorized for construction by this Act shall not be authorized after the last day of the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act unless—

(A) funds have been obligated for construction of, or a post-authorization study for, such project or separable element during that period; or

(B) the authorization contained in this Act has been modified by a subsequent Act of Congress.

(2) IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECTS.—Not later than 60 days after the expiration of the 10-year period referred to in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that identifies the projects deauthorized under paragraph (1).

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after the expiration of the 12-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and make available to the public, a report that contains—

(1) a list of any water resources development projects authorized by this Act for which construction has not been completed during that period;

(2) a description of the reasons the projects were not completed;

(3) a schedule for the completion of the projects based on expected levels of appropriations; and

(4) a 5-year and 10-year projection of construction backlog and any recommendations to Congress regarding how to mitigate current problems and the backlog.

SEC. 1303. VALDEZ, ALASKA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the portion of the project for navigation, Valdez, Alaska, identified as Tract G, Harbor Subdivision, shall not be subject to navigational servitude beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) ENTRY BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—The Federal Government may enter upon the property referred to in subsection (a) to carry out any required operation and maintenance of the general navigation features of the project referred to in subsection (a).

SEC. 1304. LOS ANGELES COUNTY DRAINAGE AREA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(1) prioritize the updating of the water control manuals for control structures for the project for flood control, Los Angeles County Drainage Area, Los Angeles County, California, authorized by section 101(b) of the Water Resources

Development Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-640; 104 Stat. 4611); and

(2) integrate and incorporate into the project seasonal operations for water conservation and water supply.

(b) PARTICIPATION.—The update referred to in subsection (a) shall be done in coordination with all appropriate Federal agencies, elected officials, and members of the public.

SEC. 1305. SUTTER BASIN, CALIFORNIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The separable element constituting the locally preferred plan increment reflected in the report of the Chief of Engineers dated March 12, 2014, and authorized for construction in item 8 of the table contained in section 7002(2) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 128 Stat. 1366) is no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—The deauthorization under subsection (a) does not affect—

(1) the national economic development plan separable element reflected in the report of the Chief of Engineers dated March 12, 2014, and authorized for construction in item 8 of the table contained in section 7002(2) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 128 Stat. 1366); or

(2) previous authorizations providing for the Sacramento River and major and minor tributaries project, including—

(A) section 2 of the Act of March 1, 1917 (39 Stat. 949, chapter 144);

(B) section 10 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 900, chapter 665);

(C) section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 177, chapter 188); and

(D) any other Acts relating to the authorization for the Sacramento River and major and minor tributaries project along the Feather River right bank between levee stationing 1483+33 and levee stationing 2368+00.

SEC. 1306. ESSEX RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS.

(a) DEAUTHORIZATION.—The portions of the project for navigation, Essex River, Massachusetts, authorized by the Act of July 13, 1892 (27 Stat. 38, chapter 158), and modified by the Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1121, chapter 425), and the Act of March 2, 1907 (34 Stat. 1073, chapter 2509), that do not lie within the areas described in subsection (b) are no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREAS.—The areas described in this subsection are as follows: Beginning at a point N3056139.82 E851780.21, thence southwesterly about 156.88 feet to a point N3055997.75 E851713.67; thence southwesterly about 64.59 feet to a point N3055959.37 E851661.72; thence southwesterly about 145.14 feet to a point N3055887.10 E851535.85; thence southwesterly about 204.91 feet to a point N3055855.12 E851333.45; thence northwesterly about 423.50 feet to a point N3055976.70 E850927.78; thence northwesterly about 58.77 feet to a point N3056002.99 E850875.21; thence northwesterly about 240.57 feet to a point N3056232.82 E850804.14; thence northwesterly about 203.60 feet to a point N3056435.41 E850783.93; thence northwesterly about 78.63 feet to a point N3056499.63 E850738.56; thence northwesterly about 60.00 feet to a point N3056526.30 E850684.81; thence southwesterly about 85.56 feet to a point N3056523.33 E850599.31; thence southwesterly about 36.20 feet to a point N3056512.37 E850564.81; thence southwesterly about 80.10 feet to a point N3056467.08 E850498.74; thence southwesterly about 169.05 feet to a point N3056334.36 E850394.03; thence northwesterly about 48.52 feet to a point N3056354.38 E850349.83; thence northeasterly about 83.71 feet to a point N3056436.35 E850366.84; thence northeasterly about 212.38 feet to a point N3056548.70 E850547.07; thence northeasterly about 47.60 feet

to a point N3056563.12 E850592.43; thence northeasterly about 101.16 feet to a point N3056566.62 E850693.53; thence southwesterly about 80.22 feet to a point N3056530.97 E850765.40; thence southwesterly about 99.29 feet to a point N3056449.88 E850822.69; thence southwesterly about 210.12 feet to a point N3056240.79 E850843.54; thence southwesterly about 219.46 feet to a point N3056031.13 E850908.38; thence southwesterly about 38.23 feet to a point N3056014.02 E850942.57; thence southwesterly about 410.93 feet to a point N3055896.06 E851336.21; thence northeasterly about 188.43 feet to a point N3055925.46 E851522.33; thence northeasterly about 135.47 feet to a point N3055992.91 E851639.80; thence northeasterly about 52.15 feet to a point N3056023.90 E851681.75; thence northwesterly about 91.57 feet to a point N3056106.82 E851720.59.

SEC. 1307. PORT OF CASCADE LOCKS, OREGON.

(a) EXTINGUISHMENT OF PORTIONS OF EXISTING FLOWAGE EASEMENT.—With respect to the properties described in subsection (b), beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the flowage easements described in subsection (c) are extinguished above elevation 82.2 feet (NGVD29), the ordinary high water line.

(b) AFFECTED PROPERTIES.—The properties described in this subsection, as recorded in Hood River County, Oregon, are as follows:

(1) Lots 3, 4, 5, and 7 of the “Port of Cascade Locks Business Park” subdivision, Instrument Number 2014-00436.

(2) Parcels 1, 2, and 3 of Hood River County Partition, Plat Number 2008-25P.

(c) FLOWAGE EASEMENTS.—The flowage easements described in this subsection are identified as Tracts 302E-1 and 304E-1 on the easement deeds recorded as instruments in Hood River County, Oregon, and described as follows:

(1) A flowage easement dated October 3, 1936, recorded December 1, 1936, book 25, page 531 (Records of Hood River County, Oregon), in favor of the United States (302E-1-Perpetual Flowage Easement from 10/5/37, 10/5/36, and 10/3/36; previously acquired as Tracts OH-36 and OH-41 and a portion of Tract OH-47).

(2) A flowage easement dated October 5, 1936, recorded October 17, 1936, book 25, page 476 (Records of Hood River County, Oregon), in favor of the United States, affecting that portion below the 94-foot contour line above main sea level (304 E1-Perpetual Flowage Easement from 8/10/37 and 10/3/36; previously acquired as Tract OH-042 and a portion of Tract OH-47).

(d) FEDERAL LIABILITIES; CULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND OTHER REGULATORY REVIEWS.—

(1) FEDERAL LIABILITY.—The United States shall not be liable for any injury caused by the extinguishment of an easement under this section.

(2) CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY ACTIONS.—Nothing in this section establishes any cultural or environmental regulation relating to the properties described in subsection (b).

(e) EFFECT ON OTHER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this section affects any remaining right or interest of the Corps of Engineers in the properties described in subsection (b).

SEC. 1308. CENTRAL DELAWARE RIVER, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

(a) AREA TO BE DECLARED NONNAVIGABLE.—Subject to subsection (c), unless the Secretary finds, after consultation with local and regional public officials (including local and regional public planning organizations), that there are substantive objections, those portions of the Delaware River, bounded by the former bulkhead and pierhead lines that were established by the Secretary of War and successors and described as follows, are declared to be nonnavigable waters of the United States:

(1) Piers 70 South through 38 South, encompassing an area bounded by the southern line of Moore Street extended to the northern line of Catherine Street extended, including the following piers: Piers 70, 68, 67, 64, 61-63, 60, 57, 55, 53, 48, 46, 40, and 38.

(2) Piers 24 North through 72 North, encompassing an area bounded by the southern line of Callowhill Street extended to the northern line of East Fletcher Street extended, including the following piers: Piers 24, 25, 27-35, 35.5, 36, 37, 38, 39, 49, 51-52, 53-57, 58-65, 66, 67, 69, 70-72, and Rivercenter.

(b) PUBLIC INTEREST DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall make the public interest determination under subsection (a) separately for each proposed project to be undertaken within the boundaries described in subsection (a), using reasonable discretion, not later than 150 days after the date of submission of appropriate plans for the proposed project.

(c) LIMITS ON APPLICABILITY.—The declaration under subsection (a) shall apply only to those parts of the areas described in subsection (a) that are or will be bulkheaded and filled or otherwise occupied by permanent structures, including marina and recreation facilities.

SEC. 1309. HUNTINGDON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(1) prioritize the updating of the master plan for the Juniata River and tributaries project, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, authorized by section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-874; 76 Stat. 1182); and

(2) ensure that alternatives for additional recreation access and development at the project are fully assessed, evaluated, and incorporated as a part of the update.

(b) PARTICIPATION.—The update referred to in subsection (a) shall be done in coordination with all appropriate Federal agencies, elected officials, and members of the public.

(c) INVENTORY.—In carrying out the update under subsection (a), the Secretary shall include an inventory of those lands that are not necessary to carry out the authorized purposes of the project.

SEC. 1310. RIVERCENTER, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

Section 38(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1988 (33 U.S.C. 59j-1(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(except 30 years from such date of enactment, in the case of the area or any part thereof described in subsection (a)(5))”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following: “Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the declaration of nonnavigability for the area described in subsection (a)(5), or any part thereof, shall not expire.”

SEC. 1311. SALT CREEK, GRAHAM, TEXAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The project for flood control, environmental restoration, and recreation, Salt Creek, Graham, Texas, authorized by section 101(a)(30) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-53; 113 Stat. 278), is no longer authorized as a Federal project beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) CERTAIN PROJECT-RELATED CLAIMS.—The non-Federal interest for the project shall hold and save the United States harmless from any claim that has arisen, or that may arise, in connection with the project.

(c) TRANSFER.—The Secretary is authorized to transfer any land acquired by the Federal Government for the project on behalf of the non-Federal interest that remains in Federal ownership on or after the date of enactment of this Act to the non-Federal interest.

(d) REVERSION.—If the Secretary determines that land transferred under subsection (c)

ceases to be owned by the public, all right, title, and interest in and to the land and improvements thereon shall revert, at the discretion of the Secretary, to the United States.

SEC. 1312. TEXAS CITY SHIP CHANNEL, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The portion of the Texas City Ship Channel, Texas City, Texas, described in subsection (b) shall not be subject to navigational servitude beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) *DESCRIPTION.*—The portion of the Texas City Ship Channel described in this subsection is a tract or parcel containing 393.53 acres (17,142,111 square feet) of land situated in the City of Texas City Survey, Abstract Number 681, and State of Texas Submerged Lands Tracts 98A and 99A, Galveston County, Texas, said 393.53 acre tract being more particularly described as follows:

(1) Beginning at the intersection of an edge of fill along Galveston Bay with the most northerly east survey line of said City of Texas City Survey, Abstract No. 681, the same being a called 375.75 acre tract patented by the State of Texas to the City of Texas City and recorded in Volume 1941, Page 750 of the Galveston County Deed Records (G.C.D.R.), from which a found U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Brass Cap stamped “R 4-3” set in the top of the Texas City Dike along the east side of Bay Street bears North 56° 14’ 32” West, a distance of 6,045.31 feet and from which a found U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Brass Cap stamped “R 4-2” set in the top of the Texas City Dike along the east side of Bay Street bears North 49° 13’ 20” West, a distance of 6,693.64 feet.

(2) Thence, over and across said State Tracts 98A and 99A and along the edge of fill along said Galveston Bay, the following 8 courses and distances:

(A) South 75° 49’ 13” East, a distance of 298.08 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(B) South 81° 16’ 26” East, a distance of 170.58 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(C) South 79° 20’ 31” East, a distance of 802.34 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(D) South 75° 57’ 32” East, a distance of 869.68 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the right.

(E) Easterly along said non-tangent curve to the right having a radius of 736.80 feet, a central angle of 24° 55’ 59”, a chord of South 68° 47’ 35” East – 318.10 feet, and an arc length of 320.63 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the left.

(F) Easterly along said non-tangent curve to the left having a radius of 373.30 feet, a central angle of 31° 57’ 42”, a chord of South 66° 10’ 42” East – 205.55 feet, and an arc length of 208.24 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the right.

(G) Easterly along said non-tangent curve to the right having a radius of 15,450.89 feet, a central angle of 02° 04’ 10”, a chord of South 81° 56’ 20” East – 558.04 feet, and an arc length of 558.07 feet to a point for the beginning of a compound curve to the right and the northeasterly corner of the tract herein described.

(H) Southerly along said compound curve to the right and the easterly line of the tract herein described, having a radius of 1,425.00 feet, a central angle of 133° 08’ 00”, a chord of South 14° 20’ 15” East – 2,614.94 feet, and an arc length of 3,311.15 feet to a point on a line lying 125.00 feet northerly of and parallel with the centerline of an existing levee for the southeasterly corner of the tract herein described.

(3) Thence, continuing over and across said State Tracts 98A and 99A and along lines lying 125.00 feet northerly of, parallel, and concentric

with the centerline of said existing levee, the following 12 courses and distances:

(A) North 78° 01’ 58” West, a distance of 840.90 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(B) North 76° 58’ 35” West, a distance of 976.66 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(C) North 76° 44’ 33” West, a distance of 1,757.03 feet to a point for the beginning of a tangent curve to the left.

(D) Southwesterly, along said tangent curve to the left having a radius of 185.00 feet, a central angle of 82° 27’ 32”, a chord of South 62° 01’ 41” West – 243.86 feet, and an arc length of 266.25 feet to a point for the beginning of a compound curve to the left.

(E) Southerly, along said compound curve to the left having a radius of 4,535.58 feet, a central angle of 11° 06’ 58”, a chord of South 15° 14’ 26” West – 878.59 feet, and an arc length of 879.97 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(F) South 64° 37’ 11” West, a distance of 146.03 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(G) South 67° 08’ 21” West, a distance of 194.42 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(H) North 34° 48’ 22” West, a distance of 789.69 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(I) South 42° 47’ 10” West, a distance of 161.01 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(J) South 42° 47’ 10” West, a distance of 144.66 feet to a point for the beginning of a tangent curve to the right.

(K) Westerly, along said tangent curve to the right having a radius of 310.00 feet, a central angle of 59° 50’ 28”, a chord of South 72° 42’ 24” West – 309.26 feet, and an arc length of 323.77 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(L) North 77° 22’ 21” West, a distance of 591.41 feet to the intersection of said parallel line with the edge of fill adjacent to the easterly edge of the Texas City Turning Basin for the southwesterly corner of the tract herein described, from which a found U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Brass Cap stamped “SWAN 2” set in the top of a concrete column set flush in the ground along the north bank of Swan Lake bears South 20° 51’ 58” West, a distance of 4,862.67 feet.

(4) Thence, over and across said City of Texas City Survey and along the edge of fill adjacent to the easterly edge of said Texas City Turning Basin, the following 18 courses and distances:

(A) North 01° 34’ 19” East, a distance of 57.40 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(B) North 05° 02’ 13” West, a distance of 161.85 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(C) North 06° 01’ 56” East, a distance of 297.75 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(D) North 06° 18’ 07” West, a distance of 71.33 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(E) North 07° 21’ 09” West, a distance of 122.45 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(F) North 26° 41’ 15” West, a distance of 46.02 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(G) North 01° 31’ 59” West, a distance of 219.78 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(H) North 15° 54’ 07” West, a distance of 104.89 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(I) North 04° 00’ 34” East, a distance of 72.94 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(J) North 06° 46’ 38” West, a distance of 78.89 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(K) North 12° 07’ 59” West, a distance of 182.79 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(L) North 20° 50’ 47” West, a distance of 105.74 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(M) North 02° 02’ 04” West, a distance of 184.50 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(N) North 08° 07’ 11” East, a distance of 102.23 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(O) North 08° 16’ 00” West, a distance of 213.45 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(P) North 03° 15’ 16” West, a distance of 336.45 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the left.

(Q) Northerly along said non-tangent curve to the left having a radius of 896.08 feet, a central angle of 14° 00’ 05”, a chord of North 09° 36’ 03” West – 218.43 feet, and an arc length of 218.97 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the right.

(R) Northerly along said non-tangent curve to the right having a radius of 483.33 feet, a central angle of 19° 13’ 34”, a chord of North 13° 52’ 03” East – 161.43 feet, and an arc length of 162.18 feet to a point for the northwesterly corner of the tract herein described.

(5) Thence, continuing over and across said City of Texas City Survey, and along the edge of fill along said Galveston Bay, the following 15 courses and distances:

(A) North 30° 45’ 02” East, a distance of 189.03 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(B) North 34° 20’ 49” East, a distance of 174.16 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the right.

(C) Northeasterly along said non-tangent curve to the right having a radius of 202.01 feet, a central angle of 25° 53’ 37”, a chord of North 33° 14’ 58” East – 90.52 feet, and an arc length of 91.29 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the left.

(D) Northeasterly along said non-tangent curve to the left having a radius of 463.30 feet, a central angle of 23° 23’ 57”, a chord of North 48° 02’ 53” East – 187.90 feet, and an arc length of 189.21 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the right.

(E) Northeasterly along said non-tangent curve to the right having a radius of 768.99 feet, a central angle of 16° 24’ 19”, a chord of North 43° 01’ 40” East – 219.43 feet, and an arc length of 220.18 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(F) North 38° 56’ 50” East, a distance of 126.41 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(G) North 42° 59’ 50” East, a distance of 128.28 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the right.

(H) Northerly along said non-tangent curve to the right having a radius of 151.96 feet, a central angle of 68° 36’ 31”, a chord of North 57° 59’ 42” East – 171.29 feet, and an arc length of 181.96 feet to a point for the most northerly corner of the tract herein described.

(I) South 77° 14’ 49” East, a distance of 131.60 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(J) South 84° 44’ 18” East, a distance of 86.58 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(K) South 58° 14’ 45” East, a distance of 69.62 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(L) South 49° 44’ 51” East, a distance of 149.00 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(M) South 44° 47' 21" East, a distance of 353.77 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the left.

(N) Easterly along said non-tangent curve to the left having a radius of 253.99 feet, a central angle of 98° 53' 23", a chord of South 83° 28' 51" East — 385.96 feet, and an arc length of 438.38 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(O) South 75° 49' 13" East, a distance of 321.52 feet to the point of beginning and containing 393.53 acres (17,142,111 square feet) of land.

SEC. 1313. STONINGTON HARBOUR, CONNECTICUT.

The portion of the project for navigation, Stonington Harbour, Connecticut, authorized by the Act of May 23, 1828 (4 Stat. 288, chapter 73), that consists of the inner stone breakwater that begins at coordinates N. 682,146.42, E. 1231,378.69, running north 83.587 degrees west 166.79' to a point N. 682,165.05, E. 1,231,212.94, running north 69.209 degrees west 380.89' to a point N. 682,300.25, E. 1,230,856.86, is no longer authorized as a Federal project beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1314. RED RIVER BELOW DENISON DAM, TEXAS, OKLAHOMA, ARKANSAS, AND LOUISIANA.

The portion of the project for flood control with respect to the Red River below Denison Dam, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana, authorized by section 10 of the Flood Control Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 647, chapter 596), consisting of the portion of the West Agurs Levee that begins at lat. 32° 32' 50.86" N., by long. 93° 46' 16.82" W., and ends at lat. 32° 31' 22.79" N., by long. 93° 45' 2.47" W., is no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1315. GREEN RIVER AND BARREN RIVER, KENTUCKY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, commercial navigation at the locks and dams identified in the report of the Chief of Engineers entitled "Green River Locks and Dams 3, 4, 5, and 6 and Barren River Lock and Dam 1, Kentucky" and dated April 30, 2015, shall no longer be authorized, and the land and improvements associated with the locks and dams shall be disposed of—

- (1) consistent with this section; and
- (2) subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary and appropriate in the public interest.

(b) DISPOSITION.—

(1) GREEN RIVER LOCK AND DAM 3.—The Secretary shall convey to the Rochester Dam Regional Water Commission all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land associated with Green River Lock and Dam 3, located in Ohio County and Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, together with any improvements on the land.

(2) GREEN RIVER LOCK AND DAM 4.—The Secretary shall convey to Butler County, Kentucky, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land associated with Green River Lock and Dam 4, located in Butler County, Kentucky, together with any improvements on the land.

(3) GREEN RIVER LOCK AND DAM 5.—The Secretary shall convey to the State of Kentucky, a political subdivision of the State of Kentucky, or a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land associated with Green River Lock and Dam 5, located in Edmonson County, Kentucky, together with any improvements on the land, for the purposes of—

(A) removing Lock and Dam 5 from the river at the earliest feasible time; and

(B) making the land available for conservation and public recreation, including river access.

(4) GREEN RIVER LOCK AND DAM 6.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall transfer to the Secretary of the Interior administrative jurisdiction over the portion of the land associated with Green River Lock and Dam 6, Edmonson County, Kentucky, that is located on the left descending bank of the Green River, together with any improvements on the land, for inclusion in Mammoth Cave National Park.

(B) TRANSFER TO THE STATE OF KENTUCKY.—The Secretary shall convey to the State of Kentucky all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the portion of the land associated with Green River Lock and Dam 6, Edmonson County, Kentucky, that is located on the right descending bank of the Green River, together with any improvements on the land, for use by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources of the State of Kentucky for the purposes of—

(i) removing Lock and Dam 6 from the river at the earliest feasible time; and

(ii) making the land available for conservation and public recreation, including river access.

(5) BARREN RIVER LOCK AND DAM 1.—The Secretary shall convey to the State of Kentucky, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land associated with Barren River Lock and Dam 1, located in Warren County, Kentucky, together with any improvements on the land, for use by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources of the State of Kentucky for the purposes of—

(A) removing Lock and Dam 1 from the river at the earliest feasible time; and

(B) making the land available for conservation and public recreation, including river access.

(c) CONDITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The exact acreage and legal description of any land to be disposed of, transferred, or conveyed under this section shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(2) QUITCLAIM DEED.—A conveyance under paragraph (1), (2), (4), or (5) of subsection (b) shall be accomplished by quitclaim deed and without consideration.

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary shall be responsible for all administrative costs associated with a transfer or conveyance under this section, including the costs of a survey carried out under paragraph (1).

(4) REVERSION.—If the Secretary determines that the land conveyed under this section is not used by a non-Federal entity for a purpose that is consistent with the purpose of the conveyance, all right, title, and interest in and to the land, including any improvements on the land, shall revert, at the discretion of the Secretary, to the United States, and the United States shall have the right of immediate entry onto the land.

SEC. 1316. HANNIBAL SMALL BOAT HARBOR, HANNIBAL, MISSOURI.

The project for navigation at Hannibal Small Boat Harbor on the Mississippi River, Hannibal, Missouri, authorized by section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 166, chapter 188), is no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, and any maintenance requirements associated with the project are terminated.

SEC. 1317. LAND TRANSFER AND TRUST LAND FOR MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION.

(a) TRANSFER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2) and for the consideration described in subsection (c), the Secretary shall transfer to the Secretary of the Interior the land described in subsection (b) to be held in trust for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

(2) CONDITIONS.—The land transfer under this subsection shall be subject to the following conditions:

(A) The transfer—

(i) shall not interfere with the Corps of Engineers operation of the Eufaula Lake Project or any other authorized civil works project; and

(ii) shall be subject to such other terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary and appropriate to ensure the continued operation of the Eufaula Lake Project or any other authorized civil works project.

(B) The Secretary shall retain the right to inundate with water the land transferred to the Secretary of the Interior under this subsection as necessary to carry out an authorized purpose of the Eufaula Lake Project or any other civil works project.

(C) No gaming activities may be conducted on the land transferred under this subsection.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The land to be transferred pursuant to subsection (a) is the approximately 18.38 acres of land located in the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of sec. 3, T. 10 N., R. 16 E., McIntosh County, Oklahoma, generally depicted as "USACE" on the map entitled "Muscogee (Creek) Nation Proposed Land Acquisition" and dated October 16, 2014.

(2) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the land to be transferred under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—The Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall pay—

(1) to the Secretary an amount that is equal to the fair market value of the land transferred under subsection (a), as determined by the Secretary, which funds may be accepted and expended by the Secretary; and

(2) all costs and administrative expenses associated with the transfer of land under subsection (a), including the costs of—

(A) the survey under subsection (b)(2);

(B) compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(C) any coordination necessary with respect to requirements related to endangered species, cultural resources, clean water, and clean air.

SEC. 1318. CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS.

(a) RELEASE.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall execute and file in the appropriate office a deed of release, amended deed, or other appropriate instrument effectuating the release of the interests of the United States in certain tracts of land located in Cameron County, Texas, as described in subsection (d).

(b) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require that any release under this section be subject to such additional terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate and necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

(c) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The Brownsville Navigation District shall be responsible for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation costs, associated with the releases.

(d) DESCRIPTION.—The Secretary shall release all or portions of the interests in the following tracts as determined by a survey to be paid for by the Brownsville Navigation District, that is satisfactory to the Secretary:

(1) Tract No. 1: Being 1,277.80 Acres as conveyed by the Brownsville Navigation District of Cameron County, Texas, to the United States of America by instrument dated September 22, 1932, and recorded at Volume 238, pages 578 through 580, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except approximately 361.03 Acres, comprised of the area designated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as required for the project known as Brazos Island Harbor

Deepening, and further save and except approximately 165.56 Acres for the existing Dredged Material Placement Area No. 4A1.

(2) Tract No. 2: Being 842.28 Acres as condemned by the United States of America by the Final Report of Commissioners dated May 6, 1938, and recorded at Volume 281, pages 486 through 488, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except approximately 178.15 Acres comprised of a strip 562 feet in width, being the area designated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as required for the project known as Brazos Island Harbor Deepening, further save and except approximately 76.95 Acres for the existing Dredged Material Placement Area No. 4A1, and further save and except approximately 74.40 Acres for the existing Dredged Material Placement Area No. 4B1.

(3) Tract No. 3: Being 362.00 Acres as conveyed by the Manufacturing and Distributing University to the United States of America by instrument dated March 3, 1936, and recorded at Volume "R", page 123, in the Miscellaneous Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety.

(4) Tract No. 4: Being 9.48 Acres as conveyed by the Brownsville Navigation District of Cameron County, Texas, to the United States of America by instrument dated January 23, 1939, and recorded at Volume 293, pages 115 through 118, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas (said 9.48 Acres are identified in said instrument as the "Second Tract"), to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except approximately 1.97 Acres, comprised of the area designated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as required for the project known as Brazos Island Harbor Deepening, plus 5.0 feet.

(5) Tract No. 5: Being 10.91 Acres as conveyed by the Brownsville Navigation District of Cameron County, Texas, by instrument dated March 6, 1939, and recorded at Volume 293, pages 113 through 115, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas (said 10.91 Acres are identified in said instrument as "Third Tract"), to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except approximately 0.36 Acre, comprised of the area designated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as required for the project known as Brazos Island Harbor Deepening.

(6) Tract No. 9: Being 552.82 Acres as condemned by the United States of America by the Final Report of Commissioners dated May 6, 1938, and recorded at Volume 281, pages 483 through 486, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except approximately 84.59 Acres, comprised of the area designated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as required for the project known as Brazos Island Harbor Deepening.

(7) Tract No. 10: Being 325.02 Acres as condemned by the United States of America by the Final Report of Commissioners dated May 7, 1935, and recorded at Volume 281, pages 476 through 483, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except approximately 76.81 Acres, comprised of the area designated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as required for the project known as Brazos Island Harbor Deepening.

(8) Tract No. 11: Being 8.85 Acres in as conveyed by the Brownsville Navigation District of Cameron County, Texas, to the United States of America by instrument dated January 23, 1939, and recorded at Volume 293, Pages 115 through 118, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas (said 8.85 Acres are identified in said instrument as the "First Tract"), to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except approximately 0.30 Acres, comprised of the area within the project known as Brazos Island Harbor Deepening, plus 5.0 feet.

(9) Tract No. A100E: Being 13.63 Acres in as conveyed by the Brownsville Navigation District of Cameron County, Texas, to the United States of America by instrument dated September 30, 1947, and recorded at Volume 427, page 1 through 4 in the Deed Records of Cameron County, to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except approximately 6.60 Acres, comprised of the area designated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as required for the existing project known as Brazos Island Harbor, plus 5.0 feet.

(10) Tract No. 122E: Being 31.4 Acres as conveyed by the Brownsville Navigation District of Cameron County, Texas, to the United States of America by instrument dated December 11, 1963 and recorded at Volume 756, page 393 in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except approximately 4.18 Acres in Share 31 of the Espiritu Santo Grant in Cameron County, Texas, and further save and except approximately 2.04 Acres in Share 7 of the San Martin Grant in Cameron County, Texas, being portions of the area designated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as required for the current project known as Brazos Island Harbor, plus 5.0 feet.

SEC. 1319. NEW SAVANNAH BLUFF LOCK AND DAM, GEORGIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) NEW SAVANNAH BLUFF LOCK AND DAM.—The term "New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam" means—

(A) the lock and dam at New Savannah Bluff, Savannah River, Georgia and South Carolina; and

(B) the appurtenant features to the lock and dam, including—

(i) the adjacent approximately 50-acre park and recreation area with improvements made under the project for navigation, Savannah River below Augusta, Georgia, authorized by the first section of the Act of July 3, 1930 (46 Stat. 924), and the first section of the Act of August 30, 1935 (49 Stat. 1032); and

(ii) other land that is part of the project and that the Secretary determines to be appropriate for conveyance under this section.

(2) PROJECT.—The term "Project" means the project for navigation, Savannah Harbor expansion, Georgia, authorized by section 7002(1) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 128 Stat. 1364).

(b) DEAUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning on the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam is deauthorized; and

(B) notwithstanding section 348(l)(2)(B) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-541; 114 Stat. 2630; 114 Stat. 2763A-228) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) or any other provision of law, the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam shall not be conveyed to the city of North Augusta and Aiken County, South Carolina, or any other non-Federal entity.

(2) REPEAL.—Section 348 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-541; 114 Stat. 2630; 114 Stat. 2763A-228) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (l); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (m) and (n) as subsections (l) and (m), respectively.

(c) PROJECT MODIFICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Project is modified to include, as the Secretary determines to be necessary—

(A)(i) repair of the lock wall of the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam and modification of the structure such that the structure is able—

(I) to maintain the pool for navigation, water supply, and recreational activities, as in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(II) to allow safe passage over the structure to historic spawning grounds of shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, and other migratory fish; or

(ii)(I) construction at an appropriate location across the Savannah River of a structure that is able to maintain the pool for water supply and recreational activities, as in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(II) removal of the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam on completion of construction of the structure; and

(B) conveyance by the Secretary to Augusta-Richmond County, Georgia, of the park and recreation area adjacent to the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam, without consideration.

(2) NON-FEDERAL COST SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of any Project feature constructed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be not greater than the share as provided by section 7002(1) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 128 Stat. 1364) for the most cost-effective fish passage structure.

(3) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.—The Federal share of the costs of operation and maintenance of any Project feature constructed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be consistent with the cost sharing of the Project as provided by law.

SEC. 1320. HAMILTON CITY, CALIFORNIA.

Section 1001(8) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1050) is modified to authorize the Secretary to construct the project at a total cost of \$91,000,000, with an estimated Federal cost of \$59,735,061 and an estimated non-Federal cost of \$31,264,939.

SEC. 1321. CONVEYANCES.

(a) PEARL RIVER, MISSISSIPPI AND LOUISIANA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The project for navigation, Pearl River, Mississippi and Louisiana, authorized by the first section of the Act of August 30, 1935 (49 Stat. 1033, chapter 831), and section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-789; 80 Stat. 1405), is no longer authorized as a Federal project beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) TRANSFER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Secretary is authorized to convey to a State or local interest, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to—

(i) any land in which the Federal Government has a property interest for the project described in paragraph (1); and

(ii) improvements to the land described in clause (i).

(B) RESPONSIBILITY FOR COSTS.—The transferee shall be responsible for the payment of all costs and administrative expenses associated with any transfer carried out pursuant to subparagraph (A), including costs associated with any land survey required to determine the exact acreage and legal description of the land and improvements to be transferred.

(C) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A transfer under subparagraph (A) shall be subject to such other terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary and appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(3) REVERSION.—If the Secretary determines that the land and improvements conveyed under paragraph (2) cease to be owned by the public, all right, title, and interest in and to the land and improvements shall revert, at the discretion of the Secretary, to the United States.

(b) SARDIS LAKE, MISSISSIPPI.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to convey to the lessee, at full fair market value,

all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property identified in the leases numbered DACW38-1-15-7, DACW38-1-15-33, DACW38-1-15-34, and DACW38-1-15-38, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary and appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(2) **EASEMENT AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANT.**—The conveyance under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a restrictive covenant to require the approval of the Secretary for any substantial change in the use of the property; and

(B) a flowage easement.

(c) **PENSACOLA DAM AND RESERVOIR, GRAND RIVER, OKLAHOMA.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding the Act of June 28, 1938 (52 Stat. 1215, chapter 795), as amended by section 3 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (55 Stat. 645, chapter 377), and notwithstanding section 3 of the Act of July 31, 1946 (60 Stat. 744, chapter 710), the Secretary shall convey, by quitclaim deed and without consideration, to the Grand River Dam Authority, an agency of the State of Oklahoma, for flood control purposes, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to real property under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary acquired in connection with the Pensacola Dam project, together with any improvements on the property.

(2) **FLOOD CONTROL PURPOSES.**—If any interest in the real property described in paragraph (1) ceases to be managed for flood control or other public purposes and is conveyed to a non-public entity, the transferee, as part of the conveyance, shall pay to the United States the fair market value for the interest.

(3) **NO EFFECT.**—Nothing in this subsection—

(A) amends, modifies, or repeals any existing authority vested in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; or

(B) amends, modifies, or repeals any authority of the Secretary or the Chief of Engineers pursuant to section 7 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (33 U.S.C. 709).

(d) **JOE POOL LAKE, TEXAS.**—The Secretary shall accept from the Trinity River Authority of Texas, if received on or before December 31, 2016, \$31,344,841 as payment in full of amounts owed to the United States, including any accrued interest, for the approximately 61,747.1 acre-feet of water supply storage space in Joe Pool Lake, Texas (previously known as Lakeview Lake), for which payment has not commenced under Article 5.a (relating to project investment costs) of contract number DACW63-76-C-0106 as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1322. EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1011 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2341a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(C) by inserting “restore or” before “prevent the loss”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A)(ii) by striking “that—” and all that follows through “limited reevaluation report”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(C) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated) by striking “For” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED PROGRAMMATIC AUTHORITIES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that contains—

“(A) a list of all programmatic authorities for aquatic ecosystem restoration or improvement of the environment that—

“(i) were authorized or modified in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114; 121 Stat. 1041) or any subsequent Act; and

“(ii) that meet the criteria described in paragraph (1); and

“(B) a plan for expeditiously completing the projects under the authorities described in subparagraph (A), subject to available funding.”.

(b) **EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.**—

(1) **EXPEDITED COMPLETION OF FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION AND FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.**—For authorized projects with a primary purpose of flood damage reduction and flood risk management, the Secretary shall provide priority funding for and expedite the completion of the following projects:

(A) Chicagoland Underflow Plan, Illinois, including stage 2 of the McCook Reservoir, as authorized by section 3(a)(5) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-676; 102 Stat. 4013) and modified by section 319 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-303; 110 Stat. 3715) and section 501(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-53; 113 Stat. 334).

(B) Cedar River, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as authorized by section 7002(2)(3) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 128 Stat. 1366).

(C) Comite River, Louisiana, authorized as part of the project for flood control, Amite River and Tributaries, Louisiana, by section 101(11) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-580; 106 Stat. 4802) and modified by section 301(b)(5) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-303; 110 Stat. 3709) and section 371 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-53; 113 Stat. 321).

(D) Amite River and Tributaries, Louisiana, East Baton Rouge Parish Watershed, as authorized by section 101(a)(21) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-53; 113 Stat. 277) and modified by section 116 of title I of division D of Public Law 108-7 (117 Stat. 140) and section 3074 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114; 121 Stat. 1124).

(E) The projects described in paragraphs (29) through (33) of section 212(e) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (33 U.S.C. 2332(e)).

(2) **EXPEDITED COMPLETION OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES.**—The Secretary shall give priority funding and expedite completion of the reports for the following projects, and, if the Secretary determines that a project is justified in the completed report, proceed directly to project preconstruction, engineering, and design in accordance with section 910 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2287):

(A) The project for navigation, St. George Harbor, Alaska.

(B) The project for flood risk management, Rahway River Basin, New Jersey.

(C) The Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Project.

(D) The project for navigation, Mobile Harbor, Alabama.

(E) The project for flood risk management, Little Colorado River at Winslow, Navajo County, Arizona.

(F) The project for flood risk management, Lower San Joaquin River, California. In carrying out the feasibility study for the project, the Secretary shall include Reclamation District 17 as part of the study.

(G) The project for flood risk management and ecosystem restoration, Sacramento River Flood Control System, California.

(H) The project for hurricane and storm damage risk reduction, Ft. Pierce, Florida.

(I) The project for flood risk management, Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers, Iowa.

(J) The project for navigation, Mississippi River Ship Channel, Louisiana.

(K) The project for flood risk management, North Branch Ecourse Creek, Wayne County, Michigan.

(3) **EXPEDITED COMPLETION OF POST-AUTHORIZATION CHANGE REPORT.**—The Secretary shall provide priority funding for, and expedite completion of, a post-authorization change report for the project for hurricane and storm damage risk reduction, New Hanover County, North Carolina.

(4) **COMPLETION OF PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.**—The Secretary shall expedite review and decision on recommendations for the following projects for flood damage reduction and flood risk management:

(A) Pearl River Basin, Mississippi, authorized by section 401(e)(3) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662; 100 Stat. 4132), as modified by section 3104 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114; 121 Stat. 1134), submitted to the Secretary under section 211 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 701b-13) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 128 Stat. 1193)).

(B) Brays Bayou, Texas, authorized by section 101(a)(21) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-640; 104 Stat. 4610), as modified by section 211(f)(6) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 701b-13(f)(6)) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 128 Stat. 1193)).

Subtitle D—Water Resources Infrastructure

SEC. 1401. PROJECT AUTHORIZATIONS.

The following projects for water resources development and conservation and other purposes, as identified in the reports titled “Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development” submitted to Congress on January 29, 2015, and January 29, 2016, respectively, pursuant to section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d) or otherwise reviewed by Congress, are authorized to be carried out by the Secretary substantially in accordance with the plans, and subject to the conditions, described in the respective reports designated in this section:

(1) **NAVIGATION.**—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. TX	Brazos Island Harbor	Nov. 3, 2014	Federal: \$121,023,000 Non-Federal: \$89,453,000 Total: \$210,476,000
2. LA	Calcasieu Lock	Dec. 2, 2014	Total: \$17,432,000 (to be derived 1/2 from the general fund of the Treasury and 1/2 from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund)
3. NH, ME	Portsmouth Harbor and Piscataqua River	Feb. 8, 2015	Federal: \$16,015,000 Non-Federal: \$5,338,000 Total: \$21,353,000
4. FL	Port Everglades	Jun. 25, 2015	Federal: \$229,770,000 Non-Federal: \$107,233,000 Total: \$337,003,000
5. AK	Little Diomed Harbor	Aug. 10, 2015	Federal: \$26,394,000 Non-Federal: \$2,933,000 Total: \$29,327,000
6. SC	Charleston Harbor	Sep. 8, 2015	Federal: \$231,239,000 Non-Federal: \$271,454,000 Total: \$502,693,000
7. AK	Craig Harbor	Mar. 16, 2016	Federal: \$29,456,000 Non-Federal: \$3,299,000 Total: \$32,755,000
8. PA	Upper Ohio	Sep. 12, 2016	Total: \$2,691,600,000 (to be derived 1/2 from the general fund of the Treasury and 1/2 from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund).

(2) FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. TX	Leon Creek Watershed	Jun. 30, 2014	Federal: \$22,145,000 Non-Federal: \$11,925,000 Total: \$34,070,000
2. MO, KS	Armourdale and Central Industrial District Levee Units, Missouri River and Tributaries at Kansas City	Jan. 27, 2015	Federal: \$213,271,500 Non-Federal: \$114,838,500 Total: \$328,110,000
3. KS	City of Manhattan	Apr. 30, 2015	Federal: \$16,151,000 Non-Federal: \$8,697,000 Total: \$24,848,000
4. TN	Mill Creek	Oct. 16, 2015	Federal: \$17,950,000 Non-Federal: \$10,860,000 Total: \$28,810,000
5. KS	Upper Turkey Creek Basin	Dec. 22, 2015	Federal: \$25,610,000 Non-Federal: \$13,790,000 Total: \$39,400,000
6. NC	Princeville	Feb. 23, 2016	Federal: \$14,080,000 Non-Federal: \$7,582,000 Total: \$21,662,000
7. CA	American River Common Features	Apr. 26, 2016	Federal: \$890,046,900 Non-Federal: \$705,714,100 Total: \$1,595,761,000
8. CA	West Sacramento	Apr. 26, 2016	Federal: \$788,861,000 Non-Federal: \$424,772,000 Total: \$1,213,633,000.

(3) HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE RISK REDUCTION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Initial Costs and Estimated Renourishment Costs
1. SC	Colleton County	Sep. 5, 2014	Initial Federal: \$14,448,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$7,780,000 Initial Total: \$22,228,000 Renourishment Federal: \$17,491,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$17,491,000 Renourishment Total: \$34,982,000
2. FL	Flagler County	Dec. 23, 2014	Initial Federal: \$9,561,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$5,149,000 Initial Total: \$14,710,000 Renourishment Federal: \$15,814,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$15,815,000 Renourishment Total: \$31,629,000
3. NC	Carteret County	Dec. 23, 2014	Initial Federal: \$25,468,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$13,714,000 Initial Total: \$39,182,000 Renourishment Federal: \$120,428,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$120,429,000 Renourishment Total: \$240,857,000
4. NJ	Hereford Inlet to Cape May Inlet, Cape May County	Jan. 23, 2015	Initial Federal: \$14,823,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$7,981,000 Initial Total: \$22,804,000 Renourishment Federal: \$43,501,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$43,501,000 Renourishment Total: \$87,002,000
5. LA	West Shore Lake Pontchartrain	Jun. 12, 2015	Federal: \$483,496,650 Non-Federal: \$260,344,350 Total: \$743,841,000
6. CA	San Diego County	Apr. 26, 2016	Initial Federal: \$20,953,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$11,282,000 Initial Total: \$32,235,000 Renourishment Federal: \$70,785,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$70,785,000 Renourishment Total: \$141,570,000.

(4) ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. FL	Central Everglades	Dec. 23, 2014	Federal: \$993,131,000 Non-Federal: \$991,544,000 Total: \$1,984,675,000
2. WA	Skokomish River	Dec. 14, 2015	Federal: \$13,168,000 Non-Federal: \$7,091,000 Total: \$20,259,000
3. WA	Puget Sound	Sep. 16, 2016	Federal: \$300,009,000 Non-Federal: \$161,543,000 Total: \$461,552,000.

(5) FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. IL, WI	Upper Des Plaines River and Tributaries	Jun. 8, 2015	Federal: \$204,860,000 Non-Federal: \$110,642,000 Total: \$315,502,000.

(6) FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT, ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, AND RECREATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. CA	South San Francisco Bay Shoreline	Dec. 18, 2015	Federal: \$70,511,000 Non-Federal: \$106,689,000 Total: \$177,200,000.

(7) ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND RECREATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. OR	Willamette River	Dec. 14, 2015	Federal: \$19,531,000 Non-Federal: \$10,845,000 Total: \$30,376,000
2. CA	Los Angeles River	Dec. 18, 2015	Federal: \$373,413,500 Non-Federal: \$1,046,893,500 Total: \$1,420,307,000.

(8) HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE RISK REDUCTION AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. LA	Southwest Coastal Louisiana	Jul. 29, 2016	Federal: \$2,054,386,100 Non-Federal: \$1,106,207,900 Total: \$3,160,594,000.

(9) MODIFICATIONS AND OTHER PROJECTS.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Decision Document	D. Estimated Costs
1. TX	Upper Trinity River	May 21, 2008	Federal: \$526,500,000 Non-Federal: \$283,500,000 Total: \$810,000,000
2. KS, MO	Turkey Creek Basin	May 13, 2016	Federal: \$101,491,650 Non-Federal: \$54,649,350 Total: \$156,141,000
3. KY	Ohio River Shoreline	May 13, 2016	Federal: \$20,309,900 Non-Federal: \$10,936,100 Total: \$31,246,000
4. MO	Blue River Basin	May 13, 2016	Federal: \$36,326,250 Non-Federal: \$12,108,750 Total: \$48,435,000
5. FL	Picayune Strand	Jul. 15, 2016	Federal: \$313,166,000 Non-Federal: \$313,166,000 Total: \$626,332,000
6. MO	Swope Park Industrial Area, Blue River	Jul. 15, 2016	Federal: \$21,033,350 Non-Federal: \$11,325,650 Total: \$32,359,000
7. AZ	Rio de Flag, Flagstaff	Sep. 21, 2016	Federal: \$66,844,900 Non-Federal: \$36,039,100 Total: \$102,884,000
8. TX	Houston Ship Channel	Nov. 4, 2016	Federal: \$381,773,000 Non-Federal: \$127,425,000 Total: \$509,198,000.

SEC. 1402. SPECIAL RULES.

(a) MILL CREEK.—The portion of the project for flood risk management, Mill Creek, Tennessee, authorized by section 1401(2) of this Act that consists of measures within the Mill Creek basin shall be carried out pursuant to section

205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s).

(b) LOS ANGELES RIVER.—The Secretary shall carry out the project for ecosystem restoration and recreation, Los Angeles River, California, authorized by section 1401(7) of this Act substantially in accordance with terms and condi-

tions described in the Report of the Chief of Engineers, dated December 18, 2015, including, notwithstanding section 2008(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114; 121 Stat. 1074), the recommended cost share.

(c) UPPER TRINITY RIVER.—Not more than \$5,500,000 may be expended to carry out recreation features of the Upper Trinity River project, Texas, authorized by section 1401(9) of this Act.

TITLE II—WATER AND WASTE ACT OF 2016
SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Water and Waste Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2002. DEFINITION OF ADMINISTRATOR.

In this title, the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Subtitle A—Safe Drinking Water

SEC. 2101. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON APPROPRIATIONS LEVELS.

It is the sense of Congress that Congress should provide robust funding of capitalization grants to States to fund those States’ drinking water treatment revolving loan funds established under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12) and the State water pollution control revolving funds established under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.).

SEC. 2102. PRECONSTRUCTION WORK.

Section 1452(a)(2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the fifth sentence, by striking “Of the amount” and inserting the following:

“(F) LOAN ASSISTANCE.—Of the amount”;

(2) in the fourth sentence, by striking “The funds” and inserting the following:

“(E) ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.—The funds under this section”;

(3) in the third sentence, by striking “The funds” and inserting the following:

“(D) WATER TREATMENT LOANS.—The funds under this section”;

(4) in the second sentence, by striking “Financial assistance” and inserting the following:

“(B) LIMITATION.—Financial assistance”;

(5) in the first sentence, by striking “Except” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except”;

(6) in subparagraph (B) (as designated by paragraph (4)), by striking “(not)” and inserting “(including expenditures for planning, design, and associated preconstruction activities, including activities relating to the siting of the facility, but not”;

(7) by inserting after subparagraph (B) (as designated by paragraph (4)) the following:

“(C) SALE OF BONDS.—Funds may also be used by a public water system as a source of revenue (restricted solely to interest earnings of the applicable State loan fund) or security for payment of the principal and interest on revenue or general obligation bonds issued by the State to provide matching funds under subsection (e), if the proceeds of the sale of the bonds will be deposited in the State loan fund.”.

SEC. 2103. ADMINISTRATION OF STATE LOAN FUNDS.

Section 1452(g)(2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(g)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv), respectively, and indenting the clauses appropriately;

(2) by striking the fifth sentence and inserting the following:

“(D) ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.—Funds used under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall not be used for enforcement actions.”;

(3) in the fourth sentence, by striking “An additional” and inserting the following:

“(C) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—An additional”;

(4) by striking the third sentence;

(5) in the second sentence, by striking “For fiscal year” and inserting the following:

“(B) ADDITIONAL USE OF FUNDS.—For fiscal year”;

(6) by striking the first sentence and inserting the following:

“(A) AUTHORIZATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, a State may use the amount described in clause (ii)—

“(I) to cover the reasonable costs of administration of the programs under this section, including the recovery of reasonable costs expended to establish a State loan fund that are incurred after the date of enactment of this section; and

“(II) to provide technical assistance to public water systems within the State.

“(ii) DESCRIPTION OF AMOUNT.—The amount referred to in clause (i) is an amount equal to the sum of—

“(I) the amount of any fees collected by the State for use in accordance with clause (i)(I), regardless of the source; and

“(II) the greatest of—

“(aa) \$400,000;

“(bb) ½ percent of the current valuation of the fund; and

“(cc) an amount equal to 4 percent of all grant awards to the fund under this section for the fiscal year.”;

(7) in subparagraph (B) (as redesignated by paragraph (5))—

(A) in clause (iv) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking “1419,” and inserting “1419.”; and

(B) in the undesignated matter following clause (iv) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking “if the State” and all that follows through “State funds.”.

SEC. 2104. ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.

Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1459A. ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.

“(a) DEFINITION OF UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—In this section:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘underserved community’ means a political subdivision of a State that, as determined by the Administrator, has an inadequate system for obtaining drinking water.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘underserved community’ includes a political subdivision of a State that either, as determined by the Administrator—

“(A) does not have household drinking water or wastewater services; or

“(B) is served by a public water system that violates, or exceeds, as applicable, a requirement of a national primary drinking water regulation issued under section 1412, including—

“(i) a maximum contaminant level;

“(ii) a treatment technique; and

“(iii) an action level.

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish a program under which grants are provided to eligible entities for use in carrying out projects and activities the primary purposes of which are to assist public water systems in meeting the requirements of this title.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—Projects and activities under paragraph (1) include—

“(A) investments necessary for the public water system to comply with the requirements of this title;

“(B) assistance that directly and primarily benefits the disadvantaged community on a per-household basis; and

“(C) programs to provide household water quality testing, including testing for unregulated contaminants.

“(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An eligible entity under this section—

“(1) is—

“(A) a public water system;

“(B) a water system that is located in an area governed by an Indian Tribe; or

“(C) a State, on behalf of an underserved community; and

“(2) serves a community—

“(A) that, under affordability criteria established by the State under section 1452(d)(3), is determined by the State—

“(i) to be a disadvantaged community; or

“(ii) to be a community that may become a disadvantaged community as a result of carrying out a project or activity under subsection (b); or

“(B) with a population of less than 10,000 individuals that the Administrator determines does not have the capacity to incur debt sufficient to finance a project or activity under subsection (b).

“(d) PRIORITY.—In prioritizing projects and activities for implementation under this section, the Administrator shall give priority to projects and activities that benefit underserved communities.

“(e) LOCAL PARTICIPATION.—In prioritizing projects and activities for implementation under this section, the Administrator shall consult with and consider the priorities of States, Indian Tribes, and local governments in which communities described in subsection (c)(2) are located.

“(f) TECHNICAL, MANAGERIAL, AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITY.—The Administrator may provide assistance to increase the technical, managerial, and financial capability of an eligible entity receiving a grant under this section if the Administrator determines that the eligible entity lacks appropriate technical, managerial, or financial capability and is not receiving such assistance under another Federal program.

“(g) COST SHARING.—Before providing a grant to an eligible entity under this section, the Administrator shall enter into a binding agreement with the eligible entity to require the eligible entity—

“(1) to pay not less than 45 percent of the total costs of the project or activity, which may include services, materials, supplies, or other in-kind contributions;

“(2) to provide any land, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations necessary to carry out the project or activity; and

“(3) to pay 100 percent of any operation and maintenance costs associated with the project or activity.

“(h) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive, in whole or in part, the requirement under subsection (g)(1) if the Administrator determines that an eligible entity is unable to pay, or would experience significant financial hardship if required to pay, the non-Federal share.

“(i) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Not more than 4 percent of funds made available for grants under this section may be used to pay the administrative costs of the Administrator.

“(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.”.

SEC. 2105. REDUCING LEAD IN DRINKING WATER.

Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1459B. REDUCING LEAD IN DRINKING WATER.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a community water system;

“(B) a water system located in an area governed by an Indian Tribe;

“(C) a nontransient noncommunity water system;

“(D) a qualified nonprofit organization, as determined by the Administrator, servicing a public water system; and

“(E) a municipality or State, interstate, or intermunicipal agency.

(2) LEAD REDUCTION PROJECT.—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘lead reduction project’ means a project or activity the primary purpose of which is to reduce the concentration of lead in water for human consumption by—

“(i) replacement of publicly owned lead service lines;

“(ii) testing, planning, or other relevant activities, as determined by the Administrator, to identify and address conditions (including corrosion control) that contribute to increased concentration of lead in water for human consumption; and

“(iii) providing assistance to low-income homeowners to replace lead service lines.

“(B) **LIMITATION.**—The term ‘lead reduction project’ does not include a partial lead service line replacement if, at the conclusion of the service line replacement, drinking water is delivered to a household through a publicly or privately owned portion of a lead service line.

“(3) **LOW-INCOME.**—The term ‘low-income’, with respect to an individual provided assistance under this section, has such meaning as may be given the term by the Governor of the State in which the eligible entity is located, based upon the affordability criteria established by the State under section 1452(d)(3).

“(4) **LEAD SERVICE LINE.**—The term ‘lead service line’ means a pipe and its fittings, which are not lead free (as defined in section 1417(d)), that connect the drinking water main to the building inlet.

“(5) **NONTRANSIENT NONCOMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM.**—The term ‘nontransient noncommunity water system’ means a public water system that is not a community water system and that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons over 6 months per year.

(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Administrator shall establish a grant program to provide assistance to eligible entities for lead reduction projects in the United States.

“(2) **PRECONDITION.**—As a condition of receipt of assistance under this section, an eligible entity shall take steps to identify—

“(A) the source of lead in the public water system that is subject to human consumption; and

“(B) the means by which the proposed lead reduction project would meaningfully reduce the concentration of lead in water provided for human consumption by the applicable public water system.

“(3) **PRIORITY APPLICATION.**—In providing grants under this subsection, the Administrator shall give priority to an eligible entity that—

“(A) the Administrator determines, based on affordability criteria established by the State under section 1452(d)(3), to be a disadvantaged community; and

(B) proposes to—

“(i) carry out a lead reduction project at a public water system or nontransient noncommunity water system that has exceeded the lead action level established by the Administrator under section 1412 at any time during the 3-year period preceding the date of submission of the application of the eligible entity; or

“(ii) address lead levels in water for human consumption at a school, daycare, or other facility that primarily serves children or other vulnerable human subpopulation described in section 1458(a)(1).

(4) COST SHARING.—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), the non-Federal share of the total cost of a project funded by a grant under this subsection shall be not less than 20 percent.

“(B) **WAIVER.**—The Administrator may reduce or eliminate the non-Federal share under subparagraph (A) for reasons of affordability, as the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

(5) LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE.—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), an eligible entity may use a grant provided under this subsection to provide assistance to low-income homeowners to replace the lead service lines of such homeowners.

“(B) **LIMITATION.**—The amount of a grant provided to a low-income homeowner under this paragraph shall not exceed the standard cost of replacement of the privately owned portion of the lead service line.

“(6) **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT.**—In carrying out lead service line replacement using a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity—

“(A) shall notify customers of the replacement of any publicly owned portion of the lead service line;

“(B) may, in the case of a homeowner who is not low-income, offer to replace the privately owned portion of the lead service line at the cost of replacement for that homeowner’s property;

“(C) may, in the case of a low-income homeowner, offer to replace the privately owned portion of the lead service line at a cost that is equal to the difference between—

“(i) the cost of replacement; and

“(ii) the amount of assistance available to the low-income homeowner under paragraph (5);

“(D) shall notify each customer that a planned replacement of any publicly owned portion of a lead service line that is funded by a grant made under this subsection will not be carried out unless the customer agrees to the simultaneous replacement of the privately owned portion of the lead service line; and

“(E) shall demonstrate that the eligible entity has considered other options for reducing the concentration of lead in its drinking water, including an evaluation of options for corrosion control.

“(c) **LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.**—Not more than 4 percent of funds made available for grants under this section may be used to pay the administrative costs of the Administrator.

“(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

“(e) **SAVINGS CLAUSE.**—Nothing in this section affects whether a public water system is responsible for the replacement of a lead service line that is—

“(1) subject to the control of the public water system; and

“(2) located on private property.”

SEC. 2106. NOTICE TO PERSONS SERVED.

(a) **ENFORCEMENT OF DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS.**—Section 1414(c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g-3(c)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “NOTICE TO” and inserting “NOTICE TO STATES, THE ADMINISTRATOR, AND”;

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “paragraph (2)(E)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(F)”;

and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) Notice that the public water system exceeded the lead action level under section 141.80(c) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or a prescribed level of lead that the Administrator establishes for public education or notification in a successor regulation promulgated pursuant to section 1412).”;

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)(i)(II), by striking “subparagraph (D)” and inserting “subparagraph (E)”;

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “VIOLATIONS” and inserting “NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS OR EXCEEDANCES”;

(ii) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(I) in the first sentence, by striking “violation” and inserting “violation, and each exceedance described in paragraph (1)(D).”;

(II) in the second sentence, by striking “violation” and inserting “violation or exceedance”;

(iii) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) be distributed as soon as practicable, but not later than 24 hours, after the public water system learns of the violation or exceedance;”;

(iv) in clause (ii), by inserting “or exceedance” after “violation” each place it appears;

(v) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) be provided to the Administrator and the head of the State agency that has primary enforcement responsibility under section 1413, as applicable, as soon as practicable, but not later than 24 hours after the public water system learns of the violation or exceedance; and”;

and

(vi) in clause (iv)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking “broadcast media” and inserting “media, including broadcast media”;

(II) in subclause (III), by striking “in lieu of notification by means of broadcast media or newspaper”;

(C) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively; and

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) **NOTICE BY THE ADMINISTRATOR.**—If the State with primary enforcement responsibility or the owner or operator of a public water system has not issued a notice under subparagraph (C) for an exceedance of the lead action level under section 141.80(c) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or a prescribed level of lead that the Administrator establishes for public education or notification in a successor regulation promulgated pursuant to section 1412) that has the potential to have serious adverse effects on human health as a result of short-term exposure, not later than 24 hours after the Administrator is notified of the exceedance, the Administrator shall issue the required notice under that subparagraph.”;

(4) in paragraph (3)(B), in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “subparagraph (A) and” and inserting “subparagraph (A).”;

(B) by striking “subparagraph (C) or (D) of paragraph (2)” and inserting “subparagraph (C) or (E) of paragraph (2), and notices issued by the Administrator with respect to public water systems serving Indian Tribes under subparagraph (D) of that paragraph”;

(5) in paragraph (4)(B)—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking “the terms” and inserting “the terms ‘action level’.”;

(B) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) If any regulated contaminant is detected in the water purveyed by the public water system, a statement describing, as applicable—

“(I) the maximum contaminant level goal;

“(II) the maximum contaminant level;

“(III) the level of the contaminant in the water system;

“(IV) the action level for the contaminant; and

“(V) for any contaminant for which there has been a violation of the maximum contaminant level during the year concerned, a brief statement in plain language regarding the health concerns that resulted in regulation of the contaminant, as provided by the Administrator in regulations under subparagraph (A).”;

(C) in the undesignated matter following clause (vi), in the second sentence, by striking “subclause (IV) of clause (iii)” and inserting “clause (iii)(V).”;

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **EXCEEDANCE OF LEAD LEVEL AT HOUSEHOLDS.—**

“(A) STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall, in collaboration with owners and operators of public water systems and States, establish a strategic plan for how the Administrator, a State with primary enforcement responsibility, and owners and operators of public water systems shall provide targeted outreach, education, technical assistance, and risk communication to populations affected by the concentration of lead in a public water system, including dissemination of information described in subparagraph (C).

“(B) EPA INITIATION OF NOTICE.—

“(i) FORWARDING OF DATA BY EMPLOYEE OF THE AGENCY.—If the Agency develops, or receives from a source other than a State or a public water system, data that meets the requirements of section 1412(b)(3)(A)(ii) that indicates that the drinking water of a household served by a public water system contains a level of lead that exceeds the lead action level under section 141.80(c) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or a prescribed level of lead that the Administrator establishes for public education or notification in a successor regulation promulgated pursuant to section 1412) (referred to in this paragraph as an ‘affected household’), the Administrator shall require an appropriate employee of the Agency to forward the data, and information on the sampling techniques used to obtain the data, to the owner or operator of the public water system and the State in which the affected household is located within a time period determined by the Administrator.

“(ii) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION BY OWNER OR OPERATOR.—The owner or operator of a public water system shall disseminate to affected households the information described in subparagraph (C) within a time period established by the Administrator, if the owner or operator—

“(I) receives data and information under clause (i); and

“(II) has not, since the date of the test that developed the data, notified the affected households—

“(aa) with respect to the concentration of lead in the drinking water of the affected households; and

“(bb) that the concentration of lead in the drinking water of the affected households exceeds the lead action level under section 141.80(c) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or a prescribed level of lead that the Administrator establishes for public education or notification in a successor regulation promulgated pursuant to section 1412).

“(iii) CONSULTATION.—

“(I) DEADLINE.—If the owner or operator of the public water system does not disseminate to the affected households the information described in subparagraph (C) as required under clause (ii) within the time period established by the Administrator, not later than 24 hours after the Administrator becomes aware of the failure by the owner or operator of the public water system to disseminate the information, the Administrator shall consult, within a period not to exceed 24 hours, with the applicable Governor to develop a plan, in accordance with the strategic plan, to disseminate the information to the affected households not later than 24 hours after the end of the consultation period.

“(II) DELEGATION.—The Administrator may only delegate the duty to consult under subclause (I) to an employee of the Agency who, as of the date of the delegation, works in the Office of Water at the headquarters of the Agency.

“(iv) DISSEMINATION BY ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administrator shall, as soon as practicable, disseminate to affected households the information described in subparagraph (C) if—

“(I) the owner or operator of the public water system does not disseminate the information to

the affected households within the time period determined by the Administrator, as required by clause (ii); and

“(II)(aa) the Administrator and the applicable Governor do not agree on a plan described in clause (iii)(I) during the consultation period under that clause; or

“(bb) the applicable Governor does not disseminate the information within 24 hours after the end of the consultation period.

“(C) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The information described in this subparagraph includes—

“(i) a clear explanation of the potential adverse effects on human health of drinking water that contains a concentration of lead that exceeds the lead action level under section 141.80(c) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or a prescribed level of lead that the Administrator establishes for public education or notification in a successor regulation promulgated pursuant to section 1412);

“(ii) the steps that the owner or operator of the public water system is taking to mitigate the concentration of lead; and

“(iii) the necessity of seeking alternative water supplies until the date on which the concentration of lead is mitigated.

“(6) PRIVACY.—Any notice to the public or an affected household under this subsection shall protect the privacy of individual customer information.”.

(b) PROHIBITION ON USE OF LEAD PIPES, SOLDER, AND FLUX.—Section 1417 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g-6) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall make information available to the public regarding lead in drinking water, including information regarding—

“(A) risks associated with lead in drinking water;

“(B) the conditions that contribute to drinking water containing lead in a residence;

“(C) steps that States, public water systems, and consumers can take to reduce the risks of lead in drinking water; and

“(D) the availability of additional resources that consumers can use to minimize lead exposure, including information on sampling for lead in drinking water.

“(2) VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.—In making information available to the public under this subsection, the Administrator shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, carry out targeted outreach strategies that focus on educating groups within the general population that may be at greater risk than the general population of adverse health effects from exposure to lead in drinking water.”.

SEC. 2107. LEAD TESTING IN SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE PROGRAM DRINKING WATER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1464 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-24) is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) VOLUNTARY SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE PROGRAM LEAD TESTING GRANT PROGRAM.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) CHILD CARE PROGRAM.—The term ‘child care program’ has the meaning given the term ‘early childhood education program’ in section 103(8) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003(8)).

“(B) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ‘local educational agency’ means—

“(i) a local educational agency (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

“(ii) a tribal education agency (as defined in section 3 of the National Environmental Education Act (20 U.S.C. 5502)); and

“(iii) a person that owns or operates a child care program facility.

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Water and Waste Act of 2016, the Administrator shall establish a voluntary school and child care program lead testing grant program to make grants available to States to assist local educational agencies in voluntary testing for lead contamination in drinking water at schools and child care programs under the jurisdiction of the local educational agencies.

“(B) DIRECT GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—The Administrator may make a grant for the voluntary testing described in subparagraph (A) directly available to—

“(i) any local educational agency described in clause (i) or (iii) of paragraph (1)(B) located in a State that does not participate in the voluntary grant program established under subparagraph (A); or

“(ii) any local educational agency described in clause (ii) of paragraph (1)(B).

“(3) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, a State or local educational agency shall submit to the Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator may require.

“(4) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Not more than 4 percent of grant funds accepted by a State or local educational agency for a fiscal year under this subsection shall be used to pay the administrative costs of carrying out this subsection.

“(5) GUIDANCE; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this subsection, the recipient State or local educational agency shall ensure that each local educational agency to which grant funds are distributed shall—

“(A) expend grant funds in accordance with—

“(i) the guidance of the Environmental Protection Agency entitled ‘3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools: Revised Technical Guidance’ and dated October 2006 (or any successor guidance); or

“(ii) applicable State regulations or guidance regarding reducing lead in drinking water in schools and child care programs that are not less stringent than the guidance referred to in clause (i); and

“(B)(i) make available, if applicable, in the administrative offices and, to the extent practicable, on the Internet website of the local educational agency for inspection by the public (including teachers, other school personnel, and parents) a copy of the results of any voluntary testing for lead contamination in school and child care program drinking water carried out using grant funds under this subsection; and

“(ii) notify parent, teacher, and employee organizations of the availability of the results described in clause (i).

“(6) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—If resources are available to a State or local educational agency from any other Federal agency, a State, or a private foundation for testing for lead contamination in drinking water, the State or local educational agency shall demonstrate that the funds provided under this subsection will not displace those resources.

“(7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.”.

(b) REPEAL.—Section 1465 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-25) is repealed.

SEC. 2108. WATER SUPPLY COST SAVINGS.

(a) DRINKING WATER TECHNOLOGY CLEARINGHOUSE.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall—

(I) develop a technology clearinghouse for information on the cost-effectiveness of innovative and alternative drinking water delivery systems, including wells and well systems; and

(2) disseminate such information to the public and to communities and not-for-profit organizations seeking Federal funding for drinking water delivery systems serving 500 or fewer persons.

(b) **WATER SYSTEM ASSESSMENT.**—In any application for a grant or loan for the purpose of construction, replacement, or rehabilitation of a drinking water delivery system serving 500 or fewer persons, the funding for which would come from the Federal Government (either directly or through a State), a unit of local government or not-for-profit organization shall self-certify that the unit of local government or organization has considered, as an alternative drinking water supply, drinking water delivery systems sourced by publicly owned—

- (1) individual wells;
- (2) shared wells; and
- (3) community wells.

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

- (1) the use of innovative and alternative drinking water delivery systems described in this section;
- (2) the range of cost savings for communities using innovative and alternative drinking water delivery systems described in this section; and
- (3) the use of drinking water technical assistance programs operated by the Administrator and the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 2109. INNOVATION IN THE PROVISION OF SAFE DRINKING WATER.

(a) **INNOVATIVE WATER TECHNOLOGIES.**—Section 1442(a)(1) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–1(a)(1)) is amended—

- (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;
- (2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (E) and inserting “; and”; and
- (3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) innovative water technologies (including technologies to improve water treatment to ensure compliance with this title and technologies to identify and mitigate sources of drinking water contamination, including lead contamination).”

(b) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—Section 1442 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–1) is amended—

- (1) in the heading for subsection (e), by inserting “TO SMALL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS” after “ASSISTANCE”; and
- (2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR INNOVATIVE WATER TECHNOLOGIES.**—

“(1) The Administrator may provide technical assistance to public water systems to facilitate use of innovative water technologies.

“(2) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator for use in providing technical assistance under paragraph (1) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.”

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Water and Waste Act of 2016, and not less frequently than every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator shall report to Congress on—

- (1) the amount of funding used to provide technical assistance under section 1442(f) of the Safe Drinking Water Act to deploy innovative water technologies;
- (2) the barriers impacting greater use of innovative water technologies; and
- (3) the cost-saving potential to cities and future infrastructure investments from innovative water technologies.

SEC. 2110. SMALL SYSTEM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 1452(q) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(q)) is amended by striking

“appropriated” and all that follows through “2003” and inserting “made available to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021”.

SEC. 2111. DEFINITION OF INDIAN TRIBE.

Section 1401(14) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300(f)(14)) is amended by striking “section 1452” and inserting “sections 1452, 1459A, and 1459B”.

SEC. 2112. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR TRIBAL WATER SYSTEMS.

(a) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—Section 1442(e)(7) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–1(e)(7)) is amended by striking “Tribes” and inserting “Tribes, including grants to provide training and operator certification services under section 1452(i)(5)”.

(b) **INDIAN TRIBES.**—Section 1452(i) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(i)) is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (1)—
 - (A) in the first sentence, by striking “Tribes and Alaska Native villages” and inserting “Tribes, Alaska Native villages, and, for the purpose of carrying out paragraph (5), intertribal consortia or tribal organizations,”; and
 - (B) in the second sentence, by striking “The grants” and inserting “Except as otherwise provided, the grants”; and
- (2) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **TRAINING AND OPERATOR CERTIFICATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator may use funds made available under this subsection and section 1442(e)(7) to make grants to intertribal consortia or tribal organizations for the purpose of providing operations and maintenance training and operator certification services to Indian Tribes to enable public water systems that serve Indian Tribes to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable national primary drinking water regulations.

“(B) **ELIGIBLE TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.**—Intertribal consortia or tribal organizations eligible for a grant under subparagraph (A) are intertribal consortia or tribal organizations that—

“(i) as determined by the Administrator, are the most qualified and experienced to provide training and technical assistance to Indian Tribes; and

“(ii) the Indian Tribes find to be the most beneficial and effective.”

SEC. 2113. MATERIALS REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECTS.

Section 1452(a) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) **AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—During fiscal year 2017, funds made available from a State loan fund established pursuant to this section may not be used for a project for the construction, alteration, or repair of a public water system unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.

“(B) **DEFINITION OF IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS.**—In this paragraph, the term ‘iron and steel products’ means the following products made primarily of iron or steel:

- “(i) Lined or unlined pipes and fittings.
- “(ii) Manhole covers and other municipal castings.
- “(iii) Hydrants.
- “(iv) Tanks.
- “(v) Flanges.
- “(vi) Pipe clamps and restraints.
- “(vii) Valves.
- “(viii) Structural steel.
- “(ix) Reinforced precast concrete.
- “(x) Construction materials.

“(C) **APPLICATION.**—Subparagraph (A) shall be waived in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator finds that—

“(i) applying subparagraph (A) would be inconsistent with the public interest;

“(ii) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or

“(iii) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

“(D) **WAIVER.**—If the Administrator receives a request for a waiver under this paragraph, the Administrator shall make available to the public, on an informal basis, a copy of the request and information available to the Administrator concerning the request, and shall allow for informal public input on the request for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request. The Administrator shall make the request and accompanying information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet site of the Agency.

“(E) **INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.**—This paragraph shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

“(F) **MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT.**—The Administrator may retain up to 0.25 percent of the funds appropriated for this section for management and oversight of the requirements of this paragraph.

“(G) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This paragraph does not apply with respect to a project if a State agency approves the engineering plans and specifications for the project, in that agency’s capacity to approve such plans and specifications prior to a project requesting bids, prior to the date of enactment of this paragraph.”

Subtitle B—Drinking Water Disaster Relief and Infrastructure Investments

SEC. 2201. DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ELIGIBLE STATE.**—The term “eligible State” means a State for which the President has declared an emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) relating to the public health threats associated with the presence of lead or other contaminants in drinking water provided by a public water system.

(2) **ELIGIBLE SYSTEM.**—The term “eligible system” means a public water system that has been the subject of an emergency declaration referred to in paragraph (1).

(3) **LEAD SERVICE LINE.**—The term “lead service line” means a pipe and its fittings, which are not lead free (as defined under section 1417 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g–6)), that connect the drinking water main to the building inlet.

(4) **PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM.**—The term “public water system” has the meaning given such term in section 1401(4) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f(4)).

(b) **STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An eligible system shall be—

(A) considered to be a disadvantaged community under section 1452(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)); and

(B) eligible to receive loans with additional subsidization under section 1452(d)(1) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)(1)), including forgiveness of principal under that section.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Using funds provided pursuant to subsection (d), an eligible State may provide assistance to an eligible system within the eligible State for the purpose of addressing lead or other contaminants in drinking water, including repair and replacement of lead service lines and public water system infrastructure.

(B) **INCLUSION.**—Assistance provided under subparagraph (A) may include additional subsidization under section 1452(d)(1) of the Safe

Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12(d)(1)), as described in paragraph (1)(B).

(C) EXCLUSION.—Assistance provided under subparagraph (A) shall not include assistance for a project that is financed (directly or indirectly), in whole or in part, with proceeds of any obligation issued after the date of enactment of this Act—

(i) the interest of which is exempt from the tax imposed under chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

(ii) with respect to which credit is allowable under subpart I or J of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code.

(3) INAPPLICABILITY OF LIMITATION.—Section 1452(d)(2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12(d)(2)) shall not apply to—

(A) any funds provided pursuant to subsection (d) of this section;

(B) any other assistance provided to an eligible system; or

(C) any funds required to match the funds provided under subsection (d).

(c) NONDUPLICATION OF WORK.—An activity carried out pursuant to this section shall not duplicate the work or activity of any other Federal or State department or agency.

(d) ADDITIONAL DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND CAPITALIZATION GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator a total of \$100,000,000 to provide additional capitalization grants to eligible States pursuant to section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12), to be available for a period of 18 months beginning on the date on which the funds are made available, for the purposes described in subsection (b)(2), and after the end of the 18-month period, until expended for the purposes described in paragraph (3).

(2) SUPPLEMENTED INTENDED USE PLANS.—From funds made available under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall obligate to an eligible State such amounts as are necessary to meet the needs identified in a supplemented intended use plan for the purposes described in subsection (b)(2) by not later than 30 days after the date on which the eligible State submits to the Administrator a supplemented intended use plan under section 1452(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12(b)) that includes preapplication information regarding projects to be funded using the additional assistance, including, with respect to each such project—

(A) a description of the project;

(B) an explanation of the means by which the project will address a situation causing a declared emergency in the eligible State;

(C) the estimated cost of the project; and

(D) the projected start date for construction of the project.

(3) UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.—Any amounts made available to the Administrator under paragraph (1) that are unobligated on the date that is 18 months after the date on which the amounts are made available shall be available to provide additional grants to States to capitalize State loan funds as provided under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12).

(4) APPLICABILITY.—

(A) Section 1452(b)(1) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12(b)(1)) shall not apply to a supplement to an intended use plan under paragraph (2).

(B) Unless explicitly waived, all requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.) shall apply to funding provided under this subsection.

(e) HEALTH EFFECTS EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to section 104(i)(1)(E) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(1)(E)), and on receipt of

a request of an appropriate State or local health official of an eligible State, the Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry of the National Center for Environmental Health shall in coordination with other agencies, as appropriate, conduct voluntary surveillance activities to evaluate any adverse health effects on individuals exposed to lead from drinking water in the affected communities.

(2) CONSULTATIONS.—Pursuant to section 104(i)(4) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(4)), and on receipt of a request of an appropriate State or local health official of an eligible State, the Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry of the National Center for Environmental Health shall provide consultations regarding health issues described in paragraph (1).

(f) NO EFFECT ON OTHER PROJECTS.—This section shall not affect the application of any provision of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.) or the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.) to any project that does not receive assistance pursuant to this subtitle.

SEC. 2202. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that secured loans under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.) shall be—

(1) initially appropriated at \$20,000,000; and

(2) used for eligible projects, including those to address lead and other contaminants in drinking water systems.

SEC. 2203. REGISTRY FOR LEAD EXPOSURE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CITY.—The term “City” means a city exposed to lead contamination in the local drinking water system.

(2) COMMITTEE.—The term “Committee” means the Advisory Committee established under subsection (c).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(b) LEAD EXPOSURE REGISTRY.—The Secretary shall establish within the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at the discretion of the Secretary, or establish through a grant award or contract, a lead exposure registry to collect data on the lead exposure of residents of a City on a voluntary basis.

(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish, within the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry an Advisory Committee in coordination with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other relevant agencies as determined by the Secretary consisting of Federal members and non-Federal members, and which shall include—

(i) an epidemiologist;

(ii) a toxicologist;

(iii) a mental health professional;

(iv) a pediatrician;

(v) an early childhood education expert;

(vi) a special education expert;

(vii) a dietician; and

(viii) an environmental health expert.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Membership in the Committee shall not exceed 15 members and not less than 1/2 of the members shall be Federal members.

(2) CHAIR.—The Secretary shall designate a chair from among the Federal members appointed to the Committee.

(3) TERMS.—Members of the Committee shall serve for a term of not more than 3 years and the Secretary may reappoint members for consecutive terms.

(4) APPLICATION OF FACIA.—The Committee shall be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(5) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Committee shall, at a minimum—

(A) review the Federal programs and services available to individuals and communities exposed to lead;

(B) review current research on lead poisoning to identify additional research needs;

(C) review and identify best practices, or the need for best practices, regarding lead screening and the prevention of lead poisoning;

(D) identify effective services, including services relating to healthcare, education, and nutrition for individuals and communities affected by lead exposure and lead poisoning, including in consultation with, as appropriate, the lead exposure registry as established in subsection (b); and

(E) undertake any other review or activities that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(6) REPORT.—Annually for 5 years and thereafter as determined necessary by the Secretary or as required by Congress, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary, the Committees on Finance, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(A) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Federal programs and services available to individuals and communities exposed to lead;

(B) an evaluation of additional lead poisoning research needs;

(C) an assessment of any effective screening methods or best practices used or developed to prevent or screen for lead poisoning;

(D) input and recommendations for improved access to effective services relating to health care, education, or nutrition for individuals and communities impacted by lead exposure; and

(E) any other recommendations for communities affected by lead exposure, as appropriate.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for the period of fiscal years 2017 through 2021—

(1) \$17,500,000 to carry out subsection (b); and

(2) \$2,500,000 to carry out subsection (c).

SEC. 2204. OTHER LEAD PROGRAMS.

(a) CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM.—In addition to amounts made available through the Prevention and Public Health Fund established under section 4002 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C. 300u-11) to carry out section 317A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-1), there are authorized to be appropriated for the period of fiscal years 2017 and 2018, \$15,000,000 for carrying out such section 317A.

(b) HEALTHY START PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be appropriated for the period of fiscal years 2017 and 2018 \$15,000,000 to carry out the Healthy Start Initiative under section 330H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-8).

Subtitle C—Control of Coal Combustion Residuals

SEC. 2301. APPROVAL OF STATE PROGRAMS FOR CONTROL OF COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS.

Section 4005 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6945) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) STATE PROGRAMS FOR CONTROL OF COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS.—

“(1) APPROVAL BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State may submit to the Administrator, in such form as the Administrator may establish, evidence of a permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions under State law for regulation by the State of coal combustion residuals units that are located in the State that, after approval by the Administrator, will operate in lieu of regulation

of coal combustion residuals units in the State by—

“(i) application of part 257 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations promulgated pursuant to sections 1008(a)(3) and 4004(a)); or

“(ii) implementation by the Administrator of a permit program under paragraph (2)(B).

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a State submits the evidence described in subparagraph (A), the Administrator, after public notice and an opportunity for public comment, shall approve, in whole or in part, a permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions submitted under subparagraph (A) if the Administrator determines that the program or other system requires each coal combustion residuals unit located in the State to achieve compliance with—

“(i) the applicable criteria for coal combustion residuals units under part 257 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations promulgated pursuant to sections 1008(a)(3) and 4004(a)); or

“(ii) such other State criteria that the Administrator, after consultation with the State, determines to be at least as protective as the criteria described in clause (i).

“(C) PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator shall approve under subparagraph (B)(ii) a State permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions that allows a State to include technical standards for individual permits or conditions of approval that differ from the criteria under part 257 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations promulgated pursuant to sections 1008(a)(3) and 4004(a)) if, based on site-specific conditions, the Administrator determines that the technical standards established pursuant to a State permit program or other system are at least as protective as the criteria under that part.

“(D) PROGRAM REVIEW AND NOTIFICATION.—

“(i) PROGRAM REVIEW.—The Administrator shall review a State permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions that is approved under subparagraph (B)—

“(I) from time to time, as the Administrator determines necessary, but not less frequently than once every 12 years;

“(II) not later than 3 years after the date on which the Administrator revises the applicable criteria for coal combustion residuals units under part 257 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations promulgated pursuant to sections 1008(a)(3) and 4004(a));

“(III) not later than 1 year after the date of a significant release (as defined by the Administrator), that was not authorized at the time the release occurred, from a coal combustion residuals unit located in the State; and

“(IV) on request of any other State that asserts that the soil, groundwater, or surface water of the State is or is likely to be adversely affected by a release or potential release from a coal combustion residuals unit located in the State for which the program or other system was approved.

“(ii) NOTIFICATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A PUBLIC HEARING.—The Administrator shall provide to a State notice of deficiencies with respect to the permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions of the State that is approved under subparagraph (B), and an opportunity for a public hearing, if the Administrator determines that—

“(I) a revision or correction to the permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions of the State is necessary to ensure that the permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions continues to ensure that each coal combustion residuals unit located in the State achieves compliance with the criteria described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B);

“(II) the State has not implemented an adequate permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions that requires each coal combustion residuals unit located in the State to achieve compliance with the criteria described in subparagraph (B); or

“(III) the State has, at any time, approved or failed to revoke a permit for a coal combustion residuals unit, a release from which adversely affects or is likely to adversely affect the soil, groundwater, or surface water of another State.

“(E) WITHDRAWAL.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall withdraw approval of a State permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions if, after the Administrator provides notice and an opportunity for a public hearing to the relevant State under subparagraph (D)(ii), the Administrator determines that the State has not corrected the deficiencies identified by the Administrator under subparagraph (D)(ii).

“(ii) REINSTATEMENT OF STATE APPROVAL.—Any withdrawal of approval under clause (i) shall cease to be effective on the date on which the Administrator makes a determination that the State has corrected the deficiencies identified by the Administrator under subparagraph (D)(ii).

“(2) NONPARTICIPATING STATES.—

“(A) DEFINITION OF NONPARTICIPATING STATE.—In this paragraph, the term ‘nonparticipating State’ means a State—

“(i) for which the Administrator has not approved a State permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions under paragraph (1)(B);

“(ii) the Governor of which has not submitted to the Administrator for approval evidence to operate a State permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions under paragraph (1)(A);

“(iii) the Governor of which provides notice to the Administrator that, not fewer than 90 days after the date on which the Governor provides the notice to the Administrator, the State will relinquish an approval under paragraph (1)(B) to operate a permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions; or

“(iv) for which the Administrator has withdrawn approval for a permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions under paragraph (1)(E).

“(B) IMPLEMENTATION OF PERMIT PROGRAM.—In the case of a nonparticipating State and subject to the availability of appropriations specifically provided in an appropriations Act to carry out a program in a nonparticipating State, the Administrator shall implement a permit program to require each coal combustion residuals unit located in the nonparticipating State to achieve compliance with applicable criteria established by the Administrator under part 257 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations promulgated pursuant to sections 1008(a)(3) and 4004(a)).

“(3) APPLICABILITY OF CRITERIA.—The applicable criteria for coal combustion residuals units under part 257 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations promulgated pursuant to sections 1008(a)(3) and 4004(a)), shall apply to each coal combustion residuals unit in a State unless—

“(A) a permit under a State permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions approved by the Administrator under paragraph (1)(B) is in effect for the coal combustion residuals unit; or

“(B) a permit issued by the Administrator in a State in which the Administrator is implementing a permit program under paragraph (2)(B) is in effect for the coal combustion residuals unit.

“(4) PROHIBITION ON OPEN DUMPING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may use the authority provided by sections 3007 and 3008

to enforce the prohibition on open dumping under subsection (a) with respect to a coal combustion residuals unit—

“(i) in a nonparticipating State (as defined in paragraph (2)); and

“(ii) located in a State that is approved to operate a permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions under paragraph (1)(B), in accordance with subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.

“(B) FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT IN AN APPROVED STATE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a coal combustion residuals unit located in a State that is approved to operate a permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions under paragraph (1)(B), the Administrator may commence an administrative or judicial enforcement action under section 3008 if—

“(I) the State requests that the Administrator provide assistance in the performance of an enforcement action; or

“(II) after consideration of any other administrative or judicial enforcement action involving the coal combustion residuals unit, the Administrator determines that an enforcement action is likely to be necessary to ensure that the coal combustion residuals unit is operating in accordance with the criteria established under the permit program or other system of prior approval and conditions.

“(ii) NOTIFICATION.—In the case of an enforcement action by the Administrator under clause (i)(II), before issuing an order or commencing a civil action, the Administrator shall notify the State in which the coal combustion residuals unit is located.

“(iii) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), not later than December 31, 2017, and December 31 of each year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that describes any enforcement action commenced under clause (i), including a description of the basis for the enforcement action.

“(II) APPLICABILITY.—Subclause (I) shall not apply for any calendar year during which the Administrator does not commence an enforcement action under clause (i).

“(5) INDIAN COUNTRY.—The Administrator shall establish and carry out a permit program, in accordance with this subsection, for coal combustion residuals units in Indian country (as defined in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code) to require each coal combustion residuals unit located in Indian country to achieve compliance with the applicable criteria established by the Administrator under part 257 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations promulgated pursuant to sections 1008(a)(3) and 4004(a)).

“(6) TREATMENT OF COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS UNITS.—A coal combustion residuals unit shall be considered to be a sanitary landfill for purposes of this Act, including subsection (a), only if the coal combustion residuals unit is operating in accordance with—

“(A) the requirements of a permit issued by—

“(i) the State in accordance with a program or system approved under paragraph (1)(B); or

“(ii) the Administrator pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) or paragraph (5); or

“(B) the applicable criteria for coal combustion residuals units under part 257 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations promulgated pursuant to sections 1008(a)(3) and 4004(a)).

“(7) EFFECT OF SUBSECTION.—Nothing in this subsection affects any authority, regulatory determination, other law, or legal obligation in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Water and Waste Act of 2016.”.

TITLE III—NATURAL RESOURCES

Subtitle A—Indian Dam Safety

SEC. 3101. INDIAN DAM SAFETY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “dam” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467).

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “dam” includes any structure, facility, equipment, or vehicle used in connection with the operation of a dam.

(2) FUND.—The term “Fund” means, as applicable—

(A) the High-Hazard Indian Dam Safety Deferred Maintenance Fund established by subsection (b)(1)(A); or

(B) the Low-Hazard Indian Dam Safety Deferred Maintenance Fund established by subsection (b)(2)(A).

(3) HIGH HAZARD POTENTIAL DAM.—The term “high hazard potential dam” means a dam assigned to the significant or high hazard potential classification under the guidelines published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency entitled “Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety: Hazard Potential Classification System for Dams” (FEMA Publication Number 333).

(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(5) LOW HAZARD POTENTIAL DAM.—The term “low hazard potential dam” means a dam assigned to the low hazard potential classification under the guidelines published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency entitled “Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety: Hazard Potential Classification System for Dams” (FEMA Publication Number 333).

(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of the Army.

(b) INDIAN DAM SAFETY DEFERRED MAINTENANCE FUNDS.—

(1) HIGH-HAZARD FUND.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the “High-Hazard Indian Dam Safety Deferred Maintenance Fund”, consisting of—

(i) such amounts as are deposited in the Fund under subparagraph (B); and

(ii) any interest earned on investment of amounts in the Fund under subparagraph (D).

(B) DEPOSITS TO FUND.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2017 through 2023, the Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit in the Fund \$22,750,000 from the general fund of the Treasury.

(ii) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts deposited in the Fund under clause (i) shall be used, subject to appropriation, to carry out this section.

(C) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2023, the Secretary may, to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts, expend from the Fund, in accordance with this section, not more than the sum of—

(I) \$22,750,000; and

(II) the amount of interest accrued in the Fund.

(ii) ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES.—The Secretary may expend more than \$22,750,000 for any fiscal year referred to in clause (i) if the additional amounts are available in the Fund as a result of a failure of the Secretary to expend all of the amounts available under clause (i) in 1 or more prior fiscal years.

(D) INVESTMENTS OF AMOUNTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not, in the judgment of the Secretary, required to meet current withdrawals.

(ii) CREDITS TO FUND.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to, and form a part of, the Fund.

(E) TRANSFERS OF AMOUNTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The amounts required to be transferred to the Fund under this paragraph shall be transferred at least monthly.

(ii) ADJUSTMENTS.—Proper adjustment shall be made in amounts subsequently transferred to the extent prior estimates are in excess of or less than the amounts required to be transferred.

(F) TERMINATION.—On September 30, 2023—

(i) the Fund shall terminate; and

(ii) the unexpended and unobligated balance of the Fund shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury.

(2) LOW-HAZARD FUND.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the “Low-Hazard Indian Dam Safety Deferred Maintenance Fund”, consisting of—

(i) such amounts as are deposited in the Fund under subparagraph (B); and

(ii) any interest earned on investment of amounts in the Fund under subparagraph (D).

(B) DEPOSITS TO FUND.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2017 through 2023, the Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit in the Fund \$10,000,000 from the general fund of the Treasury.

(ii) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts deposited in the Fund under clause (i) shall be used, subject to appropriation, to carry out this section.

(C) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2023, the Secretary may, to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts, expend from the Fund, in accordance with this section, not more than the sum of—

(I) \$10,000,000; and

(II) the amount of interest accrued in the Fund.

(ii) ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES.—The Secretary may expend more than \$10,000,000 for any fiscal year referred to in clause (i) if the additional amounts are available in the Fund as a result of a failure of the Secretary to expend all of the amounts available under clause (i) in 1 or more prior fiscal years.

(D) INVESTMENTS OF AMOUNTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not, in the judgment of the Secretary, required to meet current withdrawals.

(ii) CREDITS TO FUND.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to, and form a part of, the Fund.

(E) TRANSFERS OF AMOUNTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The amounts required to be transferred to the Fund under this paragraph shall be transferred at least monthly.

(ii) ADJUSTMENTS.—Proper adjustment shall be made in amounts subsequently transferred to the extent prior estimates are in excess of or less than the amounts required to be transferred.

(F) TERMINATION.—On September 30, 2023—

(i) the Fund shall terminate; and

(ii) the unexpended and unobligated balance of the Fund shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury.

(c) REPAIR, REPLACEMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN INDIAN DAMS.—

(1) PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program to address the deferred maintenance needs of Indian dams that—

(i) create flood risks or other risks to public or employee safety or natural or cultural resources; and

(ii) unduly impede the management and efficiency of Indian dams.

(B) FUNDING.—

(i) HIGH-HAZARD FUND.—Consistent with subsection (b)(1)(B), the Secretary shall use or transfer to the Bureau of Indian Affairs not less than \$22,750,000 of amounts in the High-Hazard Indian Dam Safety Deferred Maintenance Fund, plus accrued interest, for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2023 to carry out maintenance, repair, and replacement activities for 1 or more of the Indian dams described in paragraph (2)(A).

(ii) LOW-HAZARD FUND.—Consistent with subsection (b)(2)(B), the Secretary shall use or transfer to the Bureau of Indian Affairs not less than \$10,000,000 of amounts in the Low-Hazard Indian Dam Safety Deferred Maintenance Fund, plus accrued interest, for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2023 to carry out maintenance, repair, and replacement activities for 1 or more of the Indian dams described in paragraph (2)(B).

(C) COMPLIANCE WITH DAM SAFETY POLICIES.—Maintenance, repair, and replacement activities for Indian dams under this section shall be carried out in accordance with the dam safety policies of the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs established to carry out the Indian Dams Safety Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.).

(2) ELIGIBLE DAMS.—

(A) HIGH HAZARD POTENTIAL DAMS.—The dams eligible for funding under paragraph (1)(B)(i) are Indian high hazard potential dams in the United States that—

(i) are included in the safety of dams program established pursuant to the Indian Dams Safety Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.); and

(iii)(I)(aa) are owned by the Federal Government, as listed in the Federal inventory required by Executive Order 13327 (40 U.S.C. 121 note; relating to Federal real property asset management); and

(bb) are managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (including dams managed under contracts or compacts pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.)); or

(II) have deferred maintenance documented by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(B) LOW HAZARD POTENTIAL DAMS.—The dams eligible for funding under paragraph (1)(B)(ii) are Indian low hazard potential dams in the United States that, on the date of enactment of this Act—

(i) are covered under the Indian Dams Safety Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.); and

(ii)(I)(aa) are owned by the Federal Government, as listed in the Federal inventory required by Executive Order 13327 (40 U.S.C. 121 note; relating to Federal real property asset management); and

(bb) are managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (including dams managed under contracts or compacts pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.)); or

(II) have deferred maintenance documented by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(3) REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act and as a precondition to amounts being expended from the Fund to carry out this subsection, the Secretary, in consultation with representatives of affected Indian tribes, shall develop and submit to Congress—

(A) programmatic goals to carry out this subsection that—

(i) would enable the completion of repairing, replacing, improving, or performing maintenance on Indian dams as expeditiously as practicable, subject to the dam safety policies of the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs established to carry out the Indian Dams Safety Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.);

(ii) facilitate or improve the ability of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to carry out the mission

of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in operating an Indian dam; and

(iii) ensure that the results of government-to-government consultation required under paragraph (4) be addressed; and

(B) funding prioritization criteria to serve as a methodology for distributing funds under this subsection that take into account—

(i) the extent to which deferred maintenance of Indian dams poses a threat to—

(I) public or employee safety or health;

(II) natural or cultural resources; or

(III) the ability of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to carry out the mission of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in operating an Indian dam;

(ii) the extent to which repairing, replacing, improving, or performing maintenance on an Indian dam will—

(I) improve public or employee safety, health, or accessibility;

(II) assist in compliance with codes, standards, laws, or other requirements;

(III) address unmet needs; or

(IV) assist in protecting natural or cultural resources;

(iii) the methodology of the rehabilitation priority index of the Secretary, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act;

(iv) the potential economic benefits of the expenditures on job creation and general economic development in the affected tribal communities;

(v) the ability of an Indian dam to address tribal, regional, and watershed level flood prevention needs;

(vi) the need to comply with the dam safety policies of the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs established to carry out the Indian Dams Safety Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.);

(vii) the ability of the water storage capacity of an Indian dam to be increased to prevent flooding in downstream tribal and nontribal communities; and

(viii) such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to prioritize the use of available funds that are, to the fullest extent practicable, consistent with tribal and user recommendations received pursuant to the consultation and input process under paragraph (4).

(4) TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND USER INPUT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), before expending funds on an Indian dam pursuant to paragraph (1) and not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(i) consult with the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the expenditure of funds;

(ii) ensure that the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs advises the Indian tribe that has jurisdiction over the land on which a dam eligible to receive funding under paragraph (2) is located on the expenditure of funds; and

(iii) solicit and consider the input, comments, and recommendations of the landowners served by the Indian dam.

(B) EMERGENCIES.—If the Secretary determines that an emergency circumstance exists with respect to an Indian dam, subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to that Indian dam.

(5) ALLOCATION AMONG DAMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that, for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2023, each Indian dam eligible for funding under paragraph (2) that has critical maintenance needs receives part of the funding under paragraph (1) to address critical maintenance needs.

(B) PRIORITY.—In allocating amounts under paragraph (1)(B), in addition to considering the funding priorities described in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall give priority to Indian dams eligible for funding under paragraph (2) that serve—

(i) more than 1 Indian tribe within an Indian reservation; or

(ii) highly populated Indian communities, as determined by the Secretary.

(C) CAP ON FUNDING.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), in allocating amounts under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall allocate not more than \$10,000,000 to any individual dam described in paragraph (2) during any consecutive 3-year period.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding the cap described in clause (i), if the full amount under paragraph (1)(B) cannot be fully allocated to eligible Indian dams because the costs of the remaining activities authorized in paragraph (1)(B) of an Indian dam would exceed the cap described in clause (i), the Secretary may allocate the remaining funds to eligible Indian dams in accordance with this subsection.

(D) BASIS OF FUNDING.—Any amounts made available under this paragraph shall be nonreimbursable.

(E) APPLICABILITY OF ISDEAA.—The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) shall apply to activities carried out under this paragraph.

(d) TRIBAL SAFETY OF DAMS COMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall establish within the Bureau of Indian Affairs the Tribal Safety of Dams Committee (referred to in this paragraph as the “Committee”).

(B) MEMBERSHIP.—

(i) COMPOSITION.—The Committee shall be composed of 15 members, of whom—

(I) 11 shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior from among individuals who, to the maximum extent practicable, have knowledge and expertise in dam safety issues and flood prevention and mitigation, of whom not less than 1 shall be a member of an Indian tribe in each of the Bureau of Indian Affairs regions of—

(aa) the Northwest Region;

(bb) the Pacific Region;

(cc) the Western Region;

(dd) the Navajo Region;

(ee) the Southwest Region;

(ff) the Rocky Mountain Region;

(gg) the Great Plains Region; and

(hh) the Midwest Region;

(II) 2 shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior from among employees of the Bureau of Indian Affairs who have knowledge and expertise in dam safety issues and flood prevention and mitigation;

(III) 1 shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior from among employees of the Bureau of Reclamation who have knowledge and expertise in dam safety issues and flood prevention and mitigation; and

(IV) 1 shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Army from among employees of the Corps of Engineers who have knowledge and expertise in dam safety issues and flood prevention and mitigation.

(ii) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The members of the Committee appointed under subclauses (II) and (III) of clause (i) shall be nonvoting members.

(iii) DATE.—The appointments of the members of the Committee shall be made as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act.

(C) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Committee.

(D) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Committee shall not affect the powers of the Committee, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(E) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Committee have been appointed, the Committee shall hold the first meeting.

(F) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(G) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(H) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Committee shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the members.

(2) DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(A) STUDY.—The Committee shall conduct a thorough study of all matters relating to the modernization of the Indian Dams Safety Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.).

(B) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Committee shall develop recommendations for legislation to improve the Indian Dams Safety Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.).

(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Committee holds the first meeting, the Committee shall submit a report containing a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Committee, together with recommendations for legislation that the Committee considers appropriate, to—

(i) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(3) POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(A) HEARINGS.—The Committee may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Committee considers appropriate to carry out this paragraph.

(B) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Committee may secure directly from any Federal department or agency such information as the Committee considers necessary to carry out this paragraph.

(ii) REQUEST.—On request of the Chairperson of the Committee, the head of any Federal department or agency shall furnish information described in clause (i) to the Committee.

(C) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Committee may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

(D) GIFTS.—The Committee may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

(4) COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(A) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

(i) NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.—Each member of the Committee who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Committee.

(ii) FEDERAL MEMBERS.—Each member of the Committee who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for services as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Committee.

(C) STAFF.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—

(I) APPOINTMENT.—The Chairperson of the Committee may, without regard to the civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Committee to perform the duties of the Committee.

(II) CONFIRMATION.—The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Committee.

(ii) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of the Committee may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

(D) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Committee without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(E) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Committee may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

(5) TERMINATION OF THE COMMITTEE.—The Committee shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Committee submits the report under paragraph (2)(C).

(6) FUNDING.—Of the amounts authorized to be expended from either Fund, \$1,000,000 shall be made available from either Fund during fiscal year 2017 to carry out this subsection, to remain available until expended.

(e) INDIAN DAM SURVEYS.—

(1) TRIBAL REPORTS.—The Secretary shall request that, not less frequently than once every 180 days, each Indian tribe submit to the Secretary a report providing an inventory of the dams located on the land of the Indian tribe.

(2) BIA REPORTS.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the condition of each dam under the partial or total jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(f) FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish, within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, a flood plain management pilot program (referred to in this subsection as the “program”) to provide, at the request of an Indian tribe, guidance to the Indian tribe relating to best practices for the mitigation and prevention of floods, including consultation with the Indian tribe on—

(A) flood plain mapping; or

(B) new construction planning.

(2) TERMINATION.—The program shall terminate on the date that is 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) FUNDING.—Of the amounts authorized to be expended from either Fund, \$250,000 shall be made available from either Fund during each of fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019 to carry out this subsection, to remain available until expended.

Subtitle B—Irrigation Rehabilitation and Renovation for Indian Tribal Governments and Their Economies

SEC. 3201. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) DEFERRED MAINTENANCE.—The term “deferred maintenance” means any maintenance activity that was delayed to a future date, in lieu of being carried out at the time at which the activity was scheduled to be, or otherwise should have been, carried out.

(2) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the Indian Irrigation Fund established by section 3211.

(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

PART I—INDIAN IRRIGATION FUND

SEC. 3211. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the “Indian Irrigation Fund”, consisting of—

(1) such amounts as are deposited in the Fund under section 3212; and

(2) any interest earned on investment of amounts in the Fund under section 3214.

SEC. 3212. DEPOSITS TO FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021, the Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit in the Fund \$35,000,000 from the general fund of the Treasury.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts deposited in the Fund under subsection (a) shall be used, subject to appropriation, to carry out this subtitle.

SEC. 3213. EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021, the Secretary may, to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts, expend from the Fund, in accordance with this subtitle, not more than the sum of—

(1) \$35,000,000; and

(2) the amount of interest accrued in the Fund.

(b) ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES.—The Secretary may expend more than \$35,000,000 for any fiscal year referred to in subsection (a) if the additional amounts are available in the Fund as a result of a failure of the Secretary to expend all of the amounts available under subsection (a) in 1 or more prior fiscal years.

SEC. 3214. INVESTMENTS OF AMOUNTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not, in the judgment of the Secretary, required to meet current withdrawals.

(b) CREDITS TO FUND.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to, and form a part of, the Fund.

SEC. 3215. TRANSFERS OF AMOUNTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amounts required to be transferred to the Fund under this part shall be transferred at least monthly from the general fund of the Treasury to the Fund on the basis of estimates made by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(b) ADJUSTMENTS.—Proper adjustment shall be made in amounts subsequently transferred to the extent prior estimates are in excess of or less than the amounts required to be transferred.

SEC. 3216. TERMINATION.

On September 30, 2021—

(1) the Fund shall terminate; and

(2) the unexpended and unobligated balance of the Fund shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury.

PART II—REPAIR, REPLACEMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECTS

SEC. 3221. REPAIR, REPLACEMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program to address the deferred maintenance needs and water storage needs of Indian irrigation projects that—

(1) create risks to public or employee safety or natural or cultural resources; and

(2) unduly impede the management and efficiency of the Indian irrigation program.

(b) FUNDING.—Consistent with section 3213, the Secretary shall use or transfer to the Bureau of Indian Affairs not less than \$35,000,000 of amounts in the Fund, plus accrued interest, for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 to carry

out maintenance, repair, and replacement activities for 1 or more of the Indian irrigation projects described in section 3222 (including any structures, facilities, equipment, personnel, or vehicles used in connection with the operation of those projects), subject to the condition that the funds expended under this part shall not be—

(1) subject to reimbursement by the owners of the land served by the Indian irrigation projects; or

(2) assessed as debts or liens against the land served by the Indian irrigation projects.

SEC. 3222. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.

The projects eligible for funding under section 3221(b) are the Indian irrigation projects in the western United States that, on the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) are owned by the Federal Government, as listed in the Federal inventory required by Executive Order 13327 (40 U.S.C. 121 note; relating to Federal real property asset management);

(2) are managed and operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (including projects managed, operated, or maintained under contracts or compacts pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.); and

(3) have deferred maintenance documented by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

SEC. 3223. REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act and as a precondition to amounts being expended from the Fund to carry out this part, the Secretary, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs and representatives of affected Indian tribes, shall develop and submit to Congress—

(1) programmatic goals to carry out this part that—

(A) would enable the completion of repairing, replacing, modernizing, or performing maintenance on projects as expeditiously as practicable;

(B) facilitate or improve the ability of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to carry out the mission of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in operating a project;

(C) ensure that the results of government-to-government consultation required under section 3225 be addressed; and

(D) would facilitate the construction of new water storage using non-Federal contributions to address tribal, regional, and watershed-level supply needs; and

(2) funding prioritization criteria to serve as a methodology for distributing funds under this part, that take into account—

(A) the extent to which deferred maintenance of qualifying irrigation projects poses a threat to public or employee safety or health;

(B) the extent to which deferred maintenance poses a threat to natural or cultural resources;

(C) the extent to which deferred maintenance poses a threat to the ability of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to carry out the mission of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in operating the project;

(D) the extent to which repairing, replacing, modernizing, or performing maintenance on a facility or structure will—

(i) improve public or employee safety, health, or accessibility;

(ii) assist in compliance with codes, standards, laws, or other requirements;

(iii) address unmet needs; and

(iv) assist in protecting natural or cultural resources;

(E) the methodology of the rehabilitation priority index of the Secretary, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act;

(F) the potential economic benefits of the expenditures on job creation and general economic development in the affected tribal communities;

(G) the ability of the qualifying project to address tribal, regional, and watershed level water supply needs; and

(H) such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to prioritize the use of available funds that are, to the fullest extent practicable, consistent with tribal and user recommendations received pursuant to the consultation and input process under section 3225.

SEC. 3224. STUDY OF INDIAN IRRIGATION PROGRAM AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT.

(a) TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND USER INPUT.—Before beginning to conduct the study required under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

(1) consult with the Indian tribes that have jurisdiction over the land on which an irrigation project eligible to receive funding under section 3222 is located; and

(2) solicit and consider the input, comments, and recommendations of—

(A) the landowners served by the irrigation project; and

(B) irrigators from adjacent irrigation districts.

(b) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, shall complete a study that evaluates options for improving programmatic and project management and performance of irrigation projects managed and operated in whole or in part by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(c) REPORT.—On completion of the study under subsection (b), the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) describes the results of the study;

(2) determines the cost to financially sustain each project;

(3) recommends whether management of each project could be improved by transferring management responsibilities to other Federal agencies or water user groups; and

(4) includes recommendations for improving programmatic and project management and performance—

(A) in each qualifying project area; and

(B) for the program as a whole.

(d) STATUS REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than every 2 years thereafter (until the end of fiscal year 2021), the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that includes a description of—

(1) the progress made toward addressing the deferred maintenance needs of the Indian irrigation projects described in section 3222, including a list of projects funded during the fiscal period covered by the report;

(2) the outstanding needs of those projects that have been provided funding to address the deferred maintenance needs pursuant to this part;

(3) the remaining needs of any of those projects;

(4) how the goals established pursuant to section 3223 have been met, including—

(A) an identification and assessment of any deficiencies or shortfalls in meeting those goals; and

(B) a plan to address the deficiencies or shortfalls in meeting those goals; and

(5) any other subject matters the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable consistent with tribal and user recommendations received pursuant to the consultation and input process under section 3225, determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 3225. TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND USER INPUT.

Before expending funds on an Indian irrigation project pursuant to section 3221 and not

later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) consult with the Indian tribe that has jurisdiction over the land on which an irrigation project eligible to receive funding under section 3222 is located; and

(2) solicit and consider the input, comments, and recommendations of—

(A) the landowners served by the irrigation project; and

(B) irrigators from adjacent irrigation districts.

SEC. 3226. ALLOCATION AMONG PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that, for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021, each Indian irrigation project eligible for funding under section 3222 that has critical maintenance needs receives part of the funding under section 3221 to address critical maintenance needs.

(b) PRIORITY.—In allocating amounts under section 3221(b), in addition to considering the funding priorities described in section 3223, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible Indian irrigation projects serving more than 1 Indian tribe within an Indian reservation and to projects for which funding has not been made available during the 10-year period ending on the day before the date of enactment of this Act under any other Act of Congress that expressly identifies the Indian irrigation project or the Indian reservation of the project to address the deferred maintenance, repair, or replacement needs of the Indian irrigation project.

(c) CAP ON FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), in allocating amounts under section 3221(b), the Secretary shall allocate not more than \$15,000,000 to any individual Indian irrigation project described in section 3222 during any consecutive 3-year period.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding the cap described in paragraph (1), if the full amount under section 3221(b) cannot be fully allocated to eligible Indian irrigation projects because the costs of the remaining activities authorized in section 3221(b) of an irrigation project would exceed the cap described in paragraph (1), the Secretary may allocate the remaining funds to eligible Indian irrigation projects in accordance with this part.

(d) BASIS OF FUNDING.—Any amounts made available under this section shall be nonreimbursable.

(e) APPLICABILITY OF ISDEAA.—The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) shall apply to activities carried out under this section.

Subtitle C—Weber Basin Prepayments

SEC. 3301. PREPAYMENT OF CERTAIN REPAYMENT OBLIGATIONS UNDER CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE WEBER BASIN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT.

The Secretary of the Interior shall allow for prepayment of repayment obligations under Repayment Contract No. 14-06-400-33 between the United States and the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, dated December 12, 1952, and supplemented and amended on June 30, 1961, on April 15, 1966, on September 20, 1968, and on May 9, 1985, including future amendments and all related applicable contracts thereto, providing for repayment of Weber Basin Project construction costs allocated to irrigation and municipal and industrial purposes for which repayment is provided pursuant to such contracts under terms and conditions similar to those used in implementing the prepayment provisions in section 210 of the Central Utah Project Completion Act (Public Law 102-575), as amended, for prepayment of Central Utah Project, Bonneville Unit repayment obligations. The prepayment—

(1) shall result in the United States recovering the net present value of all repayment streams that would have been payable to the United States if this Act was not in effect;

(2) may be provided in several installments;

(3) may not be adjusted on the basis of the type of prepayment financing used by the District; and

(4) shall be made such that total repayment is made not later than September 30, 2026.

Subtitle D—Pechanga Water Rights Settlement

SEC. 3401. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement Act”.

SEC. 3402. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this subtitle are—

(1) to achieve a fair, equitable, and final settlement of claims to water rights and certain claims for injuries to water rights in the Santa Margarita River Watershed for—

(A) the Band; and

(B) the United States, acting in its capacity as trustee for the Band and Allottees;

(2) to achieve a fair, equitable, and final settlement of certain claims by the Band and Allottees against the United States;

(3) to authorize, ratify, and confirm the Pechanga Settlement Agreement to be entered into by the Band, RCWD, and the United States;

(4) to authorize and direct the Secretary—

(A) to execute the Pechanga Settlement Agreement; and

(B) to take any other action necessary to carry out the Pechanga Settlement Agreement in accordance with this subtitle; and

(5) to authorize the appropriation of amounts necessary for the implementation of the Pechanga Settlement Agreement and this subtitle.

SEC. 3403. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADJUDICATION COURT.—The term “Adjudication Court” means the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, which exercises continuing jurisdiction over the Adjudication Proceeding.

(2) ADJUDICATION PROCEEDING.—The term “Adjudication Proceeding” means litigation initiated by the United States regarding relative water rights in the Santa Margarita River Watershed in *United States v. Fallbrook Public Utility District et al.*, Civ. No. 3:51-cv-01247 (S.D.C.A.), including any litigation initiated to interpret or enforce the relative water rights in the Santa Margarita River Watershed pursuant to the continuing jurisdiction of the Adjudication Court over the Fallbrook Decree.

(3) ALLOTTEE.—The term “Allottee” means an individual who holds a beneficial real property interest in an Indian allotment that is—

(A) located within the Reservation; and

(B) held in trust by the United States.

(4) BAND.—The term “Band” means Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, a federally recognized sovereign Indian tribe that functions as a custom and tradition Indian tribe, acting on behalf of itself and its members, but not acting on behalf of members in their capacities as Allottees.

(5) CLAIMS.—The term “claims” means rights, claims, demands, actions, compensation, or causes of action, whether known or unknown.

(6) EMWD.—The term “EMWD” means Eastern Municipal Water District, a municipal water district organized and existing in accordance with the Municipal Water District Law of 1911, Division 20 of the Water Code of the State of California, as amended.

(7) EMWD CONNECTION FEE.—The term “EMWD Connection Fee” has the meaning set

forth in the Extension of Service Area Agreement.

(8) **ENFORCEABILITY DATE.**—The term “enforceability date” means the date on which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register the statement of findings described in section 3407(e).

(9) **ESAA CAPACITY AGREEMENT.**—The term “ESAA Capacity Agreement” means the “ESAA Capacity Agreement”, among the Band, RCWD, and the United States.

(10) **ESAA WATER.**—The term “ESAA Water” means imported potable water that the Band receives from EMWD and MWD pursuant to the Extension of Service Area Agreement and delivered by RCWD pursuant to the ESAA Water Delivery Agreement.

(11) **ESAA WATER DELIVERY AGREEMENT.**—The term “ESAA Water Delivery Agreement” means the agreement among EMWD, RCWD, and the Band, establishing the terms and conditions of water service to the Band.

(12) **EXTENSION OF SERVICE AREA AGREEMENT.**—The term “Extension of Service Area Agreement” means the “Extension of Service Area Agreement”, among the Band, EMWD, and MWD, for the provision of water service by EMWD to a designated portion of the Reservation using water supplied by MWD.

(13) **FALLBROOK DECREE.**—
(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “Fallbrook Decree” means the “Modified Final Judgment and Decree”, entered in the Adjudication Proceeding on April 6, 1966.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “Fallbrook Decree” includes all court orders, interlocutory judgments, and decisions supplemental to the “Modified Final Judgment and Decree”, including Interlocutory Judgment No. 30, Interlocutory Judgment No. 35, and Interlocutory Judgment No. 41.

(14) **FUND.**—The term “Fund” means the Pechanga Settlement Fund established by section 3409.

(15) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(16) **INJURY TO WATER RIGHTS.**—The term “injury to water rights” means an interference with, diminution of, or deprivation of water rights under Federal or State law.

(17) **INTERIM CAPACITY.**—The term “Interim Capacity” has the meaning set forth in the ESAA Capacity Agreement.

(18) **INTERIM CAPACITY NOTICE.**—The term “Interim Capacity Notice” has the meaning set forth in the ESAA Capacity Agreement.

(19) **INTERLOCUTORY JUDGMENT NO. 41.**—The term “Interlocutory Judgment No. 41” means Interlocutory Judgment No. 41 issued in the Adjudication Proceeding on November 8, 1962, including all court orders, judgments, and decisions supplemental to that interlocutory judgment.

(20) **MWD.**—The term “MWD” means the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, a metropolitan water district organized and incorporated under the Metropolitan Water District Act of the State of California (Stats. 1969, Chapter 209, as amended).

(21) **MWD CONNECTION FEE.**—The term “MWD Connection Fee” has the meaning set forth in the Extension of Service Area Agreement.

(22) **PECHANGA ESAA DELIVERY CAPACITY ACCOUNT.**—The term “Pechanga ESAA Delivery Capacity Account” means the account established by section 3409(c)(2).

(23) **PECHANGA RECYCLED WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACCOUNT.**—The term “Pechanga Recycled Water Infrastructure Account” means the account established by section 3409(c)(1).

(24) **PECHANGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.**—The term “Pechanga Settlement Agreement” means

the Pechanga Settlement Agreement, dated April 8, 2016, together with the exhibits to that agreement, entered into by the Band, the United States on behalf of the Band, its members and Allottees, MWD, EMWD, and RCWD, including—

(A) the Extension of Service Area Agreement;
(B) the ESAA Capacity Agreement; and
(C) the ESAA Water Delivery Agreement.

(25) **PECHANGA WATER CODE.**—The term “Pechanga Water Code” means a water code to be adopted by the Band in accordance with section 3405(f).

(26) **PECHANGA WATER FUND ACCOUNT.**—The term “Pechanga Water Fund Account” means the account established by section 3409(c)(3).

(27) **PECHANGA WATER QUALITY ACCOUNT.**—The term “Pechanga Water Quality Account” means the account established by section 3409(c)(4).

(28) **PERMANENT CAPACITY.**—The term “Permanent Capacity” has the meaning set forth in the ESAA Capacity Agreement.

(29) **PERMANENT CAPACITY NOTICE.**—The term “Permanent Capacity Notice” has the meaning set forth in the ESAA Capacity Agreement.

(30) **RCWD.**—
(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “RCWD” means the Rancho California Water District organized pursuant to section 34000 et seq. of the California Water Code.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “RCWD” includes all real property owners for whom RCWD acts as an agent pursuant to an agency agreement.

(31) **RECYCLED WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT.**—The term “Recycled Water Infrastructure Agreement” means the “Recycled Water Infrastructure Agreement” among the Band, RCWD, and the United States.

(32) **RECYCLED WATER TRANSFER AGREEMENT.**—The term “Recycled Water Transfer Agreement” means the “Recycled Water Transfer Agreement” between the Band and RCWD.

(33) **RESERVATION.**—
(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “Reservation” means the land depicted on the map attached to the Pechanga Settlement Agreement as Exhibit I.

(B) **APPLICABILITY OF TERM.**—The term “Reservation” shall be used solely for the purposes of the Pechanga Settlement Agreement, this subtitle, and any judgment or decree issued by the Adjudication Court approving the Pechanga Settlement Agreement.

(34) **SANTA MARGARITA RIVER WATERSHED.**—The term “Santa Margarita River Watershed” means the watershed that is the subject of the Adjudication Proceeding and the Fallbrook Decree.

(35) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(36) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of California.

(37) **STORAGE POND.**—The term “Storage Pond” has the meaning set forth in the Recycled Water Infrastructure Agreement.

(38) **TRIBAL WATER RIGHT.**—The term “Tribal Water Right” means the water rights ratified, confirmed, and declared to be valid for the benefit of the Band and Allottees, as set forth and described in section 3405.

SEC. 3404. APPROVAL OF THE PECHANGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.

(a) **RATIFICATION OF PECHANGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as modified by this subtitle, and to the extent that the Pechanga Settlement Agreement does not conflict with this subtitle, the Pechanga Settlement Agreement is authorized, ratified, and confirmed.

(2) **AMENDMENTS.**—Any amendment to the Pechanga Settlement Agreement is authorized, ratified, and confirmed, to the extent that the amendment is executed to make the Pechanga

Settlement Agreement consistent with this subtitle.

(b) **EXECUTION OF PECHANGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To the extent that the Pechanga Settlement Agreement does not conflict with this subtitle, the Secretary is directed to and promptly shall execute—

(A) the Pechanga Settlement Agreement (including any exhibit to the Pechanga Settlement Agreement requiring the signature of the Secretary); and

(B) any amendment to the Pechanga Settlement Agreement necessary to make the Pechanga Settlement Agreement consistent with this subtitle.

(2) **MODIFICATIONS.**—Nothing in this subtitle precludes the Secretary from approving modifications to exhibits to the Pechanga Settlement Agreement not inconsistent with this subtitle, to the extent those modifications do not otherwise require congressional approval pursuant to section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 177) or other applicable Federal law.

(c) **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In implementing the Pechanga Settlement Agreement, the Secretary shall promptly comply with all applicable requirements of—

(A) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(C) all other applicable Federal environmental laws; and

(D) all regulations promulgated under the laws described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(2) **EXECUTION OF THE PECHANGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Execution of the Pechanga Settlement Agreement by the Secretary under this section shall not constitute a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(B) **COMPLIANCE.**—The Secretary is directed to carry out all Federal compliance necessary to implement the Pechanga Settlement Agreement.

(3) **LEAD AGENCY.**—The Bureau of Reclamation shall be designated as the lead agency with respect to environmental compliance.

SEC. 3405. TRIBAL WATER RIGHT.

(a) **INTENT OF CONGRESS.**—It is the intent of Congress to provide to each Allottee benefits that are equal to or exceed the benefits Allottees possess as of the date of enactment of this Act, taking into consideration—

(1) the potential risks, cost, and time delay associated with litigation that would be resolved by the Pechanga Settlement Agreement and this subtitle;

(2) the availability of funding under this subtitle;

(3) the availability of water from the Tribal Water Right and other water sources as set forth in the Pechanga Settlement Agreement; and

(4) the applicability of section 7 of the Act of February 8, 1887 (25 U.S.C. 381), and this subtitle to protect the interests of Allottees.

(b) **CONFIRMATION OF TRIBAL WATER RIGHT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A Tribal Water Right of up to 4,994 acre-feet of water per year that, under natural conditions, is physically available on the Reservation is confirmed in accordance with the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth in Interlocutory Judgment No. 41, as affirmed by the Fallbrook Decree.

(2) **USE.**—Subject to the terms of the Pechanga Settlement Agreement, this subtitle, the Fallbrook Decree, and applicable Federal law, the Band may use the Tribal Water Right for any purpose on the Reservation.

(c) **HOLDING IN TRUST.**—The Tribal Water Right, as set forth in subsection (b), shall—

(1) be held in trust by the United States on behalf of the Band and the Allottees in accordance with this section;

(2) include the priority dates described in Interlocutory Judgment No. 41, as affirmed by the Fallbrook Decree; and

(3) not be subject to forfeiture or abandonment.

(d) ALLOTTEES.—

(1) APPLICABILITY OF ACT OF FEBRUARY 8, 1887.—The provisions of section 7 of the Act of February 8, 1887 (25 U.S.C. 381), relating to the use of water for irrigation purposes shall apply to the Tribal Water Right.

(2) ENTITLEMENT TO WATER.—Any entitlement to water of an Allottee under Federal law shall be satisfied from the Tribal Water Right.

(3) ALLOCATIONS.—Allotted land located within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation shall be entitled to a just and equitable allocation of water for irrigation and domestic purposes from the Tribal Water Right.

(4) EXHAUSTION OF REMEDIES.—Before asserting any claim against the United States under section 7 of the Act of February 8, 1887 (25 U.S.C. 381), or any other applicable law, an Allottee shall exhaust remedies available under the Pechanga Water Code or other applicable tribal law.

(5) CLAIMS.—Following exhaustion of remedies available under the Pechanga Water Code or other applicable tribal law, an Allottee may seek relief under section 7 of the Act of February 8, 1887 (25 U.S.C. 381), or other applicable law.

(6) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall have the authority to protect the rights of Allottees as specified in this section.

(e) AUTHORITY OF BAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Band shall have authority to use, allocate, distribute, and lease the Tribal Water Right on the Reservation in accordance with—

(A) the Pechanga Settlement Agreement; and

(B) applicable Federal law.

(2) LEASES BY ALLOTTEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An Allottee may lease any interest in land held by the Allottee, together with any water right determined to be appurtenant to that interest in land.

(B) WATER RIGHT APPURTENANT.—Any water right determined to be appurtenant to an interest in land leased by an Allottee shall be used on such land on the Reservation.

(f) PECHANGA WATER CODE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the enforceability date, the Band shall enact a Pechanga Water Code, that provides for—

(A) the management, regulation, and governance of all uses of the Tribal Water Right in accordance with the Pechanga Settlement Agreement; and

(B) establishment by the Band of conditions, permit requirements, and other limitations relating to the storage, recovery, and use of the Tribal Water Right in accordance with the Pechanga Settlement Agreement.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—Subject to the approval of the Secretary, the Pechanga Water Code shall provide—

(A) that allocations of water to Allottees shall be satisfied with water from the Tribal Water Right;

(B) that charges for delivery of water for irrigation purposes for Allottees shall be assessed on a just and equitable basis;

(C) a process by which an Allottee may request that the Band provide water for irrigation or domestic purposes in accordance with this subtitle;

(D) a due process system for the consideration and determination by the Band of any request by an Allottee (or any successor in interest to an Allottee) for an allocation of such water for irri-

gation or domestic purposes on allotted land, including a process for—

(i) appeal and adjudication of any denied or disputed distribution of water; and

(ii) resolution of any contested administrative decision; and

(E) a requirement that any Allottee with a claim relating to the enforcement of rights of the Allottee under the Pechanga Water Code or relating to the amount of water allocated to land of the Allottee must first exhaust remedies available to the Allottee under tribal law and the Pechanga Water Code before initiating an action against the United States or petitioning the Secretary pursuant to subsection (d)(4).

(3) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the Tribal Water Right until the Pechanga Water Code is enacted and approved under this section.

(B) APPROVAL.—Any provision of the Pechanga Water Code and any amendment to the Pechanga Water Code that affects the rights of Allottees—

(i) shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary; and

(ii) shall not be valid until approved by the Secretary.

(C) APPROVAL PERIOD.—The Secretary shall approve or disapprove the Pechanga Water Code within a reasonable period of time after the date on which the Band submits the Pechanga Water Code to the Secretary for approval.

(g) EFFECT.—Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, nothing in this subtitle—

(1) authorizes any action by an Allottee against any individual or entity, or against the Band, under Federal, State, tribal, or local law; or

(2) alters or affects the status of any action pursuant to section 1491(a) of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 3406. SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The benefits provided to the Band under the Pechanga Settlement Agreement and this subtitle shall be in complete replacement of, complete substitution for, and full satisfaction of all claims of the Band against the United States that are waived and released pursuant to section 3407.

(b) ALLOTTEE CLAIMS.—The benefits realized by the Allottees under this subtitle shall be in complete replacement of, complete substitution for, and full satisfaction of—

(1) all claims that are waived and released pursuant to section 3407; and

(2) any claims of the Allottees against the United States that the Allottees have or could have asserted that are similar in nature to any claim described in section 3407.

(c) NO RECOGNITION OF WATER RIGHTS.—Except as provided in section 3405(d), nothing in this subtitle recognizes or establishes any right of a member of the Band or an Allottee to water within the Reservation.

(d) CLAIMS RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT OF WATER FOR RESERVATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 3411 shall be used to satisfy any claim of the Allottees against the United States with respect to the development or protection of water resources for the Reservation.

(2) SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS.—Upon the complete appropriation of amounts authorized pursuant to section 3411, any claim of the Allottees against the United States with respect to the development or protection of water resources for the Reservation shall be deemed to have been satisfied.

SEC. 3407. WAIVER OF CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) WAIVER OF CLAIMS BY THE BAND AND THE UNITED STATES ACTING IN ITS CAPACITY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the retention of rights set forth in subsection (c), in return for recognition of the Tribal Water Right and other benefits as set forth in the Pechanga Settlement Agreement and this subtitle, the Band, and the United States, acting as trustee for the Band, are authorized and directed to execute a waiver and release of all claims for water rights within the Santa Margarita River Watershed that the Band, or the United States acting as trustee for the Band, asserted or could have asserted in any proceeding, including the Adjudication Proceeding, except to the extent that such rights are recognized in the Pechanga Settlement Agreement and this subtitle.

(B) CLAIMS AGAINST RCWD.—Subject to the retention of rights set forth in subsection (c) and notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in the Pechanga Settlement Agreement, the Band and the United States, on behalf of the Band and Allottees, fully release, acquit, and discharge RCWD from—

(i) claims for injuries to water rights in the Santa Margarita River Watershed for land located within the Reservation arising or occurring at any time up to and including June 30, 2009;

(ii) claims for injuries to water rights in the Santa Margarita River Watershed for land located within the Reservation arising or occurring at any time after June 30, 2009, resulting from the diversion or use of water in a manner not in violation of the Pechanga Settlement Agreement or this subtitle;

(iii) claims for subsidence damage to land located within the Reservation arising or occurring at any time up to and including June 30, 2009;

(iv) claims for subsidence damage arising or occurring after June 30, 2009, to land located within the Reservation resulting from the diversion of underground water in a manner consistent with the Pechanga Settlement Agreement or this subtitle; and

(v) claims arising out of, or relating in any manner to, the negotiation or execution of the Pechanga Settlement Agreement or the negotiation or execution of this subtitle.

(2) CLAIMS BY THE UNITED STATES ACTING IN ITS CAPACITY AS TRUSTEE FOR ALLOTTEES.—Subject to the retention of claims set forth in subsection (c), in return for recognition of the Tribal Water Right and other benefits as set forth in the Pechanga Settlement Agreement and this subtitle, the United States, acting as trustee for Allottees, is authorized and directed to execute a waiver and release of all claims for water rights within the Santa Margarita River Watershed that the United States, acting as trustee for the Allottees, asserted or could have asserted in any proceeding, including the Adjudication Proceeding, except to the extent such rights are recognized in the Pechanga Settlement Agreement and this subtitle.

(3) CLAIMS BY THE BAND AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.—Subject to the retention of rights set forth in subsection (c), the Band, is authorized to execute a waiver and release of—

(A) all claims against the United States (including the agencies and employees of the United States) relating to claims for water rights in, or water of, the Santa Margarita River Watershed that the United States, acting in its capacity as trustee for the Band, asserted, or could have asserted, in any proceeding, including the Adjudication Proceeding, except to the extent that those rights are recognized in the Pechanga Settlement Agreement and this subtitle;

(B) all claims against the United States (including the agencies and employees of the

United States) relating to damages, losses, or injuries to water, water rights, land, or natural resources due to loss of water or water rights (including damages, losses or injuries to hunting, fishing, gathering, or cultural rights due to loss of water or water rights, claims relating to interference with, diversion, or taking of water or water rights, or claims relating to failure to protect, acquire, replace, or develop water, water rights, or water infrastructure) in the Santa Margarita River Watershed that first accrued at any time up to and including the enforceability date;

(C) all claims against the United States (including the agencies and employees of the United States) relating to the pending litigation of claims relating to the water rights of the Band in the Adjudication Proceeding; and

(D) all claims against the United States (including the agencies and employees of the United States) relating to the negotiation or execution of the Pechanga Settlement Agreement or the negotiation or execution of this subtitle.

(b) EFFECTIVENESS OF WAIVERS AND RELEASES.—The waivers under subsection (a) shall take effect on the enforceability date.

(c) RESERVATION OF RIGHTS AND RETENTION OF CLAIMS.—Notwithstanding the waivers and releases authorized in this subtitle, the Band, on behalf of itself and the members of the Band, and the United States, acting in its capacity as trustee for the Band and Allottees, retain—

(1) all claims for enforcement of the Pechanga Settlement Agreement and this subtitle;

(2) all claims against any person or entity other than the United States and RCWD, including claims for monetary damages;

(3) all claims for water rights that are outside the jurisdiction of the Adjudication Court;

(4) all rights to use and protect water rights acquired on or after the enforceability date; and

(5) all remedies, privileges, immunities, powers, and claims, including claims for water rights, not specifically waived and released pursuant to this subtitle and the Pechanga Settlement Agreement.

(d) EFFECT OF PECHANGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND ACT.—Nothing in the Pechanga Settlement Agreement or this subtitle—

(1) affects the ability of the United States, acting as a sovereign, to take actions authorized by law, including any laws relating to health, safety, or the environment, including—

(A) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.);

(B) the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

(C) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.); and

(D) any regulations implementing the Acts described in subparagraphs (A) through (C);

(2) affects the ability of the United States to take actions acting as trustee for any other Indian tribe or an Allottee of any other Indian tribe;

(3) confers jurisdiction on any State court—

(A) to interpret Federal law regarding health, safety, or the environment;

(B) to determine the duties of the United States or other parties pursuant to Federal law regarding health, safety, or the environment; or

(C) to conduct judicial review of Federal agency action;

(4) waives any claim of a member of the Band in an individual capacity that does not derive from a right of the Band;

(5) limits any funding that RCWD would otherwise be authorized to receive under any Federal law, including, the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) as that Act applies to permanent facilities for water recycling, demineralization, and desalination, and dis-

tribution of nonpotable water supplies in Southern Riverside County, California;

(6) characterizes any amounts received by RCWD under the Pechanga Settlement Agreement or this subtitle as Federal for purposes of section 1649 of the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (43 U.S.C. 390h–32); or

(7) affects the requirement of any party to the Pechanga Settlement Agreement or any of the exhibits to the Pechanga Settlement Agreement to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or the California Environmental Quality Act (Cal. Pub. Res. Code 21000 et seq.) prior to performing the respective obligations of that party under the Pechanga Settlement Agreement or any of the exhibits to the Pechanga Settlement Agreement.

(e) ENFORCEABILITY DATE.—The enforceability date shall be the date on which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register a statement of findings that—

(1) the Adjudication Court has approved and entered a judgment and decree approving the Pechanga Settlement Agreement in substantially the same form as Appendix 2 to the Pechanga Settlement Agreement;

(2) all amounts authorized by this subtitle have been deposited in the Fund;

(3) the waivers and releases authorized in subsection (a) have been executed by the Band and the Secretary;

(4) the Extension of Service Area Agreement—

(A) has been approved and executed by all the parties to the Extension of Service Area Agreement; and

(B) is effective and enforceable in accordance with the terms of the Extension of Service Area Agreement; and

(5) the ESAA Water Delivery Agreement—

(A) has been approved and executed by all the parties to the ESAA Water Delivery Agreement; and

(B) is effective and enforceable in accordance with the terms of the ESAA Water Delivery Agreement.

(f) TOLLING OF CLAIMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each applicable period of limitation and time-based equitable defense relating to a claim described in this section shall be tolled for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the earlier of—

(A) April 30, 2030, or such alternate date after April 30, 2030, as is agreed to by the Band and the Secretary; or

(B) the enforceability date.

(2) EFFECTS OF SUBSECTION.—Nothing in this subsection revives any claim or tolls any period of limitation or time-based equitable defense that expired before the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section precludes the tolling of any period of limitations or any time-based equitable defense under any other applicable law.

(g) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If all of the amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary pursuant to this subtitle have not been made available to the Secretary by April 30, 2030—

(A) the waivers authorized by this section shall expire and have no force or effect; and

(B) all statutes of limitations applicable to any claim otherwise waived under this section shall be tolled until April 30, 2030.

(2) VOIDING OF WAIVERS.—If a waiver authorized by this section is void under paragraph (1)—

(A) the approval of the United States of the Pechanga Settlement Agreement under section 3404 shall be void and have no further force or effect;

(B) any unexpended Federal amounts appropriated or made available to carry out this subtitle, together with any interest earned on those amounts, and any water rights or contracts to use water and title to other property acquired or constructed with Federal amounts appropriated or made available to carry out this subtitle shall be returned to the Federal Government, unless otherwise agreed to by the Band and the United States and approved by Congress; and

(C) except for Federal amounts used to acquire or develop property that is returned to the Federal Government under subparagraph (B), the United States shall be entitled to set off any Federal amounts appropriated or made available to carry out this subtitle that were expended or withdrawn, together with any interest accrued, against any claims against the United States relating to water rights asserted by the Band or Allottees in any future settlement of the water rights of the Band or Allottees.

SEC. 3408. WATER FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, using amounts from the designated accounts of the Fund, provide the amounts necessary to fulfill the obligations of the Band under the Recycled Water Infrastructure Agreement and the ESAA Capacity Agreement, in an amount not to exceed the amounts deposited in the designated accounts for such purposes plus any interest accrued on such amounts from the date of deposit in the Fund to the date of disbursement from the Fund, in accordance with this subtitle and the terms and conditions of those agreements.

(b) NONREIMBURSABILITY OF COSTS.—All costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this section shall be nonreimbursable.

(c) RECYCLED WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, using amounts from the Pechanga Recycled Water Infrastructure account, provide amounts for the Storage Pond in accordance with this section.

(2) STORAGE POND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, using amounts from the Pechanga Recycled Water Infrastructure account provide the amounts necessary for a Storage Pond in accordance with the Recycled Water Infrastructure Agreement, in an amount not to exceed \$2,656,374.

(B) PROCEDURE.—The procedure for the Secretary to provide amounts pursuant to this section shall be as set forth in the Recycled Water Infrastructure Agreement.

(C) LIABILITY.—The United States shall have no responsibility or liability for the Storage Pond.

(d) ESAA DELIVERY CAPACITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, using amounts from the Pechanga ESAA Delivery Capacity account, provide amounts for Interim Capacity and Permanent Capacity in accordance with this section.

(2) INTERIM CAPACITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, using amounts from the ESAA Delivery Capacity account, provide amounts necessary for the provision of Interim Capacity in accordance with the ESAA Capacity Agreement in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

(B) PROCEDURE.—The procedure for the Secretary to provide amounts pursuant to this section shall be as set forth in the ESAA Capacity Agreement.

(C) LIABILITY.—The United States shall have no responsibility or liability for the Interim Capacity to be provided by RCWD or by the Band.

(D) TRANSFER TO BAND.—If RCWD does not provide the Interim Capacity Notice required pursuant to the ESAA Capacity Agreement by the date that is 60 days after the date required under the ESAA Capacity Agreement, the

amounts in the Pechanga ESAA Delivery Capacity account for purposes of the provision of Interim Capacity and Permanent Capacity, including any interest that has accrued on those amounts, shall be available for use by the Band to provide alternative interim capacity in a manner that is similar to the Interim Capacity and Permanent Capacity that the Band would have received had RCWD provided such Interim Capacity and Permanent Capacity.

(3) PERMANENT CAPACITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, using amounts from the ESAA Delivery Capacity account, provide amounts necessary for the provision of Permanent Capacity in accordance with the ESAA Capacity Agreement.

(B) PROCEDURE.—The procedure for the Secretary to provide funds pursuant to this section shall be as set forth in the ESAA Capacity Agreement.

(C) LIABILITY.—The United States shall have no responsibility or liability for the Permanent Capacity to be provided by RCWD or by the Band.

(D) TRANSFER TO BAND.—If RCWD does not provide the Permanent Capacity Notice required pursuant to the ESAA Capacity Agreement by the date that is 5 years after the enforceability date, the amounts in the Pechanga ESAA Delivery Capacity account for purposes of the provision of Permanent Capacity, including any interest that has accrued on those amounts, shall be available for use by the Band to provide alternative Permanent Capacity in a manner that is similar to the Permanent Capacity that the Band would have received had RCWD provided such Permanent Capacity.

SEC. 3409. PECHANGA SETTLEMENT FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the “Pechanga Settlement Fund”, to be managed, invested, and distributed by the Secretary and to be available until expended, and, together with any interest earned on those amounts, to be used solely for the purpose of carrying out this subtitle.

(b) TRANSFERS TO FUND.—The Fund shall consist of such amounts as are deposited in the Fund under section 3411(a) of this subtitle, together with any interest earned on those amounts, which shall be available in accordance with subsection (e).

(c) ACCOUNTS OF PECHANGA SETTLEMENT FUND.—The Secretary shall establish in the Fund the following accounts:

(1) Pechanga Recycled Water Infrastructure account, consisting of amounts authorized pursuant to section 3411(a)(1).

(2) Pechanga ESAA Delivery Capacity account, consisting of amounts authorized pursuant to section 3411(a)(2).

(3) Pechanga Water Fund account, consisting of amounts authorized pursuant to section 3411(a)(3).

(4) Pechanga Water Quality account, consisting of amounts authorized pursuant to section 3411(a)(4).

(d) MANAGEMENT OF FUND.—The Secretary shall manage, invest, and distribute all amounts in the Fund in a manner that is consistent with the investment authority of the Secretary under—

(1) the first section of the Act of June 24, 1938 (25 U.S.C. 162a);

(2) the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.); and

(3) this section.

(e) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts appropriated to, and deposited in, the Fund, including any investment earnings accrued from the date of deposit in the Fund through the date of disbursement from the Fund, shall be made

available to the Band by the Secretary beginning on the enforceability date.

(f) WITHDRAWALS BY BAND PURSUANT TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN TRUST FUND MANAGEMENT REFORM ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Band may withdraw all or part of the amounts in the Fund on approval by the Secretary of a tribal management plan submitted by the Band in accordance with the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the requirements under the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the tribal management plan under paragraph (1) shall require that the Band shall spend all amounts withdrawn from the Fund in accordance with this subtitle.

(B) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary may carry out such judicial or administrative actions as the Secretary determines to be necessary to enforce the tribal management plan to ensure that amounts withdrawn by the Band from the Fund under this subsection are used in accordance with this subtitle.

(g) WITHDRAWALS BY BAND PURSUANT TO AN EXPENDITURE PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Band may submit an expenditure plan for approval by the Secretary requesting that all or part of the amounts in the Fund be disbursed in accordance with the plan.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The expenditure plan under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the manner and purpose for which the amounts proposed to be disbursed from the Fund will be used, in accordance with subsection (h).

(3) APPROVAL.—If the Secretary determines that an expenditure plan submitted under this subsection is consistent with the purposes of this subtitle, the Secretary shall approve the plan.

(4) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary may carry out such judicial or administrative actions as the Secretary determines necessary to enforce an expenditure plan to ensure that amounts disbursed under this subsection are used in accordance with this subtitle.

(h) USES.—Amounts from the Fund shall be used by the Band for the following purposes:

(1) PECHANGA RECYCLED WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACCOUNT.—The Pechanga Recycled Water Infrastructure account shall be used for expenditures by the Band in accordance with section 3408(c).

(2) PECHANGA ESAA DELIVERY CAPACITY ACCOUNT.—The Pechanga ESAA Delivery Capacity account shall be used for expenditures by the Band in accordance with section 3408(d).

(3) PECHANGA WATER FUND ACCOUNT.—The Pechanga Water Fund account shall be used for—

(A) payment of the EMWD Connection Fee;

(B) payment of the MWD Connection Fee; and

(C) any expenses, charges, or fees incurred by the Band in connection with the delivery or use of water pursuant to the Pechanga Settlement Agreement.

(4) PECHANGA WATER QUALITY ACCOUNT.—The Pechanga Water Quality account shall be used by the Band to fund groundwater desalination activities within the Wolf Valley Basin.

(i) LIABILITY.—The Secretary and the Secretary of the Treasury shall not be liable for the expenditure of, or the investment of any amounts withdrawn from, the Fund by the Band under subsection (f) or (g).

(j) NO PER CAPITA DISTRIBUTIONS.—No portion of the Fund shall be distributed on a per capita basis to any member of the Band.

SEC. 3410. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY BY THE UNITED STATES.—Except as provided in subsections (a) through (c) of section 208 of the De-

partment of Justice Appropriation Act, 1953 (43 U.S.C. 666), nothing in this subtitle waives the sovereign immunity of the United States.

(b) OTHER TRIBES NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED.—Nothing in this subtitle quantifies or diminishes any land or water right, or any claim or entitlement to land or water, of an Indian tribe, band, or community other than the Band.

(c) LIMITATION ON CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT.—With respect to Indian land within the Reservation—

(1) the United States shall not submit against any Indian-owned land located within the Reservation any claim for reimbursement of the cost to the United States of carrying out this subtitle and the Pechanga Settlement Agreement; and

(2) no assessment of any Indian-owned land located within the Reservation shall be made regarding that cost.

(d) EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW.—Nothing in this section affects any provision of law (including regulations) in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act with respect to pre-enforcement review of any Federal environmental enforcement action.

SEC. 3411. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) PECHANGA RECYCLED WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACCOUNT.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$2,656,374, for deposit in the Pechanga Recycled Water Infrastructure account, to carry out the activities described in section 3408(c).

(2) PECHANGA ESAA DELIVERY CAPACITY ACCOUNT.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$17,900,000, for deposit in the Pechanga ESAA Delivery Capacity account, which amount shall be adjusted for changes in construction costs since June 30, 2009, as is indicated by ENR Construction Cost Index, 20-City Average, as applicable to the types of construction required for the Band to provide the infrastructure necessary for the Band to provide the Interim Capacity and Permanent Capacity in the event that RCWD elects not to provide the Interim Capacity or Permanent Capacity as set forth in the ESAA Capacity Agreement and contemplated in sections 3408(d)(2)(D) and 3408(d)(3)(D) of this subtitle, with such adjustment ending on the date on which funds authorized to be appropriated under this section have been deposited in the Fund.

(3) PECHANGA WATER FUND ACCOUNT.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$5,483,653, for deposit in the Pechanga Water Fund account, which amount shall be adjusted for changes in appropriate cost indices since June 30, 2009, with such adjustment ending on the date of deposit in the Fund, for the purposes set forth in section 3409(h)(3).

(4) PECHANGA WATER QUALITY ACCOUNT.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$2,460,000, for deposit in the Pechanga Water Quality account, which amount shall be adjusted for changes in appropriate cost indices since June 30, 2009, with such adjustment ending on the date of deposit in the Fund, for the purposes set forth in section 3409(h)(4).

SEC. 3412. EXPIRATION ON FAILURE OF ENFORCEABILITY DATE.

If the Secretary does not publish a statement of findings under section 3407(e) by April 30, 2021, or such alternative later date as is agreed to by the Band and the Secretary, as applicable—

(1) this subtitle expires on the later of May 1, 2021, or the day after the alternative date agreed to by the Band and the Secretary;

(2) any action taken by the Secretary and any contract or agreement pursuant to the authority provided under any provision of this subtitle shall be void;

(3) any amounts appropriated under section 3411, together with any interest on those

amounts, shall immediately revert to the general fund of the Treasury; and

(4) any amounts made available under section 3411 that remain unexpended shall immediately revert to the general fund of the Treasury.

SEC. 3413. ANTIDEFICIENCY.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding any authorization of appropriations to carry out this subtitle, the expenditure or advance of any funds, and the performance of any obligation by the Department in any capacity, pursuant to this subtitle shall be contingent on the appropriation of funds for that expenditure, advance, or performance.

(b) *LIABILITY.*—The Department of the Interior shall not be liable for the failure to carry out any obligation or activity authorized by this subtitle if adequate appropriations are not provided to carry out this subtitle.

**Subtitle E—Delaware River Basin
Conservation**

SEC. 3501. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Delaware River Basin is a national treasure of great cultural, environmental, ecological, and economic importance;

(2) the Basin contains over 12,500 square miles of land in the States of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, including nearly 800 square miles of bay and more than 2,000 tributary rivers and streams;

(3) the Basin is home to more than 8,000,000 people who depend on the Delaware River and the Delaware Bay as an economic engine, a place of recreation, and a vital habitat for fish and wildlife;

(4) the Basin provides clean drinking water to more than 15,000,000 people, including New York City, which relies on the Basin for approximately half of the drinking water supply of the city, and Philadelphia, whose most significant threat to the drinking water supply of the city is loss of forests and other natural cover in the Upper Basin, according to a study conducted by the Philadelphia Water Department;

(5) the Basin contributes \$25,000,000,000 annually in economic activity, provides \$21,000,000,000 in ecosystem goods and services per year, and is directly or indirectly responsible for 600,000 jobs with \$10,000,000,000 in annual wages;

(6) almost 180 species of fish and wildlife are considered special status species in the Basin due to habitat loss and degradation, particularly sturgeon, eastern oyster, horseshoe crabs, and red knots, which have been identified as unique species in need of habitat improvement;

(7) the Basin provides habitat for over 200 resident and migrant fish species, includes significant recreational fisheries, and is an important source of eastern oyster, blue crab, and the largest population of the American horseshoe crab;

(8) the annual dockside value of commercial eastern oyster fishery landings for the Delaware Estuary is nearly \$4,000,000, making it the fourth most lucrative fishery in the Delaware River Basin watershed, and proven management strategies are available to increase oyster habitat, abundance, and harvest;

(9) the Delaware Bay has the second largest concentration of shorebirds in North America and is designated as one of the 4 most important shorebird migration sites in the world;

(10) the Basin, 50 percent of which is forested, also has over 700,000 acres of wetland, more than 126,000 acres of which are recognized as internationally important, resulting in a landscape that provides essential ecosystem services, including recreation, commercial, and water quality benefits;

(11) much of the remaining exemplary natural landscape in the Basin is vulnerable to further degradation, as the Basin gains approximately

10 square miles of developed land annually, and with new development, urban watersheds are increasingly covered by impervious surfaces, amplifying the quantity of polluted runoff into rivers and streams;

(12) the Delaware River is the longest undammed river east of the Mississippi; a critical component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in the Northeast, with more than 400 miles designated; home to one of the most heavily visited National Park units in the United States, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area; and the location of 6 National Wildlife Refuges;

(13) the Delaware River supports an internationally renowned cold water fishery in more than 80 miles of its northern headwaters that attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year and generates over \$21,000,000 in annual revenue through tourism and recreational activities;

(14) management of water volume in the Basin is critical to flood mitigation and habitat for fish and wildlife, and following 3 major floods along the Delaware River since 2004, the Governors of the States of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania have called for natural flood damage reduction measures to combat the problem, including restoring the function of riparian corridors;

(15) the Delaware River Port Complex (including docking facilities in the States of Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) is one of the largest freshwater ports in the world, the Port of Philadelphia handles the largest volume of international tonnage and 70 percent of the oil shipped to the East Coast, and the Port of Wilmington, a full-service deepwater port and marine terminal supporting more than 12,000 jobs, is the busiest terminal on the Delaware River, handling more than 400 vessels per year with an annual import/export cargo tonnage of more than 4,000,000 tons;

(16) the Delaware Estuary, where freshwater from the Delaware River mixes with saltwater from the Atlantic Ocean, is one of the largest and most complex of the 28 estuaries in the National Estuary Program, and the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary works to improve the environmental health of the Delaware Estuary;

(17) the Delaware River Basin Commission is a Federal-interstate compact government agency charged with overseeing a unified approach to managing the river system and implementing important water resources management projects and activities throughout the Basin that are in the national interest;

(18) restoration activities in the Basin are supported through several Federal and State agency programs, and funding for those important programs should continue and complement the establishment of the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program, which is intended to build on and help coordinate restoration and protection funding mechanisms at the Federal, State, regional, and local levels; and

(19) the existing and ongoing voluntary conservation efforts in the Delaware River Basin necessitate improved efficiency and cost effectiveness, as well as increased private-sector investments and coordination of Federal and non-Federal resources.

SEC. 3502. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) *BASIN.*—The term “Basin” means the 4-State Delaware Basin region, including all of Delaware Bay and portions of the States of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania located in the Delaware River watershed.

(2) *BASIN STATE.*—The term “Basin State” means each of the States of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

(3) *DIRECTOR.*—The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(4) *GRANT PROGRAM.*—The term “grant program” means the voluntary Delaware River Basin Restoration Grant Program established under section 3504.

(5) *PROGRAM.*—The term “program” means the nonregulatory Delaware River Basin restoration program established under section 3503.

(6) *RESTORATION AND PROTECTION.*—The term “restoration and protection” means the conservation, stewardship, and enhancement of habitat for fish and wildlife to preserve and improve ecosystems and ecological processes on which they depend, and for use and enjoyment by the public.

(7) *SECRETARY.*—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director.

(8) *SERVICE.*—The term “Service” means the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

SEC. 3503. PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a nonregulatory program to be known as the “Delaware River Basin restoration program”.

(b) *DUTIES.*—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall—

(1) draw on existing plans for the Basin, or portions of the Basin, and work in consultation with applicable management entities, including representatives of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, the Delaware River Basin Commission, the Federal Government, and other State and local governments, and regional organizations, as appropriate, to identify, prioritize, and implement restoration and protection activities within the Basin;

(2) adopt a Basinwide strategy that—

(A) supports the implementation of a shared set of science-based restoration and protection activities developed in accordance with paragraph (1);

(B) targets cost-effective projects with measurable results; and

(C) maximizes conservation outcomes with no net gain of Federal full-time equivalent employees; and

(3) establish the voluntary grant and technical assistance programs in accordance with section 3504.

(c) *COORDINATION.*—In establishing the program, the Secretary shall consult, as appropriate, with—

(1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

(A) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(B) the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(C) the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(D) the Chief of Engineers; and

(E) the head of any other applicable agency;

(2) the Governors of the Basin States;

(3) the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary;

(4) the Delaware River Basin Commission;

(5) fish and wildlife joint venture partnerships; and

(6) other public agencies and organizations with authority for the planning and implementation of conservation strategies in the Basin.

(d) *PURPOSES.*—The purposes of the program include—

(1) coordinating restoration and protection activities among Federal, State, local, and regional entities and conservation partners throughout the Basin; and

(2) carrying out coordinated restoration and protection activities, and providing for technical assistance throughout the Basin and Basin States—

(A) to sustain and enhance fish and wildlife habitat restoration and protection activities;

(B) to improve and maintain water quality to support fish and wildlife, as well as the habitats

of fish and wildlife, and drinking water for people;

(C) to sustain and enhance water management for volume and flood damage mitigation improvements to benefit fish and wildlife habitat;

(D) to improve opportunities for public access and recreation in the Basin consistent with the ecological needs of fish and wildlife habitat;

(E) to facilitate strategic planning to maximize the resilience of natural systems and habitats under changing watershed conditions;

(F) to engage the public through outreach, education, and citizen involvement, to increase capacity and support for coordinated restoration and protection activities in the Basin;

(G) to increase scientific capacity to support the planning, monitoring, and research activities necessary to carry out coordinated restoration and protection activities; and

(H) to provide technical assistance to carry out restoration and protection activities in the Basin.

SEC. 3504. GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.

(a) **DELAWARE RIVER BASIN RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM.**—To the extent that funds are available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall establish a voluntary grant and technical assistance program to be known as the “Delaware River Basin Restoration Grant Program” to provide competitive matching grants of varying amounts to State and local governments, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and other eligible entities to carry out activities described in section 3503(d).

(b) **CRITERIA.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the organizations described in section 3503(c), shall develop criteria for the grant program to help ensure that activities funded under this section accomplish one or more of the purposes identified in section 3503(d)(2) and advance the implementation of priority actions or needs identified in the Basinwide strategy adopted under section 3503(b)(2).

(c) **COST SHARING.**—

(1) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—The Federal share of the cost of a project funded under the grant program shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the activity, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) **NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—The non-Federal share of the cost of a project funded under the grant program may be provided in cash or in the form of an in-kind contribution of services or materials.

SEC. 3505. ANNUAL LETTER.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a detailed letter on the implementation of this subtitle, including a description of each project that has received funding under this subtitle.

SEC. 3506. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR FEDERAL ACQUISITION OF INTERESTS IN LAND.

No funds may be appropriated or used under this subtitle for acquisition by the Federal Government of any interest in land.

SEC. 3507. SUNSET.

This subtitle shall have no force or effect after September 30, 2023.

Subtitle F—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 3601. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION DAKOTAS AREA OFFICE PERMIT FEES FOR CABINS AND TRAILERS.

During the period ending 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall not increase the permit fee for a cabin or trailer on land in the State of North Dakota administered by the Dakotas Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation by more than 33 percent of the permit fee that was in effect on January 1, 2016.

SEC. 3602. USE OF TRAILER HOMES AT HEART BUTTE DAM AND RESERVOIR (LAKE TSCHIDA).

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADDITION.**—The term “addition” means any enclosed structure added onto the structure of a trailer home that increases the living area of the trailer home.

(2) **CAMPER OR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE.**—The term “camper or recreational vehicle” includes—

(A) a camper, motorhome, trailer camper, bumper hitch camper, fifth wheel camper, or equivalent mobile shelter; and

(B) a recreational vehicle.

(3) **IMMEDIATE FAMILY.**—The term “immediate family” means a spouse, grandparent, parent, sibling, child, or grandchild.

(4) **PERMIT.**—The term “permit” means a permit issued by the Secretary authorizing the use of a lot in a trailer area.

(5) **PERMIT YEAR.**—The term “permit year” means the period beginning on April 1 of a calendar year and ending on March 31 of the following calendar year.

(6) **PERMITEE.**—The term “permittee” means a person holding a permit.

(7) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation.

(8) **TRAILER AREA.**—The term “trailer area” means any of the following areas at Heart Butte Dam and Reservoir (Lake Tschida) (as described in the document of the Bureau of Reclamation entitled “Heart Butte Reservoir Resource Management Plan” (March 2008)):

(A) Trailer Area 1 and 2, also known as Management Unit 034.

(B) Southside Trailer Area, also known as Management Unit 014.

(9) **TRAILER HOME.**—The term “trailer home” means a dwelling placed on a supporting frame that—

(A) has or had a tow-hitch; and

(B) is made mobile, or is capable of being made mobile, by an axle and wheels.

(b) **PERMIT RENEWAL AND PERMITTED USE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall use the same permit renewal process for trailer area permits as the Secretary uses for other permit renewals in other reservoirs in the State of North Dakota administered by the Dakotas Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation.

(2) **TRAILER HOMES.**—With respect to a trailer home, a permit for each permit year shall authorize the permittee—

(A) to park the trailer home on the lot;

(B) to use the trailer home on the lot;

(C) to physically move the trailer home on and off the lot; and

(D) to leave on the lot any addition, deck, porch, entryway, step to the trailer home, propane tank, or storage shed.

(3) **CAMPERS OR RECREATIONAL VEHICLES.**—With respect to a camper or recreational vehicle, a permit shall, for each permit year—

(A) from April 1 to October 31, authorize the permittee—

(i) to park the camper or recreational vehicle on the lot;

(ii) to use the camper or recreational vehicle on the lot; and

(iii) to move the camper or recreational vehicle on and off the lot; and

(B) from November 1 to March 31, require a permittee to remove the camper or recreational vehicle from the lot.

(c) **REMOVAL.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may require removal of a trailer home from a lot in a trailer area if the trailer home is flooded after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **REMOVAL AND NEW USE.**—If the Secretary requires removal of a trailer home under paragraph (1), on request by the permittee, the Secretary shall authorize the permittee—

(A) to replace the trailer home on the lot with a camper or recreational vehicle in accordance with this section; or

(B) to place a trailer home on the lot from April 1 to October 31.

(d) **TRANSFER OF PERMITS.**—

(1) **TRANSFER OF TRAILER HOME TITLE.**—If a permittee transfers title to a trailer home permitted on a lot in a trailer area, the Secretary shall issue a permit to the transferee, under the same terms as the permit applicable on the date of transfer, subject to the conditions described in paragraph (3).

(2) **TRANSFER OF CAMPER OR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TITLE.**—If a permittee who has a permit to use a camper or recreational vehicle on a lot in a trailer area transfers title to the interests of the permittee on or to the lot, the Secretary shall issue a permit to the transferee, subject to the conditions described in paragraph (3).

(3) **CONDITIONS.**—A permit issued by the Secretary under paragraph (1) or (2) shall be subject to the following conditions:

(A) A permit may not be held in the name of a corporation.

(B) A permittee may not have an interest in, or control of, more than 1 seasonal trailer home site in the Great Plains Region of the Bureau of Reclamation, inclusive of sites located on tracts permitted to organized groups on Reclamation reservoirs.

(C) Not more than 2 persons may be permittees under 1 permit, unless—

(i) approved by the Secretary; or

(ii) the additional persons are immediate family members of the permittees.

(e) **ANCHORING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAILER HOMES.**—The Secretary shall require compliance with appropriate anchoring requirements for each trailer home (including additions to the trailer home) and other objects on a lot in a trailer area, as determined by the Secretary, after consulting with permittees.

(f) **REPLACEMENT, REMOVAL, AND RETURN.**—

(1) **REPLACEMENT.**—Permittees may replace their trailer home with another trailer home.

(2) **REMOVAL AND RETURN.**—Permittees may—

(A) remove their trailer home; and

(B) if the permittee removes their trailer home under subparagraph (A), return the trailer home to the lot of the permittee.

(g) **LIABILITY; TAKING.**—

(1) **LIABILITY.**—The United States shall not be liable for flood damage to the personal property of a permittee or for damages arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to a lot to which a permit applies, other than for damages caused by an act or omission of the United States or an employee, agent, or contractor of the United States before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **TAKING.**—Any temporary flooding or flood damage to the personal property of a permittee shall not be a taking by the United States.

SEC. 3603. LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION.

(a) **FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**—The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law 106–506; 114 Stat. 2351) is amended by striking section 2 and inserting the following:

“SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

“(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

“(1) Lake Tahoe—

“(A) is one of the largest, deepest, and clearest lakes in the world;

“(B) has a cobalt blue color, a biologically diverse alpine setting, and remarkable water clarity; and

“(C) is recognized nationally and worldwide as a natural resource of special significance;

“(2) in addition to being a scenic and ecological treasure, the Lake Tahoe Basin is one of the outstanding recreational resources of the United States, which—

“(A) offers skiing, water sports, biking, camping, and hiking to millions of visitors each year; and

“(B) contributes significantly to the economies of California, Nevada, and the United States;

“(3) the economy in the Lake Tahoe Basin is dependent on the conservation and restoration of the natural beauty and recreation opportunities in the area;

“(4) the ecological health of the Lake Tahoe Basin continues to be challenged by the impacts of land use and transportation patterns developed in the last century;

“(5) the alteration of wetland, wet meadows, and stream zone habitat have compromised the capacity of the watershed to filter sediment, nutrients, and pollutants before reaching Lake Tahoe;

“(6) forests in the Lake Tahoe Basin suffer from over a century of fire damage and periodic drought, which have resulted in—

“(A) high tree density and mortality;

“(B) the loss of biological diversity; and

“(C) a large quantity of combustible forest fuels, which significantly increases the threat of catastrophic fire and insect infestation;

“(7) the establishment of several aquatic and terrestrial invasive species (including perennial pepperweed, milfoil, and Asian clam) threatens the ecosystem of the Lake Tahoe Basin;

“(8) there is an ongoing threat to the economy and ecosystem of the Lake Tahoe Basin of the introduction and establishment of other invasive species (such as yellow starthistle, New Zealand mud snail, Zebra mussel, and quagga mussel);

“(9) 78 percent of the land in the Lake Tahoe Basin is administered by the Federal Government, which makes it a Federal responsibility to restore ecological health to the Lake Tahoe Basin;

“(10) the Federal Government has a long history of environmental stewardship at Lake Tahoe, including—

“(A) congressional consent to the establishment of the Planning Agency with—

“(i) the enactment in 1969 of Public Law 91-148 (83 Stat. 360); and

“(ii) the enactment in 1980 of Public Law 96-551 (94 Stat. 3233);

“(B) the establishment of the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit in 1973;

“(C) the enactment of Public Law 96-586 (94 Stat. 3381) in 1980 to provide for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive land and erosion control grants in the Lake Tahoe Basin;

“(D) the enactment of sections 341 and 342 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004 (Public Law 108-108; 117 Stat. 1317), which amended the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2346) to provide payments for the environmental restoration programs under this Act; and

“(E) the enactment of section 382 of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-432; 120 Stat. 3045), which amended the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2346) to authorize development and implementation of a comprehensive 10-year hazardous fuels and fire prevention plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin;

“(11) the Assistant Secretary was an original signatory in 1997 to the Agreement of Federal Departments on Protection of the Environment and Economic Health of the Lake Tahoe Basin;

“(12) the Chief of Engineers, under direction from the Assistant Secretary, has continued to be a significant contributor to Lake Tahoe Basin restoration, including—

“(A) stream and wetland restoration; and

“(B) programmatic technical assistance;

“(13) at the Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum in 1997, the President renewed the commitment of the Federal Government to Lake Tahoe by—

“(A) committing to increased Federal resources for ecological restoration at Lake Tahoe; and

“(B) establishing the Federal Interagency Partnership and Federal Advisory Committee to consult on natural resources issues concerning the Lake Tahoe Basin;

“(14) at the 2011 and 2012 Lake Tahoe Forums, Senator Reid, Senator Feinstein, Senator Heller, Senator Ensign, Governor Gibbons, Governor Sandoval, and Governor Brown—

“(A) renewed their commitment to Lake Tahoe; and

“(B) expressed their desire to fund the Federal and State shares of the Environmental Improvement Program through 2022;

“(15) since 1997, the Federal Government, the States of California and Nevada, units of local government, and the private sector have contributed more than \$1,955,500,000 to the Lake Tahoe Basin, including—

“(A) \$635,400,000 from the Federal Government;

“(B) \$758,600,000 from the State of California;

“(C) \$123,700,000 from the State of Nevada;

“(D) \$98,900,000 from units of local government; and

“(E) \$338,900,000 from private interests;

“(16) significant additional investment from Federal, State, local, and private sources is necessary—

“(A) to restore and sustain the ecological health of the Lake Tahoe Basin;

“(B) to adapt to the impacts of fluctuating water temperature and precipitation; and

“(C) to prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive species in the Lake Tahoe Basin; and

“(17) the Secretary has indicated that the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit has the capacity for at least \$10,000,000 annually for the Fire Risk Reduction and Forest Management Program.

“(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

“(1) to enable the Chief of the Forest Service, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Administrator, in cooperation with the Planning Agency and the States of California and Nevada, to fund, plan, and implement significant new environmental restoration activities and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin;

“(2) to ensure that Federal, State, local, regional, tribal, and private entities continue to work together to manage land in the Lake Tahoe Basin;

“(3) to support local governments in efforts related to environmental restoration, stormwater pollution control, fire risk reduction, and forest management activities; and

“(4) to ensure that agency and science community representatives in the Lake Tahoe Basin work together—

“(A) to develop and implement a plan for integrated monitoring, assessment, and applied research to evaluate the effectiveness of the Environmental Improvement Program; and

“(B) to provide objective information as a basis for ongoing decisionmaking, with an emphasis on decisionmaking relating to resource management in the Lake Tahoe Basin.”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law 106-506; 114 Stat. 2351) is amended by striking section 3 and inserting the following:

“SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

“In this Act:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

“(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term ‘Assistant Secretary’ means the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

“(3) CHAIR.—The term ‘Chair’ means the Chair of the Federal Partnership.

“(4) COMPACT.—The term ‘Compact’ means the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact included

in the first section of Public Law 96-551 (94 Stat. 3233).

“(5) DIRECTORS.—The term ‘Directors’ means—

“(A) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

“(B) the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

“(6) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.—The term ‘Environmental Improvement Program’ means—

“(A) the Environmental Improvement Program adopted by the Planning Agency; and

“(B) any amendments to the Program.

“(7) ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD CARRYING CAPACITY.—The term ‘environmental threshold carrying capacity’ has the meaning given the term in Article II of the Compact.

“(8) FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘Federal Partnership’ means the Lake Tahoe Federal Interagency Partnership established by Executive Order 13057 (62 Fed. Reg. 41249) (or a successor Executive order).

“(9) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.—The term ‘forest management activity’ includes—

“(A) prescribed burning for ecosystem health and hazardous fuels reduction;

“(B) mechanical and minimum tool treatment;

“(C) stream environment zone restoration and other watershed and wildlife habitat enhancements;

“(D) nonnative invasive species management; and

“(E) other activities consistent with Forest Service practices, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(10) MAPS.—The term ‘Maps’ means the maps—

“(A) entitled—

“(i) ‘LTRA USFS-CA Land Exchange/North Shore’;

“(ii) ‘LTRA USFS-CA Land Exchange/West Shore’; and

“(iii) ‘LTRA USFS-CA Land Exchange/South Shore’; and

“(B) dated January 4, 2016, and on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of—

“(i) the Forest Service;

“(ii) the California Tahoe Conservancy; and

“(iii) the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

“(11) NATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE CODE.—The term ‘national wildland fire code’ means—

“(A) the most recent publication of the National Fire Protection Association codes numbered 1141, 1142, 1143, and 1144;

“(B) the most recent publication of the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code of the International Code Council; or

“(C) any other code that the Secretary determines provides the same, or better, standards for protection against wildland fire as a code described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

“(12) PLANNING AGENCY.—The term ‘Planning Agency’ means the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency established under Public Law 91-148 (83 Stat. 360) and Public Law 96-551 (94 Stat. 3233).

“(13) PRIORITY LIST.—The term ‘Priority List’ means the environmental restoration priority list developed under section 5(b).

“(14) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

“(15) STREAM ENVIRONMENT ZONE.—The term ‘Stream Environment Zone’ means an area that generally owes the biological and physical characteristics of the area to the presence of surface water or groundwater.

“(16) TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD.—The term ‘total maximum daily load’ means the total maximum daily load allocations adopted under section 303(d) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(d)).

“(17) WATERCRAFT.—The term ‘watercraft’ means motorized and non-motorized watercraft, including boats, seaplanes, personal watercraft, kayaks, and canoes.”

(c) IMPROVED ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN MANAGEMENT UNIT.—Section 4 of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law 106–506; 114 Stat. 2353) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “basin” and inserting “Basin”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

“(I) COORDINATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, the Secretary shall, as appropriate, coordinate with the Administrator and State and local agencies and organizations, including local fire departments and volunteer groups.

“(B) GOALS.—The coordination of activities under subparagraph (A) should aim to increase efficiencies and maximize the compatibility of management practices across public property boundaries.

“(2) MULTIPLE BENEFITS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In conducting forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, the Secretary shall conduct the activities in a manner that—

“(i) except as provided in subparagraph (B), attains multiple ecosystem benefits, including—

“(I) reducing forest fuels;

“(II) maintaining biological diversity;

“(III) improving wetland and water quality, including in Stream Environment Zones; and

“(IV) increasing resilience to changing water temperature and precipitation; and

“(ii) helps achieve and maintain the environmental threshold carrying capacities established by the Planning Agency.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A)(i), the attainment of multiple ecosystem benefits shall not be required if the Secretary determines that management for multiple ecosystem benefits would excessively increase the cost of a program in relation to the additional ecosystem benefits gained from the management activity.

(3) GROUND DISTURBANCE.—Consistent with applicable Federal law and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit land and resource management plan direction, the Secretary shall—

“(A) establish post-program ground condition criteria for ground disturbance caused by forest management activities; and

“(B) provide for monitoring to ascertain the attainment of the post-program conditions.

(4) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR CERTAIN FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—A forest management activity conducted in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit for the purpose of reducing forest fuels is categorically excluded from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) if the forest management activity—

“(A) notwithstanding section 423 of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009 (division E of Public Law 111–8; 123 Stat. 748), does not exceed 10,000 acres, including not more than 3,000 acres of mechanical thinning;

“(B) is developed—

“(i) in coordination with impacted parties, specifically including representatives of local governments, such as county supervisors or county commissioners; and

“(ii) in consultation with other interested parties; and

“(C) is consistent with the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit land and resource management plan.

“(d) WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LAND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights and paragraph (2), the Federal land lo-

cated in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is withdrawn from—

“(A) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

“(B) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

“(C) disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—A conveyance of land shall be exempt from withdrawal under this subsection if carried out under—

“(A) this Act; or

“(B) Public Law 96–586 (94 Stat. 3381) (commonly known as the ‘Santini-Burton Act’).

“(e) ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD CARRYING CAPACITY.—The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit shall support the attainment of the environmental threshold carrying capacities.

“(f) COOPERATIVE AUTHORITIES.—During the 4 fiscal years following the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, the Secretary, in conjunction with land adjustment programs, may enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with States, units of local government, and other public and private entities to provide for fuel reduction, erosion control, reforestation, Stream Environment Zone restoration, and similar management activities on Federal land and non-Federal land within the programs.”

(d) AUTHORIZED PROGRAMS.—The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law 106–506; 114 Stat. 2351) is amended by striking section 5 and inserting the following:

“SEC. 5. AUTHORIZED PROGRAMS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, the Directors, and the Administrator, in coordination with the Planning Agency and the States of California and Nevada, may carry out or provide financial assistance to any program that—

“(1) is described in subsection (d);

“(2) is included in the Priority List under subsection (b); and

“(3) furthers the purposes of the Environmental Improvement Program if the program has been subject to environmental review and approval, respectively, as required under Federal law, Article VII of the Compact, and State law, as applicable.

“(b) PRIORITY LIST.—

“(1) DEADLINE.—Not later than March 15 of the year after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, the Chair, in consultation with the Secretary, the Administrator, the Directors, the Planning Agency, the States of California and Nevada, the Federal Partnership, the Washoe Tribe, the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee, and the Tahoe Science Consortium (or a successor organization) shall submit to Congress a prioritized Environmental Improvement Program list for the Lake Tahoe Basin for the program categories described in subsection (d).

“(2) CRITERIA.—The ranking of the Priority List shall be based on the best available science and the following criteria:

“(A) The 4-year threshold carrying capacity evaluation.

“(B) The ability to measure progress or success of the program.

“(C) The potential to significantly contribute to the achievement and maintenance of the environmental threshold carrying capacities identified in Article II of the Compact.

“(D) The ability of a program to provide multiple benefits.

“(E) The ability of a program to leverage non-Federal contributions.

“(F) Stakeholder support for the program.

“(G) The justification of Federal interest.

“(H) Agency priority.

“(I) Agency capacity.

“(J) Cost-effectiveness.

“(K) Federal funding history.

“(3) REVISIONS.—The Priority List submitted under paragraph (1) shall be revised every 2 years.

“(4) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available under section 10(a), \$80,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary to carry out projects listed on the Priority List.

“(c) RESTRICTION.—The Administrator shall use not more than 3 percent of the funds provided under subsection (a) for administering the programs described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (d).

“(d) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) FIRE RISK REDUCTION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available under section 10(a), \$150,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary to carry out, including by making grants, the following programs:

“(i) Programs identified as part of the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy 10-Year Plan.

“(ii) Competitive grants for fuels work to be awarded by the Secretary to communities that have adopted national wildland fire codes to implement the applicable portion of the 10-year plan described in clause (i).

“(iii) Biomass programs, including feasibility assessments.

“(iv) Angora Fire Restoration under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

“(v) Washoe Tribe programs on tribal lands within the Lake Tahoe Basin.

“(vi) Development of an updated Lake Tahoe Basin multijurisdictional fuel reduction and wildfire prevention strategy, consistent with section 4(c).

“(vii) Development of updated community wildfire protection plans by local fire districts.

“(viii) Municipal water infrastructure that significantly improves the firefighting capability of local government within the Lake Tahoe Basin.

“(ix) Stewardship end result contracting projects carried out under section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c).

“(B) MINIMUM ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made available to the Secretary to carry out subparagraph (A), at least \$100,000,000 shall be used by the Secretary for programs under subparagraph (A)(i).

“(C) PRIORITY.—Units of local government that have dedicated funding for inspections and enforcement of defensible space regulations shall be given priority for amounts provided under this paragraph.

“(D) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on the receipt of funds, communities or local fire districts that receive funds under this paragraph shall provide a 25-percent match.

“(ii) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The non-Federal share required under clause (i) may be in the form of cash contributions or in-kind contributions, including providing labor, equipment, supplies, space, and other operational needs.

“(II) CREDIT FOR CERTAIN DEDICATED FUNDING.—There shall be credited toward the non-Federal share required under clause (i) any dedicated funding of the communities or local fire districts for a fuels reduction management program, defensible space inspections, or doorway chipping.

“(III) DOCUMENTATION.—Communities and local fire districts shall—

“(aa) maintain a record of in-kind contributions that describes—

“(AA) the monetary value of the in-kind contributions; and

“(BB) the manner in which the in-kind contributions assist in accomplishing program goals and objectives; and

“(bb) document in all requests for Federal funding, and include in the total program budget, evidence of the commitment to provide the non-Federal share through in-kind contributions.

“(2) INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available under section 10(a), \$45,000,000 shall be made available to the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the Aquatic Invasive Species Program and the watercraft inspections described in subparagraph (B).

“(B) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary, the Planning Agency, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife, shall deploy strategies consistent with the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan to prevent the introduction or spread of aquatic invasive species in the Lake Tahoe region.

“(C) CRITERIA.—The strategies referred to in subparagraph (B) shall provide that—

“(i) combined inspection and decontamination stations be established and operated at not less than 2 locations in the Lake Tahoe region; and

“(ii) watercraft not be allowed to launch in waters of the Lake Tahoe region if the watercraft has not been inspected in accordance with the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan.

“(D) CERTIFICATION.—The Planning Agency may certify State and local agencies to perform the decontamination activities described in subparagraph (C)(i) at locations outside the Lake Tahoe Basin if standards at the sites meet or exceed standards for similar sites in the Lake Tahoe Basin established under this paragraph.

“(E) APPLICABILITY.—The strategies and criteria developed under this paragraph shall apply to all watercraft to be launched on water within the Lake Tahoe region.

“(F) FEES.—The Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service may collect and spend fees for decontamination only at a level sufficient to cover the costs of operation of inspection and decontamination stations under this paragraph.

“(G) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Any person that launches, attempts to launch, or facilitates launching of watercraft not in compliance with strategies deployed under this paragraph shall be liable for a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per violation.

“(ii) OTHER AUTHORITIES.—Any penalties assessed under this subparagraph shall be separate from penalties assessed under any other authority.

“(H) LIMITATION.—The strategies and criteria under subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively, may be modified if the Secretary of the Interior, in a nondelegable capacity and in consultation with the Planning Agency and State governments, issues a determination that alternative measures will be no less effective at preventing introduction of aquatic invasive species into Lake Tahoe than the strategies and criteria developed under subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively.

“(I) SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITY.—The authority under this paragraph is supplemental to all actions taken by non-Federal regulatory authorities.

“(J) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this title restricts, affects, or amends any other law or the authority of any department, instrumentality, or agency of the United States, or any State or political subdivision thereof, respecting the control of invasive species.

“(3) STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, EROSION CONTROL, AND TOTAL WATERSHED RESTORATION.—Of the amounts made available under section 10(a), \$113,000,000 shall be made available—

“(A) to the Secretary, the Secretary of the Interior, the Assistant Secretary, or the Administrator for the Federal share of stormwater management and related programs consistent with the adopted Total Maximum Daily Load and near-shore water quality goals;

“(B) for grants by the Secretary and the Administrator to carry out the programs described in subparagraph (A);

“(C) to the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary for the Federal share of the Upper Truckee River restoration programs and other watershed restoration programs identified in the Priority List established under section 5(b); and

“(D) for grants by the Administrator to carry out the programs described in subparagraph (C).

“(4) SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT.—Of the amounts made available under section 10(a), \$20,000,000 shall be made available to the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery Program.”.

(e) PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law 106–506; 114 Stat. 2351) is amended by striking section 6 and inserting the following: “**SEC. 6. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

“(a) PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available under section 10(a), not less than \$5,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary to carry out this section.

“(2) PLANNING AGENCY.—Of the amounts described in paragraph (1), not less than 50 percent shall be made available to the Planning Agency to carry out the program oversight and coordination activities established under subsection (d).

“(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary, the Administrator, and the Directors shall, as appropriate and in a timely manner, consult with the heads of the Washoe Tribe, applicable Federal, State, regional, and local governmental agencies, and the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee.

“(c) CORPS OF ENGINEERS; INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary may enter into interagency agreements with non-Federal interests in the Lake Tahoe Basin to use Lake Tahoe Partnership-Miscellaneous General Investigations funds to provide programmatic technical assistance for the Environmental Improvement Program.

“(2) LOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Before providing technical assistance under this section, the Assistant Secretary shall enter into a local cooperation agreement with a non-Federal interest to provide for the technical assistance.

“(B) COMPONENTS.—The agreement entered into under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) describe the nature of the technical assistance;

“(ii) describe any legal and institutional structures necessary to ensure the effective long-term viability of the end products by the non-Federal interest; and

“(iii) include cost-sharing provisions in accordance with subparagraph (C).

“(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of program costs under each local cooperation agreement under this paragraph shall be 65 percent.

“(ii) FORM.—The Federal share may be in the form of reimbursements of program costs.

“(iii) CREDIT.—The non-Federal interest may receive credit toward the non-Federal share for

the reasonable costs of related technical activities completed by the non-Federal interest before entering into a local cooperation agreement with the Assistant Secretary under this paragraph.

“(d) EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION AND MONITORING.—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary, the Administrator, and the Directors, in coordination with the Planning Agency and the States of California and Nevada, shall—

“(1) develop and implement a plan for integrated monitoring, assessment, and applied research to evaluate the effectiveness of the Environmental Improvement Program;

“(2) include funds in each program funded under this section for monitoring and assessment of results at the program level; and

“(3) use the integrated multiagency performance measures established under this section.

“(e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than March 15 of each year, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Chair, the Administrator, the Directors, the Planning Agency, and the States of California and Nevada, consistent with subsection (a), shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

“(1) the status of all Federal, State, local, and private programs authorized under this Act, including to the maximum extent practicable, for programs that will receive Federal funds under this Act during the current or subsequent fiscal year—

“(A) the program scope;

“(B) the budget for the program; and

“(C) the justification for the program, consistent with the criteria established in section 5(b)(2);

“(2) Federal, State, local, and private expenditures in the preceding fiscal year to implement the Environmental Improvement Program;

“(3) accomplishments in the preceding fiscal year in implementing this Act in accordance with the performance measures and other monitoring and assessment activities; and

“(4) public education and outreach efforts undertaken to implement programs authorized under this Act.

“(f) ANNUAL BUDGET PLAN.—As part of the annual budget of the President, the President shall submit information regarding each Federal agency involved in the Environmental Improvement Program (including the Forest Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Geological Survey, and the Corps of Engineers), including—

“(1) an interagency crosscut budget that displays the proposed budget for use by each Federal agency in carrying out restoration activities relating to the Environmental Improvement Program for the following fiscal year;

“(2) a detailed accounting of all amounts received and obligated by Federal agencies to achieve the goals of the Environmental Improvement Program during the preceding fiscal year; and

“(3) a description of the Federal role in the Environmental Improvement Program, including the specific role of each agency involved in the restoration of the Lake Tahoe Basin.”.

(f) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS; UPDATES TO RELATED LAWS.—

(1) LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION ACT.—The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law 106–506; 114 Stat. 2351) is amended—

(A) by striking sections 8 and 9;

(B) by redesignating sections 10, 11, and 12 as sections 8, 9, and 10, respectively; and

(C) in section 9 (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)) by inserting “, Director, or Administrator” after “Secretary”.

(2) TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING COMPACT.—Subsection (c) of Article V of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact (Public Law 96–551; 94 Stat. 3240) is amended in the third sentence by

inserting “and, in so doing, shall ensure that the regional plan reflects changing economic conditions and the economic effect of regulation on commerce” after “maintain the regional plan”.

(3) TREATMENT UNDER TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 5303(r)(2)(C) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting “and 25 square miles of land area” after “145,000”; and

(B) by inserting “and 12 square miles of land area” after “65,000”.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law 106-506; 114 Stat. 2351) is amended by striking section 10 (as redesignated by subsection (f)(1)(B)) and inserting the following:

“SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$415,000,000 for a period of 7 fiscal years beginning the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

“(b) EFFECT ON OTHER FUNDS.—Amounts authorized under this section and any amendments made by this Act—

“(1) shall be in addition to any other amounts made available to the Secretary, the Administrator, or the Directors for expenditure in the Lake Tahoe Basin; and

“(2) shall not reduce allocations for other Regions of the Forest Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

“(c) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in subsection (d) and section 5(d)(1)(D), funds for activities carried out under section 5 shall be available for obligation on a 1-to-1 basis with funding of restoration activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin by the States of California and Nevada.

“(d) RELOCATION COSTS.—Notwithstanding subsection (c), the Secretary shall provide to local utility districts two-thirds of the costs of relocating facilities in connection with—

“(1) environmental restoration programs under sections 5 and 6; and

“(2) erosion control programs under section 2 of Public Law 96-586 (94 Stat. 3381).

“(e) SIGNAGE.—To the maximum extent practicable, a program provided assistance under this Act shall include appropriate signage at the program site that—

“(1) provides information to the public on—

“(A) the amount of Federal funds being provided to the program; and

“(B) this Act; and

“(2) displays the visual identity mark of the Environmental Improvement Program.”.

(I) LAND TRANSFERS TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCIES OF FEDERAL AND STATE LAND.—Section 3(b) of Public Law 96-586 (94 Stat. 3384) (commonly known as the “Santini-Burton Act”) is amended—

(A) by striking “(b) Lands” and inserting the following:

“(b) ADMINISTRATION OF ACQUIRED LAND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Land”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) CALIFORNIA CONVEYANCES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the State of California (acting through the California Tahoe Conservancy and the California Department of Parks and Recreation) offers to donate to the United States the non-Federal land described in subparagraph (B)(i), the Secretary—

“(i) may accept the offer; and

“(ii) convey to the State of California, subject to valid existing rights and for no consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

“(B) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—

“(i) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The non-Federal land referred to in subparagraph (A) includes—

“(I) the approximately 1,936 acres of land administered by the California Tahoe Conservancy and identified on the Maps as ‘Tahoe Conservancy to the USFS’; and

“(II) the approximately 183 acres of land administered by California State Parks and identified on the Maps as ‘Total USFS to California’.

“(ii) FEDERAL LAND.—The Federal land referred to in subparagraph (A) includes the approximately 1,995 acres of Forest Service land identified on the Maps as ‘U.S. Forest Service to Conservancy and State Parks’.

“(C) CONDITIONS.—Any land conveyed under this paragraph shall—

“(i) be for the purpose of consolidating Federal and State ownerships and improving management efficiencies;

“(ii) not result in any significant changes in the uses of the land; and

“(iii) be subject to the condition that the applicable deed include such terms, restrictions, covenants, conditions, and reservations as the Secretary determines necessary—

“(I) to ensure compliance with this Act; and

“(II) to ensure that the transfer of development rights associated with the conveyed parcels shall not be recognized or available for transfer under chapter 51 of the Code of Ordinances for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

“(D) CONTINUATION OF SPECIAL USE PERMITS.—The land conveyance under this paragraph shall be subject to the condition that the State of California accept all special use permits applicable, as of the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, to the land described in subparagraph (B)(ii) for the duration of the special use permits, and subject to the terms and conditions of the special use permits.

“(3) NEVADA CONVEYANCES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with this section and on request by the Governor of Nevada, the Secretary may transfer the land or interests in land described in subparagraph (B) to the State of Nevada without consideration, subject to appropriate deed restrictions to protect the environmental quality and public recreational use of the land transferred.

“(B) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subparagraph (A) includes—

“(i) the approximately 38.68 acres of Forest Service land identified on the map entitled ‘State of Nevada Conveyances’ as ‘Van Sickle Unit USFS Inholding’; and

“(ii) the approximately 92.28 acres of Forest Service land identified on the map entitled ‘State of Nevada Conveyances’ as ‘Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park USFS Inholding’.

“(C) CONDITIONS.—Any land conveyed under this paragraph shall—

“(i) be for the purpose of consolidating Federal and State ownerships and improving management efficiencies;

“(ii) not result in any significant changes in the uses of the land; and

“(iii) be subject to the condition that the applicable deed include such terms, restrictions, covenants, conditions, and reservations as the Secretary determines necessary—

“(I) to ensure compliance with this Act; and

“(II) to ensure that the development rights associated with the conveyed parcels shall not be recognized or available for transfer under section 90.2 of the Code of Ordinances for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

“(D) CONTINUATION OF SPECIAL USE PERMITS.—The land conveyance under this paragraph shall be subject to the condition that the State of Nevada accept all special use permits applicable, as of the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, to the land described in subparagraph (B)(ii) for the duration of the special use permits, and subject

to the terms and conditions of the special use permits.

“(4) AUTHORIZATION FOR CONVEYANCE OF FOREST SERVICE URBAN LOTS.—

“(A) CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY.—Except in the case of land described in paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary of Agriculture may convey any urban lot within the Lake Tahoe Basin under the administrative jurisdiction of the Forest Service.

“(B) CONSIDERATION.—A conveyance under subparagraph (A) shall require consideration in an amount equal to the fair market value of the conveyed lot.

“(C) AVAILABILITY AND USE.—The proceeds from a conveyance under subparagraph (A) shall be retained by the Secretary of Agriculture and used for—

“(i) purchasing inholdings throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin; or

“(ii) providing additional funds to carry out the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law 106-506; 114 Stat. 2351) in excess of amounts made available under section 10 of that Act.

“(D) OBLIGATION LIMIT.—The obligation and expenditure of proceeds retained under this paragraph shall be subject to such fiscal year limitation as may be specified in an Act making appropriations for the Forest Service for a fiscal year.

“(5) REVERSION.—If a parcel of land transferred under paragraph (2) or (3) is used in a manner that is inconsistent with the use described for the parcel of land in paragraph (2) or (3), respectively, the parcel of land, shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

“(6) FUNDING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available under section 10(a) of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (Public Law 106-506; 114 Stat. 2351), \$2,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary to carry out the activities under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4).

“(B) OTHER FUNDS.—Of the amounts available to the Secretary under paragraph (1), not less than 50 percent shall be provided to the California Tahoe Conservancy to facilitate the conveyance of land described in paragraphs (2) and (3).”.

SEC. 3604. TUOLUMNE BAND OF ME-WUK INDIANS.

(a) FEDERAL LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest (including improvements and appurtenances) of the United States in and to the Federal land described in subsection (b) shall be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians for nongaming purposes.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The land taken into trust under subsection (a) is the approximately 80 acres of Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the United States Forest Service, located in Tuolumne County, California, and described as follows:

(1) Southwest 1/4 of Southwest 1/4 of Section 2,

Township 1 North, Range 16 East.

(2) Northeast 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of Section 11, Township 1 North, Range 16 East of the Mount Diablo Meridian.

(c) GAMING.—Class II and class III gaming (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)) shall not be permitted at any time on the land taken into trust under subsection (a).

SEC. 3605. SAN LUIS REY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) SAN LUIS REY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION.—The San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act (Public Law 100-675) is amended by inserting after section 111 the following:

“SEC. 112. IMPLEMENTATION OF SETTLEMENT.

“(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds and recognizes as follows:

“(1) *The City of Escondido, California, the Vista Irrigation District, the San Luis Rey River Indian Water Authority, and the Bands have approved an agreement, dated December 5, 2014, resolving their disputes over the use of certain land and water rights in or near the San Luis Rey River watershed, the terms of which are consistent with this Act.*

“(2) *The Bands, the San Luis Rey River Indian Water Authority, the City of Escondido, California, the Vista Irrigation District, and the United States have approved a Settlement Agreement dated January 30, 2015 (hereafter in this section referred to as the ‘Settlement Agreement’) that conforms to the requirements of this Act.*

“(b) **APPROVAL AND RATIFICATION.**—All provisions of the Settlement Agreement, including the waivers and releases of the liability of the United States, the provisions regarding allottees, and the provision entitled ‘Effect of Settlement Agreement and Act,’ are hereby approved and ratified.

“(c) **AUTHORIZATIONS.**—The Secretary and the Attorney General are authorized to execute, on behalf of the United States, the Settlement Agreement and any amendments approved by the parties as necessary to make the Settlement Agreement consistent with this Act. Such execution shall not constitute a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). The Secretary is further authorized and directed to take all steps that the Secretary may deem necessary or appropriate to implement the Settlement Agreement and this Act.

“(d) **CONTINUED FEDERALLY RESERVED AND OTHER WATER RIGHTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including any provisions in this Act, the Bands had, have, and continue to possess federally reserved rights and other water rights held in trust by the United States.

“(2) **FUTURE PROCEEDINGS.**—In any proceeding involving the assertion, enforcement, or defense of the rights described in this subsection, the United States, in its capacity as trustee for any Band, shall not be a required party and any decision by the United States regarding participation in any such proceeding shall not be subject to judicial review or give rise to any claim for relief against the United States.

“(e) **ALLOTTEES.**—Congress finds and confirms that the benefits to allottees in the Settlement Agreement, including the remedies and provisions requiring that any rights of allottees shall be satisfied from supplemental water and other water available to the Bands or the Indian Water Authority, are equitable and fully satisfy the water rights of the allottees.

“(f) **NO PRECEDENT.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed or interpreted as a precedent for the litigation or settlement of Indian reserved water rights.”

(b) **DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.**—The second sentence of section 105(b)(1) of the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act (Public Law 100–675) is amended by striking the period at the end, and inserting the following: “, provided that—

“(i) no more than \$3,700,000 per year (in principal, interest or both) may be so allocated; and

“(ii) none of the funds made available by this section shall be available unless the Director of the Office of Management and Budget first certifies in writing to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate that the federal budget will record budgetary outlays from the San Luis Rey Tribal Development Fund of only the monies, not to exceed \$3,700,000 annually, that the Secretary of the Treasury, pursuant to this section, allocates and makes available to the Indian Water Authority from the trust fund.”

SEC. 3606. TULE RIVER INDIAN TRIBE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (b), valid, existing rights, and management agreements related to easements and rights-of-way, all right, title, and interest (including improvements and appurtenances) of the United States in and to the approximately 34 acres of Federal lands generally depicted on the map titled “Proposed Lands to be Held in Trust for the Tule River Tribe” and dated May 14, 2015, are hereby held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tule River Indian Tribe.

(b) **EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**—For the purposes of subsection (a), valid, existing rights include any easement or right-of-way for which an application is pending with the Bureau of Land Management on the date of the enactment of this Act. If such application is denied upon final action, the valid, existing right related to the application shall cease to exist.

(c) **AVAILABILITY OF MAP.**—The map referred to in subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection at the office of the California State Director, Bureau of Land Management.

(d) **CONVERSION OF VALID, EXISTING RIGHTS.**—

(1) **CONTINUITY OF USE.**—Any person claiming in good faith to have valid, existing rights to lands taken into trust by this section may continue to exercise such rights to the same extent that the rights were exercised before the date of the enactment of this Act until the Secretary makes a determination on an application submitted under paragraph (2)(B) or the application is deemed to be granted under paragraph (3).

(2) **NOTICE AND APPLICATION.**—Consistent with sections 2800 through 2880 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall notify any person that claims to have valid, existing rights, such as a management agreement, easement, or other right-of-way, to lands taken into trust under subsection (a) that—

(A) such lands have been taken into trust; and

(B) the person claiming the valid, existing rights has 60 days to submit an application to the Secretary requesting that the valid, existing rights be converted to a long-term easement or other right-of-way.

(3) **DETERMINATION.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall grant or deny an application submitted under paragraph (2)(B) not later than 180 days after the application is submitted. Such a determination shall be considered a final action. If the Secretary does not make a determination within 180 days after the application is submitted, the application shall be deemed to be granted.

(e) **RESTRICTION ON GAMING.**—Lands taken into trust pursuant to subsection (a) shall not be considered to have been taken into trust for, and shall not be eligible for, class II gaming or class III gaming (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

SEC. 3607. MORONGO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) **BANNING.**—The term “Banning” means the City of Banning, which is located in Riverside County, California adjacent to the Morongo Indian Reservation.

(2) **FIELDS.**—The term “Fields” means Lloyd L. Fields, the owner of record of Parcel A.

(3) **MAP.**—The term “map” means the map entitled “Morongo Indian Reservation, County of Riverside, State of California Land Exchange Map”, and dated May 22, 2014, which is on file in the Bureau of Land Management State Office in Sacramento, California.

(4) **PARCEL A.**—The term “Parcel A” means the approximately 41.15 acres designated on the map as “Fields lands”.

(5) **PARCEL B.**—The term “Parcel B” means the approximately 41.15 acres designated on the map as “Morongo lands”.

(6) **PARCEL C.**—The term “Parcel C” means the approximately 1.21 acres designated on the map as “Banning land”.

(7) **PARCEL D.**—The term “Parcel D” means the approximately 1.76 acres designated on the map as “Easement to Banning”.

(8) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(9) **TRIBE.**—The term “Tribe” means the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, a federally recognized Indian tribe.

(b) **TRANSFER OF LANDS; TRUST LANDS, EASEMENT.**—

(1) **TRANSFER OF PARCEL A AND PARCEL B AND EASEMENT OVER PARCEL D.**—Subject to any valid existing rights of any third parties and to legal review and approval of the form and content of any and all instruments of conveyance and policies of title insurance, upon receipt by the Secretary of confirmation that Fields has duly executed and deposited with a mutually acceptable and jointly instructed escrow holder in California a deed conveying clear and unencumbered title to Parcel A to the United States in trust for the exclusive use and benefit of the Tribe, and upon receipt by Fields of confirmation that the Secretary has duly executed and deposited into escrow with the same mutually acceptable and jointly instructed escrow holder a patent conveying clear and unencumbered title in fee simple to Parcel B to Fields and has duly executed and deposited into escrow with the same mutually acceptable and jointly instructed escrow holder an easement to the City for a public right-of-way over Parcel D, the Secretary shall instruct the escrow holder to simultaneously cause—

(A) the patent to Parcel B to be recorded and issued to Fields;

(B) the easement over Parcel D to be recorded and issued to the City; and

(C) the deed to Parcel A to be delivered to the Secretary, who shall immediately cause said deed to be recorded and held in trust for the Tribe.

(2) **TRANSFER OF PARCEL C.**—After the simultaneous transfer of parcels A, B, and D under paragraph (1), upon receipt by the Secretary of confirmation that the City has vacated its interest in Parcel C pursuant to all applicable State and local laws, the Secretary shall immediately cause Parcel C to be held in trust for the Tribe subject to—

(A) any valid existing rights of any third parties; and

(B) legal review and approval of the form and content of any and all instruments of conveyance.

SEC. 3608. CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA AND THE CHICKASAW NATION WATER SETTLEMENT.

(a) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to permanently resolve and settle those claims to Settlement Area Waters of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Chickasaw Nation as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and this section, including all claims or defenses in and to Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation v. Fallin et al., CIV 11–927 (W.D. Ok.), OWRB v. United States, et al. CIV 12–275 (W.D. Ok.), or any future stream adjudication;

(2) to approve, ratify, and confirm the Settlement Agreement;

(3) to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to execute the Settlement Agreement and to perform all obligations of the Secretary of the Interior under the Settlement Agreement and this section;

(4) to approve, ratify, and confirm the amended storage contract among the State, the City and the Trust;

(5) to authorize and direct the Secretary to approve the amended storage contract for the Corps of Engineers to perform all obligations under the 1974 storage contract, the amended storage contract, and this section; and

(6) to authorize all actions necessary for the United States to meet its obligations under the Settlement Agreement, the amended storage contract, and this section.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) 1974 STORAGE CONTRACT.—The term “1974 storage contract” means the contract approved by the Secretary on April 9, 1974, between the Secretary and the Water Conservation Storage Commission of the State of Oklahoma pursuant to section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958, and other applicable Federal law.

(2) 2010 AGREEMENT.—The term “2010 agreement” means the agreement entered into among the OWRB and the Trust, dated June 15, 2010, relating to the assignment by the State of the 1974 storage contract and transfer of rights, title, interests, and obligations under that contract to the Trust, including the interests of the State in the conservation storage capacity and associated repayment obligations to the United States.

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE SET-ASIDE SUBCONTRACTS.—The term “administrative set-aside subcontracts” means the subcontracts the City shall issue for the use of Conservation Storage Capacity in Sardis Lake as provided by section 4 of the amended storage contract.

(4) ALLOTMENT.—The term “allotment” means the land within the Settlement Area held by an allottee subject to a statutory restriction on alienation or held by the United States in trust for the benefit of an allottee.

(5) ALLOTTEE.—The term “allottee” means an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation or citizen of the Chickasaw Nation who, or whose estate, holds an interest in an allotment.

(6) AMENDED PERMIT APPLICATION.—The term “amended permit application” means the permit application of the City to the OWRB, No. 2007-17, as amended as provided by the Settlement Agreement.

(7) AMENDED STORAGE CONTRACT TRANSFER AGREEMENT; AMENDED STORAGE CONTRACT.—The terms “amended storage contract transfer agreement” and “amended storage contract” mean the 2010 Agreement between the City, the Trust, and the OWRB, as amended, as provided by the Settlement Agreement and this section.

(8) ATOKA AND SARDIS CONSERVATION PROJECTS FUND.—The term “Atoka and Sardis Conservation Projects Fund” means the Atoka and Sardis Conservation Projects Fund established, funded, and managed in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.

(9) CITY.—The term “City” means the City of Oklahoma City, or the City and the Trust acting jointly, as applicable.

(10) CITY PERMIT.—The term “City permit” means any permit issued to the City by the OWRB pursuant to the amended permit application and consistent with the Settlement Agreement.

(11) CONSERVATION STORAGE CAPACITY.—The term “conservation storage capacity” means the total storage space as stated in the 1974 storage contract in Sardis Lake between elevations 599.0 feet above mean sea level and 542.0 feet above mean sea level, which is estimated to contain 297,200 acre-feet of water after adjustment for sediment deposits, and which may be used for municipal and industrial water supply, fish and wildlife, and recreation.

(12) ENFORCEABILITY DATE.—The term “enforceability date” means the date on which the Secretary of the Interior publishes in the Federal Register a notice certifying that the conditions of subsection (i) have been satisfied.

(13) FUTURE USE STORAGE.—The term “future use storage” means that portion of the con-

servation storage capacity that was designated by the 1974 Contract to be utilized for future water use storage and was estimated to contain 155,500 acre feet of water after adjustment for sediment deposits, or 52.322 percent of the conservation storage capacity.

(14) NATIONS.—The term “Nations” means, collectively, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (“Choctaw Nation”) and the Chickasaw Nation.

(15) OWRB.—The term “OWRB” means the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

(16) SARDIS LAKE.—The term “Sardis Lake” means the reservoir, formerly known as Clayton Lake, whose dam is located in Section 19, Township 2 North, Range 19 East of the Indian Meridian, Pushmataha County, Oklahoma, the construction, operation, and maintenance of which was authorized by section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-874; 76 Stat. 1187).

(17) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The term “Settlement Agreement” means the settlement agreement as approved by the Nations, the State, the City, and the Trust effective August 22, 2016, as revised to conform with this section, as applicable.

(18) SETTLEMENT AREA.—The term “settlement area” means—

(A) the area lying between—

(i) the South Canadian River and Arkansas River to the north;

(ii) the Oklahoma-Texas State line to the south;

(iii) the Oklahoma-Arkansas State line to the east; and

(iv) the 98th Meridian to the west; and

(B) the area depicted in Exhibit 1 to the Settlement Agreement and generally including the following counties, or portions of, in the State:

(i) Atoka.

(ii) Bryan.

(iii) Carter.

(iv) Choctaw.

(v) Coal.

(vi) Garvin.

(vii) Grady.

(viii) McClain.

(ix) Murray.

(x) Haskell.

(xi) Hughes.

(xii) Jefferson.

(xiii) Johnston.

(xiv) Latimer.

(xv) LeFlore.

(xvi) Love.

(xvii) Marshall.

(xviii) McCurtain.

(xix) Pittsburgh.

(xx) Pontotoc.

(xxi) Pushmataha.

(xxii) Stephens.

(19) SETTLEMENT AREA WATERS.—The term “settlement area waters” means the waters located—

(A) within the settlement area; and

(B) within a basin depicted in Exhibit 10 to the Settlement Agreement, including any of the following basins as denominated in the 2012 Update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan:

(i) Beaver Creek (24, 25, and 26).

(ii) Blue (11 and 12).

(iii) Clear Boggy (9).

(iv) Kiamichi (5 and 6).

(v) Lower Arkansas (46 and 47).

(vi) Lower Canadian (48, 56, 57, and 58).

(vii) Lower Little (2).

(viii) Lower Washita (14).

(ix) Mountain Fork (4).

(x) Middle Washita (15 and 16).

(xi) Mud Creek (23).

(xii) Muddy Boggy (7 and 8).

(xiii) Poteau (44 and 45).

(xiv) Red River Mainstem (1, 10, 13, and 21).

(xv) Upper Little (3).

(xvi) Walnut Bayou (22).

(20) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Oklahoma.

(21) TRUST.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Trust” means the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust, formerly known as the Oklahoma City Municipal Improvement Authority, a public trust established pursuant to State law with the City as the beneficiary.

(B) REFERENCES.—A reference in this section to “Trust” refers to the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust, acting severally.

(22) UNITED STATES.—The term “United States” means the United States of America acting in its capacity as trustee for the Nations, their respective members, citizens, and allottees, or as specifically stated or limited in any given reference herein, in which case it means the United States of America acting in the capacity as set forth in said reference.

(c) APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—

(1) RATIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as modified by this section, and to the extent the Settlement Agreement does not conflict with this section, the Settlement Agreement is authorized, ratified, and confirmed.

(B) AMENDMENTS.—If an amendment is executed to make the Settlement Agreement consistent with this section, the amendment is also authorized, ratified and confirmed to the extent the amendment is consistent with this section.

(2) EXECUTION OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To the extent the Settlement Agreement does not conflict with this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall promptly execute the Settlement Agreement, including all exhibits to or parts of the Settlement Agreement requiring the signature of the Secretary of the Interior and any amendments necessary to make the Settlement Agreement consistent with this section.

(B) NOT A MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION.—Execution of the Settlement Agreement by the Secretary of the Interior under this subsection shall not constitute a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(d) APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED STORAGE CONTRACT AND 1974 STORAGE CONTRACT.—

(1) RATIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except to the extent any provision of the amended storage contract conflicts with any provision of this section, the amended storage contract is authorized, ratified, and confirmed.

(B) 1974 STORAGE CONTRACT.—To the extent the amended storage contract, as authorized, ratified, and confirmed, modifies or amends the 1974 storage contract, the modification or amendment to the 1974 storage contract is authorized, ratified, and confirmed.

(C) AMENDMENTS.—To the extent an amendment is executed to make the amended storage contract consistent with this section, the amendment is authorized, ratified, and confirmed.

(2) APPROVAL BY THE SECRETARY.—After the State and the City execute the amended storage contract, the Secretary shall approve the amended storage contract.

(3) MODIFICATION OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2009, ORDER IN UNITED STATES V. OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD, CIV 98-00521 (N.D. OK).—The Secretary, through counsel, shall cooperate and work with the State to file any motion and proposed order to modify or amend the order of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma dated September 11, 2009, necessary to conform the order to the amended storage contract transfer agreement, the Settlement Agreement, and this section.

(4) CONSERVATION STORAGE CAPACITY.—The allocation of the use of the conservation storage capacity in Sardis Lake for administrative set-aside subcontracts, City water supply, and fish and wildlife and recreation as provided by the amended storage contract is authorized, ratified and approved.

(5) ACTIVATION; WAIVER.—

(A) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(i) the earliest possible activation of any increment of future use storage in Sardis Lake will not occur until after 2050; and

(ii) the obligation to make annual payments for the Sardis future use storage operation, maintenance and replacement costs, capital costs, or interest attributable to Sardis future use storage only arises if, and only to the extent, that an increment of Sardis future use storage is activated by withdrawal or release of water from the future use storage that is authorized by the user for a consumptive use of water.

(B) WAIVER OF OBLIGATIONS FOR STORAGE THAT IS NOT ACTIVATED.—Notwithstanding section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b), section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-874; 76 Stat. 1187), the 1974 storage contract, or any other provision of law, effective as of January 1, 2050—

(i) the entirety of any repayment obligations (including interest), relating to that portion of conservation storage capacity allocated by the 1974 storage contract to future use storage in Sardis Lake is waived and shall be considered nonreimbursable; and

(ii) any obligation of the State and, on execution and approval of the amended storage contract, of the City and the Trust, under the 1974 storage contract regarding capital costs and any operation, maintenance, and replacement costs and interest otherwise attributable to future use storage in Sardis Lake is waived and shall be nonreimbursable, if by January 1, 2050, the right to future use storage is not activated by the withdrawal or release of water from future use storage for an authorized consumptive use of water.

(6) CONSISTENT WITH AUTHORIZED PURPOSES; NO MAJOR OPERATIONAL CHANGE.—

(A) CONSISTENT WITH AUTHORIZED PURPOSE.—The amended storage contract, the approval of the Secretary of the amended storage contract, and the waiver of future use storage under paragraph (5)—

(i) are deemed consistent with the authorized purposes for Sardis Lake as described in section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-874; 76 Stat. 1187) and do not affect the authorized purposes for which the project was authorized, surveyed, planned, and constructed; and

(ii) shall not constitute a reallocation of storage.

(B) NO MAJOR OPERATIONAL CHANGE.—The amended storage contract, the approval of the Secretary of the amended storage contract, and the waiver of future use storage under paragraph (5) shall not constitute a major operational change under section 301(e) of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b(e)).

(7) NO FURTHER AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED.—This section shall be considered sufficient and complete authorization, without further study or analysis, for—

(A) the Secretary to approve the amended storage contract; and

(B) after approval under subparagraph (A), the Corps of Engineers to manage storage in Sardis Lake pursuant to and in accordance with the 1974 storage contract, the amended storage contract, and the Settlement Agreement.

(e) SETTLEMENT AREA WATERS.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) pursuant to the Atoka Agreement as ratified by section 29 of the Act of June 28, 1898 (30

Stat. 505, chapter 517) (as modified by the Act of July 1, 1902 (32 Stat. 641, chapter 1362)), the Nations issued patents to their respective tribal members and citizens and thereby conveyed to individual Choctaws and Chickasaws, all right, title, and interest in and to land that was possessed by the Nations, other than certain mineral rights; and

(B) when title passed from the Nations to their respective tribal members and citizens, the Nations did not convey and those individuals did not receive any right of regulatory or sovereign authority, including with respect to water.

(2) PERMITTING, ALLOCATION, AND ADMINISTRATION OF SETTLEMENT AREA WATERS PURSUANT TO THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—Beginning on the enforceability date, settlement area waters shall be permitted, allocated, and administered by the OWRB in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and this section.

(3) CHOCTAW NATION AND CHICKASAW NATION.—Beginning on the enforceability date, the Nations shall have the right to use and to develop the right to use settlement area waters only in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and this section.

(4) WAIVER AND DELEGATION BY NATIONS.—In addition to the waivers under subsection (h), the Nations, on their own behalf, shall permanently delegate to the State any regulatory authority each Nation may possess over water rights on allotments, which the State shall exercise in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and this subsection.

(5) RIGHT TO USE WATER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An allottee may use water on an allotment in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and this subsection.

(B) SURFACE WATER USE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An allottee may divert and use, on the allotment of the allottee, 6 acre-feet per year of surface water per 160 acres, to be used solely for domestic uses on an allotment that constitutes riparian land under applicable State law as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(ii) EFFECT OF STATE LAW.—The use of surface water described in clause (i) shall be subject to all rights and protections of State law, as of the date of enactment of this Act, including all protections against loss for nonuse.

(iii) NO PERMIT REQUIRED.—An allottee may divert water under this subsection without a permit or any other authorization from the OWRB.

(C) GROUNDWATER USE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An allottee may drill wells on the allotment of the allottee to take and use for domestic uses the greater of—

(I) 5 acre-feet per year; or

(II) any greater quantity allowed under State law.

(ii) EFFECT OF STATE LAW.—The groundwater use described in clause (i) shall be subject to all rights and protections of State law, as of the date of enactment of this Act, including all protections against loss for nonuse.

(iii) NO PERMIT REQUIRED.—An allottee may drill wells and use water under this subsection without a permit or any other authorization from the OWRB.

(D) FUTURE CHANGES IN STATE LAW.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If State law changes to limit use of water to a quantity that is less than the applicable quantity specified in subparagraph (B) or (C), as applicable, an allottee shall retain the right to use water in accord with those subparagraphs, subject to paragraphs (6)(B)(iv) and (7).

(ii) OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD.—Prior to taking any action to limit the use of water by an individual, the OWRB shall provide to the individual an opportunity to demonstrate that the individual is—

(I) an allottee; and

(II) using water on the allotment pursuant to and in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and this section.

(6) ALLOTTEE OPTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL WATER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To use a quantity of water in excess of the quantities provided under paragraph (5), an allottee shall—

(i) file an action under subparagraph (B); or

(ii) apply to the OWRB for a permit pursuant to, and in accordance with, State law.

(B) DETERMINATION IN FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In lieu of applying to the OWRB for a permit to use more water than is allowed under paragraph (5), an allottee may file an action in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma for determination of the right to water of the allottee. At least 90 days prior to filing such an action, the allottee shall provide written notice of the suit to the United States and the OWRB. For the United States, notice shall be provided to the Solicitor's Office, Department of the Interior, Washington D.C., and to the Office of the Regional Director of the Muskogee Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior.

(ii) JURISDICTION.—For purposes of this subsection—

(I) the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma shall have jurisdiction; and

(II) as part of the complaint, the allottee shall include certification of the pre-filing notice to the United States and OWRB required by subparagraph (B)(i). If such certification is not included with the complaint, the complaint will be deemed filed 90 days after such certification is complete and filed with the court. Within 60 days after the complaint is filed or deemed filed or within such extended time as the District Court in its discretion may permit, the United States may appear or intervene. After such appearance, intervention or the expiration of the said 60 days or any extension thereof, the proceedings and judgment in such action shall bind the United States and the parties thereto without regard to whether the United States elects to appear or intervene in such action.

(iii) REQUIREMENTS.—An allottee filing an action pursuant to this subparagraph shall—

(I) join the OWRB as a party; and

(II) publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the Settlement Area Hydrologic Basin for 2 consecutive weeks, with the first publication appearing not later than 30 days after the date on which the action is filed.

(iv) DETERMINATION FINAL.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), if an allottee elects to have the rights of the allottee determined pursuant to this subparagraph, the determination shall be final as to any rights under Federal law and in lieu of any rights to use water on an allotment as provided in paragraph (5).

(II) RESERVATION OF RIGHTS.—Subclause (I) shall not preclude an allottee from—

(aa) applying to the OWRB for water rights pursuant to State law; or

(bb) using any rights allowed by State law that do not require a permit from the OWRB.

(7) OWRB ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If an allottee exercises any right under paragraph (5) or has rights determined under paragraph (6)(B), the OWRB shall have jurisdiction to administer those rights.

(B) CHALLENGES.—An allottee may challenge OWRB administration of rights determined under this paragraph, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma.

(8) PRIOR EXISTING STATE LAW RIGHTS.—Water rights held by an allottee as of the enforceability date pursuant to a permit issued by the

OWRB shall be governed by the terms of that permit and applicable State law (including regulations).

(f) CITY PERMIT FOR APPROPRIATION OF STREAM WATER FROM THE KIAMICHI RIVER.—The City permit shall be processed, evaluated, issued, and administered consistent with and in accordance with the Settlement Agreement and this section.

(g) SETTLEMENT COMMISSION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Settlement Commission.

(2) MEMBERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Settlement Commission shall be comprised of 5 members, appointed as follows:

(i) 1 by the Governor of the State.

(ii) 1 by the Attorney General of the State.

(iii) 1 by the Chief of the Choctaw Nation.

(iv) 1 by the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation.

(v) 1 by agreement of the members described in clauses (i) through (iv).

(B) JOINTLY APPOINTED MEMBER.—If the members described in clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A) do not agree on a member appointed pursuant to subparagraph (A)(v)—

(i) the members shall submit to the Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, a list of not less than 3 persons; and

(ii) from the list under clause (i), the Chief Judge shall make the appointment.

(C) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The initial appointments to the Settlement Commission shall be made not later than 90 days after the enforceability date.

(3) MEMBER TERMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Settlement Commission member shall serve at the pleasure of appointing authority.

(B) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Settlement Commission shall serve without compensation, but an appointing authority may reimburse the member appointed by the entity for costs associated with service on the Settlement Commission.

(C) VACANCIES.—If a member of the Settlement Commission is removed or resigns, the appointing authority shall appoint the replacement member.

(D) JOINTLY APPOINTED MEMBER.—The member of the Settlement Commission described in paragraph (2)(A)(v) may be removed or replaced by a majority vote of the Settlement Commission based on a failure of the member to carry out the duties of the member.

(4) DUTIES.—The duties and authority of the Settlement Commission shall be set forth in the Settlement Agreement, and the Settlement Commission shall not possess or exercise any duty or authority not stated in the Settlement Agreement.

(h) WAIVERS AND RELEASES OF CLAIMS.—

(1) CLAIMS BY THE NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES AS TRUSTEE FOR THE NATIONS.—Subject to the retention of rights and claims provided in paragraph (3) and except to the extent that rights are recognized in the Settlement Agreement or this section, the Nations, each in its own right and on behalf of itself and its respective citizens and members (but not individuals in their capacities as allottees), and the United States, acting as a trustee for the Nations (but not individuals in their capacities as allottees), shall execute a waiver and release of—

(A) all of the following claims asserted or which could have been asserted in any proceeding filed or that could have been filed during the period ending on the enforceability date, including Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation v. Fallin et al., CIV 11–927 (W.D. Ok.), OWRB v. United States, et al. CIV 12–275 (W.D. Ok.), or any general stream adjudication, relating to—

(i) claims to the ownership of water in the State;

(ii) claims to water rights and rights to use water diverted or taken from a location within the State;

(iii) claims to authority over the allocation and management of water and administration of water rights, including authority over third-party ownership of or rights to use water diverted or taken from a location within the State and ownership or use of water on allotments by allottees or any other person using water on an allotment with the permission of an allottee;

(iv) claims that the State lacks authority over the allocation and management of water and administration of water rights, including authority over the ownership of or rights to use water diverted or taken from a location within the State;

(v) any other claim relating to the ownership of water, regulation of water, or authorized diversion, storage, or use of water diverted or taken from a location within the State, which claim is based on the status of the Chickasaw Nation's or the Choctaw Nation's unique sovereign status and rights as defined by Federal law and alleged to arise from treaties to which they are signatories, including but not limited to the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, Act of Sept. 30, 1830, 7 Stat. 333, Treaty of Doaksville, Act of Jan. 17, 1837, 11 Stat. 573, and the related March 23, 1842, patent to the Choctaw Nation; and

(vi) claims or defenses asserted or which could have been asserted in Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation v. Fallin et al., CIV 11–927 (W.D. Ok.), OWRB v. United States, et al. CIV 12–275 (W.D. Ok.), or any general stream adjudication;

(B) all claims for damages, losses or injuries to water rights or water, or claims of interference with, diversion, storage, taking, or use of water (including claims for injury to land resulting from the damages, losses, injuries, interference with, diversion, storage, taking, or use of water) attributable to any action by the State, the OWRB, or any water user authorized pursuant to State law to take or use water in the State, including the City, that accrued during the period ending on the enforceability date;

(C) all claims and objections relating to the amended permit application, and the City permit, including—

(i) all claims regarding regulatory control over or OWRB jurisdiction relating to the permit application and permit; and

(ii) all claims for damages, losses or injuries to water rights or rights to use water, or claims of interference with, diversion, storage, taking, or use of water (including claims for injury to land resulting from the damages, losses, injuries, interference with, diversion, storage, taking, or use of water) attributable to the issuance and lawful exercise of the City permit;

(D) all claims to regulatory control over the Permit Numbers P80–48 and 54–613 of the City for water rights from the Muddy Boggy River for Atoka Reservoir and P73–282D for water rights from the Muddy Boggy River, including McGee Creek, for the McGee Creek Reservoir;

(E) all claims that the State lacks regulatory authority over or OWRB jurisdiction relating to Permit Numbers P80–48 and 54–613 for water rights from the Muddy Boggy River for Atoka Reservoir and P73–282D for water rights from the Muddy Boggy River, including McGee Creek, for the McGee Creek Reservoir;

(F) all claims to damages, losses or injuries to water rights or water, or claims of interference with, diversion, storage, taking, or use of water (including claims for injury to land resulting from such damages, losses, injuries, interference with, diversion, storage, taking, or use of water) attributable to the lawful exercise of Permit Numbers P80–48 and 54–613 for water rights from

the Muddy Boggy River for Atoka Reservoir and P73–282D for water rights from the Muddy Boggy River, including McGee Creek, for the McGee Creek Reservoir, that accrued during the period ending on the enforceability date;

(G) all claims and objections relating to the approval by the Secretary of the assignment of the 1974 storage contract pursuant to the amended storage contract; and

(H) all claims for damages, losses, or injuries to water rights or water, or claims of interference with, diversion, storage, taking, or use of water (including claims for injury to land resulting from such damages, losses, injuries, interference with, diversion, storage, taking, or use of water) attributable to the lawful exercise of rights pursuant to the amended storage contract.

(2) WAIVERS AND RELEASES OF CLAIMS BY THE NATIONS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.—Subject to the retention of rights and claims provided in paragraph (3) and except to the extent that rights are recognized in the Settlement Agreement or this section, the Nations are authorized to execute a waiver and release of all claims against the United States (including any agency or employee of the United States) relating to—

(A) all of the following claims asserted or which could have been asserted in any proceeding filed or that could have been filed by the United States as a trustee during the period ending on the enforceability date, including Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation v. Fallin et al., CIV 11–927 (W.D. Ok.) or OWRB v. United States, et al. CIV 12–275 (W.D. Ok.), or any general stream adjudication, relating to—

(i) claims to the ownership of water in the State;

(ii) claims to water rights and rights to use water diverted or taken from a location within the State;

(iii) claims to authority over the allocation and management of water and administration of water rights, including authority over third-party ownership of or rights to use water diverted or taken from a location within the State and ownership or use of water on allotments by allottees or any other person using water on an allotment with the permission of an allottee;

(iv) claims that the State lacks authority over the allocation and management of water and administration of water rights, including authority over the ownership of or rights to use water diverted or taken from a location within the State;

(v) any other claim relating to the ownership of water, regulation of water, or authorized diversion, storage, or use of water diverted or taken from a location within the State, which claim is based on the status of the Chickasaw Nation's or the Choctaw Nation's unique sovereign status and rights as defined by Federal law and alleged to arise from treaties to which they are signatories, including but not limited to the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, Act of Sept. 30, 1830, 7 Stat. 333, Treaty of Doaksville, Act of Jan. 17, 1837, 11 Stat. 573, and the related March 23, 1842, patent to the Choctaw Nation; and

(vi) claims or defenses asserted or which could have been asserted in Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation v. Fallin et al., CIV 11–927 (W.D. Ok.), OWRB v. United States, et al. CIV 12–275 (W.D. Ok.), or any general stream adjudication;

(B) all claims for damages, losses or injuries to water rights or water, or claims of interference with, diversion, storage, taking, or use of water (including claims for injury to land resulting from the damages, losses, injuries, interference with, diversion, storage, taking, or use of water) attributable to any action by the State, the OWRB, or any water user authorized pursuant to State law to take or use water in the State, including the City, that accrued during the period ending on the enforceability date;

(C) all claims and objections relating to the amended permit application, and the City permit, including—

(i) all claims regarding regulatory control over or OWRB jurisdiction relating to the permit application and permit; and

(ii) all claims for damages, losses or injuries to water rights or rights to use water, or claims of interference with, diversion, storage, taking, or use of water (including claims for injury to land resulting from the damages, losses, injuries, interference with, diversion, storage, taking, or use of water) attributable to the issuance and lawful exercise of the City permit;

(D) all claims to regulatory control over the Permit Numbers P80-48 and 54-613 for water rights from the Muddy Boggy River for Atoka Reservoir and P73-282D for water rights from the Muddy Boggy River, including McGee Creek, for the McGee Creek Reservoir;

(E) all claims that the State lacks regulatory authority over or OWRB jurisdiction relating to Permit Numbers P80-48 and 54-613 for water rights from the Muddy Boggy River for Atoka Reservoir and P73-282D for water rights from the Muddy Boggy River, including McGee Creek, for the McGee Creek Reservoir;

(F) all claims to damages, losses or injuries to water rights or water, or claims of interference with, diversion, storage, taking, or use of water (including claims for injury to land resulting from the damages, losses, injuries, interference with, diversion, storage, taking, or use of water) attributable to the lawful exercise of Permit Numbers P80-48 and 54-613 for water rights from the Muddy Boggy River for Atoka Reservoir and P73-282D for water rights from the Muddy Boggy River, including McGee Creek, for the McGee Creek Reservoir, that accrued during the period ending on the enforceability date;

(G) all claims and objections relating to the approval by the Secretary of the assignment of the 1974 storage contract pursuant to the amended storage contract;

(H) all claims relating to litigation brought by the United States prior to the enforceability date of the water rights of the Nations in the State; and

(I) all claims relating to the negotiation, execution, or adoption of the Settlement Agreement (including exhibits) or this section.

(3) RETENTION AND RESERVATION OF CLAIMS BY NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the waiver and releases of claims authorized under paragraphs (1) and (2), the Nations and the United States, acting as trustee, shall retain—

(i) all claims for enforcement of the Settlement Agreement and this section;

(ii) all rights to use and protect any water right of the Nations recognized by or established pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, including the right to assert claims for injuries relating to the rights and the right to participate in any general stream adjudication, including any *inter se* proceeding;

(iii) all claims under—

(I) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), including for damages to natural resources;

(II) the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

(III) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.); and

(IV) any regulations implementing the Acts described in items (I) through (III);

(iv) all claims relating to damage, loss, or injury resulting from an unauthorized diversion, use, or storage of water, including damages, losses, or injuries to land or nonwater natural resources associated with any hunting, fishing, gathering, or cultural right; and

(v) all rights, remedies, privileges, immunities, and powers not specifically waived and released

pursuant to this section or the Settlement Agreement.

(B) AGREEMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—As provided in the Settlement Agreement, the Chickasaw Nation shall convey an easement to the City, which easement shall be as described and depicted in Exhibit 15 to the Settlement Agreement.

(ii) APPLICATION.—The Chickasaw Nation and the City shall cooperate and coordinate on the submission of an application for approval by the Secretary of the Interior of the conveyance under clause (i), in accordance with applicable Federal law.

(iii) RECORDING.—On approval by the Secretary of the Interior of the conveyance of the easement under this clause, the City shall record the easement.

(iv) CONSIDERATION.—In exchange for conveyance of the easement under clause (i), the City shall pay to the Chickasaw Nation the value of past unauthorized use and consideration for future use of the land burdened by the easement, based on an appraisal secured by the City and Nations and approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE OF WAIVER AND RELEASURES.—The waivers and releases under this subsection take effect on the enforceability date.

(5) TOLLING OF CLAIMS.—Each applicable period of limitation and time-based equitable defense relating to a claim described in this subsection shall be tolled during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the earlier of the enforceability date or the expiration date under subsection (i)(2).

(i) ENFORCEABILITY DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Settlement Agreement shall take effect and be enforceable on the date on which the Secretary of the Interior publishes in the Federal Register a certification that—

(A) to the extent the Settlement Agreement conflicts with this section, the Settlement Agreement has been amended to conform with this section;

(B) the Settlement Agreement, as amended, has been executed by the Secretary of the Interior, the Nations, the Governor of the State, the OWRB, the City, and the Trust;

(C) to the extent the amended storage contract conflicts with this section, the amended storage contract has been amended to conform with this section;

(D) the amended storage contract, as amended to conform with this section, has been—

(i) executed by the State, the City, and the Trust; and

(ii) approved by the Secretary;

(E) an order has been entered in United States v. Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Civ. 98-C-521-E with any modifications to the order dated September 11, 2009, as provided in the Settlement Agreement;

(F) orders of dismissal have been entered in Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation v. Fallin et al., Civ 11-297 (W.D. Ok.) and OWRB v. United States, et al. Civ 12-275 (W.D. Ok.) as provided in the Settlement Agreement;

(G) the OWRB has issued the City Permit;

(H) the final documentation of the Kiamichi Basin hydrologic model is on file at the Oklahoma City offices of the OWRB; and

(I) the Atoka and Sardis Conservation Projects Fund has been funded as provided in the Settlement Agreement.

(2) EXPIRATION DATE.—If the Secretary of the Interior fails to publish a statement of findings under paragraph (1) by not later than September 30, 2020, or such alternative later date as is agreed to by the Secretary of the Interior, the Nations, the State, the City, and the Trust under paragraph (4), the following shall apply:

(A) This section, except for this subsection and any provisions of this section that are nec-

essary to carry out this subsection (but only for purposes of carrying out this subsection) are not effective beginning on September 30, 2020, or the alternative date.

(B) The waivers and release of claims, and the limited waivers of sovereign immunity, shall not become effective.

(C) The Settlement Agreement shall be null and void, except for this paragraph and any provisions of the Settlement Agreement that are necessary to carry out this paragraph.

(D) Except with respect to this paragraph, the State, the Nations, the City, the Trust, and the United States shall not be bound by any obligations or benefit from any rights recognized under the Settlement Agreement.

(E) If the City permit has been issued, the permit shall be null and void, except that the City may resubmit to the OWRB, and the OWRB shall be considered to have accepted, OWRB permit application No. 2007-017 without having waived the original application priority date and appropriate quantities.

(F) If the amended storage contract has been executed or approved, the contract shall be null and void, and the 2010 agreement shall be considered to be in force and effect as between the State and the Trust.

(G) If the Atoka and Sardis Conservation Projects Fund has been established and funded, the funds shall be returned to the respective funding parties with any accrued interest.

(3) NO PREJUDICE.—The occurrence of the expiration date under paragraph (2) shall not in any way prejudice—

(A) any argument or suit that the Nations may bring to contest—

(i) the pursuit by the City of OWRB permit application No. 2007-017, or a modified version; or

(ii) the 2010 agreement;

(B) any argument, defense, or suit the State may bring or assert with regard to the claims of the Nations to water or over water in the settlement area; or

(C) any argument, defense or suit the City may bring or assert—

(i) with regard to the claims of the Nations to water or over water in the settlement area relating to OWRB permit application No. 2007-017, or a modified version; or

(ii) to contest the 2010 agreement.

(4) EXTENSION.—The expiration date under paragraph (2) may be extended in writing if the Nations, the State, the OWRB, the United States, and the City agree that an extension is warranted.

(j) JURISDICTION, WAIVERS OF IMMUNITY FOR INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) JURISDICTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION.—The United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma shall have exclusive jurisdiction for all purposes and for all causes of action relating to the interpretation and enforcement of the Settlement Agreement, the amended storage contract, or interpretation or enforcement of this section, including all actions filed by an allottee pursuant to subsection (e)(6)(B).

(ii) RIGHT TO BRING ACTION.—The Choctaw Nation, the Chickasaw Nation, the State, the City, the Trust, and the United States shall each have the right to bring an action pursuant to this section.

(iii) NO ACTION IN OTHER COURTS.—No action may be brought in any other Federal, Tribal, or State court or administrative forum for any purpose relating to the Settlement Agreement, amended storage contract, or this section.

(iv) NO MONETARY JUDGMENT.—Nothing in this section authorizes any money judgment or otherwise allows the payment of funds by the United States, the Nations, the State (including the OWRB), the City, or the Trust.

(B) NOTICE AND CONFERENCE.—An entity seeking to interpret or enforce the Settlement Agreement shall comply with the following:

(i) Any party asserting noncompliance or seeking interpretation of the Settlement Agreement or this section shall first serve written notice on the party alleged to be in breach of the Settlement Agreement or violation of this section.

(ii) The notice under clause (i) shall identify the specific provision of the Settlement Agreement or this section alleged to have been violated or in dispute and shall specify in detail the contention of the party asserting the claim and any factual basis for the claim.

(iii) Representatives of the party alleging a breach or violation and the party alleged to be in breach or violation shall meet not later than 30 days after receipt of notice under clause (i) in an effort to resolve the dispute.

(iv) If the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the party alleging breach not later than 90 days after the original notice under clause (i), the party may take any appropriate enforcement action consistent with the Settlement Agreement and this subsection.

(2) LIMITED WAIVERS OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The United States and the Nations may be joined in an action filed in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma.

(B) UNITED STATES IMMUNITY.—Any claim by the United States to sovereign immunity from suit is irrevocably waived for any action brought by the State, the Chickasaw Nation, the Choctaw Nation, the City, or the Trust in the Western District of Oklahoma relating to interpretation or enforcement of the Settlement Agreement or this section, including of the appellate jurisdiction of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States.

(C) CHICKASAW NATION IMMUNITY.—For the exclusive benefit of the State (including the OWRB), the City, the Trust, the Choctaw Nation, and the United States, the sovereign immunity of the Chickasaw Nation from suit is waived solely for any action brought in the Western District of Oklahoma relating to interpretation or enforcement of the Settlement Agreement or this section, if the action is brought by the State or the OWRB, the City, the Trust, the Choctaw Nation, or the United States, including the appellate jurisdiction of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States.

(D) CHOCTAW NATION IMMUNITY.—For the exclusive benefit of the State (including the OWRB), the City, the Trust, the Chickasaw Nation, and the United States, the Choctaw Nation shall expressly and irrevocably consent to a suit and waive sovereign immunity from a suit solely for any action brought in the Western District of Oklahoma relating to interpretation or enforcement of the Settlement Agreement or this section, if the action is brought by the State, the OWRB, the City, the Trust, the Chickasaw Nation, or the United States, including the appellate jurisdiction of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States.

(k) DISCLAIMER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Settlement Agreement applies only to the claims and rights of the Nations.

(2) NO PRECEDENT.—Nothing in this section or the Settlement Agreement shall be construed in any way to quantify, establish, or serve as precedent regarding the land and water rights, claims, or entitlements to water of any American Indian Tribe other than the Nations, including any other American Indian Tribe in the State.

(3) LIMITATION.—Nothing in the Settlement Agreement—

(A) affects the ability of the United States, acting as sovereign, to take actions authorized by law, including any laws related to health, safety, or the environment, including—

(i) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.);

(ii) the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

(iii) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.); and

(iv) any regulations implementing the Acts described in this section;

(B) affects the ability of the United States to raise defenses based on 43 U.S.C. 666(a); and

(C) affects any rights, claims, or defenses the United States may have with respect to the use of water on Federal lands in the Settlement Area that are not trust lands or Allotments.

Subtitle G—Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement

SEC. 3701. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act”.

SEC. 3702. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this subtitle are—

(1) to achieve a fair, equitable, and final settlement of claims to water rights in the State of Montana for—

(A) the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation; and

(B) the United States, for the benefit of the Tribe and allottees;

(2) to authorize, ratify, and confirm the water rights compact entered into by the Tribe and the State, to the extent that the Compact is consistent with this subtitle;

(3) to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior—

(A) to execute the Compact; and

(B) to take any other action necessary to carry out the Compact in accordance with this subtitle; and

(4) to authorize funds necessary for the implementation of the Compact and this subtitle.

SEC. 3703. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ALLOTTEE.—The term “allottee” means any individual who holds a beneficial real property interest in an allotment of Indian land that is—

(A) located within the Reservation; and

(B) held in trust by the United States.

(2) BIRCH CREEK AGREEMENT.—The term “Birch Creek Agreement” means—

(A) the agreement between the Tribe and the State regarding Birch Creek water use dated January 31, 2008 (as amended on February 13, 2009); and

(B) any amendment or exhibit (including exhibit amendments) to that agreement that is executed in accordance with this subtitle.

(3) BLACKFEET IRRIGATION PROJECT.—The term “Blackfeet Irrigation Project” means the irrigation project authorized by the matter under the heading “Montana” of title II of the Act of March 1, 1907 (34 Stat. 1035, chapter 2285), and administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(4) COMPACT.—The term “Compact” means—

(A) the Blackfeet-Montana water rights compact dated April 15, 2009, as contained in section 85–20–1501 of the Montana Code Annotated (2015); and

(B) any amendment or exhibit (including exhibit amendments) to the Compact that is executed to make the Compact consistent with this subtitle.

(5) ENFORCEABILITY DATE.—The term “enforceability date” means the date described in section 3720(f).

(6) LAKE ELWELL.—The term “Lake Elwell” means the water impounded on the Marias

River in the State by Tiber Dam, a feature of the Lower Marias Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Program authorized by section 9 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1944”) (58 Stat. 891, chapter 665).

(7) MILK RIVER BASIN.—The term “Milk River Basin” means the North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork, and main stem of the Milk River and tributaries, from the headwaters to the confluence with the Missouri River.

(8) MILK RIVER PROJECT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Milk River Project” means the Bureau of Reclamation project conditionally approved by the Secretary on March 14, 1903, pursuant to the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), commencing at Lake Sherburne Reservoir and providing water to a point approximately 6 miles east of Nashua, Montana.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “Milk River Project” includes—

(i) the St. Mary Unit;

(ii) the Fresno Dam and Reservoir; and

(iii) the Dodson pumping unit.

(9) MILK RIVER PROJECT WATER RIGHTS.—The term “Milk River Project water rights” means the water rights held by the Bureau of Reclamation on behalf of the Milk River Project, as finally adjudicated by the Montana Water Court.

(10) MILK RIVER WATER RIGHT.—The term “Milk River water right” means the portion of the Tribal water rights described in article III.F of the Compact and this subtitle.

(11) MISSOURI RIVER BASIN.—The term “Missouri River Basin” means the hydrologic basin of the Missouri River (including tributaries).

(12) MR&I SYSTEM.—The term “MR&I System” means the intake, treatment, pumping, storage, pipelines, appurtenant items, and any other feature of the system, as generally described in the document entitled “Blackfeet Regional Water System”, prepared by DOWL HKM, and dated June 2010, and modified by DOWL HKM, as set out in the addendum to the report dated March 2013.

(13) OM&R.—The term “OM&R” means—

(A) any recurring or ongoing activity associated with the day-to-day operation of a project;

(B) any activity relating to scheduled or unscheduled maintenance of a project; and

(C) any activity relating to replacing a feature of a project.

(14) RESERVATION.—The term “Reservation” means the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, as—

(A) established by the Treaty of October 17, 1855 (11 Stat. 657); and

(B) modified by—

(i) the Executive order of July 5, 1873 (relating to the Blackfeet Reserve);

(ii) the Act of April 15, 1874 (18 Stat. 28, chapter 96);

(iii) the Executive order of August 19, 1874 (relating to the Blackfeet Reserve);

(iv) the Executive order of April 13, 1875 (relating to the Blackfeet Reserve);

(v) the Executive order of July 13, 1880 (relating to the Blackfeet Reserve);

(vi) the Agreement with the Blackfeet, ratified by the Act of May 1, 1888 (25 Stat. 113, chapter 213); and

(vii) the Agreement with the Blackfeet, ratified by the Act of June 10, 1896 (29 Stat. 353, chapter 398).

(15) ST. MARY RIVER WATER RIGHT.—The term “St. Mary River water right” means that portion of the Tribal water rights described in article III.G.1.a.i. of the Compact and this subtitle.

(16) ST. MARY UNIT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “St. Mary Unit” means the St. Mary Storage Unit of the Milk River Project authorized by Congress on March 25, 1905.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “St. Mary Unit” includes—

- (i) Sherburne Dam and Reservoir;
- (ii) Swift Current Creek Dike;
- (iii) Lower St. Mary Lake;
- (iv) St. Mary Canal Diversion Dam; and
- (v) St. Mary Canal and appurtenances.

(17) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(18) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of Montana.

(19) **SWIFTCURRENT CREEK BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT.**—The term “Swiftcurrent Creek Bank Stabilization Project” means the project to mitigate the physical and environmental problems associated with the St. Mary Unit from Sherburne Dam to the St. Mary River, as described in the report entitled “Boulder/Swiftcurrent Creek Stabilization Project, Phase II Investigations Report”, prepared by DOWL HKM, and dated March 2012.

(20) **TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS.**—The term “Tribal water rights” means the water rights of the Tribe described in article III of the Compact and this subtitle, including—

(A) the Lake Elwell allocation provided to the Tribe under section 3709; and

(B) the instream flow water rights described in section 3719.

(21) **TRIBE.**—The term “Tribe” means the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana.

SEC. 3704. RATIFICATION OF COMPACT.

(a) **RATIFICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As modified by this subtitle, the Compact is authorized, ratified, and confirmed.

(2) **AMENDMENTS.**—Any amendment to the Compact is authorized, ratified, and confirmed, to the extent that such amendment is executed to make the Compact consistent with this subtitle.

(b) **EXECUTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To the extent that the Compact does not conflict with this subtitle, the Secretary shall execute the Compact, including all exhibits to, or parts of, the Compact requiring the signature of the Secretary.

(2) **MODIFICATIONS.**—Nothing in this subtitle precludes the Secretary from approving any modification to an appendix or exhibit to the Compact that is consistent with this subtitle, to the extent that the modification does not otherwise require congressional approval under section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 177) or any other applicable provision of Federal law.

(c) **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In implementing the Compact and this subtitle, the Secretary shall comply with all applicable provisions of—

(A) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(B) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(C) all other applicable environmental laws and regulations.

(2) **EFFECT OF EXECUTION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The execution of the Compact by the Secretary under this section shall not constitute a major Federal action for purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(B) **COMPLIANCE.**—The Secretary shall carry out all Federal compliance activities necessary to implement the Compact and this subtitle.

SEC. 3705. MILK RIVER WATER RIGHT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to the Milk River water right, the Tribe—

(1) may continue the historical uses and the uses in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) except as provided in article III.F.1.d of the Compact, shall not develop new uses until the date on which—

(A) the Tribe has entered into the agreement described in subsection (c); or

(B) the Secretary has established the terms and conditions described in subsection (e).

(b) **WATER RIGHTS ARISING UNDER STATE LAW.**—With respect to any water rights arising under State law in the Milk River Basin owned or acquired by the Tribe, the Tribe—

(1) may continue any use in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) shall not change any use until the date on which—

(A) the Tribe has entered into the agreement described in subsection (c); or

(B) the Secretary has established the terms and conditions described in subsection (e).

(c) **TRIBAL AGREEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In consultation with the Commissioner of Reclamation and the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Tribe and the Fort Belknap Indian Community shall enter into an agreement to provide for the exercise of their respective water rights on the respective reservations of the Tribe and the Fort Belknap Indian Community in the Milk River.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—The agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall take into consideration—

(A) the equal priority dates of the 2 Indian tribes;

(B) the water supplies of the Milk River; and

(C) historical, current, and future uses identified by each Indian tribe.

(d) **SECRETARIAL DETERMINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the agreement described in subsection (c) is submitted to the Secretary, the Secretary shall review and approve or disapprove the agreement.

(2) **APPROVAL.**—The Secretary shall approve the agreement if the Secretary finds that the agreement—

(A) equitably accommodates the interests of each Indian tribe in the Milk River;

(B) adequately considers the factors described in subsection (c)(2); and

(C) is otherwise in accordance with applicable law.

(3) **DEADLINE EXTENSION.**—The deadline to review the agreement described in paragraph (1) may be extended by the Secretary after consultation with the Tribe and the Fort Belknap Indian Community.

(e) **SECRETARIAL DECISION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Tribe and the Fort Belknap Indian Community do not, by 3 years after the Secretary certifies under section 3720(f)(5) that the Tribal membership has approved the Compact and this subtitle, enter into an agreement approved under subsection d(2), the Secretary, in the Secretary’s sole discretion, shall establish, after consultation with the Tribe and the Fort Belknap Indian Community, terms and conditions that reflect the considerations described in subsection (c)(2) by which the respective water rights of the Tribe and the Fort Belknap Indian Community in the Milk River may be exercised.

(2) **CONSIDERATION AS FINAL AGENCY ACTION.**—The establishment by the Secretary of terms and conditions under paragraph (1) shall be considered to be a final agency action for purposes of review under chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—An action for judicial review pursuant to this section shall be brought by not later than the date that is 1 year after the date of notification of the establishment of the terms and conditions under this subsection.

(4) **INCORPORATION INTO DECREES.**—The agreement under subsection (c), or the decision of the Secretary under this subsection, shall be filed with the Montana Water Court, or the district court with jurisdiction, for incorporation into

the final decrees of the Tribe and the Fort Belknap Indian Community.

(5) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The agreement under subsection (c) and a decision of the Secretary under this subsection—

(A) shall be effective immediately; and

(B) may not be modified absent—

(i) the approval of the Secretary; and

(ii) the consent of the Tribe and the Fort Belknap Indian Community.

(f) **USE OF FUNDS.**—The Secretary shall distribute equally the funds made available under section 3718(a)(2)(C)(ii) to the Tribe and the Fort Belknap Indian Community to use to reach an agreement under this section, including for technical analyses and legal and other related efforts.

SEC. 3706. WATER DELIVERY THROUGH MILK RIVER PROJECT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall carry out the activities authorized under this section with respect to the St. Mary River water right.

(b) **TREATMENT.**—Notwithstanding article IV.D.4 of the Compact, any responsibility of the United States with respect to the St. Mary River water right shall be limited to, and fulfilled pursuant to—

(1) subsection (c) of this section; and

(2) subsection (b)(3) of section 3716 and subsection (a)(1)(C) of section 3718.

(c) **WATER DELIVERY CONTRACT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the enforceability date, the Secretary shall enter into a water delivery contract with the Tribe for the delivery of not greater than 5,000 acre-feet per year of the St. Mary River water right through Milk River Project facilities to the Tribe or another entity specified by the Tribe.

(2) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The contract under paragraph (1) shall establish the terms and conditions for the water deliveries described in paragraph (1) in accordance with the Compact and this subtitle.

(3) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The water delivery contract under paragraph (1) shall include provisions requiring that—

(A) the contract shall be without limit as to term;

(B) the Tribe, and not the United States, shall collect, and shall be entitled to, all consideration due to the Tribe under any lease, contract, or agreement entered into by the Tribe pursuant to subsection (f);

(C) the United States shall have no obligation to monitor, administer, or account for—

(i) any funds received by the Tribe as consideration under any lease, contract, or agreement entered into by the Tribe pursuant to subsection (f); or

(ii) the expenditure of such funds;

(D) if water deliveries under the contract are interrupted for an extended period of time because of damage to, or a reduction in the capacity of, St. Mary Unit facilities, the rights of the Tribe shall be treated in the same manner as the rights of other contractors receiving water deliveries through the Milk River Project with respect to the water delivered under this section;

(E) deliveries of water under this section shall be—

(i) limited to not greater than 5,000 acre-feet of water in any 1 year;

(ii) consistent with operations of the Milk River Project and without additional costs to the Bureau of Reclamation, including OM&R costs; and

(iii) without additional cost to the Milk River Project water users; and

(F) the Tribe shall be required to pay OM&R for water delivered under this section.

(d) **SHORTAGE SHARING OR REDUCTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The 5,000 acre-feet per year of water delivered under paragraph (3)(E)(i) of

subsection (c) shall not be subject to shortage sharing or reduction, except as provided in paragraph (3)(D) of that subsection.

(2) **NO INJURY TO MILK RIVER PROJECT WATER USERS.**—Notwithstanding article IV.D.4 of the Compact, any reduction in the Milk River Project water supply caused by the delivery of water under subsection (c) shall not constitute injury to Milk River Project water users.

(e) **SUBSEQUENT CONTRACTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As part of the studies authorized by section 3707(c)(1), the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, and in cooperation with the Tribe, shall identify alternatives to provide to the Tribe water from the St. Mary River water right in quantities greater than the 5,000 acre-feet per year of water described in subsection (c)(3)(E)(i).

(2) **CONTRACT FOR WATER DELIVERY.**—If the Secretary determines under paragraph (1) that more than 5,000 acre-feet per year of the St. Mary River water right can be delivered to the Tribe, the Secretary shall offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with the Tribe for the delivery of that water, subject to the requirements of subsection (c)(3) (except subsection (c)(3)(E)(i)) and this subsection.

(3) **TREATMENT.**—Any delivery of water under this subsection shall be subject to reduction in the same manner as for Milk River Project contract holders.

(f) **SUBCONTRACTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Tribe may enter into any subcontract for the delivery of water under this section to a third party, in accordance with section 3715(e).

(2) **COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAW.**—All subcontracts described in paragraph (1) shall comply with—

- (A) this subtitle;
- (B) the Compact;
- (C) the tribal water code; and
- (D) other applicable law.

(3) **NO LIABILITY.**—The Secretary shall not be liable to any party, including the Tribe, for any term of, or any loss or other detriment resulting from, a lease, contract, or other agreement entered into pursuant to this subsection.

(g) **EFFECT OF PROVISIONS.**—Nothing in this section—

(1) precludes the Tribe from taking the water described in subsection (c)(3)(E)(i), or any additional water provided under subsection (e), from the direct flow of the St. Mary River; or

(2) modifies the quantity of the Tribal water rights described in article III.G.1. of the Compact.

(h) **OTHER RIGHTS.**—Notwithstanding the requirements of article III.G.1.d of the Compact, after satisfaction of all water rights under State law for use of St. Mary River water, including the Milk River Project water rights, the Tribe shall have the right to the remaining portion of the share of the United States in the St. Mary River under the International Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 (36 Stat. 2448) for any tribally authorized use or need consistent with this subtitle.

SEC. 3707. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE WATER MANAGEMENT.

(a) **MILK RIVER PROJECT PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Milk River Project shall include—

- (1) irrigation;
- (2) flood control;
- (3) the protection of fish and wildlife;
- (4) recreation;
- (5) the provision of municipal, rural, and industrial water supply; and
- (6) hydroelectric power generation.

(b) **USE OF MILK RIVER PROJECT FACILITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF TRIBE.**—The use of Milk River Project facilities to transport water for the Tribe pursuant to subsections (c) and (e) of section 3706, together with any use by the Tribe of that water in accordance with this subtitle—

(1) shall be considered to be an authorized purpose of the Milk River Project; and

(2) shall not change the priority date of any Tribal water rights.

(c) **ST. MARY RIVER STUDIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Tribe and the State, shall conduct—

(A) an appraisal study—

- (i) to develop a plan for the management and development of water supplies in the St. Mary River Basin and Milk River Basin, including the St. Mary River and Milk River water supplies for the Tribe and the Milk River water supplies for the Fort Belknap Indian Community; and
- (ii) to identify alternatives to develop additional water of the St. Mary River for the Tribe; and

(B) a feasibility study—

- (i) using the information resulting from the appraisal study conducted under subparagraph (A) and such other information as is relevant, to evaluate the feasibility of—

(1) alternatives for the rehabilitation of the St. Mary Diversion Dam and Canal; and

(1) increased storage in Fresno Dam and Reservoir; and

(ii) to create a cost allocation study that is based on the authorized purposes described in subsections (a) and (b).

(2) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—On request of the Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the Tribe with respect to the portion of the appraisal study described in paragraph (1)(A).

(3) **COSTS NONREIMBURSABLE.**—The cost of the studies under this subsection shall not be—

(A) considered to be a cost of the Milk River Project; or

(B) reimbursable in accordance with the reclamation laws.

(d) **SWIFTCURRENT CREEK BANK STABILIZATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall carry out appropriate activities concerning the Swiftcurrent Creek Bank Stabilization Project, including—

(A) a review of the final project design; and

(B) value engineering analyses.

(2) **MODIFICATION OF FINAL DESIGN.**—Prior to beginning construction activities for the Swiftcurrent Creek Bank Stabilization Project, on the basis of the review conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall negotiate with the Tribe appropriate changes, if any, to the final design—

(A) to ensure compliance with applicable industry standards;

(B) to improve the cost-effectiveness of the Swiftcurrent Creek Bank Stabilization Project; and

(C) to ensure that the Swiftcurrent Creek Bank Stabilization Project may be constructed using only the amounts made available under section 3718.

(3) **APPLICABILITY OF ISDEAA.**—At the request of the Tribe, and in accordance with the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Secretary shall enter into 1 or more agreements with the Tribe to carry out the Swiftcurrent Bank Stabilization Project.

(e) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Commissioner of Reclamation and the Tribe shall negotiate the cost of any oversight activity carried out by the Bureau of Reclamation under any agreement entered into under this section, subject to the condition that the total cost for the oversight shall not exceed 4 percent of the total costs incurred under this section.

(f) **MILK RIVER PROJECT RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND EASEMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Tribe shall grant the United States a right-of-way on Reservation land owned by the Tribe for all uses by the Milk River Project (permissive or otherwise) in existence as of December 31, 2015, including all facilities, flowage easements, and access easements necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Milk River Project.

(2) **AGREEMENT REGARDING EXISTING USES.**—The Tribe and the Secretary shall enter into an agreement for a process to determine the location, nature, and extent of the existing uses referenced in this subsection. The agreement shall require that—

(A) a panel of three individuals determine the location, nature, and extent of existing uses necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Milk River Project (the “Panel Determination”), with the Tribe appointing one representative of the Tribe, the Secretary appointing one representative of the Secretary, and those two representatives jointly appointing a third individual;

(B) if the Panel Determination is unanimous, the Tribe grant a right-of-way to the United States for the existing uses identified in the Panel Determination in accordance with applicable law without additional compensation;

(C) if the Panel Determination is not unanimous—

(i) the Secretary adopt the Panel Determination with any amendments the Secretary reasonably determines necessary to correct any clear error (the “Interior Determination”), provided that if any portion of the Panel Determination is unanimous, the Secretary will not amend that portion; and

(ii) the Tribe grant a right-of-way to the United States for the existing uses identified in the Interior Determination in accordance with applicable law without additional compensation, with the agreement providing for the timing of the grant to take into consideration the possibility of review under paragraph (5).

(3) **EFFECT.**—Determinations made under this subsection—

(A) do not address title as between the United States and the Tribe; and

(B) do not apply to any new use of Reservation land by the United States for the Milk River Project after December 31, 2015.

(4) **INTERIOR DETERMINATION AS FINAL AGENCY ACTION.**—Any determination by the Secretary under paragraph (2)(C) shall be considered to be a final agency action for purposes of review under chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code.

(5) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—An action for judicial review pursuant to this section shall be brought by not later than the date that is 1 year after the date of notification of the Interior Determination.

(g) **FUNDING.**—The total amount of obligations incurred by the Secretary, prior to any adjustment provided for in section 3718, shall not exceed—

- (1) \$3,800,000 to carry out subsection (c);
- (2) \$20,700,000 to carry out subsection (d); and
- (3) \$3,100,000 to carry out subsection (f).

SEC. 3708. ST. MARY CANAL HYDROELECTRIC POWER GENERATION.

(a) **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION JURISDICTION.**—Effective beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of Reclamation shall have exclusive jurisdiction to authorize the development of hydropower on the St. Mary Unit.

(b) **RIGHTS OF TRIBE.**—

(1) **EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF TRIBE.**—Subject to paragraph (2) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Tribe shall have the exclusive right to develop and market hydroelectric power of the St. Mary Unit.

(2) **LIMITATIONS.**—The exclusive right described in paragraph (1)—

(A) shall expire on the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of an Act appropriating funds for rehabilitation of the St. Mary Unit; but

(B) may be extended by the Secretary at the request of the Tribe.

(3) **OM&R COSTS.**—Effective beginning on the date that is 10 years after the date on which the Tribe begins marketing hydroelectric power generated from the St. Mary Unit to any third party, the Tribe shall make annual payments for OM&R costs attributable to the direct use of any facilities by the Tribe for hydroelectric power generation, in amounts determined in accordance with the guidelines and methods of the Bureau of Reclamation for assessing OM&R charges.

(c) **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION COOPERATION.**—The Commissioner of Reclamation shall cooperate with the Tribe in the development of any hydroelectric power generation project under this section.

(d) **AGREEMENT.**—Before construction of a hydroelectric power generation project under this section, the Tribe shall enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Reclamation that includes provisions—

(1) requiring that—

(A) the design, construction, and operation of the project shall be consistent with the Bureau of Reclamation guidelines and methods for hydroelectric power development at Bureau facilities, as appropriate; and

(B) the hydroelectric power generation project will not impair the efficiencies of the Milk River Project for authorized purposes;

(2) regarding construction and operating criteria and emergency procedures; and

(3) under which any modification proposed by the Tribe to a facility owned by the Bureau of Reclamation shall be subject to review and approval by the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation.

(e) **USE OF HYDROELECTRIC POWER BY TRIBE.**—Any hydroelectric power generated in accordance with this section shall be used or marketed by the Tribe.

(f) **REVENUES.**—The Tribe shall collect and retain any revenues from the sale of hydroelectric power generated by a project under this section.

(g) **LIABILITY OF UNITED STATES.**—The United States shall have no obligation to monitor, administer, or account for—

(1) any revenues received by the Tribe under this section; or

(2) the expenditure of those revenues.

(h) **PREFERENCE.**—During any period for which the exclusive right of the Tribe described in subsection (b)(1) is not in effect, the Tribe shall have a preference to develop hydropower on the St. Mary Unit facilities, in accordance with Bureau of Reclamation guidelines and methods for hydroelectric power development at Bureau facilities.

SEC. 3709. STORAGE ALLOCATION FROM LAKE ELWELL.

(a)(1) **STORAGE ALLOCATION TO TRIBE.**—The Secretary shall allocate to the Tribe 45,000 acre-feet per year of water stored in Lake Elwell for use by the Tribe for any beneficial purpose on or off the Reservation, under a water right held by the United States and managed by the Bureau of Reclamation, as measured at the outlet works of Tiber Dam or through direct pumping from Lake Elwell.

(2) **REDUCTION.**—Up to 10,000 acre-feet per year of water allocated to the Tribe pursuant to paragraph (1) will be subject to an acre-foot for acre-foot reduction if depletions from the Tribal water rights above Lake Elwell exceed 88,000 acre-feet per year of water because of New Development (as defined in article II.37 of the Compact).

(b) **TREATMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The allocation to the Tribe under subsection (a) shall be considered to be part of the Tribal water rights.

(2) **PRIORITY DATE.**—The priority date of the allocation to the Tribe under subsection (a) shall be the priority date of the Lake Elwell water right held by the Bureau of Reclamation.

(3) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Tribe shall administer the water allocated under subsection (a) in accordance with the Compact and this subtitle.

(c) **ALLOCATION AGREEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As a condition of receiving an allocation under this section, the Tribe shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary to establish the terms and conditions of the allocation, in accordance with the Compact and this subtitle.

(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—The agreement under paragraph (1) shall include provisions establishing that—

(A) the agreement shall be without limit as to term;

(B) the Tribe, and not the United States, shall be entitled to all consideration due to the Tribe under any lease, contract, or agreement entered into by the Tribe pursuant to subsection (d);

(C) the United States shall have no obligation to monitor, administer, or account for—

(i) any funds received by the Tribe as consideration under any lease, contract, or agreement entered into by the Tribe pursuant to subsection (d); or

(ii) the expenditure of those funds;

(D) if the capacity or function of Lake Elwell facilities are significantly reduced, or are anticipated to be significantly reduced, for an extended period of time, the Tribe shall have the same rights as other storage contractors with respect to the allocation under this section;

(E) the costs associated with the construction of the storage facilities at Tiber Dam allocable to the Tribe shall be nonreimbursable;

(F) no water service capital charge shall be due or payable for any water allocated to the Tribe pursuant to this section or the allocation agreement, regardless of whether that water is delivered for use by the Tribe or under a lease, contract, or by agreement entered into by the Tribe pursuant to subsection (d);

(G) the Tribe shall not be required to make payments to the United States for any water allocated to the Tribe under this subtitle or the allocation agreement, except for each acre-foot of stored water leased or transferred for industrial purposes as described in subparagraph (H);

(H) for each acre-foot of stored water leased or transferred by the Tribe for industrial purposes—

(i) the Tribe shall pay annually to the United States an amount necessary to cover the proportional share of the annual OM&R costs allocable to the quantity of water leased or transferred by the Tribe for industrial purposes; and

(ii) the annual payments of the Tribe shall be reviewed and adjusted, as appropriate, to reflect the actual OM&R costs for Tiber Dam; and

(I) the adjustment process identified in subsection (a)(2) will be based on specific enumerated provisions.

(d) **AGREEMENTS BY TRIBE.**—The Tribe may use, lease, contract, exchange, or enter into other agreements for use of the water allocated to the Tribe under subsection (a), if—

(1) the use of water that is the subject of such an agreement occurs within the Missouri River Basin; and

(2) the agreement does not permanently alienate any portion of the water allocated to the Tribe under subsection (a).

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The allocation under subsection (a) takes effect on the enforceability date.

(f) **NO CARRYOVER STORAGE.**—The allocation under subsection (a) shall not be increased by any year-to-year carryover storage.

(g) **DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY COSTS.**—The United States shall not be required to pay the cost of developing or delivering any water allocated under this section.

SEC. 3710. IRRIGATION ACTIVITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation and in accordance with subsection (c), shall carry out the following actions relating to the Blackfeet Irrigation Project:

(1) Deferred maintenance.

(2) Dam safety improvements for Four Horns Dam.

(3) Rehabilitation and enhancement of the Four Horns Feeder Canal, Dam, and Reservoir.

(b) **LEAD AGENCY.**—The Bureau of Reclamation shall serve as the lead agency with respect to any activities carried out under this section.

(c) **SCOPE OF DEFERRED MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES AND FOUR HORNS DAM SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the conditions described in paragraph (2), the scope of the deferred maintenance activities and Four Horns Dam safety improvements shall be as generally described in—

(A) the document entitled “Engineering Evaluation and Condition Assessment, Blackfeet Irrigation Project”, prepared by DOWL HKM, and dated August 2007; and

(B) the provisions relating to Four Horns Rehabilitated Dam of the document entitled “Four Horns Dam Enlarged Appraisal Evaluation Design Report”, prepared by DOWL HKM, and dated April 2007.

(2) **CONDITIONS.**—The conditions referred to in paragraph (1) are that, before commencing construction activities, the Secretary shall—

(A) review the design of the proposed rehabilitation or improvement;

(B) perform value engineering analyses;

(C) perform appropriate Federal environmental compliance activities; and

(D) ensure that the deferred maintenance activities and dam safety improvements may be constructed using only the amounts made available under section 3718.

(d) **SCOPE OF REHABILITATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF FOUR HORNS FEEDER CANAL, DAM, AND RESERVOIR.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The scope of the rehabilitation and improvements shall be as generally described in the document entitled “Four Horns Feeder Canal Rehabilitation with Export”, prepared by DOWL HKM, and dated April 2013, subject to the condition that, before commencing construction activities, the Secretary shall—

(A) review the design of the proposed rehabilitation or improvement;

(B) perform value engineering analyses;

(C) perform appropriate Federal environmental compliance activities; and

(D) ensure that the rehabilitation and improvements may be constructed using only the amounts made available under section 3718.

(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—The activities carried out by the Secretary under this subsection shall include—

(A) the rehabilitation or improvement of the Four Horns feeder canal system to a capacity of not fewer than 360 cubic feet per second;

(B) the rehabilitation or improvement of the outlet works of Four Horns Dam and Reservoir to deliver not less than 15,000 acre-feet of water per year, in accordance with subparagraph (C); and

(C) construction of facilities to deliver not less than 15,000 acre-feet of water per year from Four Horns Dam and Reservoir, to a point on or near Birch Creek to be designated by the Tribe and the State for delivery of water to the water delivery system of the Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Company on Birch Creek, in accordance with the Birch Creek Agreement.

(3) **NEGOTIATION WITH TRIBE.**—On the basis of the review described in paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall negotiate with the Tribe appropriate changes to the final design of any activity under this subsection to ensure that the final design meets applicable industry standards.

(e) **FUNDING.**—The total amount of obligations incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this section, prior to any adjustment provided for in section 3718, shall not exceed \$54,900,000, of which—

(1) \$40,900,000 shall be allocated to carry out the activities described in subsection (c); and

(2) \$14,000,000 shall be allocated to carry out the activities described in subsection (d)(2).

(f) **NONREIMBURSABILITY OF COSTS.**—All costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this section shall be nonreimbursable.

(g) **NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.**—No part of the project under subsection (d) shall be commenced until the State has made available \$20,000,000 to carry out the activities described in subsection (d)(2).

(h) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Commissioner of Reclamation and the Tribe shall negotiate the cost of any oversight activity carried out by the Bureau of Reclamation under any agreement entered into under subsection (m), subject to the condition that the total cost for the oversight shall not exceed 4 percent of the total project costs for each project.

(i) **PROJECT EFFICIENCIES.**—If the total cost of planning, design, and construction activities relating to the projects described in this section results in cost savings and is less than the amounts authorized to be obligated, the Secretary, at the request of the Tribe, may—

(1) use those cost savings to carry out a project described in section 3707(d), 3711, 3712, or 3713; or

(2) deposit those cost savings to the Blackfeet OM&R Trust Account.

(j) **OWNERSHIP BY TRIBE OF BIRCH CREEK DELIVERY FACILITIES.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall transfer to the Tribe, at no cost, title in and to the facilities constructed under subsection (d)(2)(C).

(k) **OWNERSHIP, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE.**—On transfer to the Tribe of title under subsection (j), the Tribe shall—

(1) be responsible for OM&R in accordance with the Birch Creek Agreement; and

(2) enter into an agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding the operation of the facilities described in that subsection.

(l) **LIABILITY OF UNITED STATES.**—The United States shall have no obligation or responsibility with respect to the facilities described in subsection (d)(2)(C).

(m) **APPLICABILITY OF ISDEAA.**—At the request of the Tribe, and in accordance with the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Secretary shall enter into 1 or more agreements with the Tribe to carry out this section.

(n) **EFFECT.**—Nothing in this section—

(1) alters any applicable law (including regulations) under which the Bureau of Indian Affairs collects assessments or carries out Blackfeet Irrigation Project OM&R; or

(2) impacts the availability of amounts made available under subsection (a)(1)(B) of section 3718.

SEC. 3711. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF MR&I SYSTEM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall plan, design, and construct the water diversion and delivery features of the MR&I System in accordance with 1 or more agreements between the Secretary and the Tribe.

(b) **LEAD AGENCY.**—The Bureau of Reclamation shall serve as the lead agency with respect

to any activity to design and construct the water diversion and delivery features of the MR&I System.

(c) **SCOPE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The scope of the design and construction under this section shall be as generally described in the document entitled “Blackfeet Regional Water System”, prepared by DOWL HKM, dated June 2010, and modified by DOWL HKM in the addendum to the report dated March 2013, subject to the condition that, before commencing final design and construction activities, the Secretary shall—

(A) review the design of the proposed rehabilitation and construction;

(B) perform value engineering analyses; and

(C) perform appropriate Federal compliance activities.

(2) **NEGOTIATION WITH TRIBE.**—On the basis of the review described in paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall negotiate with the Tribe appropriate changes, if any, to the final design—

(A) to ensure that the final design meets applicable industry standards;

(B) to improve the cost-effectiveness of the delivery of MR&I System water; and

(C) to ensure that the MR&I System may be constructed using only the amounts made available under section 3718.

(d) **NONREIMBURSABILITY OF COSTS.**—All costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this section shall be nonreimbursable.

(e) **FUNDING.**—The total amount of obligations incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this section, prior to any adjustment provided for in section 3718, shall not exceed \$76,200,000.

(f) **NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.**—

(1) **CONSULTATION.**—Before completion of the final design of the MR&I System required by subsection (c), the Secretary shall consult with the Tribe, the State, and other affected non-Federal parties to discuss the possibility of receiving non-Federal contributions for the cost of the MR&I System.

(2) **NEGOTIATIONS.**—If, based on the extent to which non-Federal parties are expected to use the MR&I System, a non-Federal contribution to the MR&I System is determined by the parties described in paragraph (1) to be appropriate, the Secretary shall initiate negotiations for an agreement regarding the means by which the contributions shall be provided.

(g) **OWNERSHIP BY TRIBE.**—Title to the MR&I System and all facilities rehabilitated or constructed under this section shall be held by the Tribe.

(h) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Commissioner of Reclamation and the Tribe shall negotiate the cost of any oversight activity carried out by the Bureau of Reclamation under any agreement entered into under this section, subject to the condition that the total cost for the oversight shall not exceed 4 percent of the total costs incurred under this section.

(i) **OM&R COSTS.**—The Federal Government shall have no obligation to pay for the OM&R costs for any facility rehabilitated or constructed under this section.

(j) **PROJECT EFFICIENCIES.**—If the total cost of planning, design, and construction activities relating to the projects described in this section results in cost savings and is less than the amounts authorized to be obligated, the Secretary, at the request of the Tribe, may—

(1) use those cost savings to carry out a project described in section 3707(d), 3710, 3712, or 3713; or

(2) deposit those cost savings to the Blackfeet OM&R Trust Account.

(k) **APPLICABILITY OF ISDEAA.**—At the request of the Tribe, and in accordance with the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Secretary shall enter into 1 or more agreements with the Tribe to carry out this section.

SEC. 3712. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF WATER STORAGE AND IRRIGATION FACILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall plan, design, and construct 1 or more facilities to store water and support irrigation on the Reservation in accordance with 1 or more agreements between the Secretary and the Tribe.

(b) **LEAD AGENCY.**—The Bureau of Reclamation shall serve as the lead agency with respect to any activity to design and construct the irrigation development and water storage facilities described in subsection (c).

(c) **SCOPE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The scope of the design and construction under this section shall be as generally described in the document entitled “Blackfeet Water Storage, Development, and Project Report”, prepared by DOWL HKM, and dated March 13, 2013, as modified and agreed to by the Secretary and the Tribe, subject to the condition that, before commencing final design and construction activities, the Secretary shall—

(A) review the design of the proposed construction;

(B) perform value engineering analyses; and

(C) perform appropriate Federal compliance activities.

(2) **MODIFICATION.**—The Secretary may modify the scope of construction for the projects described in the document referred to in paragraph (1), if—

(A) the modified project is—

(i) similar in purpose to the proposed projects; and

(ii) consistent with the purposes of this subtitle; and

(B) the Secretary has consulted with the Tribe regarding any modification.

(3) **NEGOTIATION WITH TRIBE.**—On the basis of the review described in paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall negotiate with the Tribe appropriate changes, if any, to the final design—

(A) to ensure that the final design meets applicable industry standards;

(B) to improve the cost-effectiveness of any construction; and

(C) to ensure that the projects may be constructed using only the amounts made available under section 3718.

(d) **NONREIMBURSABILITY OF COSTS.**—All costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this section shall be nonreimbursable.

(e) **FUNDING.**—The total amount of obligations incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this section, prior to any adjustment provided for in section 3718, shall not exceed \$87,300,000.

(f) **OWNERSHIP BY TRIBE.**—Title to all facilities rehabilitated or constructed under this section shall be held by the Tribe, except that title to the Birch Creek Unit of the Blackfeet Indian Irrigation Project shall remain with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(g) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Commissioner of Reclamation and the Tribe shall negotiate the cost of any oversight activity carried out by the Bureau of Reclamation under any agreement entered into under this section, subject to the condition that the total cost for the oversight shall not exceed 4 percent of the total costs incurred under this section.

(h) **OM&R COSTS.**—The Federal Government shall have no obligation to pay for the OM&R costs for the facilities rehabilitated or constructed under this section.

(i) **PROJECT EFFICIENCIES.**—If the total cost of planning, design, and construction activities relating to the projects described in this section results in cost savings and is less than the amounts authorized to be obligated, the Secretary, at the request of the Tribe, may—

(1) use those cost savings to carry out a project described in section 3707(d), 3710, 3711, or 3713; or

(2) deposit those cost savings to the Blackfeet OM&R Trust Account.

(j) **APPLICABILITY OF ISDEAA.**—At the request of the Tribe, and in accordance with the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Secretary shall enter into 1 or more agreements with the Tribe to carry out this section.

SEC. 3713. BLACKFEET WATER, STORAGE, AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **SCOPE.**—The scope of the construction under this section shall be as generally described in the document entitled “Blackfeet Water Storage, Development, and Project Report”, prepared by DOWL HKM, and dated March 13, 2013, as modified and agreed to by the Secretary and the Tribe.

(2) **MODIFICATION.**—The Tribe may modify the scope of the projects described in the document referred to in paragraph (1) if—

(A) the modified project is—

(i) similar to the proposed project; and
(ii) consistent with the purposes of this subtitle; and
(B) the modification is approved by the Secretary.

(b) **NONREIMBURSABILITY OF COSTS.**—All costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this section shall be nonreimbursable.

(c) **FUNDING.**—The total amount of obligations incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this section, prior to any adjustment provided for in section 3718, shall not exceed \$91,000,000.

(d) **OM&R COSTS.**—The Federal Government shall have no obligation to pay for the OM&R costs for the facilities rehabilitated or constructed under this section.

(e) **OWNERSHIP BY TRIBE.**—Title to any facility constructed under this section shall be held by the Tribe.

SEC. 3714. EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) **TRIBAL EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—On request of the Secretary, the Tribe shall grant, at no cost to the United States, such easements and rights-of-way over tribal land as are necessary for the construction of the projects authorized by sections 3710 and 3711.

(2) **JURISDICTION.**—An easement or right-of-way granted by the Tribe pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not affect in any respect the civil or criminal jurisdiction of the Tribe over the easement or right-of-way.

(b) **LANDOWNER EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**—In partial consideration for the construction activities authorized by section 3711, and as a condition of receiving service from the MR&I System, a landowner shall grant, at no cost to the United States or the Tribe, such easements and rights-of-way over the land of the landowner as may be necessary for the construction of the MR&I System.

(c) **LAND ACQUIRED BY UNITED STATES OR TRIBE.**—Any land acquired within the boundaries of the Reservation by the United States on behalf of the Tribe, or by the Tribe on behalf of the Tribe, in connection with achieving the purposes of this subtitle shall be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe.

SEC. 3715. TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS.

(a) **CONFIRMATION OF TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Tribal water rights are ratified, confirmed, and declared to be valid.

(2) **USE.**—Any use of the Tribal water rights shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the Compact and this subtitle.

(3) **CONFLICT.**—In the event of a conflict between the Compact and this subtitle, the provisions of this subtitle shall control.

(b) **INTENT OF CONGRESS.**—It is the intent of Congress to provide to each allottee benefits that are equivalent to, or exceed, the benefits

the allottees possess on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, taking into consideration—

(1) the potential risks, cost, and time delay associated with litigation that would be resolved by the Compact and this subtitle;

(2) the availability of funding under this subtitle and from other sources;

(3) the availability of water from the Tribal water rights; and

(4) the applicability of section 7 of the Act of February 8, 1887 (25 U.S.C. 381), and this subtitle to protect the interests of allottees.

(c) **TRUST STATUS OF TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS.**—The Tribal water rights—

(1) shall be held in trust by the United States for the use and benefit of the Tribe and the allottees in accordance with this subtitle; and

(2) shall not be subject to forfeiture or abandonment.

(d) **ALLOTTEES.**—

(1) **APPLICABILITY OF ACT OF FEBRUARY 8, 1887.**—The provisions of section 7 of the Act of February 8, 1887 (25 U.S.C. 381), relating to the use of water for irrigation purposes, shall apply to the Tribal water rights.

(2) **ENTITLEMENT TO WATER.**—Any entitlement to water of an allottee under Federal law shall be satisfied from the Tribal water rights.

(3) **ALLOCATIONS.**—An allottee shall be entitled to a just and equitable allocation of water for irrigation purposes.

(4) **CLAIMS.**—

(A) **EXHAUSTION OF REMEDIES.**—Before asserting any claim against the United States under section 7 of the Act of February 8, 1887 (25 U.S.C. 381), or any other applicable law, an allottee shall exhaust remedies available under the tribal water code or other applicable tribal law.

(B) **ACTION FOR RELIEF.**—After the exhaustion of all remedies available under the tribal water code or other applicable tribal law, an allottee may seek relief under section 7 of the Act of February 8, 1887 (25 U.S.C. 381), or other applicable law.

(5) **AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.**—The Secretary shall have the authority to protect the rights of allottees in accordance with this section.

(e) **AUTHORITY OF TRIBE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Tribe shall have the authority to allocate, distribute, and lease the Tribal water rights for any use on the Reservation in accordance with the Compact, this subtitle, and applicable Federal law.

(2) **OFF-RESERVATION USE.**—The Tribe may allocate, distribute, and lease the Tribal water rights for off-Reservation use in accordance with the Compact, subject to the approval of the Secretary.

(3) **LAND LEASES BY ALLOTTEES.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an allottee may lease any interest in land held by the allottee, together with any water right determined to be appurtenant to the interest in land, in accordance with the tribal water code.

(f) **TRIBAL WATER CODE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding article IV.C.1. of the Compact, not later than 4 years after the date on which the Tribe ratifies the Compact in accordance with this subtitle, the Tribe shall enact a tribal water code that provides for—

(A) the management, regulation, and governance of all uses of the Tribal water rights in accordance with the Compact and this subtitle; and

(B) establishment by the Tribe of conditions, permit requirements, and other requirements for the allocation, distribution, or use of the Tribal water rights in accordance with the Compact and this subtitle.

(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—Subject to the approval of the Secretary, the tribal water code shall provide—

(A) that use of water by allottees shall be satisfied with water from the Tribal water rights;

(B) a process by which an allottee may request that the Tribe provide water for irrigation use in accordance with this subtitle, including the provision of water under any allottee lease under section 4 of the Act of June 25, 1910 (25 U.S.C. 403);

(C) a due process system for the consideration and determination by the Tribe of any request by an allottee (or a successor in interest to an allottee) for an allocation of water for irrigation purposes on allotted land, including a process for—

(i) appeal and adjudication of any denied or disputed distribution of water; and

(ii) resolution of any contested administrative decision; and

(D) a requirement that any allottee asserting a claim relating to the enforcement of rights of the allottee under the tribal water code, or to the quantity of water allocated to land of the allottee, shall exhaust all remedies available to the allottee under tribal law before initiating an action against the United States or petitioning the Secretary pursuant to subsection (d)(4)(B).

(3) **ACTION BY SECRETARY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—During the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which a tribal water code described in paragraphs (1) and (2) is enacted, the Secretary shall administer, with respect to the rights of allottees, the Tribal water rights in accordance with this subtitle.

(B) **APPROVAL.**—The tribal water code described in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not be valid unless—

(i) the provisions of the tribal water code required by paragraph (2) are approved by the Secretary; and

(ii) each amendment to the tribal water code that affects a right of an allottee is approved by the Secretary.

(C) **APPROVAL PERIOD.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall approve or disapprove the tribal water code or an amendment to the tribal water code not later than 180 days after the date on which the tribal water code or amendment is submitted to the Secretary.

(ii) **EXTENSION.**—The deadline described in clause (i) may be extended by the Secretary after consultation with the Tribe.

(g) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **NO ALIENATION.**—The Tribe shall not permanently alienate any portion of the Tribal water rights.

(2) **PURCHASES OR GRANTS OF LAND FROM INDIANS.**—An authorization provided by this subtitle for the allocation, distribution, leasing, or other arrangement entered into pursuant to this subtitle shall be considered to satisfy any requirement for authorization of the action by treaty or convention imposed by section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 177).

(3) **PROHIBITION ON FORFEITURE.**—The non-use of all or any portion of the Tribal water rights by a lessee or contractor shall not result in the forfeiture, abandonment, relinquishment, or other loss of all or any portion of the Tribal water rights.

(h) **EFFECT.**—Except as otherwise expressly provided in this section, nothing in this subtitle—

(1) authorizes any action by an allottee against any individual or entity, or against the Tribe, under Federal, State, tribal, or local law; or

(2) alters or affects the status of any action brought pursuant to section 1491(a) of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 3716. BLACKFEET SETTLEMENT TRUST FUND.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund,

to be known as the “Blackfeet Settlement Trust Fund” (referred to in this section as the “Trust Fund”), to be managed, invested, and distributed by the Secretary and to remain available until expended, consisting of the amounts deposited in the Trust Fund under subsection (c), together with any interest earned on those amounts, for the purpose of carrying out this subtitle.

(b) ACCOUNTS.—The Secretary shall establish in the Trust Fund the following accounts:

- (1) The Administration and Energy Account.
- (2) The OM&R Account.
- (3) The St. Mary Account.
- (4) The Blackfeet Water, Storage, and Development Projects Account.

(c) DEPOSITS.—The Secretary shall deposit in the Trust Fund—

- (1) in the Administration and Energy Account, the amount made available pursuant to section 3718(a)(1)(A);
- (2) in the OM&R Account, the amount made available pursuant to section 3718(a)(1)(B);
- (3) in the St. Mary Account, the amount made available pursuant to section 3718(a)(1)(C); and
- (4) in the Blackfeet Water, Storage, and Development Projects Account, the amount made available pursuant to section 3718(a)(1)(D).

(d) MANAGEMENT AND INTEREST.—

(1) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall manage, invest, and distribute all amounts in the Trust Fund in a manner that is consistent with the investment authority of the Secretary under—

(A) the first section of the Act of June 24, 1938 (25 U.S.C. 162a);

(B) the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.); and

(C) this section.

(2) INTEREST.—In addition to the deposits under subsection (c), any interest credited to amounts unexpended in the Trust Fund are authorized to be appropriated to be used in accordance with the uses described in subsection (h).

(e) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts appropriated to, and deposited in, the Trust Fund, including any investment earnings, shall be made available to the Tribe by the Secretary beginning on the enforceability date.

(2) FUNDING FOR TRIBAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), on approval pursuant to this subtitle and the Compact by a referendum vote of a majority of votes cast by members of the Tribe on the day of the vote, as certified by the Secretary and the Tribe and subject to the availability of appropriations, of the amounts in the Administration and Energy Account, \$4,800,000 shall be made available to the Tribe for the implementation of this subtitle.

(f) WITHDRAWALS UNDER AIFRMRA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Tribe may withdraw any portion of the funds in the Trust Fund on approval by the Secretary of a tribal management plan submitted by the Tribe in accordance with the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the requirements under the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the tribal management plan under paragraph (1) shall require that the Tribe shall spend all amounts withdrawn from the Trust Fund in accordance with this subtitle.

(B) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary may carry out such judicial and administrative actions as the Secretary determines to be necessary to enforce the tribal management plan to ensure that amounts withdrawn by the Tribe from the Trust Fund under this subsection are used in accordance with this subtitle.

(g) WITHDRAWALS UNDER EXPENDITURE PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Tribe may submit to the Secretary a request to withdraw funds from the Trust Fund pursuant to an approved expenditure plan.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to withdraw funds under an expenditure plan under paragraph (1), the Tribe shall submit to the Secretary for approval an expenditure plan for any portion of the Trust Fund that the Tribe elects to withdraw pursuant to this subsection, subject to the condition that the funds shall be used for the purposes described in this subtitle.

(3) INCLUSIONS.—An expenditure plan under this subsection shall include a description of the manner and purpose for which the amounts proposed to be withdrawn from the Trust Fund will be used by the Tribe, in accordance with subsection (h).

(4) APPROVAL.—On receipt of an expenditure plan under this subsection, the Secretary shall approve the plan, if the Secretary determines that the plan—

- (A) is reasonable; and
- (B) is consistent with, and will be used for, the purposes of this subtitle.

(5) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary may carry out such judicial and administrative actions as the Secretary determines to be necessary to enforce an expenditure plan to ensure that amounts disbursed under this subsection are used in accordance with this subtitle.

(h) USES.—Amounts from the Trust Fund shall be used by the Tribe for the following purposes:

(1) The Administration and Energy Account shall be used for administration of the Tribal water rights and energy development projects under this subtitle and the Compact.

(2) The OM&R Account shall be used to assist the Tribe in paying OM&R costs.

(3) The St. Mary Account shall be distributed pursuant to an expenditure plan approved under subsection (g), subject to the conditions that—

(A) during the period for which the amount is available and held by the Secretary, \$500,000 shall be distributed to the Tribe annually as compensation for the deferral of the St. Mary water right; and

(B) any additional amounts deposited in the account may be withdrawn and used by the Tribe to pay OM&R costs or other expenses for 1 or more projects to benefit the Tribe, as approved by the Secretary, subject to the requirement that the Secretary shall not approve an expenditure plan under this paragraph unless the Tribe provides a resolution of the tribal council—

(i) approving the withdrawal of the funds from the account; and

(ii) acknowledging that the Secretary will not be able to distribute funds under subparagraph (A) indefinitely if the principal funds in the account are reduced.

(4) The Blackfeet Water, Storage, and Development Projects Account shall be used to carry out section 3713.

(i) LIABILITY.—The Secretary and the Secretary of the Treasury shall not be liable for the expenditure or investment of any amounts withdrawn from the Trust Fund by the Tribe under subsection (f) or (g).

(j) NO PER CAPITA DISTRIBUTIONS.—No portion of the Trust Fund shall be distributed on a per capita basis to any member of the Tribe.

(k) DEPOSIT OF FUNDS.—On request by the Tribe, the Secretary may deposit amounts from an account described in paragraph (1), (2), or (4) of subsection (b) to any other account the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 3717. BLACKFEET WATER SETTLEMENT IMPLEMENTATION FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a nontrust,

interest-bearing account, to be known as the “Blackfeet Water Settlement Implementation Fund” (referred to in this section as the “Implementation Fund”), to be managed and distributed by the Secretary, for use by the Secretary for carrying out this subtitle.

(b) ACCOUNTS.—The Secretary shall establish in the Implementation Fund the following accounts:

(1) The MR&I System, Irrigation, and Water Storage Account.

(2) The Blackfeet Irrigation Project Deferred Maintenance and Four Horns Dam Safety Improvements Account.

(3) The St. Mary/Milk Water Management and Activities Fund.

(c) DEPOSITS.—The Secretary shall deposit in the Implementation Fund—

(1) in the MR&I System, Irrigation, and Water Storage Account, the amount made available pursuant to section 3718(a)(2)(A);

(2) in the Blackfeet Irrigation Project Deferred Maintenance and Four Horns Dam Safety Improvements Account, the amount made available pursuant to section 3718(a)(2)(B); and

(3) in the St. Mary/Milk Water Management and Activities Fund, the amount made available pursuant to section 3718(a)(2)(C).

(d) USES.—

(1) MR&I SYSTEM, IRRIGATION, AND WATER STORAGE ACCOUNT.—The MR&I System, Irrigation, and Water Storage Account shall be used to carry out sections 3711 and 3712.

(2) BLACKFEET IRRIGATION PROJECT DEFERRED MAINTENANCE AND FOUR HORNS DAM SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ACCOUNT.—The Blackfeet Irrigation Project Deferred Maintenance and Four Horns Dam Safety Improvements Account shall be used to carry out section 3710.

(3) ST. MARY/MILK WATER MANAGEMENT AND ACTIVITIES ACCOUNT.—The St. Mary/Milk Water Management and Activities Account shall be used to carry out sections 3705 and 3707.

(e) MANAGEMENT.—Amounts in the Implementation Fund shall not be available to the Secretary for expenditure until the enforceability date.

(f) INTEREST.—In addition to the deposits under subsection (c), any interest credited to amounts unexpended in the Implementation Fund are authorized to be appropriated to be used in accordance with the uses described in subsection (d).

SEC. 3718. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary—

(1) as adjusted on appropriation to reflect changes since April 2010 in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers West Urban 50,000 to 1,500,000 index for the amount appropriated—

(A) for deposit in the Administration and Energy Account of the Blackfeet Settlement Trust Fund established under section 3716(b)(1), \$28,900,000;

(B) for deposit in the OM&R Account of the Blackfeet Settlement Trust Fund established under section 3716(b)(2), \$27,760,000;

(C) for deposit in the St. Mary Account of the Blackfeet Settlement Trust Fund established under section 3716(b)(3), \$27,800,000;

(D) for deposit in the Blackfeet Water, Storage, and Development Projects Account of the Blackfeet Settlement Trust Fund established under section 3716(b)(4), \$91,000,000; and

(E) the amount of interest credited to the unexpended amounts of the Blackfeet Settlement Trust Fund; and

(2) as adjusted annually to reflect changes since April 2010 in the Bureau of Reclamation Construction Cost Trends Index applicable to the types of construction involved—

(A) for deposit in the MR&I System, Irrigation, and Water Storage Account of the Blackfeet Water Settlement Implementation Fund established under section 3717(b)(1), \$163,500,000;

(B) for deposit in the Blackfeet Irrigation Project Deferred Maintenance, Four Horns Dam Safety, and Rehabilitation and Enhancement of the Four Horns Feeder Canal, Dam, and Reservoir Improvements Account of the Blackfeet Water Settlement Implementation Fund established under section 3717(b)(2), \$54,900,000, of which—

(i) \$40,900,000 shall be made available for activities and projects under section 3710(c); and

(ii) \$14,000,000 shall be made available for activities and projects under section 3710(d)(2);

(C) for deposit in the St. Mary/Milk Water Management and Activities Account of the Blackfeet Water Settlement Implementation Fund established under section 3717(b)(3), \$28,100,000, of which—

(i) \$27,600,000 shall be allocated in accordance with section 3707(g); and

(ii) \$500,000 shall be used to carry out section 3705; and

(D) the amount of interest credited to the unexpended amounts of the Blackfeet Water Settlement Implementation Fund.

(b) ADJUSTMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The adjustment of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (a)(1) shall occur each time an amount is appropriated for an account and shall add to, or subtract from, as applicable, the total amount authorized.

(2) REPETITION.—The adjustment process under this subsection shall be repeated for each subsequent amount appropriated until the amount authorized, as adjusted, has been appropriated.

(3) TREATMENT.—The amount of an adjustment may be considered—

(A) to be authorized as of the date on which congressional action occurs; and

(B) in determining the amount authorized to be appropriated.

SEC. 3719. WATER RIGHTS IN LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST AND GLACIER NATIONAL PARK.

The instream flow water rights of the Tribe on land within the Lewis and Clark National Forest and Glacier National Park—

(1) are confirmed; and

(2) shall be as described in the document entitled “Stipulation to Address Claims by and for the Benefit of the Blackfeet Indian Tribe to Water Rights in the Lewis & Clark National Forest and Glacier National Park” and as finally decreed by the Montana Water Court, or, if the Montana Water Court is found to lack jurisdiction, by the United States district court with jurisdiction.

SEC. 3720. WAIVERS AND RELEASES OF CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) WAIVER AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS BY TRIBE AND UNITED STATES AS TRUSTEE FOR TRIBE.—Subject to the reservation of rights and retention of claims under subsection (c), as consideration for recognition of the Tribal water rights and other benefits as described in the Compact and this subtitle, the Tribe, acting on behalf of the Tribe and members of the Tribe (but not any member of the Tribe as an allottee), and the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribe and the members of the Tribe (but not any member of the Tribe as an allottee), shall execute a waiver and release of all claims for water rights within the State that the Tribe, or the United States acting as trustee for the Tribe, asserted or could have asserted in any proceeding, including a State stream adjudication, on or before the enforceability date, except to the extent that such rights are recognized in the Compact and this subtitle.

(2) WAIVER AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS BY UNITED STATES AS TRUSTEE FOR ALLOTTEES.—Subject to the reservation of rights and the retention of claims under subsection (c), as consideration for recognition of the Tribal water rights and other benefits as described in the Compact and this subtitle, the United States, acting as trustee for allottees, shall execute a waiver and release of all claims for water rights within the Reservation that the United States, acting as trustee for the allottees, asserted or could have asserted in any proceeding, including a State stream adjudication, on or before the enforceability date, except to the extent that such rights are recognized in the Compact and this subtitle.

(3) WAIVER AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS BY TRIBE AGAINST UNITED STATES.—Subject to the reservation of rights and retention of claims under subsection (d), the Tribe, acting on behalf of the Tribe and members of the Tribe (but not any member of the Tribe as an allottee), shall execute a waiver and release of all claims against the United States (including any agency or employee of the United States)—

(A) relating to—

(i) water rights within the State that the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribe, asserted or could have asserted in any proceeding, including a stream adjudication in the State, except to the extent that such rights are recognized as Tribal water rights under this subtitle;

(ii) damage, loss, or injury to water, water rights, land, or natural resources due to loss of water or water rights (including damages, losses, or injuries to hunting, fishing, gathering, or cultural rights due to loss of water or water rights, claims relating to interference with, diversion, or taking of water, or claims relating to failure to protect, acquire, replace, or develop water, water rights, or water infrastructure) within the State that first accrued at any time on or before the enforceability date;

(iii) a failure to establish or provide a municipal rural or industrial water delivery system on the Reservation;

(iv) a failure to provide for operation or maintenance, or deferred maintenance, for the Blackfeet Irrigation Project or any other irrigation system or irrigation project on the Reservation;

(v) the litigation of claims relating to the water rights of the Tribe in the State; and

(vi) the negotiation, execution, or adoption of the Compact (including exhibits) or this subtitle;

(B) reserved in subsections (b) through (d) of section 3706 of the settlement for the case styled *Blackfeet Tribe v. United States*, No. 02–127L (Fed. Cl. 2012); and

(C) that first accrued at any time on or before the enforceability date—

(i) arising from the taking or acquisition of the land of the Tribe or resources for the construction of the features of the St. Mary Unit of the Milk River Project;

(ii) relating to the construction, operation, and maintenance of the St. Mary Unit of the Milk River Project, including Sherburne Dam, St. Mary Diversion Dam, St. Mary Canal and associated infrastructure, and the management of flows in Swiftcurrent Creek, including the diversion of Swiftcurrent Creek into Lower St. Mary Lake;

(iii) relating to the construction, operation, and management of Lower Two Medicine Dam and Reservoir and Four Horns Dam and Reservoir, including any claim relating to the failure to provide dam safety improvements for Four Horns Reservoir; or

(iv) relating to the allocation of waters of the Milk River and St. Mary River (including tributaries) between the United States and Canada pursuant to the International Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 (36 Stat. 2448).

(b) EFFECTIVENESS.—The waivers and releases under subsection (a) shall take effect on the enforceability date.

(c) WITHDRAWAL OF OBJECTIONS.—The Tribe shall withdraw all objections to the water rights claims filed by the United States for the benefit of the Milk River Project, except objections to those claims consolidated for adjudication within Basin 40J, within 14 days of the certification under subsection (f)(5) that the Tribal membership has approved the Compact and this subtitle.

(1) Prior to withdrawal of the objections, the Tribe may seek leave of the Montana Water Court for a right to reinstate the objections in the event the conditions of enforceability in subsection (f)(1) through (8) are not satisfied by the date of expiration described in section 3723 of this subtitle.

(2) If the conditions of enforceability in subsection (f)(1) through (8) are satisfied, and any authority the Montana Water Court may have granted the Tribe to reinstate objections described in this section has not yet expired, the Tribe shall notify the Montana Water Court and the United States in writing that it will not exercise any such authority.

(d) RESERVATION OF RIGHTS AND RETENTION OF CLAIMS.—Notwithstanding the waivers and releases under subsection (a), the Tribe, acting on behalf of the Tribe and members of the Tribe, and the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribe and allottees, shall retain—

(1) all claims relating to—

(A) enforcement of, or claims accruing after the enforceability date relating to water rights recognized under, the Compact, any final decree, or this subtitle;

(B) activities affecting the quality of water, including any claim under—

(i) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), including damages to natural resources;

(ii) the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

(iii) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the “Clean Water Act”); and

(iv) any regulations implementing the Acts described in clauses (i) through (iii); or

(C) damage, loss, or injury to land or natural resources that are not due to loss of water or water rights (including hunting, fishing, gathering, or cultural rights);

(2) all rights to use and protect water rights acquired after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(3) all rights, remedies, privileges, immunities, and powers not specifically waived and released pursuant to this subtitle or the Compact.

(e) EFFECT OF COMPACT AND SUBTITLE.—Nothing in the Compact or this subtitle—

(1) affects the ability of the United States, acting as a sovereign, to take any action authorized by law (including any law relating to health, safety, or the environment), including—

(A) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.);

(B) the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

(C) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the “Clean Water Act”); and

(D) any regulations implementing the Acts described in subparagraphs (A) through (C);

(2) affects the ability of the United States to act as trustee for any other Indian tribe or allottee of any other Indian tribe;

(3) confers jurisdiction on any State court—

(A) to interpret Federal law regarding health, safety, or the environment;

(B) to determine the duties of the United States or any other party pursuant to a Federal

law regarding health, safety, or the environment; or

(C) to conduct judicial review of a Federal agency action;

(4) waives any claim of a member of the Tribe in an individual capacity that does not derive from a right of the Tribe;

(5) revives any claim waived by the Tribe in the case styled *Blackfeet Tribe v. United States*, No. 02–127L (Fed. Cl. 2012); or

(6) revives any claim released by an allottee or a tribal member in the settlement for the case styled *Cobell v. Salazar*, No. 1:96CV01285–JR (D.D.C. 2012).

(f) **ENFORCEABILITY DATE.**—The enforceability date shall be the date on which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register a statement of findings that—

(1)(A) the Montana Water Court has approved the Compact, and that decision has become final and nonappealable; or

(B) if the Montana Water Court is found to lack jurisdiction, the appropriate United States district court has approved the Compact, and that decision has become final and nonappealable;

(2) all amounts authorized under section 3718(a) have been appropriated;

(3) the agreements required by sections 3706(c), 3707(f), and 3709(c) have been executed;

(4) the State has appropriated and paid into an interest-bearing escrow account any payments due as of the date of enactment of this Act to the Tribe under the Compact, the Birch Creek Agreement, and this subtitle;

(5) the members of the Tribe have voted to approve this subtitle and the Compact by a majority of votes cast on the day of the vote, as certified by the Secretary and the Tribe;

(6) the Secretary has fulfilled the requirements of section 3709(a);

(7) the agreement or terms and conditions referred to in section 3705 are executed and final; and

(8) the waivers and releases described in subsection (a) have been executed by the Tribe and the Secretary.

(g) **TOLLING OF CLAIMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each applicable period of limitation and time-based equitable defense relating to a claim described in this section shall be tolled during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the amounts made available to carry out this subtitle are transferred to the Secretary.

(2) **EFFECT OF SUBSECTION.**—Nothing in this subsection revives any claim or tolls any period of limitation or time-based equitable defense that expired before the date of enactment of this Act.

(h) **EXPIRATION.**—If all appropriations authorized by this subtitle have not been made available to the Secretary by January 21, 2026, or such alternative later date as is agreed to by the Tribe and the Secretary, the waivers and releases described in this section shall—

(1) expire; and

(2) have no further force or effect.

(i) **VOIDING OF WAIVERS.**—If the waivers and releases described in this section are void under subsection (h)—

(1) the approval of the United States of the Compact under section 3704 shall no longer be effective;

(2) any unexpended Federal funds appropriated or made available to carry out the activities authorized by this subtitle, together with any interest earned on those funds, and any water rights or contracts to use water and title to other property acquired or constructed with Federal funds appropriated or made available to carry out the activities authorized under this subtitle shall be returned to the Federal Govern-

ment, unless otherwise agreed to by the Tribe and the United States and approved by Congress; and

(3) except for Federal funds used to acquire or develop property that is returned to the Federal Government under paragraph (2), the United States shall be entitled to offset any Federal funds appropriated or made available to carry out the activities authorized under this subtitle that were expended or withdrawn, together with any interest accrued, against any claims against the United States relating to water rights in the State asserted by the Tribe or any user of the Tribal water rights or in any future settlement of the water rights of the Tribe or an allottee.

SEC. 3721. SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS.

(a) **TRIBAL CLAIMS.**—The benefits realized by the Tribe under this subtitle shall be in complete replacement of, complete substitution for, and full satisfaction of all—

(1) claims of the Tribe against the United States waived and released pursuant to section 3720(a); and

(2) objections withdrawn pursuant to section 3720(c).

(b) **ALLOTTEE CLAIMS.**—The benefits realized by the allottees under this subtitle shall be in complete replacement of, complete substitution for, and full satisfaction of—

(1) all claims waived and released pursuant to section 3720(a)(2); and

(2) any claim of an allottee against the United States similar in nature to a claim described in section 3720(a)(2) that the allottee asserted or could have asserted.

SEC. 3722. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) **WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.**—Except as provided in subsections (a) through (c) of section 208 of the Department of Justice Appropriation Act, 1953 (43 U.S.C. 666), nothing in this subtitle waives the sovereign immunity of the United States.

(b) **OTHER TRIBES NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED.**—Nothing in this subtitle quantifies or diminishes any land or water right, or any claim or entitlement to land or water, of an Indian tribe, band, or community other than the Tribe.

(c) **LIMITATION ON CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT.**—With respect to any Indian-owned land located within the Reservation—

(1) the United States shall not submit against that land any claim for reimbursement of the cost to the United States of carrying out this subtitle or the Compact; and

(2) no assessment of that land shall be made regarding that cost.

(d) **LIMITATION ON LIABILITY OF UNITED STATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The United States has no obligation—

(A) to monitor, administer, or account for, in any manner, any funds provided to the Tribe by the State; or

(B) to review or approve any expenditure of those funds.

(2) **INDEMNITY.**—The Tribe shall indemnify the United States, and hold the United States harmless, with respect to all claims (including claims for takings or breach of trust) arising from the receipt or expenditure of amounts described in this subsection.

(e) **EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW.**—Nothing in this section affects any provision of law (including regulations) in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act with respect to pre-enforcement review of any Federal environmental enforcement action.

(f) **EFFECT ON RECLAMATION LAWS.**—The activities carried out by the Commissioner of Reclamation under this subtitle shall not establish a precedent or impact the authority provided under any other provision of the reclamation laws, including—

(1) the Reclamation Rural Water Supply Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 2401 et seq.); and

(2) the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991).

(g) **IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY IN UPPER BIRCH CREEK DRAINAGE.**—Any activity carried out by the Tribe in the Upper Birch Creek Drainage (as defined in article II.50 of the Compact) using funds made available to carry out this subtitle shall achieve an irrigation efficiency of not less than 50 percent.

(h) **BIRCH CREEK AGREEMENT APPROVAL.**—The Birch Creek Agreement is approved to the extent that the Birch Creek Agreement requires approval under section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 177).

(i) **LIMITATION ON EFFECT.**—Nothing in this subtitle or the Compact—

(1) makes an allocation or apportionment of water between or among States; or

(2) addresses or implies whether, how, or to what extent the Tribal water rights, or any portion of the Tribal water rights, should be accounted for as part of, or otherwise charged against, an allocation or apportionment of water made to a State in an interstate allocation or apportionment.

SEC. 3723. EXPIRATION ON FAILURE TO MEET ENFORCEABILITY DATE.

If the Secretary fails to publish a statement of findings under section 3720(f) by not later than January 21, 2025, or such alternative later date as is agreed to by the Tribe and the Secretary, after reasonable notice to the State, as applicable—

(1) this subtitle expires effective on the later of—

(A) January 22, 2025; and

(B) the day after such alternative later date as is agreed to by the Tribe and the Secretary;

(2) any action taken by the Secretary and any contract or agreement entered into pursuant to this subtitle shall be void;

(3) any amounts made available under section 3718, together with any interest on those amounts, that remain unexpended shall immediately revert to the general fund of the Treasury, except for any funds made available under section 3716(e)(2) if the Montana Water Court denies the Tribe's request to reinstate the objections in section 3720(c); and

(4) the United States shall be entitled to offset against any claims asserted by the Tribe against the United States relating to water rights—

(A) any funds expended or withdrawn from the amounts made available pursuant to this subtitle; and

(B) any funds made available to carry out the activities authorized by this subtitle from other authorized sources, except for any funds provided under section 3716(e)(2) if the Montana Water court denies the Tribe's request to reinstate the objections in section 3720(c).

SEC. 3724. ANTIDEFICIENCY.

The United States shall not be liable for any failure to carry out any obligation or activity authorized by this subtitle (including any obligation or activity under the Compact) if—

(1) adequate appropriations are not provided expressly by Congress to carry out the purposes of this subtitle; or

(2) there are not enough monies available to carry out the purposes of this subtitle in the Reclamation Water Settlements Fund established under section 10501(a) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 407(a)).

Subtitle H—Water Desalination

SEC. 3801. REAUTHORIZATION OF WATER DESALINATION ACT OF 1996.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF RESEARCH AND STUDIES.**—Section 3 of the Water Desalination Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 10301 note; Public Law 104–298) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) development of metrics to analyze the costs and benefits of desalination relative to other sources of water (including costs and benefits related to associated infrastructure, energy use, environmental impacts, and diversification of water supplies); and

“(9) development of design and siting specifications that avoid or minimize, adverse economic and environmental impacts.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) **PRIORITIZATION.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding for research—

“(1) to reduce energy consumption and lower the cost of desalination, including chloride control;

“(2) to reduce the environmental impacts of seawater desalination and develop technology and strategies to minimize those impacts;

“(3) to improve existing reverse osmosis and membrane technology;

“(4) to carry out basic and applied research on next generation desalination technologies, including improved energy recovery systems and renewable energy-powered desalination systems that could significantly reduce desalination costs;

“(5) to develop portable or modular desalination units capable of providing temporary emergency water supplies for domestic or military deployment purposes; and

“(6) to develop and promote innovative desalination technologies, including chloride control, identified by the Secretary.”.

(b) **DESALINATION DEMONSTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT.**—Section 4 of the Water Desalination Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 10301 note; Public Law 104–298) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **PRIORITIZATION.**—In carrying out demonstration and development activities under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize projects—

“(1) for the benefit of drought-stricken States and communities;

“(2) for the benefit of States that have authorized funding for research and development of desalination technologies and projects;

“(3) that can reduce reliance on imported water supplies that have an impact on species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

“(4) that demonstrably leverage the experience of international partners with considerable expertise in desalination, such as the State of Israel.

“(d) **WATER PRODUCTION.**—The Secretary shall provide, as part of the annual budget submission to Congress, an estimate of how much water has been produced and delivered in the past fiscal year using processes and facilities developed or demonstrated using assistance provided under sections 3 and 4. This submission shall include, to the extent practicable, available information on a detailed water accounting by process and facility and the cost per acre foot of water produced and delivered.”.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 8 of the Water Desalination Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 10301 note; Public Law 104–298) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “2013” and inserting “2021”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2013” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021”.

(d) **CONSULTATION.**—Section 9 of the Water Desalination Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 10301 note; Public Law 104–298) is amended—

(1) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through “In carrying out” in the first sentence and inserting the following:

“SEC. 9. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.

“(a) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out”;

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “The authorization” and inserting the following:

“(c) **OTHER DESALINATION PROGRAMS.**—The authorization”;

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) (as designated by paragraph (1)) the following:

“(b) **COORDINATION OF FEDERAL DESALINATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**—The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy shall develop a coordinated strategic plan that—

“(1) establishes priorities for future Federal investments in desalination;

“(2) coordinates the activities of Federal agencies involved in desalination, including the Bureau of Reclamation, the Corps of Engineers, the United States Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research of the Department of Defense, the National Laboratories of the Department of Energy, the United States Geological Survey, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

“(3) strengthens research and development cooperation with international partners, such as the State of Israel, in the area of desalination technology; and

“(4) promotes public-private partnerships to develop a framework for assessing needs for, and to optimize siting and design of, future ocean desalination projects.”.

Subtitle I—Amendments to the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990
SEC. 3901. AMENDMENTS TO THE GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT OF 1990.

(a) **REFERENCES.**—Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this section an amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 941 et seq.).

(b) **FINDINGS.**—The Act is amended by striking section 1002 and inserting the following:

“SEC. 1002. FINDINGS.

“Congress finds that—

“(1) the Great Lakes have fish and wildlife communities that are structurally and functionally changing;

“(2) successful fish and wildlife management focuses on the lakes as ecosystems, and effective management requires the coordination and integration of efforts of many partners;

“(3) additional actions and better coordination are needed to protect and effectively manage the fish and wildlife resources, and the habitats on which the resources depend, in the Great Lakes Basin; and

“(4) this Act allows Federal agencies, States, and Indian tribes to work in an effective partnership by providing the funding for restoration work.”.

(c) **IDENTIFICATION, REVIEW, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSALS AND REGIONAL PROJECTS.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSALS AND REGIONAL PROJECTS.**—Section 1005(b)(2)(B) (16 U.S.C. 941c(b)(2)(B)) is amended—

(A) in clause (v), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in clause (vi), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(vii) the strategic action plan of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; and

“(viii) each applicable State wildlife action plan.”.

(2) **REVIEW OF PROPOSALS.**—Section 1005(c)(2)(C) (16 U.S.C. 941c(c)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “Great Lakes Coordinator of the”.

(3) **COST SHARING.**—Section 1005(e) (16 U.S.C. 941c(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (4), not less than 25 percent of the cost of implementing a proposal” and inserting the following:

“(A) **NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (5) and subject to paragraph (2), not less than 25 percent of the cost of implementing a proposal or regional project”;

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) **TIME PERIOD FOR PROVIDING MATCH.**—The non-Federal share of the cost of implementing a proposal or regional project required under subparagraph (A) may be provided at any time during the 2-year period preceding January 1 of the year in which the Director receives the application for the proposal or regional project.”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(C) by inserting before paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(2) **AUTHORIZED SOURCES OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director may determine the non-Federal share under paragraph (1) by taking into account—

“(i) the appraised value of land or a conservation easement as described in subparagraph (B); or

“(ii) as described in subparagraph (C), the costs associated with—

“(I) securing a conservation easement; and

“(II) restoration or enhancement of the conservation easement.

“(B) **APPRAISAL OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The value of a conservation easement may be used to satisfy the non-Federal share of the cost of implementing a proposal or regional project required under paragraph (1)(A) if the Director determines that the conservation easement—

“(I) meets the requirements of subsection (b)(2);

“(II) is acquired before the end of the grant period of the proposal or regional project;

“(III) is held in perpetuity for the conservation purposes of the programs of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service related to the Great Lakes Basin, as described in section 1006, by an accredited land trust or conservancy or a Federal, State, or tribal agency;

“(IV) is connected either physically or through a conservation planning process to the proposal or regional project; and

“(V) is appraised in accordance with clause (ii).

“(ii) **APPRAISAL.**—With respect to the appraisal of a conservation easement described in clause (i)—

“(I) the appraisal valuation date shall be not later than 1 year after the price of the conservation easement was set under a contract; and

“(II) the appraisal shall—

“(a) conform to the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP); and

“(b) be completed by a Federal- or State-certified appraiser.

“(C) **COSTS OF SECURING CONSERVATION EASEMENTS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—All costs associated with securing a conservation easement and restoration or enhancement of that conservation easement may be used to satisfy the non-Federal share of the cost of implementing a proposal or regional project required under paragraph (1)(A) if the activities and expenses associated with securing the conservation easement and restoration or enhancement of that conservation easement meet the requirements of subparagraph (B)(i).

“(ii) **INCLUSION.**—The costs referred to in clause (i) may include cash, in-kind contributions, and indirect costs.

“(iii) **EXCLUSION.**—The costs referred to in clause (i) may not be costs associated with mitigation or litigation (other than costs associated with the Natural Resource Damage Assessment program).”

(d) **ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES.**—Section 1007 (16 U.S.C. 941e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “**FISHERY RESOURCES**” and inserting “**FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**”; and

(B) by striking “**Fishery Resources**” each place it appears and inserting “**Fish and Wildlife Conservation**”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “**FISHERY RESOURCES**” and inserting “**FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**”; and

(B) by striking “**Fishery Resources**” each place it appears and inserting “**Fish and Wildlife Conservation**”;

(3) by striking subsection (a); and

(4) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively.

(e) **REPORTS.**—Section 1008 (16 U.S.C. 941f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2011” and inserting “2021”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2007 through 2012” and inserting “2016 through 2020”; and

(B) in paragraph (5), by inserting “the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan based on” after “in support of”; and

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) **CONTINUED MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF STUDY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The Director—

“(1) shall continue to monitor the status, and the assessment, management, and restoration needs, of the fish and wildlife resources of the Great Lakes Basin; and

“(2) may reassess and update, as necessary, the findings and recommendations of the Report.”

(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 1009 (16 U.S.C. 941g) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2007 through 2012” and inserting “2016 through 2021”;

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “\$14,000,000” and inserting “\$6,000,000”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$4,600,000” and inserting “\$2,000,000”; and

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$700,000” and inserting “\$300,000”; and

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking “the activities of” and all that follows through “section 1007” and inserting “the activities of the Upper Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices and the Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office under section 1007”.

(g) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR FEDERAL ACQUISITION OF INTERESTS IN LAND.**—Section 1009 (16 U.S.C. 941g) is further amended—

(1) by inserting before the sentence the following:

“(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR FEDERAL ACQUISITION OF INTERESTS IN LAND.**—No funds appropriated or used to carry out this Act may be used for acquisition by the Federal Government of any interest in land.”

(h) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 8 of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration

Act of 2006 (16 U.S.C. 941 note; Public Law 109-326) is repealed.

Subtitle J—California Water

SEC. 4001. OPERATIONS AND REVIEWS.

(a) **WATER SUPPLIES.**—The Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Commerce shall provide the maximum quantity of water supplies practicable to Central Valley Project agricultural, municipal and industrial contractors, water service or repayment contractors, water rights settlement contractors, exchange contractors, refuge contractors, and State Water Project contractors, by approving, in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws (including regulations), operations or temporary projects to provide additional water supplies as quickly as possible, based on available information.

(b) **ADMINISTRATION.**—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Commerce shall, consistent with applicable laws (including regulations)—

(1)(A) in close coordination with the California Department of Water Resources and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, implement a pilot project to test and evaluate the ability to operate the Delta cross-channel gates daily or as otherwise may be appropriate to keep them open to the greatest extent practicable to protect out-migrating salmonids, manage salinities in the interior Delta and any other water quality issues, and maximize Central Valley Project and State Water Project pumping, subject to the condition that the pilot project shall be designed and implemented consistent with operational criteria and monitoring criteria required by the California State Water Resources Control Board; and

(B) design, implement, and evaluate such real-time monitoring capabilities to enable effective real-time operations of the cross channel in order efficiently to meet the objectives described in subparagraph (A);

(2) with respect to the operation of the Delta cross-channel gates described in paragraph (1), collect data on the impact of that operation on—

(A) species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(B) water quality; and

(C) water supply benefits;

(3) collaborate with the California Department of Water Resources to install a deflection barrier at Georgiana Slough and the Delta Cross Channel Gate to protect migrating salmonids, consistent with knowledge gained from activities carried out during 2014 and 2015;

(4) upon completion of the pilot project in paragraph (1), submit to the Senate Committees on Energy and Natural Resources and Environment and Public Works and the House Committee on Natural Resources a written notice and explanation on the extent to which the gates are able to remain open and the pilot project achieves all the goals set forth in paragraphs (1) through (3);

(5) implement turbidity control strategies that may allow for increased water deliveries while avoiding jeopardy to adult Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*);

(6) in a timely manner, evaluate any proposal to increase flow in the San Joaquin River through a voluntary sale, transfer, or exchange of water from an agency with rights to divert water from the San Joaquin River or its tributaries;

(7) adopt a 1:1 inflow to export ratio for the increment of increased flow, as measured as a 3-day running average at Vernalis during the period from April 1 through May 31, that results from the voluntary sale, transfer, or exchange, unless the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Commerce determine in writing that a 1:1 inflow to export ratio for that increment of

increased flow will cause additional adverse effects on listed salmonid species beyond the range of the effects anticipated to occur to the listed salmonid species for the duration of the salmonid biological opinion using the best scientific and commercial data available; and subject to the condition that any individual sale, transfer, or exchange using a 1:1 inflow to export ratio adopted under the authority of this section may only proceed if—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior determines that the environmental effects of the proposed sale, transfer, or exchange are consistent with effects permitted under applicable law (including the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.), and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code 13000 et seq.);

(B) Delta conditions are suitable to allow movement of the acquired, transferred, or exchanged water through the Delta consistent with existing Central Valley Project and State Water Project permitted water rights and the requirements of subsection (a)(1)(H) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act; and

(C) such voluntary sale, transfer, or exchange of water results in flow that is in addition to flow that otherwise would occur in the absence of the voluntary sale, transfer, or exchange;

(8)(A) issue all necessary permit decisions during emergency consultation under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Commerce not later than 60 days after receiving a completed application by the State to place and use temporary barriers or operable gates in Delta channels to improve water quantity and quality for State Water Project and Central Valley Project south-of-Delta water contractors and other water users, which barriers or gates shall provide benefits for species protection and in-Delta water user water quality, provided that they are designed so that, if practicable, formal consultations under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) are not necessary; and

(B) take longer to issue the permit decisions in subparagraph (A) only if the Secretary determines in writing that an Environmental Impact Statement is needed for the proposal to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(9) allow and facilitate, consistent with existing priorities, water transfers through the C.W. “Bill” Jones Pumping Plant or the Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant from April 1 to November 30;

(10) require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commissioner of Reclamation to—

(A) determine if a written transfer proposal is complete within 30 days after the date of submission of the proposal. If the contracting district or agency or the Secretary determines that the proposal is incomplete, the district or agency or the Secretary shall state with specificity what must be added to or revised for the proposal to be complete;

(B) complete all requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. et seq.) necessary to make final permit decisions on water transfer requests in the State, not later than 45 days after receiving a completed request;

(C) take longer to issue the permit decisions in subparagraph (B) only if the Secretary determines in writing that an Environmental Impact Statement is needed for the proposal to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. et seq.), or that the application is incomplete pursuant to subparagraph (A); and

(D) approve any water transfer request described in subparagraph (A) to maximize the

quantity of water supplies on the condition that actions associated with the water transfer are consistent with—

(i) existing Central Valley Project and State Water Project permitted water rights and the requirements of section 3405(a)(1)(H) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act; and

(ii) all other applicable laws and regulations;

(11) in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive study, to be completed not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subtitle, on the effectiveness and environmental impacts of salt cedar biological control efforts on increasing water supplies and improving riparian habitats of the Colorado River and its principal tributaries, in the State of California and elsewhere;

(12) pursuant to the research and adaptive management procedures of the smelt biological opinion and the salmonid biological opinion use all available scientific tools to identify any changes to the real-time operations of Bureau of Reclamation, State, and local water projects that could result in the availability of additional water supplies; and

(13) determine whether alternative operational or other management measures would meet applicable regulatory requirements for listed species while maximizing water supplies and water supply reliability; and

(14) continue to vary the averaging period of the Delta Export/Inflow ratio, to the extent consistent with any applicable State Water Resources Control Board orders under decision D-1641, to operate to a

(A) ratio using a 3-day averaging period on the rising limb of a Delta inflow hydrograph; and

(B) 14-day averaging period on the falling limb of the Delta inflow hydrograph.

(c) OTHER AGENCIES.—To the extent that a Federal agency other than the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce has a role in approving projects described in subsections (a) and (b), this section shall apply to the Federal agency.

(d) ACCELERATED PROJECT DECISION AND ELEVATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On request of the Governor of California, the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Commerce shall use the expedited procedures under this subsection to make final decisions relating to Federal or federally approved projects or operational changes proposed pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) to provide additional water supplies or otherwise address emergency drought conditions.

(2) REQUEST FOR RESOLUTION.—Not later than 7 days after receiving a request of the Governor of California, the Secretaries referred to in paragraph (1), or the head of another Federal agency responsible for carrying out a review of a project, as applicable, the Secretary of the Interior shall convene a final project decision meeting with the heads of all relevant Federal agencies to decide whether to approve a project to provide emergency water supplies or otherwise address emergency drought condition.

(3) NOTIFICATION.—Upon receipt of a request for a meeting under this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the heads of all relevant Federal agencies of the request, including a description of the project to be reviewed and the date for the meeting.

(4) DECISION.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which a meeting is requested under paragraph (2), the head of the relevant Federal agency shall issue a final decision on the project.

(2) MEETING CONVENED BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary of the Interior may convene a final project decision meeting under this subsection at

any time, at the discretion of the Secretary, regardless of whether a meeting is requested under paragraph (2).

(3) LIMITATION.—The expedited procedures under this subsection apply only to—

(A) proposed new Federal projects or operational changes pursuant to subsection (a) or (b); and

(B) the extent they are consistent with applicable laws (including regulations).

(e) OPERATIONS PLAN.—The Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior, in consultation with appropriate State officials, shall develop an operations plan that is consistent with the provisions of this subtitle and other applicable Federal and State laws, including provisions that are intended to provide additional water supplies that could be of assistance during the current drought.

SEC. 4002. SCIENTIFICALLY SUPPORTED IMPLEMENTATION OF OMR FLOW REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In implementing the provisions of the smelt biological opinion and the salmonid biological opinion, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall manage reverse flow in Old and Middle Rivers at the most negative reverse flow rate allowed under the applicable biological opinion to maximize water supplies for the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, unless that management of reverse flow in Old and Middle Rivers to maximize water supplies would cause additional adverse effects on the listed fish species beyond the range of effects anticipated to occur to the listed fish species for the duration of the applicable biological opinion, or would be inconsistent with applicable State law requirements, including water quality, salinity control, and compliance with State Water Resources Control Board Order D-1641 or a successor order.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—If the Secretary of the Interior or Secretary of Commerce determines to manage rates of pumping at the C.W. “Bill” Jones and the Harvey O. Banks pumping plants in the southern Delta to achieve a reverse OMR flow rate less negative than the most negative reverse flow rate prescribed by the applicable biological opinion, the Secretary shall—

(1) document in writing any significant facts regarding real-time conditions relevant to the determinations of OMR reverse flow rates, including—

(A) targeted real-time fish monitoring in the Old River pursuant to this section, including as it pertains to the smelt biological opinion monitoring of Delta smelt in the vicinity of Station 902;

(B) near-term forecasts with available salvage models under prevailing conditions of the effects on the listed species of OMR flow at the most negative reverse flow rate prescribed by the biological opinion; and

(C) any requirements under applicable State law; and

(2) explain in writing why any decision to manage OMR reverse flow at rates less negative than the most negative reverse flow rate prescribed by the biological opinion is necessary to avoid additional adverse effects on the listed fish species beyond the range of effects anticipated to occur to the listed fish species for the duration of the applicable biological opinion, after considering relevant factors such as—

(A) the distribution of the listed species throughout the Delta;

(B) the potential effects of high entrainment risk on subsequent species abundance;

(C) the water temperature;

(D) other significant factors relevant to the determination, as required by applicable Federal or State laws;

(E) turbidity; and

(F) whether any alternative measures could have a substantially lesser water supply impact.

(c) LEVEL OF DETAIL REQUIRED.—The analyses and documentation required by this section shall be comparable to the depth and complexity as is appropriate for real time decision-making. This section shall not be interpreted to require a level of administrative findings and documentation that could impede the execution of effective real time adaptive management.

(d) FIRST SEDIMENT FLUSH.—During the first flush of sediment out of the Delta in each water year, and provided that such determination is based upon objective evidence, notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall manage OMR flow pursuant to the provisions of the smelt biological opinion that protects adult Delta smelt from the first flush if required to do so by the smelt biological opinion.

(e) CONSTRUCTION.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce are authorized to implement subsection (a) consistent with the results of monitoring through Early Warning Surveys to make real time operational decisions consistent with the current applicable biological opinion.

(f) CALCULATION OF REVERSE FLOW IN OMR.—Within 180 days of the enactment of this subtitle, the Secretary of the Interior is directed, in consultation with the California Department of Water Resources, and consistent with the smelt biological opinion and the salmonid biological opinion, to review, modify, and implement, if appropriate, the method used to calculate reverse flow in Old and Middle Rivers, for implementation of the reasonable and prudent alternatives in the smelt biological opinion and the salmonid biological opinion, and any succeeding biological opinions.

SEC. 4003. TEMPORARY OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY FOR STORM EVENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) Nothing in this subtitle authorizes additional adverse effects on listed species beyond the range of the effects anticipated to occur to the listed species for the duration of the smelt biological opinion or salmonid biological opinion, using the best scientific and commercial data available.

(2) When consistent with the environmental protection mandate in paragraph (1) while maximizing water supplies for Central Valley Project and State Water Project contractors, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce, through an operations plan, shall evaluate and may authorize the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, combined, to operate at levels that result in OMR flows more negative than the most negative reverse flow rate prescribed by the applicable biological opinion (based on United States Geological Survey gauges on Old and Middle Rivers) daily average as described in subsections (b) and (c) to capture peak flows during storm-related events.

(b) FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.—In determining additional adverse effects on any listed fish species beyond the range of effects anticipated to occur to the listed fish species for the duration of the smelt biological opinion or salmonid biological opinion, using the best scientific and commercial data available, the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce may consider factors including:

(1) The degree to which the Delta outflow index indicates a higher level of flow available for diversion.

(2) Relevant physical parameters including projected inflows, turbidity, salinities, and tidal cycles.

(3) The real-time distribution of listed species.

(c) OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS.—

(1) STATE LAW.—The actions of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce under this section shall be consistent with applicable regulatory requirements under State law.

(2) **FIRST SEDIMENT FLUSH.**—During the first flush of sediment out of the Delta in each water year, and provided that such determination is based upon objective evidence, the Secretary of the Interior shall manage OMR flow pursuant to the portion of the smelt biological opinion that protects adult Delta smelt from the first flush if required to do so by the smelt biological opinion.

(3) **APPLICABILITY OF OPINION.**—This section shall not affect the application of the salmonid biological opinion from April 1 to May 31, unless the Secretary of Commerce finds that some or all of such applicable requirements may be adjusted during this time period to provide emergency water supply relief without resulting in additional adverse effects on listed salmonid species beyond the range of the effects anticipated to occur to the listed salmonid species for the duration of the salmonid biological opinion using the best scientific and commercial data available. In addition to any other actions to benefit water supply, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall consider allowing through-Delta water transfers to occur during this period if they can be accomplished consistent with section 3405(a)(1)(H) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and other applicable law. Water transfers solely or exclusively through the State Water Project are not required to be consistent with subsection (a)(1)(H) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

(4) **MONITORING.**—During operations under this section, the Commissioner of Reclamation, in coordination with the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall undertake expanded monitoring programs and other data gathering to improve the efficiency of operations for listed species protections and Central Valley Project and State Water Project water supply to ensure incidental take levels are not exceeded, and to identify potential negative impacts, if any.

(d) **EFFECT OF HIGH OUTFLOWS.**—When exercising their authorities to capture peak flows pursuant to subsection (c), the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall not count such days toward the 5-day and 14-day running averages of tidally filtered daily Old and Middle River flow requirements under the smelt biological opinion and salmonid biological opinion, unless doing so is required to avoid additional adverse effects on listed fish species beyond those anticipated to occur through implementation of the smelt biological opinion and salmonid biological opinion using the best scientific and commercial data available.

(e) **LEVEL OF DETAIL REQUIRED FOR ANALYSIS.**—In articulating the determinations required under this section, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall fully satisfy the requirements herein but shall not be expected to provide a greater level of supporting detail for the analysis than feasible to provide within the short timeframe permitted for timely real-time decisionmaking in response to changing conditions in the Delta.

SEC. 4004. CONSULTATION ON COORDINATED OPERATIONS.

(a) **RESOLUTION OF WATER RESOURCE ISSUES.**—In furtherance of the policy established by section 2(c)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, that Federal agencies shall cooperate with State and local agencies to resolve water resource issues in concert with conservation of endangered species, in any consultation or reconsultation on the coordinated operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce shall ensure that any public water agency that contracts for the delivery of water from the

Central Valley Project or the State Water Project that so requests shall—

(1) have routine and continuing opportunities to discuss and submit information to the action agency for consideration during the development of any biological assessment;

(2) be informed by the action agency of the schedule for preparation of a biological assessment;

(3) be informed by the consulting agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service, of the schedule for preparation of the biological opinion at such time as the biological assessment is submitted to the consulting agency by the action agency;

(4) receive a copy of any draft biological opinion and have the opportunity to review that document and provide comment to the consulting agency through the action agency, which comments will be afforded due consideration during the consultation;

(5) have the opportunity to confer with the action agency and applicant, if any, about reasonable and prudent alternatives prior to the action agency or applicant identifying one or more reasonable and prudent alternatives for consideration by the consulting agency; and

(6) where the consulting agency suggests a reasonable and prudent alternative be informed—

(A) how each component of the alternative will contribute to avoiding jeopardy or adverse modification of critical habitat and the scientific data or information that supports each component of the alternative; and

(B) why other proposed alternative actions that would have fewer adverse water supply and economic impacts are inadequate to avoid jeopardy or adverse modification of critical habitat.

(b) **INPUT.**—When consultation is ongoing, the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce shall regularly solicit input from and report their progress to the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team and the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program policy group. The Collaborative Adaptive Management Team and the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program policy group may provide the Secretaries with recommendations to improve the effects analysis and Federal agency determinations. The Secretaries shall give due consideration to the recommendations when developing the Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion.

(c) **MEETINGS.**—The Secretaries shall establish a quarterly stakeholder meeting during any consultation or reconsultation for the purpose of providing updates on the development of the Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion. The quarterly stakeholder meeting shall be open to stakeholders identified by the Secretaries representing a broad range of interests including environmental, recreational and commercial fishing, agricultural, municipal, Delta, and other regional interests, and including stakeholders that are not state or local agencies.

(d) **CLARIFICATION.**—Neither subsection (b) or (c) of this section may be used to meet the requirements of subsection (a).

(e) **NON-APPLICABILITY OF FACA.**—For the purposes of subsection (b), the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team, the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program policy group, and any recommendations made to the Secretaries, are exempt from the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

SEC. 4005. PROTECTIONS.

(a) **APPLICABILITY.**—This section shall apply only to sections 4001 through 4006.

(b) **OFFSET FOR STATE WATER PROJECT.**—

(1) **IMPLEMENTATION IMPACTS.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall confer with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in connection

with the implementation of the applicable provisions of this subtitle on potential impacts to any consistency determination for operations of the State Water Project issued pursuant to California Fish and Game Code section 2080.1.

(2) **ADDITIONAL YIELD.**—If, as a result of the application of the applicable provisions of this subtitle, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife—

(A) determines that operations of the State Water Project are inconsistent with the consistency determinations issued pursuant to California Fish and Game Code section 2080.1 for operations of the State Water Project; or

(B) requires take authorization under California Fish and Game Code section 2081 for operation of the State Water Project;

in a manner that directly or indirectly results in reduced water supply to the State Water Project as compared with the water supply available under the smelt biological opinion and the salmonid biological opinion; and as a result, Central Valley Project yield is greater than it otherwise would have been, then that additional yield shall be made available to the State Water Project for delivery to State Water Project contractors to offset that reduced water supply, provided that if it is necessary to reduce water supplies for any Central Valley Project authorized uses or contractors to make available to the State Water Project that additional yield, such reductions shall be applied proportionately to those uses or contractors that benefit from that increased yield.

(3) **NOTIFICATION RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS.**—The Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Commerce shall—

(A) notify the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding any changes in the manner in which the smelt biological opinion or the salmonid biological opinion is implemented; and

(B) confirm that those changes are consistent with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(4) **SAVINGS.**—Nothing in the applicable provisions of this subtitle shall have any effect on the application of the California Endangered Species Act (California Fish and Game Code sections 2050 through 2116).

(c) **AREA OF ORIGIN AND WATER RIGHTS PROTECTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce, in carrying out the mandates of the applicable provisions of this subtitle, shall take no action that—

(A) diminishes, impairs, or otherwise affects in any manner any area of origin, watershed of origin, county of origin, or any other water rights protection, including rights to water appropriated before December 19, 1914, provided under State law;

(B) limits, expands or otherwise affects the application of section 10505, 10505.5, 11128, 11460, 11461, 11462, 11463 or 12200 through 12220 of the California Water Code or any other provision of State water rights law, without respect to whether such a provision is specifically referred to in this section; or

(C) diminishes, impairs, or otherwise affects in any manner any water rights or water rights priorities under applicable law.

(2) **EFFECT OF ACT.**—

(A) Nothing in the applicable provisions of this subtitle affects or modifies any obligation of the Secretary of the Interior under section 8 of the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 390, chapter 1093).

(B) Nothing in the applicable provisions of this subtitle diminishes, impairs, or otherwise affects in any manner any Project purposes or priorities for the allocation, delivery or use of water under applicable law, including the Project purposes and priorities established

under section 3402 and section 3406 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Public Law 102-575; 106 Stat. 4706).

(d) NO REDIRECTED ADVERSE IMPACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Commerce shall not carry out any specific action authorized under the applicable provisions of this subtitle that would directly or through State agency action indirectly result in the involuntary reduction of water supply to an individual, district, or agency that has in effect a contract for water with the State Water Project or the Central Valley Project, including Settlement and Exchange contracts, refuge contracts, and Friant Division contracts, as compared to the water supply that would be provided in the absence of action under this subtitle, and nothing in this section is intended to modify, amend or affect any of the rights and obligations of the parties to such contracts.

(2) ACTION ON DETERMINATION.—If, after exploring all options, the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce makes a final determination that a proposed action under the applicable provisions of this subtitle cannot be carried out in accordance with paragraph (1), that Secretary—

(A) shall document that determination in writing for that action, including a statement of the facts relied on, and an explanation of the basis, for the decision; and

(B) is subject to applicable law, including the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(e) ALLOCATIONS FOR SACRAMENTO VALLEY WATER SERVICE CONTRACTORS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) EXISTING CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT AGRICULTURAL WATER SERVICE CONTRACTOR WITHIN THE SACRAMENTO RIVER WATERSHED.—The term “existing Central Valley Project agricultural water service contractor within the Sacramento River Watershed” means any water service contractor within the Shasta, Trinity, or Sacramento River division of the Central Valley Project that has in effect a water service contract on the date of enactment of this subtitle that provides water for irrigation.

(B) YEAR TERMS.—The terms “Above Normal”, “Below Normal”, “Dry”, and “Wet”, with respect to a year, have the meanings given those terms in the Sacramento Valley Water Year Type (40-30-30) Index.

(2) ALLOCATIONS OF WATER.—

(A) ALLOCATIONS.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary of the Interior shall make every reasonable effort in the operation of the Central Valley Project to allocate water provided for irrigation purposes to each existing Central Valley Project agricultural water service contractor within the Sacramento River Watershed in accordance with the following:

(i) Not less than 100 percent of the contract quantity of the existing Central Valley Project agricultural water service contractor within the Sacramento River Watershed in a “Wet” year.

(ii) Not less than 100 percent of the contract quantity of the existing Central Valley Project agricultural water service Contractor within the Sacramento River Watershed in an “Above Normal” year.

(iii) Not less than 100 percent of the contract quantity of the existing Central Valley Project agricultural water service contractor within the Sacramento River Watershed in a “Below Normal” year that is preceded by an “Above Normal” or “Wet” year.

(iv) Not less than 50 percent of the contract quantity of the existing Central Valley Project agricultural water service contractor within the Sacramento River Watershed in a “Dry” year that is preceded by a “Below Normal”, “Above Normal”, or “Wet” year.

(v) In any other year not identified in any of clauses (i) through (iv), not less than twice the

allocation percentage to south-of-Delta Central Valley Project agricultural water service contractors, up to 100 percent.

(B) EFFECT OF CLAUSE.—In the event of anomalous circumstances, nothing in clause (A)(v) precludes an allocation to an existing Central Valley Project agricultural water service contractor within the Sacramento River Watershed that is greater than twice the allocation percentage to a south-of-Delta Central Valley Project agricultural water service contractor.

(3) PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT, MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES, AND OTHER CONTRACTORS.—

(A) ENVIRONMENT.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall adversely affect any protections for the environment, including—

(i) the obligation of the Secretary of the Interior to make water available to managed wetlands pursuant to section 3406(d) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Public Law 102-575; 106 Stat. 4722); or

(ii) any obligation—

(I) of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce under the smelt biological opinion, the salmonid biological opinion, or any other applicable biological opinion; including the Shasta Dam cold water pool requirements as set forth in the salmonid biological opinion or any other applicable State or Federal law (including regulations); or

(II) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. et seq.), the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Public Law 102-575; 106 Stat. 4706), or any other applicable State or Federal law (including regulations).

(B) MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall—

(i) modify any provision of a water service contract that addresses municipal or industrial water shortage policies of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce;

(ii) affect or limit the authority of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce to adopt or modify municipal and industrial water shortage policies;

(iii) affect or limit the authority of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce to implement a municipal or industrial water shortage policy;

(iv) constrain, govern, or affect, directly or indirectly, the operations of the American River division of the Central Valley Project or any deliveries from that division or a unit or facility of that division; or

(v) affects any allocation to a Central Valley Project municipal or industrial water service contractor by increasing or decreasing allocations to the contractor, as compared to the allocation the contractor would have received absent paragraph (2).

(C) OTHER CONTRACTORS.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall—

(i) affect the priority of any individual or entity with a Sacramento River settlement contract over water service or repayment contractors;

(ii) affect the obligation of the United States to make a substitute supply of water available to the San Joaquin River exchange contractors;

(iii) affect the allocation of water to Friant division contractors of the Central Valley Project;

(iv) result in the involuntary reduction in contract water allocations to individuals or entities with contracts to receive water from the Friant division;

(v) result in the involuntary reduction in water allocations to refuge contractors; or

(vi) authorize any actions inconsistent with State water rights law.

SEC. 4006. NEW MELONES RESERVOIR.

The Commissioner is directed to work with local water and irrigation districts in the Stanislaus River Basin to ascertain the water storage made available by the Draft Plan of Op-

erations in New Melones Reservoir (DRPO) for water conservation programs, conjunctive use projects, water transfers, rescheduled project water and other projects to maximize water storage and ensure the beneficial use of the water resources in the Stanislaus River Basin. All such programs and projects shall be implemented according to all applicable laws and regulations. The source of water for any such storage program at New Melones Reservoir shall be made available under a valid water right, consistent with the State water transfer guidelines and any other applicable State water law. The Commissioner shall inform the Congress within 18 months setting forth the amount of storage made available by the DRPO that has been put to use under this program, including proposals received by the Commissioner from interested parties for the purpose of this section.

SEC. 4007. STORAGE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this subtitle:

(1) FEDERALLY OWNED STORAGE PROJECT.—The term “federally owned storage project” means any project involving a surface water storage facility in a Reclamation State—

(A) to which the United States holds title; and

(B) that was authorized to be constructed, operated, and maintained pursuant to the reclamation laws.

(2) STATE-LED STORAGE PROJECT.—The term “State-led storage project” means any project in a Reclamation State that—

(A) involves a groundwater or surface water storage facility constructed, operated, and maintained by any State, department of a State, subdivision of a State, or public agency organized pursuant to State law; and

(B) provides a benefit in meeting any obligation under Federal law (including regulations).

(b) FEDERALLY OWNED STORAGE PROJECTS.—

(1) AGREEMENTS.—On the request of any State, any department, agency, or subdivision of a State, or any public agency organized pursuant to State law, the Secretary of the Interior may negotiate and enter into an agreement on behalf of the United States for the design, study, and construction or expansion of any federally owned storage project in accordance with this section.

(2) FEDERAL COST SHARE.—Subject to the requirements of this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior may participate in a federally owned storage project in an amount equal to not more than 50 percent of the total cost of the federally owned storage project.

(3) COMMENCEMENT.—The construction of a federally owned storage project that is the subject of an agreement under this subsection shall not commence until the Secretary of the Interior—

(A) determines that the proposed federally owned storage project is feasible in accordance with the reclamation laws;

(B) secures an agreement providing upfront funding as is necessary to pay the non-Federal share of the capital costs; and

(C) determines that, in return for the Federal cost-share investment in the federally owned storage project, at least a proportionate share of the project benefits are Federal benefits, including water supplies dedicated to specific purposes such as environmental enhancement and wildlife refuges.

(4) ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—In participating in a federally owned storage project under this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior shall comply with all applicable environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(c) STATE-LED STORAGE PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior may participate in a State-led storage project in an amount equal to not more than 25 percent of the total cost of the State-led storage project.

(2) **REQUEST BY GOVERNOR.**—Participation by the Secretary of the Interior in a State-led storage project under this subsection shall not occur unless—

(A) the participation has been requested by the Governor of the State in which the State-led storage project is located;

(B) the State or local sponsor determines, and the Secretary of the Interior concurs, that—

(i) the State-led storage project is technically and financially feasible and provides a Federal benefit in accordance with the reclamation laws;

(ii) sufficient non-Federal funding is available to complete the State-led storage project; and

(iii) the State-led storage project sponsors are financially solvent;

(C) the Secretary of the Interior determines that, in return for the Federal cost-share investment in the State-led storage project, at least a proportional share of the project benefits are the Federal benefits, including water supplies dedicated to specific purposes such as environmental enhancement and wildlife refuges; and

(D) the Secretary of the Interior submits to Congress a written notification of these determinations within 30 days of making such determinations.

(3) **ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.**—When participating in a State-led storage project under this subsection, the Secretary shall comply with all applicable environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(4) **INFORMATION.**—When participating in a State-led storage project under this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior—

(A) may rely on reports prepared by the sponsor of the State-led storage project, including feasibility (or equivalent) studies, environmental analyses, and other pertinent reports and analyses; but

(B) shall retain responsibility for making the independent determinations described in paragraph (2).

(d) **AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary of the Interior may provide financial assistance under this subtitle to carry out projects within any Reclamation State.

(e) **RIGHTS TO USE CAPACITY.**—Subject to compliance with State water rights laws, the right to use the capacity of a federally owned storage project or State-led storage project for which the Secretary of the Interior has entered into an agreement under this subsection shall be allocated in such manner as may be mutually agreed to by the Secretary of the Interior and each other party to the agreement.

(f) **COMPLIANCE WITH CALIFORNIA WATER BOND.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The provision of Federal funding for construction of a State-led storage project in the State of California shall be subject to the condition that the California Water Commission shall determine that the State-led storage project is consistent with the California Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act, approved by California voters on November 4, 2014.

(2) **APPLICABILITY.**—This subsection expires on the date on which State bond funds available under the Act referred to in paragraph (1) are expended.

(g) **PARTNERSHIP AND AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner, may partner or enter into an agreement regarding the water storage projects identified in section 103(d)(1) of the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act (Public Law 108–361; 118 Stat. 1688) with local joint powers authorities formed pursuant to State law by irrigation districts and other local water districts and local governments within the applicable hydrologic region, to advance those projects.

(h) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) \$335,000,000 of funding in section 4011(e) is authorized to remain available until expended.

(2) Projects can only receive funding if enacted appropriations legislation designates funding to them by name, after the Secretary recommends specific projects for funding pursuant to this section and transmits such recommendations to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(i) **SUNSET.**—This section shall apply only to federally owned storage projects and State-led storage projects that the Secretary of the Interior determines to be feasible before January 1, 2021.

(j) **CONSISTENCY WITH STATE LAW.**—Nothing in this section preempts or modifies any obligation of the United States to act in conformance with applicable State law.

(k) **CALFED AUTHORIZATION.**—Title I of Public Law 108–361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act) (118 Stat. 1681; 123 Stat. 2860; 128 Stat. 164; 128 Stat. 2312) (as amended by section 207 of Public Law 114–113) is amended by striking “2017” each place it appears and inserting “2019”.

SEC. 4008. LOSSES CAUSED BY THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF STORAGE PROJECTS.

(a) **MARINAS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, OTHER BUSINESSES.**—If in constructing any new or modified water storage project included in section 103(d)(1)(A) of Public Law 108–361 (118 Stat. 1684), the Bureau of Reclamation destroys or otherwise adversely affects any existing marina, recreational facility, or other water-dependent business when constructing or operating a new or modified water storage project, the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, acting through the Bureau and the Forest Service shall—

(1) provide compensation otherwise required by law; and

(2) provide the owner of the affected marina, recreational facility, or other water-dependent business under mutually agreeable terms and conditions with the right of first refusal to construct and operate a replacement marina, recreational facility, or other water-dependent business, as the case may be, on United States land associated with the new or modified water storage project.

(b) **HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS.**—If in constructing any new or modified water storage project included in section 103(d)(1)(A) of Public Law 108–361 (118 Stat. 1684), the Bureau of Reclamation reduces or eliminates the capacity or generation of any existing non-Federal hydroelectric project by inundation or otherwise, the Secretary of the Interior shall, subject to the requirements and limitations of this section—

(1) provide compensation otherwise required by law;

(2) provide the owner of the affected hydroelectric project under mutually agreeable terms and conditions with a right of first refusal to construct, operate, and maintain replacement hydroelectric generating facilities at such new or modified water storage project on Federal land associated with the new or modified water storage project or on private land owned by the affected hydroelectric project owner;

(3) provide compensation for the construction of any water conveyance facilities as are necessary to convey water to any new powerhouse constructed by such owner in association with such new hydroelectric generating facilities;

(4) provide for paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) at a cost not to exceed the estimated value of the actual impacts to any existing non-Federal hydroelectric project, including impacts to its capacity and energy value, and as estimated for the associated feasibility study, including additional planning, environmental, design, con-

struction, and operations and maintenance costs for existing and replacement facilities; and

(5) ensure that action taken under paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) shall not directly or indirectly increase the costs to recipients of power marketed by the Western Area Power Administration, nor decrease the value of such power.

(c) **EXISTING LICENSEE.**—The owner of any project affected under subsection (b)(2) shall be deemed the existing licensee, in accordance with section 15(a) of the Act of June 10, 1920 (16 U.S.C. 808(a)), for any replacement project to be constructed within the proximate geographic area of the affected project.

(d) **COST ALLOCATION.**—

(1) **COMPENSATION.**—Any compensation under this section shall be a project cost allocated solely to the direct beneficiaries of the new or modified water project constructed under this section.

(2) **REPLACEMENT COSTS.**—The costs of the replacement project, and any compensation, shall be—

(A) treated as a stand-alone project and shall not be financially integrated in any other project; and

(B) allocated in accordance with mutually agreeable terms between the Secretary and project beneficiaries.

(e) **APPLICABILITY.**—This section shall only apply to federally owned water storage projects whether authorized under section 4007 or some other authority.

(f) **LIMITATION.**—Nothing in this section affects the ability of landowners or Indian tribes to seek compensation or any other remedy otherwise provided by law.

(g) **SAVINGS CLAUSE.**—No action taken under this section shall directly or indirectly increase the costs to recipients of power marketed by the Western Area Power Administration, nor decrease the value of such power.

SEC. 4009. OTHER WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS.

(a) **WATER DESALINATION ACT AMENDMENTS.**—Section 4 of the Water Desalination Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 10301 note; Public Law 104–298) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(1) **PROJECTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the requirements of this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior may participate in an eligible desalination project in an amount equal to not more than 25 percent of the total cost of the eligible desalination project.

“(B) **ELIGIBLE DESALINATION PROJECT.**—The term ‘eligible desalination project’ means any project in a Reclamation State, that—

“(i) involves an ocean or brackish water desalination facility either constructed, operated and maintained; or sponsored by any State, department of a State, subdivision of a State or public agency organized pursuant to a State law; and

“(ii) provides a Federal benefit in accordance with the reclamation laws (including regulations).

“(C) **STATE ROLE.**—Participation by the Secretary of the Interior in an eligible desalination project under this subsection shall not occur unless—

“(i) the project is included in a state-approved plan or federal participation has been requested by the Governor of the State in which the eligible desalination project is located; and

“(ii) the State or local sponsor determines, and the Secretary of the Interior concurs, that—

“(I) the eligible desalination project is technically and financially feasible and provides a Federal benefit in accordance with the reclamation laws;

“(II) sufficient non-Federal funding is available to complete the eligible desalination project; and

“(III) the eligible desalination project sponsors are financially solvent; and

“(iii) the Secretary of the Interior submits to Congress a written notification of these determinations within 30 days of making such determinations.

“(D) ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—When participating in an eligible desalination project under this subsection, the Secretary shall comply with all applicable environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

“(E) INFORMATION.—When participating in an eligible desalination project under this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior—

“(i) may rely on reports prepared by the sponsor of the eligible desalination project, including feasibility (or equivalent) studies, environmental analyses, and other pertinent reports and analyses; but

“(ii) shall retain responsibility for making the independent determinations described in subparagraph (C).

“(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(i) \$30,000,000 of funding is authorized to remain available until expended; and

“(ii) Projects can only receive funding if enacted appropriations legislation designates funding to them by name, after the Secretary recommends specific projects for funding pursuant to this subsection and transmits such recommendations to the appropriate committees of Congress.”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF NEW WATER RECYCLING AND REUSE PROJECTS.—Section 1602 of the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (title XVI of Public Law 102–575; 43 U.S.C. 390h et. seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF NEW WATER RECYCLING AND REUSE PROJECTS.—

“(1) SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Non-Federal interests may submit proposals for projects eligible to be authorized pursuant to this section in the form of completed feasibility studies to the Secretary.

“(B) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—A project shall be considered eligible for consideration under this section if the project reclaims and reuses—

“(i) municipal, industrial, domestic, or agricultural wastewater; or

“(ii) impaired ground or surface waters.

“(C) GUIDELINES.—Within 60 days of the enactment of this Act the Secretary shall issue guidelines for feasibility studies for water recycling and reuse projects to provide sufficient information for the formulation of the studies.

“(2) REVIEW BY THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall review each feasibility study received under paragraph (1)(A) for the purpose of—

“(A) determining whether the study, and the process under which the study was developed, each comply with Federal laws and regulations applicable to feasibility studies of water recycling and reuse projects; and

“(B) the project is technically and financially feasible and provides a Federal benefit in accordance with the reclamation laws.

“(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of a feasibility study received under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

“(A) the results of the Secretary’s review of the study under paragraph (2), including a determination of whether the project is feasible;

“(B) any recommendations the Secretary may have concerning the plan or design of the project; and

“(C) any conditions the Secretary may require for construction of the project.

“(4) ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING.—The non-Federal project sponsor of any project determined by the Secretary to be feasible under paragraph (3)(A) shall be eligible to apply to the Secretary for funding for the Federal share of the costs of planning, designing and constructing the project pursuant to subsection (f).

“(f) COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE FUNDING OF WATER RECYCLING AND REUSE PROJECTS.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive grant program under which the non-Federal project sponsor of any project determined by the Secretary to be feasible under subsection (e)(3)(A) shall be eligible to apply for funding for the planning, design, and construction of the project, subject to subsection (g)(2).

“(2) PRIORITY.—When funding projects under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give funding priority to projects that meet one or more of the criteria listed in paragraph (3) and are located in an area that—

“(A) has been identified by the United States Drought Monitor as experiencing severe, extreme, or exceptional drought at any time in the 4-year period before such funds are made available; or

“(B) was designated as a disaster area by a State during the 4-year period before such funds are made available.

“(3) CRITERIA.—The project criteria referred to in paragraph (2) are the following:

“(A) Projects that are likely to provide a more reliable water supply for States and local governments.

“(B) Projects that are likely to increase the water management flexibility and reduce impacts on environmental resources from projects operated by Federal and State agencies.

“(C) Projects that are regional in nature.

“(D) Projects with multiple stakeholders.

“(E) Projects that provide multiple benefits, including water supply reliability, eco-system benefits, groundwater management and enhancements, and water quality improvements.

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior an additional \$50,000,000 to remain available until expended.

“(2) Projects can only receive funding if enacted appropriations legislation designates funding to them by name, after the Secretary recommends specific projects for funding pursuant to subsection (f) and transmits such recommendations to the appropriate committees of Congress.”.

(d) FUNDING.—Section 9504 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 10364) is amended in subsection (e) by striking “\$350,000,000” and inserting “\$450,000,000” on the condition that of that amount, \$50,000,000 of it is used to carry out section 206 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 2015 (43 U.S.C. 620 note; Public Law 113–235).

SEC. 4010. ACTIONS TO BENEFIT THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES AND OTHER WILDLIFE.

(a) INCREASED REAL-TIME MONITORING AND UPDATED SCIENCE.—

(1) SMELT BIOLOGICAL OPINION.—The Director shall use the best scientific and commercial data available to implement, continuously evaluate, and refine or amend, as appropriate, the reasonable and prudent alternative described in the smelt biological opinion.

(2) INCREASED MONITORING TO INFORM REAL-TIME OPERATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct additional surveys, on an annual basis at the appropriate time of year based

on environmental conditions, in collaboration with interested stakeholders regarding the science of the Delta in general, and to enhance real time decisionmaking in particular, working in close coordination with relevant State authorities.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior shall use—

(i) the most appropriate and accurate survey methods available for the detection of Delta smelt to determine the extent to which adult Delta smelt are distributed in relation to certain levels of turbidity or other environmental factors that may influence salvage rate;

(ii) results from appropriate surveys for the detection of Delta smelt to determine how the Central Valley Project and State Water Project may be operated more efficiently to maximize fish and water supply benefits; and

(iii) science-based recommendations developed by any of the persons or entities described in paragraph (4)(B) to inform the agencies’ real-time decisions.

(C) WINTER MONITORING.—During the period between December 1 and March 31, if suspended sediment loads enter the Delta from the Sacramento River, and the suspended sediment loads appear likely to raise turbidity levels in the Old River north of the export pumps from values below 12 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs) to values above 12 NTUs, the Secretary of the Interior shall—

(i) conduct daily monitoring using appropriate survey methods at locations including the vicinity of Station 902 to determine the extent to which adult Delta smelt are moving with turbidity toward the export pumps; and

(ii) use results from the monitoring under subparagraph (A) to determine how increased trawling can inform daily real-time Central Valley Project and State Water Project operations to maximize fish and water supply benefits.

(3) PERIODIC REVIEW OF MONITORING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Secretary of the Interior shall—

(A) evaluate whether the monitoring program under paragraph (2), combined with other monitoring programs for the Delta, is providing sufficient data to inform Central Valley Project and State Water Project operations to maximize the water supply for fish and water supply benefits; and

(B) determine whether the monitoring efforts should be changed in the short or long term to provide more useful data.

(4) DELTA SMELT DISTRIBUTION STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 15, 2021, the Secretary of the Interior shall—

(i) complete studies, to be initiated by not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subtitle, designed—

(I) to understand the location and determine the abundance and distribution of Delta smelt throughout the range of the Delta smelt; and

(II) to determine potential methods to minimize the effects of Central Valley Project and State Water Project operations on the Delta smelt;

(ii) based on the best available science, if appropriate and practicable, implement new targeted sampling and monitoring of Delta smelt in order to maximize fish and water supply benefits prior to completion of the study under clause (i);

(iii) to the maximum extent practicable, use new technologies to allow for better tracking of Delta smelt, such as acoustic tagging, optical recognition during trawls, and fish detection using residual deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA); and

(iv) if new sampling and monitoring is not implemented under clause (ii), provide a detailed explanation of the determination of the Secretary of the Interior that no change is warranted.

(B) CONSULTATION.—In determining the scope of the studies under this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior shall consult with—

(i) Central Valley Project and State Water Project water contractors and public water agencies;

(ii) other public water agencies;

(iii) the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Department of Water Resources; and

(iv) nongovernmental organizations.

(b) ACTIONS TO BENEFIT ENDANGERED FISH POPULATIONS.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) minimizing or eliminating stressors to fish populations and their habitat in an efficient and structured manner is a key aspect of a fish recovery strategy;

(B) functioning, diverse, and interconnected habitats are necessary for a species to be viable; and

(C) providing for increased fish habitat may not only allow for a more robust fish recovery, but also reduce impacts to water supplies.

(2) ACTIONS FOR BENEFIT OF ENDANGERED SPECIES.—There is authorized to be appropriated the following amounts:

(A) \$15,000,000 for the Secretary of Commerce, through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to carry out the following activities in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.):

(i) Gravel and rearing area additions and habitat restoration to the Sacramento River to benefit Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

(ii) Scientifically improved and increased real-time monitoring to inform real-time operations of Shasta and related Central Valley Project facilities, and alternative methods, models, and equipment to improve temperature modeling and related forecasted information for purposes of predicting impacts to salmon and salmon habitat as a result of water management at Shasta.

(iii) Methods to improve the Delta salvage systems, including alternative methods to redeposit salvaged salmon smolts and other fish from the Delta in a manner that reduces predation losses.

(B) \$3,000,000 for the Secretary of the Interior to conduct the Delta smelt distribution study referenced in subsection (a)(4).

(3) COMMENCEMENT.—If the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration determines that a proposed activity is feasible and beneficial for protecting and recovering a fish population, the Administrator shall commence implementation of the activity by not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subtitle.

(4) CONSULTATION.—The Administrator shall take such steps as are necessary to partner with, and coordinate the efforts of, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Commerce, and other relevant Federal departments and agencies to ensure that all Federal reviews, analyses, opinions, statements, permits, licenses, and other approvals or decisions required under Federal law are completed on an expeditious basis, consistent with Federal law.

(5) CONSERVATION FISH HATCHERIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce, in coordination with the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall develop and implement as necessary the expanded use of conservation hatchery programs to enhance, supplement, and rebuild Delta smelt and Endangered Species Act-listed fish species under the smelt and salmonid biological opinions.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The conservation hatchery programs established under paragraph (1) and the associated hatchery and genetic management plans shall be designed—

(i) to benefit, enhance, support, and otherwise recover naturally spawning fish species to the point where the measures provided under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) are no longer necessary; and

(ii) to minimize adverse effects to Central Valley Project and State Water Project operations.

(C) PRIORITY; COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In implementing this section, the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce—

(i) shall give priority to existing and prospective hatchery programs and facilities within the Delta and the riverine tributaries thereto; and

(ii) may enter into cooperative agreements for the operation of conservation hatchery programs with States, Indian tribes, and other nongovernmental entities for the benefit, enhancement, and support of naturally spawning fish species.

(6) ACQUISITION OF LAND, WATER, OR INTERESTS FROM WILLING SELLERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PURPOSES IN CALIFORNIA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire by purchase, lease, donation, or otherwise, land, water, or interests in land or water from willing sellers in California—

(i) to benefit listed or candidate species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or the California Endangered Species Act (California Fish and Game Code sections 2050 through 2116);

(ii) to meet requirements of, or otherwise provide water quality benefits under, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) or the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act (division 7 of the California Water Code); or

(iii) for protection and enhancement of the environment, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior.

(B) STATE PARTICIPATION.—In implementing this section, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to participate with the State of California or otherwise hold such interests identified in subparagraph (A) in joint ownership with the State of California based on a cost share deemed appropriate by the Secretary.

(C) TREATMENT.—Any expenditures under this subsection shall be nonreimbursable and nonreturnable to the United States.

(7) REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FISHERIES RESTORATION AND IRRIGATION MITIGATION ACT OF 2000.—

(A) Section 10(a) of the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 777 note; Public Law 106-502) is amended by striking “\$25 million for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2015” and inserting “\$15 million through 2021”; and

(B) Section 2 of the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 777 note; Public Law 106-502) is amended by striking “Montana, Idaho, and Idaho” and inserting “Montana, Idaho, and California”.

(c) ACTIONS TO BENEFIT REFUGES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to funding under section 3407 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Public Law 102-575; 106 Stat. 4726), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 for the acceleration and completion of water infrastructure and conveyance facilities necessary to achieve full water deliveries to Central Valley wildlife refuges and habitat areas pursuant to section 3406(d) of that Act (Public Law 102-575; 106 Stat. 4722).

(2) COST SHARING.—

(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of carrying out an activity described in this section shall be not more than 50 percent.

(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the cost of carrying out an activity described in this section—

(i) shall be not less than 50 percent; and

(ii) may be provided in cash or in kind.

(d) NON-FEDERAL PROGRAM TO PROTECT NATIVE ANADROMOUS FISH IN STANISLAUS RIVER.—

(1) DEFINITION OF DISTRICT.—In this section, the term “district” means—

(A) the Oakdale Irrigation District of the State of California; and

(B) the South San Joaquin Irrigation District of the State of California.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the districts shall jointly establish and conduct a nonnative predator research and pilot fish removal program to study the effects of removing from the Stanislaus River—

(A) nonnative striped bass, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, black bass; and

(B) other nonnative predator fish species.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The program under this section shall—

(A) be scientifically based, with research questions determined jointly by—

(i) National Marine Fisheries Service scientists; and

(ii) technical experts of the districts;

(B) include methods to quantify by, among other things, evaluating the number of juvenile anadromous fish that migrate past the rotary screw trap located at Caswell—

(i) the number and size of predator fish removed each year; and

(ii) the impact of the removal on—

(I) the overall abundance of predator fish in the Stanislaus River; and

(II) the populations of juvenile anadromous fish in the Stanislaus River;

(C) among other methods, consider using wire fyke trapping, portable resistance board weirs, and boat electrofishing; and

(D) be implemented as quickly as practicable after the date of issuance of all necessary scientific research permits.

(4) MANAGEMENT.—The management of the program shall be the joint responsibility of the Assistant Administrator and the districts, which shall—

(A) work collaboratively to ensure the performance of the program; and

(B) discuss and agree on, among other things—

(i) qualified scientists to lead the program;

(ii) research questions;

(iii) experimental design;

(iv) changes in the structure, management, personnel, techniques, strategy, data collection and access, reporting, and conduct of the program; and

(v) the need for independent peer review.

(5) CONDUCT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For each applicable calendar year, the districts, on agreement of the Assistant Administrator, may elect to conduct the program under this section using—

(i) the personnel of the Assistant Administrator or districts;

(ii) qualified private contractors hired by the districts;

(iii) personnel of, on loan to, or otherwise assigned to the National Marine Fisheries Service; or

(iv) a combination of the individuals described in clauses (i) through (iii).

(B) PARTICIPATION BY NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If the districts elect to conduct the program using district personnel or qualified private contractors hired under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A), the Assistant Administrator may assign an employee of, on loan to, or otherwise assigned to the National Marine Fisheries Service, to be present for all activities performed in the field to ensure compliance with paragraph (4).

(ii) COSTS.—The districts shall pay the cost of participation by the employee under clause (i), in accordance with paragraph (6).

(C) TIMING OF ELECTION.—The districts shall notify the Assistant Administrator of an election under subparagraph (A) by not later than October 15 of the calendar year preceding the calendar year for which the election applies.

(6) FUNDING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The districts shall be responsible for 100 percent of the cost of the program.

(B) CONTRIBUTED FUNDS.—The Secretary of Commerce may accept and use contributions of funds from the districts to carry out activities under the program.

(C) ESTIMATION OF COST.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 1 of each year of the program, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the districts an estimate of the cost to be incurred by the National Marine Fisheries Service for the program during the following calendar year, if any, including the cost of any data collection and posting under paragraph (7).

(ii) FAILURE TO FUND.—If an amount equal to the estimate of the Secretary of Commerce is not provided through contributions pursuant to subparagraph (B) before December 31 of that calendar year—

(I) the Secretary shall have no obligation to conduct the program activities otherwise scheduled for the following calendar year until the amount is contributed by the districts; and

(II) the districts may not conduct any aspect of the program until the amount is contributed by the districts.

(D) ACCOUNTING.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 1 of each year, the Secretary of Commerce shall provide to the districts an accounting of the costs incurred by the Secretary for the program during the preceding calendar year.

(ii) EXCESS AMOUNTS.—If the amount contributed by the districts pursuant to subparagraph (B) for a calendar year was greater than the costs incurred by the Secretary of Commerce during that year, the Secretary shall—

(I) apply the excess amounts to the cost of activities to be performed by the Secretary under the program, if any, during the following calendar year; or

(II) if no such activities are to be performed, repay the excess amounts to the districts.

(7) PUBLICATION AND EVALUATION OF DATA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—All data generated through the program, including by any private consultants, shall be routinely provided to the Assistant Administrator.

(B) INTERNET.—Not later than the 15th day of each month of the program, the Assistant Administrator shall publish on the Internet website of the National Marine Fisheries Service a tabular summary of the raw data collected under the program during the preceding month.

(C) REPORT.—On completion of the program, the Assistant Administrator shall prepare a final report evaluating the effectiveness of the program, including recommendations for future research and removal work.

(8) CONSISTENCY WITH LAW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The programs in this section and subsection (e) are found to be consistent with the requirements of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Public Law 102-575; 106 Stat. 4706).

(B) LIMITATION.—No provision, plan, or definition under that Act, including section 3406(b)(1) of that Act (Public Law 102-575; 106 Stat. 4714), shall be used—

(i) to prohibit the implementation of the programs in this subsection and subsection (e); or

(ii) to prevent the accomplishment of the goals of the programs.

(e) PILOT PROJECTS TO IMPLEMENT CALFED INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2018, the Secretary of the Interior, in collaboration with the Secretary of Commerce, the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other relevant agencies and interested parties, shall establish and carry out pilot projects to implement the invasive species control program under section 103(d)(6)(A)(iv) of Public Law 108-361 (118 Stat. 1690).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The pilot projects under this section shall—

(A) seek to reduce invasive aquatic vegetation (such as water hyacinth), predators, and other competitors that contribute to the decline of native listed pelagic and anadromous species that occupy the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries and the Delta; and

(B) remove, reduce, or control the effects of species including Asiatic clams, silversides, gobies, Brazilian water weed, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, crappie, bluegill, white and channel catfish, zebra and quagga mussels, and brown bullheads.

(3) EMERGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—To expedite environmentally beneficial programs in this subtitle for the conservation of threatened and endangered species, the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce shall consult with the Council on Environmental Quality in accordance with section 1506.11 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), to develop alternative arrangements to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for those programs.

(f) COLLABORATIVE PROCESSES.—Notwithstanding the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and applicable Federal acquisitions and contracting authorities, the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce may use the collaborative processes under the Collaborative Science Adaptive Management Program to enter into contracts with specific individuals or organizations directly or in conjunction with appropriate State agencies.

(g) THE “SAVE OUR SALMON ACT”.—

(1) TREATMENT OF STRIPED BASS.—

(A) ANADROMOUS FISH.—Section 3403(a) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (title XXXIV of Public Law 102-575) is amended by striking “striped bass,” after “stocks of salmon (including steelhead),”.

(B) FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—Section 3406(b) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (title XXXIV of Public Law 102-575) is amended by—

(i) striking paragraphs (14) and (18);

(ii) redesignating paragraphs (15) through (17) as paragraphs (14) through (16), respectively; and

(iii) redesignating paragraphs (19) through (23) as paragraphs (17) through (21), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING CHANGES.—Section 3407(a) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (title XXXIV of Public Law 102-575) is amended by striking “(10)–(18), and (20)–(22)” and inserting “(10)–(16), and (18)–(20)”.

SEC. 4011. OFFSETS AND WATER STORAGE ACCOUNT.

(a) PREPAYMENT OF CERTAIN REPAYMENT CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CONTRACTORS OF FEDERALLY DEVELOPED WATER SUPPLIES.—

(1) CONVERSION AND PREPAYMENT OF CONTRACTS.—Upon request of the contractor, the Secretary of the Interior shall convert any water service contract in effect on the date of enactment of this subtitle and between the United States and a water users’ association to allow for prepayment of the repayment contract pursuant to paragraph (2) under mutually agreeable terms and conditions. The manner of con-

version under this paragraph shall be as follows:

(A) Water service contracts that were entered into under section (e) of the Act of August 4, 1939 (53 Stat. 1196), to be converted under this section shall be converted to repayment contracts under section 9(d) of that Act (53 Stat. 1195).

(B) Water service contracts that were entered under subsection (c)(2) of section 9 of the Act of August 4, 1939 (53 Stat. 1194), to be converted under this section shall be converted to a contract under subsection (c)(1) of section 9 of that Act (53 Stat. 1195).

(2) PREPAYMENT.—Except for those repayment contracts under which the contractor has previously negotiated for prepayment, all repayment contracts under section 9(d) of that Act (53 Stat. 1195) in effect on the date of enactment of this subtitle at the request of the contractor, and all contracts converted pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) shall—

(A) provide for the repayment, either in lump sum or by accelerated prepayment, of the remaining construction costs identified in water project specific irrigation rate repayment schedules, as adjusted to reflect payment not reflected in such schedules, and properly assignable for ultimate return by the contractor, or if made in approximately equal installments, no later than 3 years after the effective date of the repayment contract, such amount to be discounted by ½ the Treasury rate. An estimate of the remaining construction costs, as adjusted, shall be provided by the Secretary to the contractor no later than 90 days following receipt of request of the contractor;

(B) require that construction costs or other capitalized costs incurred after the effective date of the contract or not reflected in the rate schedule referenced in subparagraph (A), and properly assignable to such contractor shall be repaid in not more than 5 years after notification of the allocation if such amount is a result of a collective annual allocation of capital costs to the contractors exercising contract conversion under this subsection of less than \$5,000,000. If such amount is \$5,000,000 or greater, such cost shall be repaid as provided by applicable reclamation law;

(C) provide that power revenues will not be available to aid in repayment of construction costs allocated to irrigation under the contract; and

(D) continue so long as the contractor pays applicable charges, consistent with section 9(d) of the Act of August 4, 1939 (53 Stat. 1195), and applicable law.

(3) CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS.—Except for those repayment contracts under which the contractor has previously negotiated for prepayment, the following shall apply with regard to all repayment contracts under subsection (c)(1) of section 9 of that Act (53 Stat. 1195) in effect on the date of enactment of this subtitle at the request of the contractor, and all contracts converted pursuant to paragraph (1)(B):

(A) Provide for the repayment in lump sum of the remaining construction costs identified in water project specific municipal and industrial rate repayment schedules, as adjusted to reflect payments not reflected in such schedules, and properly assignable for ultimate return by the contractor. An estimate of the remaining construction costs, as adjusted, shall be provided by the Secretary to the contractor no later than 90 days after receipt of the request of contractor.

(B) The contract shall require that construction costs or other capitalized costs incurred after the effective date of the contract or not reflected in the rate schedule referenced in subparagraph (A), and properly assignable to such contractor, shall be repaid in not more than 5 years after notification of the allocation if such

amount is a result of a collective annual allocation of capital costs to the contractors exercising contract conversion under this subsection of less than \$5,000,000. If such amount is \$5,000,000 or greater, such cost shall be repaid as provided by applicable reclamation law.

(C) Continue so long as the contractor pays applicable charges, consistent with section 9(c)(1) of the Act of August 4, 1939 (53 Stat. 1195), and applicable law.

(4) **CONDITIONS.**—All contracts entered into pursuant to paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) shall—

(A) not be adjusted on the basis of the type of prepayment financing used by the water users' association;

(B) conform to any other agreements, such as applicable settlement agreements and new constructed appurtenant facilities; and

(C) not modify other water service, repayment, exchange and transfer contractual rights between the water users' association, and the Bureau of Reclamation, or any rights, obligations, or relationships of the water users' association and their landowners as provided under State law.

(b) **ACCOUNTING.**—The amounts paid pursuant to subsection (a) shall be subject to adjustment following a final cost allocation by the Secretary of the Interior. In the event that the final cost allocation indicates that the costs properly assignable to the contractor are greater than what has been paid by the contractor, the contractor shall be obligated to pay the remaining allocated costs. The term of such additional repayment contract shall be not less than one year and not more than 10 years, however, mutually agreeable provisions regarding the rate of repayment of such amount may be developed by the parties. In the event that the final cost allocation indicates that the costs properly assignable to the contractor are less than what the contractor has paid, the Secretary shall credit such overpayment as an offset against any outstanding or future obligation of the contractor, with the exception of Restoration Fund charges pursuant to section 3407(d) of Public Law 102-575.

(c) **APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.**—

(1) **EFFECT OF EXISTING LAW.**—Upon a contractor's compliance with and discharge of the obligation of repayment of the construction costs pursuant to a contract entered into pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(A), subsections (a) and (b) of section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 1269) shall apply to affected lands.

(2) **EFFECT OF OTHER OBLIGATIONS.**—The obligation of a contractor to repay construction costs or other capitalized costs described in subsection (a)(2)(B), (a)(3)(B), or (b) shall not affect a contractor's status as having repaid all of the construction costs assignable to the contractor or the applicability of subsections (a) and (b) of section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 1269) once the amount required to be paid by the contractor under the repayment contract entered into pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(A) has been paid.

(d) **EFFECT ON EXISTING LAW NOT ALTERED.**—Implementation of the provisions of this subtitle shall not alter—

(1) the repayment obligation of any water service or repayment contractor receiving water from the same water project, or shift any costs that would otherwise have been properly assignable to the water users' association identified in subsections (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3) absent this section, including operation and maintenance costs, construction costs, or other capitalized costs incurred after the date of the enactment of this subtitle, or to other contractors; and

(2) specific requirements for the disposition of amounts received as repayments by the Secretary under the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat.

388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.);

(3) the priority of a water service or repayment contractor to receive water; or

(4) except as expressly provided in this section, any obligations under the reclamation law, including the continuation of Restoration Fund charges pursuant to section 3407(d) (Public Law 102-575), of the water service and repayment contractors making prepayments pursuant to this section.

(e) **WATER STORAGE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (d)(2), \$335,000,000 out of receipts generated from prepayment of contracts under this section beyond amounts necessary to cover the amount of receipts forgone from scheduled payments under current law for the 10-year period following the date of enactment of this Act shall be directed to the Reclamation Water Storage Account under paragraph (2).

(2) **STORAGE ACCOUNT.**—The Secretary shall allocate amounts collected under paragraph (1) into the "Reclamation Storage Account" to fund the construction of water storage. The Secretary may also enter into cooperative agreements with water users' associations for the construction of water storage and amounts within the Storage Account may be used to fund such construction. Water storage projects that are otherwise not federally authorized shall not be considered Federal facilities as a result of any amounts allocated from the Storage Account for part or all of such facilities.

(3) **REPAYMENT.**—Amounts used for water storage construction from the Account shall be fully reimbursed to the Account consistent with the requirements under Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.)) except that all funds reimbursed shall be deposited in the Account established under paragraph (2).

(4) **AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.**—Amounts deposited in the Account under this subsection shall—

(A) be made available in accordance with this section, subject to appropriation; and

(B) be in addition to amounts appropriated for such purposes under any other provision of law.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purposes of this subtitle, the following definitions apply:

(1) **ACCOUNT.**—The term "Account" means the Reclamation Water Storage Account established under subsection (e)(2).

(2) **CONSTRUCTION.**—The term "construction" means the designing, materials engineering and testing, surveying, and building of water storage including additions to existing water storage and construction of new water storage facilities, exclusive of any Federal statutory or regulatory obligations relating to any permit, review, approval, or other such requirement.

(3) **WATER STORAGE.**—The term "water storage" means any federally owned facility under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation or any non-Federal facility used for the storage and supply of water resources.

(4) **TREASURY RATE.**—The term "Treasury rate" means the 20-year Constant Maturity Treasury (CMT) rate published by the United States Department of the Treasury existing on the effective date of the contract.

(5) **WATER USERS' ASSOCIATION.**—The term "water users' association" means—

(A) an entity organized and recognized under State laws that is eligible to enter into contracts with Reclamation to receive contract water for delivery to end users of the water and to pay applicable charges; and

(B) includes a variety of entities with different names and differing functions, such as associations, conservancy districts, irrigation

districts, municipalities, and water project contract units.

SEC. 4012. SAVINGS LANGUAGE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—This subtitle shall not be interpreted or implemented in a manner that—

(1) preempts or modifies any obligation of the United States to act in conformance with applicable State law, including applicable State water law;

(2) affects or modifies any obligation under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Public Law 102-575; 106 Stat. 4706), except for the savings provisions for the Stanislaus River predator management program expressly established by section 11(d) and provisions in section 11(g);

(3) overrides, modifies, or amends the applicability of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or the application of the smelt and salmonid biological opinions to the operation of the Central Valley Project or the State Water Project;

(4) would cause additional adverse effects on listed fish species beyond the range of effects anticipated to occur to the listed fish species for the duration of the applicable biological opinion, using the best scientific and commercial data available; or

(5) overrides, modifies, or amends any obligation of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, required by the Magnuson Stevens Act or the Endangered Species Act of 1973, to manage fisheries off the coast of California, Oregon, or Washington.

(b) **SUCCESSOR BIOLOGICAL OPINIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce shall apply this Act to any successor biological opinions to the smelt or salmonid biological opinions only to the extent that the Secretaries determine is consistent with—

(A) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), its implementing regulations, and the successor biological opinions; and

(B) subsection (a)(4).

(2) **LIMITATION.**—Nothing in this Act shall restrict the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce from completing consultation on successor biological opinions and through those successor biological opinions implementing whatever adjustments in operations or other activities as may be required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and its implementing regulations.

(c) **SEVERABILITY.**—If any provision of this subtitle, or any application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be inconsistent with any law or the biological opinions, the remainder of this subtitle and the application of this subtitle to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected.

SEC. 4013. DURATION.

This subtitle shall expire on the date that is 5 years after the date of its enactment, with the exception of—

(1) section 4004, which shall expire 10 years after the date of its enactment; and

(2) projects under construction in sections 4007, 4009(a), and 4009(c).

SEC. 4014. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term "Assistant Administrator" means the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) **CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT.**—The term "Central Valley Project" has the meaning given the term in section 3403 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Public Law 102-575; 106 Stat. 4707).

(3) **COMMISSIONER.**—The term "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Reclamation.

(4) **DELTA.**—The term "Delta" means the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Suisun

Marsh (as defined in section 12220 of the California Water Code and section 29101 of the California Public Resources Code (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act)).

(5) DELTA SMELT.—The term "Delta smelt" means the fish species with the scientific name *Hypomesus transpacificus*.

(6) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(7) LISTED FISH SPECIES.—The term "listed fish species" means—

(A) any natural origin steelhead, natural origin genetic spring run Chinook, or genetic winter run Chinook salmon (including any hatchery steelhead or salmon population within the evolutionary significant unit or a distinct population segment); and

(B) Delta smelt.

(8) RECLAMATION STATE.—The term "Reclamation State" means any of the States of—

- (A) Arizona;
(B) California;
(C) Colorado;
(D) Idaho;
(E) Kansas;
(F) Montana;
(G) Nebraska;
(H) Nevada;
(I) New Mexico;
(J) North Dakota;
(K) Oklahoma;
(L) Oregon;
(M) South Dakota;
(N) Texas;
(O) Utah;
(P) Washington; and
(Q) Wyoming.

(9) SALMONID BIOLOGICAL OPINION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "salmonid biological opinion" means the biological and conference opinion of the National Marine Fisheries Service dated June 4, 2009, regarding the long-term operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, and successor biological opinions.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term "salmonid biological opinion" includes the operative incidental take statement of the opinion described in subparagraph (A).

(10) SMELT BIOLOGICAL OPINION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "smelt biological opinion" means the biological opinion dated December 15, 2008, regarding the coordinated operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, and successor biological opinions.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term "smelt biological opinion" includes the operative incidental take statement of the opinion described in subparagraph (A).

(11) STATE WATER PROJECT.—The term "State Water Project" means the water project described in chapter 5 of part 3 of division 6 of the California Water Code (sections 11550 et seq.) (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act) and operated by the California Department of Water Resources.

TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 5001. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 3 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

§311. Congressional notification requirements

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b) or as expressly provided in another provision of law, the Secretary of Transportation shall provide to the appropriate committees of Congress notice of an announcement concerning a covered project at least 3 full business days before the announcement is made by the Department.

"(b) EMERGENCY PROGRAM.—With respect to an allocation of funds under section 125 of title 23, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate notice of the allocation—

"(1) at least 3 full business days before the issuance of the allocation; or

"(2) concurrently with the issuance of the allocation, if the allocation is made using the quick release process of the Department (or any successor process).

"(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

"(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means—

"(A) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

"(B) the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

"(2) COVERED PROJECT.—The term 'covered project' means a project competitively selected by the Department to receive a discretionary grant award, letter of intent, loan commitment, loan guarantee commitment, or line of credit commitment in an amount equal to or greater than \$750,000.

"(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term 'Department' means the Department of Transportation, including the modal administrations of the Department."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 310 the following:

"311. Congressional notification requirements."

SEC. 5002. REAUTHORIZATION OF DENALI COMMISSION.

(a) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 303 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105-277) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the first sentence by striking "The Federal Cochairperson" and inserting the following:

"(1) TERM OF FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSON.—The Federal Cochairperson";

(B) in the second sentence by striking "All other members" and inserting the following:

"(3) TERM OF ALL OTHER MEMBERS.—All other members";

(C) in the third sentence by striking "Any vacancy" and inserting the following:

"(4) VACANCIES.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), any vacancy"; and

(D) by inserting before paragraph (3) (as designated by subparagraph (B)) the following:

"(2) INTERIM FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSON.—In the event of a vacancy for any reason in the position of Federal Cochairperson, the Secretary may appoint an Interim Federal Cochairperson, who shall have all the authority of the Federal Cochairperson, to serve until such time as the vacancy in the position of Federal Cochairperson is filled in accordance with subsection (b)(2)."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(f) NO FEDERAL EMPLOYEE STATUS.—No member of the Commission, other than the Federal Cochairperson, shall be considered to be a Federal employee for any purpose.

"(g) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), no member of the Commission (referred to in this subsection as a 'member') shall participate personally or substantially, through recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation, or otherwise, in any pro-

ceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract claim, controversy, or other matter in which, to the knowledge of the member, 1 or more of the following has a direct financial interest:

"(A) The member.

"(B) The spouse, minor child, or partner of the member.

"(C) An organization described in subparagraph (B), (C), (D), (E), or (F) of subsection (b)(1) for which the member is serving as an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee.

"(D) Any individual, person, or organization with which the member is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment.

"(2) DISCLOSURE.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply if the member—

"(A) immediately advises the designated agency ethics official for the Commission of the nature and circumstances of the matter presenting a potential conflict of interest;

"(B) makes full disclosure of the financial interest; and

"(C) before the proceeding concerning the matter presenting the conflict of interest, receives a written determination by the designated agency ethics official for the Commission that the interest is not so substantial as to be likely to affect the integrity of the services that the Commission may expect from the member. The written determination shall specify the rationale and any evidence or support for the decision, identify steps, if any, that should be taken to mitigate any conflict of interest, and be available to the public.

"(3) ANNUAL DISCLOSURES.—Once each calendar year, each member shall make full disclosure of financial interests, in a manner to be determined by the designated agency ethics official for the Commission.

"(4) TRAINING.—Once each calendar year, each member shall undergo disclosure of financial interests training, as prescribed by the designated agency ethics official for the Commission.

"(5) CLARIFICATION.—A member of the Commission may continue to participate personally or substantially, through decision, approval, or disapproval on the focus of applications to be considered but not on individual applications where a conflict of interest exists.

"(6) VIOLATION.—Any person that violates this subsection shall be fined not more than \$10,000, imprisoned for not more than 2 years, or both."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 310 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105-277) (as redesignated by section 1960(1) of SAFETEA-LU (Public Law 109-59; 119 Stat. 1516)) is amended, in subsection (a), by striking "under section 4 under this Act" and all that follows through "2008" and inserting "under section 304, \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 310 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105-277) (as redesignated by section 1960(1) of SAFETEA-LU (Public Law 109-59; 119 Stat. 1516)) is redesignated as section 312.

SEC. 5003. RECREATIONAL ACCESS FOR FLOATING CABINS AT TVA RESERVOIRS.

The Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 is amended by inserting after section 9a (16 U.S.C. 831h-1) the following:

SEC. 9b. RECREATIONAL ACCESS.

"(a) DEFINITION OF FLOATING CABIN.—In this section, the term 'floating cabin' means a watercraft or other floating structure—

"(1) primarily designed and used for human habitation or occupation; and

"(2) not primarily designed or used for navigation or transportation on water.

“(b) RECREATIONAL ACCESS.—The Board may allow the use of a floating cabin if—

“(1) the floating cabin is maintained by the owner to reasonable health, safety, and environmental standards, as required by the Board;

“(2) the Corporation has authorized the use of recreational vessels on the waters; and

“(3) the floating cabin was located on waters under the jurisdiction of the Corporation as of the date of enactment of this section.

“(c) FEES.—The Board may levy fees on the owner of a floating cabin on waters under the jurisdiction of the Corporation for the purpose of ensuring compliance with subsection (b) if the fees are necessary and reasonable for such purpose.

“(d) CONTINUED RECREATIONAL USE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a floating cabin located on waters under the jurisdiction of the Corporation on the date of enactment of this section, the Board—

“(A) may not require the removal of the floating cabin—

“(i) in the case of a floating cabin that was granted a permit by the Corporation before the date of enactment of this section, for a period of 15 years beginning on such date of enactment; and

“(ii) in the case of a floating cabin not granted a permit by the Corporation before the date of enactment of this section, for a period of 5 years beginning on such date of enactment; and

“(B) shall approve and allow the use of the floating cabin on waters under the jurisdiction of the Corporation at such time and for such duration as—

“(i) the floating cabin meets the requirements of subsection (b); and

“(ii) the owner of the floating cabin has paid any fee assessed pursuant to subsection (c).

“(2) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—

“(A) Nothing in this subsection restricts the ability of the Corporation to enforce reasonable health, safety, or environmental standards.

“(B) This section applies only to floating cabins located on waters under the jurisdiction of the Corporation.

“(e) NEW CONSTRUCTION.—The Corporation may establish regulations to prevent the construction of new floating cabins.”

SEC. 5004. GOLD KING MINE SPILL RECOVERY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) CLAIMANT.—The term “claimant” means a State, Indian tribe, or local government that submits a claim under subsection (c).

(3) GOLD KING MINE RELEASE.—The term “Gold King Mine release” means the discharge on August 5, 2015, of approximately 3,000,000 gallons of contaminated water from the Gold King Mine north of Silverton, Colorado, into Cement Creek that occurred while contractors of the Environmental Protection Agency were conducting an investigation of the Gold King Mine to assess mine conditions.

(4) NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN.—The term “National Contingency Plan” means the National Contingency Plan prepared and published under part 300 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(5) RESPONSE.—The term “response” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601).

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator should receive and process, as expeditiously as possible, claims under chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”) for any injury arising out of the Gold King Mine release.

(c) GOLD KING MINE RELEASE CLAIMS PURSUANT TO COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, consistent with the National Contingency Plan, receive and process under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), and pay from appropriations made available to the Administrator to carry out such Act, any claim made by a State, Indian tribe, or local government for eligible response costs relating to the Gold King Mine release.

(2) ELIGIBLE RESPONSE COSTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Response costs incurred between August 5, 2015, and September 9, 2016, are eligible for payment by the Administrator under this subsection, without prior approval by the Administrator, if the response costs are consistent with the National Contingency Plan.

(B) PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED.—Response costs incurred after September 9, 2016, are eligible for payment by the Administrator under this subsection if—

(i) the Administrator approves the response costs under section 111(a)(2) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9611(a)(2)); and

(ii) the response costs are consistent with the National Contingency Plan.

(3) TIMING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall make a decision on, and pay, any eligible response costs submitted to the Administrator before such date of enactment.

(B) SUBSEQUENTLY FILED CLAIMS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which a claim is submitted to the Administrator, the Administrator shall make a decision on, and pay, any eligible response costs.

(C) DEADLINE.—All claims under this subsection shall be submitted to the Administrator not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(D) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administrator makes a decision under subparagraph (A) or (B), the Administrator shall notify the claimant of the decision.

(d) WATER QUALITY PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In response to the Gold King Mine release, the Administrator, in conjunction with affected States, Indian tribes, and local governments, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, develop and implement a program for long-term water quality monitoring of rivers contaminated by the Gold King Mine release.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the program described in paragraph (1), the Administrator, in conjunction with affected States, Indian tribes, and local governments, shall—

(A) collect water quality samples and sediment data;

(B) provide the public with a means of viewing the water quality sample results and sediment data referred to in subparagraph (A) by, at a minimum, posting the information on the website of the Administrator;

(C) take any other reasonable measure necessary to assist affected States, Indian tribes, and local governments with long-term water monitoring; and

(D) carry out additional program activities related to long-term water quality monitoring that the Administrator determines to be necessary.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator \$4,000,000.00 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 to carry out this subsection, including the reimbursement of affected States, Indian tribes, and local governments for

the costs of long-term water quality monitoring of any river contaminated by the Gold King Mine release.

(e) EXISTING STATE AND TRIBAL LAW.—Nothing in this section affects the jurisdiction or authority of any department, agency, or officer of any State government or any Indian tribe.

(f) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section affects any right of any State, Indian tribe, or other person to bring a claim against the United States for response costs or natural resources damages pursuant to section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9607).

SEC. 5005. GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE.

Section 118(c)(7) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(7)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and inserting the following:

“(B) FOCUS AREAS.—In carrying out the Initiative, the Administrator shall prioritize programs and projects, to be carried out in coordination with non-Federal partners, that address the priority areas described in the Initiative Action Plan, including—

“(i) the remediation of toxic substances and areas of concern;

“(ii) the prevention and control of invasive species and the impacts of invasive species;

“(iii) the protection and restoration of near-shore health and the prevention and mitigation of nonpoint source pollution;

“(iv) habitat and wildlife protection and restoration, including wetlands restoration and preservation; and

“(v) accountability, monitoring, evaluation, communication, and partnership activities.

“(C) PROJECTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Initiative, the Administrator shall collaborate with other Federal partners, including the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force established by Executive Order No. 13340 (69 Fed. Reg. 29043), to select the best combination of programs and projects for Great Lakes protection and restoration using appropriate principles and criteria, including whether a program or project provides—

“(I) the ability to achieve strategic and measurable environmental outcomes that implement the Initiative Action Plan and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement;

“(II) the feasibility of—

“(aa) prompt implementation;

“(bb) timely achievement of results; and

“(cc) resource leveraging; and

“(III) the opportunity to improve interagency, intergovernmental, and interorganizational coordination and collaboration to reduce duplication and streamline efforts.

“(ii) OUTREACH.—In selecting the best combination of programs and projects for Great Lakes protection and restoration under clause (i), the Administrator shall consult with the Great Lakes States and Indian tribes and solicit input from other non-Federal stakeholders.

“(iii) HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM COORDINATOR.—The Administrator shall designate a point person from an appropriate Federal partner to coordinate, with Federal partners and Great Lakes States, Indian tribes, and other non-Federal stakeholders, projects and activities under the Initiative involving harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes.”;

(2) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (J)(ii), funds made available to carry out the Initiative shall be used to strategically implement—

“(I) Federal projects;

“(II) projects carried out in coordination with States, Indian tribes, municipalities, institutions of higher education, and other organizations; and

“(III) operations and activities of the Program Office, including remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern.”;

(B) in clause (ii)(I), by striking “(G)(i)” and inserting “(J)(i)”;

(C) by inserting after clause (ii) the following: “(iii) AGREEMENTS WITH NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, or the head of any other Federal department or agency receiving funds under clause (ii)(I), may make a grant to, or otherwise enter into an agreement with, a qualified non-Federal entity, as determined by the Administrator or the applicable head of the other Federal department or agency receiving funds, for planning, research, monitoring, outreach, or implementation of a project selected under subparagraph (C), to support the Initiative Action Plan or the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

“(II) QUALIFIED NON-FEDERAL ENTITY.—For purposes of this clause, a qualified non-Federal entity may include a governmental entity, nonprofit organization, institution, or individual.”;

(3) by striking subparagraphs (E) through (G) and inserting the following:

“(E) SCOPE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Projects may be carried out under the Initiative on multiple levels, including—

“(I) locally;

“(II) Great Lakes-wide; or

“(III) Great Lakes basin-wide.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—No funds made available to carry out the Initiative may be used for any water infrastructure activity (other than a green infrastructure project that improves habitat and other ecosystem functions in the Great Lakes) for which financial assistance is received—

“(I) from a State water pollution control revolving fund established under title VI;

“(II) from a State drinking water revolving loan fund established under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12); or

“(III) pursuant to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.).

“(F) ACTIVITIES BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Each relevant Federal department or agency shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

“(i) maintain the base level of funding for the Great Lakes activities of that department or agency without regard to funding under the Initiative; and

“(ii) identify new activities and projects to support the environmental goals of the Initiative.

“(G) REVISION OF INITIATIVE ACTION PLAN.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not less often than once every 5 years, the Administrator, in conjunction with the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, shall review, and revise as appropriate, the Initiative Action Plan to guide the activities of the Initiative in addressing the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes system.

“(ii) OUTREACH.—In reviewing and revising the Initiative Action Plan under clause (i), the Administrator shall consult with the Great Lakes States and Indian tribes and solicit input from other non-Federal stakeholders.

“(H) MONITORING AND REPORTING.—The Administrator shall—

“(i) establish and maintain a process for monitoring and periodically reporting to the public on the progress made in implementing the Initiative Action Plan;

“(ii) make information about each project carried out under the Initiative Action Plan available on a public website; and

“(iii) provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a yearly detailed description of the progress of the Initiative and amounts transferred to participating Federal departments and agencies under subparagraph (D)(ii).

“(I) INITIATIVE ACTION PLAN DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘Initiative Action Plan’ means the comprehensive, multiyear action plan for the restoration of the Great Lakes, first developed pursuant to the Joint Explanatory Statement of the Conference Report accompanying the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-88).

“(J) FUNDING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this paragraph creates, expands, or amends the authority of the Administrator to implement programs or projects under—

“(I) this section;

“(II) the Initiative Action Plan; or

“(III) the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.”.

SEC. 5006. REHABILITATION OF HIGH HAZARD POTENTIAL DAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), and (13) as paragraphs (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (11), (13), (14), (15), and (16), respectively;

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

“(4) ELIGIBLE HIGH HAZARD POTENTIAL DAM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible high hazard potential dam’ means a non-Federal dam that—

“(i) is located in a State with a State dam safety program;

“(ii) is classified as ‘high hazard potential’ by the State dam safety agency in the State in which the dam is located;

“(iii) has an emergency action plan approved by the relevant State dam safety agency; and

“(iv) the State in which the dam is located determines—

“(I) fails to meet minimum dam safety standards of the State; and

“(II) poses an unacceptable risk to the public.

“(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘eligible high hazard potential dam’ does not include—

“(i) a licensed hydroelectric dam; or

“(ii) a dam built under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture.”;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (9) (as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection) the following:

“(10) NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR.—The term ‘non-Federal sponsor’, in the case of a project receiving assistance under section 8A, includes—

“(A) a governmental organization; and

“(B) a nonprofit organization.”;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (11) (as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection) the following:

“(12) REHABILITATION.—The term ‘rehabilitation’ means the repair, replacement, reconstruction, or removal of a dam that is carried out to meet applicable State dam safety and security standards.”.

(b) PROGRAM FOR REHABILITATION OF HIGH HAZARD POTENTIAL DAMS.—The National Dam Safety Program Act is amended by inserting after section 8 (33 U.S.C. 467f) the following:

“SEC. 8A. REHABILITATION OF HIGH HAZARD POTENTIAL DAMS.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall establish, within FEMA, a pro-

gram to provide technical, planning, design, and construction assistance in the form of grants to non-Federal sponsors for rehabilitation of eligible high hazard potential dams.

“(b) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—A grant awarded under this section for a project may be used for—

“(1) repair;

“(2) removal; or

“(3) any other structural or nonstructural measures to rehabilitate an eligible high hazard potential dam.

“(c) AWARD OF GRANTS.—

“(1) APPLICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A non-Federal sponsor interested in receiving a grant under this section may submit to the Administrator an application for the grant.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—An application submitted to the Administrator under this section shall be submitted at such time, be in such form, and contain such information as the Administrator may prescribe by regulation.

“(2) GRANT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may make a grant in accordance with this section for rehabilitation of an eligible high hazard potential dam to a non-Federal sponsor that submits an application for the grant in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the Administrator.

“(B) PROJECT GRANT AGREEMENT.—The Administrator shall enter into a project grant agreement with the non-Federal sponsor to establish the terms of the grant and the project, including the amount of the grant.

“(C) GRANT ASSURANCE.—As part of a project grant agreement under subparagraph (B), the Administrator shall require the non-Federal sponsor to provide an assurance, with respect to the dam to be rehabilitated under the project, that the owner of the dam has developed and will carry out a plan for maintenance of the dam during the expected life of the dam.

“(D) LIMITATION.—A grant provided under this section shall not exceed the lesser of—

“(i) 12.5 percent of the total amount of funds made available to carry out this section; or

“(ii) \$7,500,000.

“(d) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) APPROVAL.—A grant awarded under this section for a project shall be approved by the relevant State dam safety agency.

“(2) NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS.—To receive a grant under this section, the non-Federal sponsor shall—

“(A) participate in, and comply with, all applicable Federal flood insurance programs;

“(B) have in place a hazard mitigation plan that—

“(i) includes all dam risks; and

“(ii) complies with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390; 114 Stat. 1552);

“(C) commit to provide operation and maintenance of the project for the 50-year period following completion of rehabilitation;

“(D) comply with such minimum eligibility requirements as the Administrator may establish to ensure that each owner and operator of a dam under a participating State dam safety program and that receives assistance under this section—

“(i) acts in accordance with the State dam safety program; and

“(ii) carries out activities relating to the public in the area around the dam in accordance with the hazard mitigation plan described in subparagraph (B); and

“(E) comply with section 611(j)(9) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196(j)(9)) (as in effect on the date of enactment of this section) with respect to projects receiving assistance under this section in the same manner as recipients are required to comply in order to receive financial

contributions from the Administrator for emergency preparedness purposes.

“(e) FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receipt of assistance under this section, the non-Federal sponsor shall demonstrate that a floodplain management plan to reduce the impacts of future flood events in the area protected by the project—

“(A) is in place; or

“(B) will be—

“(i) developed not later than 1 year after the date of execution of a project agreement for assistance under this section; and

“(ii) implemented not later than 1 year after the date of completion of construction of the project.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—A plan under paragraph (1) shall address—

“(A) potential measures, practices, and policies to reduce loss of life, injuries, damage to property and facilities, public expenditures, and other adverse impacts of flooding in the area protected by the project;

“(B) plans for flood fighting and evacuation; and

“(C) public education and awareness of flood risks.

“(3) TECHNICAL SUPPORT.—The Administrator may provide technical support for the development and implementation of floodplain management plans prepared under this subsection.

“(f) PRIORITY SYSTEM.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Board, shall develop a risk-based priority system for use in identifying eligible high hazard potential dams for which grants may be made under this section.

“(g) FUNDING.—

“(1) COST SHARING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any assistance provided under this section for a project shall be subject to a non-Federal cost-sharing requirement of not less than 35 percent.

“(B) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Federal share under subparagraph (A) may be provided in the form of in-kind contributions.

“(2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—The total amount of funds made available to carry out this section for each fiscal year shall be distributed as follows:

“(A) EQUAL DISTRIBUTION.— $\frac{1}{3}$ shall be distributed equally among the States in which the projects for which applications are submitted under subsection (c)(1) are located.

“(B) NEED-BASED.— $\frac{2}{3}$ shall be distributed among the States in which the projects for which applications are submitted under subsection (c)(1) are located based on the proportion that—

“(i) the number of eligible high hazard potential dams in the State; bears to

“(ii) the number of eligible high hazard potential dams in all such States.

“(h) USE OF FUNDS.—None of the funds provided in the form of a grant or otherwise made available under this section shall be used—

“(1) to rehabilitate a Federal dam;

“(2) to perform routine operation or maintenance of a dam;

“(3) to modify a dam to produce hydroelectric power;

“(4) to increase water supply storage capacity; or

“(5) to make any other modification to a dam that does not also improve the safety of the dam.

“(i) CONTRACTUAL REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), as a condition on the receipt of a grant under this section of an amount greater than \$1,000,000, a non-Federal sponsor that receives the grant shall require that each contract and subcontract for program management, construction management, planning studies, feasibility studies, ar-

chitectural services, preliminary engineering, design, engineering, surveying, mapping, and related services entered into using funds from the grant be awarded in the same manner as a contract for architectural and engineering services is awarded under—

“(A) chapter 11 of title 40, United States Code; or

“(B) an equivalent qualifications-based requirement prescribed by the relevant State.

“(2) NO PROPRIETARY INTEREST.—A contract awarded in accordance with paragraph (1) shall not be considered to confer a proprietary interest upon the United States.

“(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal years 2017 and 2018;

“(2) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

“(3) \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

“(4) \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2026.”

(c) RULEMAKING.—

(1) PROPOSED RULEMAKING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall issue a notice of proposed rulemaking regarding applications for grants of assistance under the amendments made by subsection (b) to the National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467 et seq.).

(2) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall promulgate a final rule regarding the amendments described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 5007. CHESAPEAKE BAY GRASS SURVEY.

Section 117(i) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1267(i)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ANNUAL SURVEY.—The Administrator shall carry out an annual survey of sea grasses in the Chesapeake Bay.”

SEC. 5008. WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION.

(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.—Section 5023(b)(2) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3902(b)(2)) is amended by striking “carry out” and inserting “provide financial assistance to carry out”.

(b) PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5026 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3905) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (6)—

(i) by striking “desalination project” and inserting “desalination project, including chloride control”; and

(ii) by striking “or a water recycling project” and inserting “a water recycling project, or a project to provide alternative water supplies to reduce aquifer depletion”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (7), (8), and (9) as paragraphs (8), (9), and (10), respectively;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) A project to prevent, reduce, or mitigate the effects of drought, including projects that enhance the resilience of drought-stricken watersheds.”; and

(D) in paragraph (10) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking “or (7)” and inserting “(7), or (8)”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 5023(b) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3902(b)) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (2) by striking “and (8)” and inserting “(7), and (9)”;

(ii) in paragraph (3) by striking “paragraph (7) or (9)” and inserting “paragraph (8) or (10)”.

(B) Section 5024(b) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C.

3903(b)) is amended by striking “paragraph (8) or (9)” and inserting “paragraph (9) or (10)”.

(C) Section 5027(3) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3906(3)) is amended by striking “section 5026(7)” and inserting “section 5026(8)”.

(D) Section 5028 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3907) is amended—

(i) in subsection (a)(1)(E)—

(I) by striking “section 5026(9)” and inserting “section 5026(10)”;

(II) by striking “section 5026(8)” and inserting “section 5026(9)”;

(ii) in subsection (b)(3) by striking “section 5026(8)” and inserting “section 5026(9)”.

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Section 5029(b) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3908(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) FINANCING FEES.—On request of an eligible entity, the Secretary or the Administrator, as applicable, shall allow the fees under subparagraph (A) to be financed as part of the loan.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) CREDIT.—Any eligible project costs incurred and the value of any integral in-kind contributions made before receipt of assistance under this subtitle shall be credited toward the 51 percent of project costs to be provided by sources of funding other than a secured loan under this subtitle (as described in paragraph (2)(A)).”

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) appropriations made available to carry out the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.) should be in addition to robust funding for the State water pollution control revolving funds established under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) and State drinking water treatment revolving loan funds established under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12); and

(2) the appropriations made available for the funds referred to in paragraph (1) should not decrease for any fiscal year.

SEC. 5009. REPORT ON GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the next 4 years, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit a report to Congress on the groundwater contamination from the site that includes—

(1) a description of the status of the groundwater contaminants that are leaving the site and migrating to a location within a 10-mile radius of the site, including—

(A) detailed mapping of the movement of the plume over time; and

(B) projected migration rates of the plume;

(2) an analysis of the current and future impact of the movement of the plume on drinking water facilities; and

(3) a comprehensive strategy to prevent the groundwater contaminants from the site from contaminating drinking water wells that, as of the date of the submission of the report, have not been affected by the migration of the plume.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY.—The term “comprehensive strategy” means a plan for—

(A) the remediation of the plume under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.); or

(B) corrective action under the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.).

(2) **GROUNDWATER.**—The term “groundwater” means water in a saturated zone or stratum beneath the surface of land or water.

(3) **PLUME.**—The term “plume” means any hazardous waste (as defined in section 1004 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6903)) or hazardous substance (as defined in section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601)) found in the groundwater supply.

(4) **SITE.**—The term “site” means the site located at 830 South Oyster Bay Road, Bethpage, New York, 11714 (Environmental Protection Agency identification number NYD002047967).

SEC. 5010. COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION.

Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 123. COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION.

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the following definitions apply:

“(1) **COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN.**—The term ‘Columbia River Basin’ means the entire United States portion of the Columbia River watershed.

“(2) **ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP.**—The term ‘Estuary Partnership’ means the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, an entity created by the States of Oregon and Washington and the Environmental Protection Agency under section 320.

“(3) **ESTUARY PLAN.**—
“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘Estuary Plan’ means the Estuary Partnership Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Governors of Oregon and Washington on October 20, 1999, under section 320.

“(B) **INCLUSION.**—The term ‘Estuary Plan’ includes any amendments to the plan.

“(4) **LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER ESTUARY.**—The term ‘Lower Columbia River Estuary’ means the mainstem Columbia River from the Bonneville Dam to the Pacific Ocean and tidally influenced portions of tributaries to the Columbia River in that region.

“(5) **MIDDLE AND UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN.**—The term ‘Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin’ means the region consisting of the United States portion of the Columbia River Basin above Bonneville Dam.

“(6) **PROGRAM.**—The term ‘Program’ means the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program established under subsection (b)(1)(A).

“(b) **COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—
“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall establish within the Environmental Protection Agency a Columbia River Basin Restoration Program.

“(B) **EFFECT.**—
“(i) The establishment of the Program does not modify any legal or regulatory authority or program in effect as of the date of enactment of this section, including the roles of Federal agencies in the Columbia River Basin.

“(ii) This section does not create any new regulatory authority.

“(2) **SCOPE OF PROGRAM.**—The Program shall consist of a collaborative stakeholder-based program for environmental protection and restoration activities throughout the Columbia River Basin.

“(3) **DUTIES.**—The Administrator shall—

“(A) assess trends in water quality, including trends that affect uses of the water of the Columbia River Basin;

“(B) collect, characterize, and assess data on water quality to identify possible causes of environmental problems; and

“(C) provide grants in accordance with subsection (d) for projects that assist in—

“(i) eliminating or reducing pollution;

“(ii) cleaning up contaminated sites;

“(iii) improving water quality;

“(iv) monitoring to evaluate trends;

“(v) reducing runoff;

“(vi) protecting habitat; or

“(vii) promoting citizen engagement or knowledge.

“(c) **STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Administrator shall establish a Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Working Group’).

“(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Membership in the Working Group shall be on a voluntary basis and any person invited by the Administrator under this subsection may decline membership.

“(B) **INVITED REPRESENTATIVES.**—The Administrator shall invite, at a minimum, representatives of—

“(i) each State located in whole or in part in the Columbia River Basin;

“(ii) the Governors of each State located in whole or in part in the Columbia River Basin;

“(iii) each federally recognized Indian tribe in the Columbia River Basin;

“(iv) local governments in the Columbia River Basin;

“(v) industries operating in the Columbia River Basin that affect or could affect water quality;

“(vi) electric, water, and wastewater utilities operating in the Columbia River Basin;

“(vii) private landowners in the Columbia River Basin;

“(viii) soil and water conservation districts in the Columbia River Basin;

“(ix) nongovernmental organizations that have a presence in the Columbia River Basin;

“(x) the general public in the Columbia River Basin; and

“(xi) the Estuary Partnership.

“(3) **GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION.**—The Working Group shall include representatives from—

“(A) each State located in whole or in part in the Columbia River Basin; and

“(B) each of the lower, middle, and upper basins of the Columbia River.

“(4) **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Working Group shall—

“(A) recommend and prioritize projects and actions; and

“(B) review the progress and effectiveness of projects and actions implemented.

“(5) **LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER ESTUARY.**—

“(A) **ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP.**—The Estuary Partnership shall perform the duties and fulfill the responsibilities of the Working Group described in paragraph (4) as those duties and responsibilities relate to the Lower Columbia River Estuary for such time as the Estuary Partnership is the management conference for the Lower Columbia River National Estuary Program under section 320.

“(B) **DESIGNATION.**—If the Estuary Partnership ceases to be the management conference for the Lower Columbia River National Estuary Program under section 320, the Administrator may designate the new management conference to assume the duties and responsibilities of the Working Group described in paragraph (4) as those duties and responsibilities relate to the Lower Columbia River Estuary.

“(C) **INCORPORATION.**—If the Estuary Partnership is removed from the National Estuary Program, the duties and responsibilities for the lower 146 miles of the Columbia River pursuant to this section shall be incorporated into the duties of the Working Group.

“(d) **GRANTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall establish a voluntary, competitive Columbia River

Basin program to provide grants to State governments, tribal governments, regional water pollution control agencies and entities, local government entities, nongovernmental entities, or soil and water conservation districts to develop or implement projects authorized under this section for the purpose of environmental protection and restoration activities throughout the Columbia River Basin.

“(2) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Federal share of the cost of any project or activity carried out using funds from a grant provided to any person (including a State, tribal, or local government or interstate or regional agency) under this subsection for a fiscal year—

“(i) shall not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the project or activity; and

“(ii) shall be made on condition that the non-Federal share of such total cost shall be provided from non-Federal sources.

“(B) **EXCEPTIONS.**—With respect to cost-sharing for a grant provided under this subsection—

“(i) a tribal government may use Federal funds for the non-Federal share; and

“(ii) the Administrator may increase the Federal share under such circumstances as the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

“(3) **ALLOCATION.**—In making grants using funds appropriated to carry out this section, the Administrator shall—

“(A) provide not less than 25 percent of the funds to make grants for projects, programs, and studies in the Lower Columbia River Estuary;

“(B) provide not less than 25 percent of the funds to make grants for projects, programs, and studies in the Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin, including the Snake River Basin; and

“(C) retain not more than 5 percent of the funds for the Environmental Protection Agency for purposes of implementing this section.

“(4) **REPORTING.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each grant recipient under this subsection shall submit to the Administrator reports on progress being made in achieving the purposes of this section.

“(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Administrator shall establish requirements and timelines for recipients of grants under this subsection to report on progress made in achieving the purposes of this section.

“(5) **RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FUNDING.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this subsection limits the eligibility of the Estuary Partnership to receive funding under section 320(g).

“(B) **LIMITATION.**—None of the funds made available under this subsection may be used for the administration of a management conference under section 320.

“(e) **ANNUAL BUDGET PLAN.**—The President, as part of the annual budget submission of the President to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall submit information regarding each Federal agency involved in protection and restoration of the Columbia River Basin, including an interagency crosscut budget that displays for each Federal agency—

“(1) the amounts obligated for the preceding fiscal year for protection and restoration projects, programs, and studies relating to the Columbia River Basin;

“(2) the estimated budget for the current fiscal year for protection and restoration projects, programs, and studies relating to the Columbia River Basin; and

“(3) the proposed budget for protection and restoration projects, programs, and studies relating to the Columbia River Basin.”.

SEC. 5011. REGULATION OF ABOVEGROUND STORAGE AT FARMS.

Section 1049(c) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 1361 note; Public Law 113–121) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through “subsection (b),” and inserting the following:

“(c) REGULATION OF ABOVEGROUND STORAGE AT FARMS.—

“(1) CALCULATION OF AGGREGATE ABOVEGROUND STORAGE CAPACITY.—For purposes of subsection (b),”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) CERTAIN FARM CONTAINERS.—Part 112 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), shall not apply to the following containers located at a farm:

“(A) Containers on a separate parcel that have—

“(i) an individual capacity of not greater than 1,000 gallons; and

“(ii) an aggregate capacity of not greater than 2,500 gallons.

“(B) A container holding animal feed ingredients approved for use in livestock feed by the Food and Drug Administration.”.

SEC. 5012. IRRIGATION DISTRICTS.

Section 603(i)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1383) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “to a municipality or intermunicipal, interstate, or State agency” and inserting “to an eligible recipient”; and

(2) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “in assistance to a municipality or intermunicipal, interstate, or State agency” before “to benefit”.

SEC. 5013. ESTUARY RESTORATION.

(a) PARTICIPATION OF NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.—Section 104(f) of the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2903(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) PROJECT AGREEMENTS.—For a project carried out under this title, the requirements of section 103(j)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213(j)(1)) may be fulfilled by a nongovernmental organization serving as the non-Federal interest for the project pursuant to paragraph (2).”.

(b) EXTENSION.—Section 109(a) of the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2908(a)) is amended by striking “2012” each place it appears and inserting “2021”.

SEC. 5014. ENVIRONMENTAL BANKS.

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (Public Law 101-646; 16 U.S.C. 3951 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 309. ENVIRONMENTAL BANKS.

“(a) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, the Task Force shall, after public notice and opportunity for comment, issue guidelines for the use, maintenance, and oversight of environmental banks in Louisiana.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidelines issued pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

“(1) set forth procedures for establishment and approval of environmental banks subject to the approval of the heads of the appropriate Federal agencies responsible for implementation of Federal environmental laws for which mitigation credits may be used;

“(2) establish criteria for siting of environmental banks that enhance the resilience of coastal resources to inundation and coastal erosion in high priority areas, as identified within Federal or State restoration plans, including the restoration of resources within the scope of a project authorized for construction;

“(3) establish criteria that ensure environmental banks secure adequate financial assurances and legally enforceable protection for the

land or resources that generate the credits from environmental banks;

“(4) stipulate that credits from environmental banks may not be used for mitigation of impacts required under section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) or the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) in an area where an existing mitigation bank approved pursuant to such laws within 5 years of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 has credits available;

“(5) establish performance criteria for environmental banks; and

“(6) establish criteria and financial assurance for the operation and monitoring of environmental banks.

“(c) ENVIRONMENTAL BANK.—

“(1) DEFINITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL BANK.—In this section, the term ‘environmental bank’ means a project, project increment, or projects for purposes of restoring, creating, or enhancing natural resources at a designated site to establish mitigation credits.

“(2) CREDITS.—Mitigation credits created from environmental banks approved pursuant to this section may be used to satisfy existing liability under Federal environmental laws.

“(d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—

“(1) APPLICATION OF FEDERAL LAW.—Guidelines developed under this section and mitigation carried out through an environmental bank established pursuant to such guidelines shall comply with all applicable requirements of Federal law (including regulations), including—

“(A) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

“(B) the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

“(C) the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.);

“(D) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

“(E) section 906 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2283).

“(2) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect—

“(A) any authority, regulatory determination, or legal obligation in effect the day before the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016; or

“(B) the obligations or requirements of any Federal environmental law.

“(e) SUNSET.—No new environmental bank may be created or approved pursuant to this section after the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this section.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chairs and ranking minority members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Committee on Natural Resources, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON), the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP), and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 612.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 612, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, or the WIIN Act. This is a comprehensive bill to address water resources and infrastructure issues across the country and could be one of the final achievements of this Congress.

Today we have an opportunity to deliver one more win for America. The WIIN Act includes the Water Resources Development Act as title I.

Ranking Member DEFAZIO and I worked very closely throughout the process to ensure his and other Democratic priorities were preserved in this final bill. So I want to thank Ranking Member DEFAZIO for his work with me on the WRDA title.

However, this bill is bigger than just WRDA, and I also want to thank the Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman UPTON, the Natural Resources Committee Chairman BISHOP, and our Senate counterparts for helping us put together this package today.

This legislation provides important direction from Congress to the Army Corps of Engineers in their missions to improve our infrastructure. The bill strengthens America's competitiveness, creates jobs, and grows the economy. The WIIN Act maintains congressional constitutional authority to ensure our infrastructure is safe and effective.

This bill contains authorizations for 30 Corps Chief's Reports, eight Post-Authorization Change Reports, and 37 feasibility studies for projects across the United States.

Today's legislation restores regular order and the 2-year cycle of Congress considering these essential WRDA bills. Simply put, Mr. Speaker, this is good public policy, so I strongly urge my colleagues to support this jobs and infrastructure bill.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE NATION (WIIN) ACT—LETTERS OF SUPPORT

OVER 70 ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT

Waterways Council, Inc.; American Public Works Association; Association of California Water Agencies; Family Farm Alliance; The American Waterways Operators; American Society of Civil Engineers; Ducks Unlimited; Archer Daniels Midland Company; National Waterways Conference Inc.; Inland Rivers Ports and Terminals Association, Inc.; Global Tech Power; Terral RiverService; National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies; Tuloma Stevedoring, Inc.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission; National Milk Producers Federation; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; American Association of Port Authorities; National Ready Mixed Concrete Association; Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative; National Corn Growers Association; National Association of Manufacturers; American Water Works Association; Pacific Northwest Waterways Association; Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies; Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition; Tennessee River Valley Association; Alliance for the Great Lakes.

API Coalition letter; American Association of Port Authorities; American Chemistry Council; American Farm Bureau; American Forest and Paper Association; American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers; American Great Lakes Ports Association; American Petroleum Institute; American Road and Transportation Builders Association; American Waterways Operators; Big River Coalition; Dredging Contractors of America; Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition; Lake Carriers' Association; Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association; National Grain and Feed Association; National Mining Association; National Retail Federation; National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association; Portland Cement Association; Retail Industry Leaders Association; The Fertilizer Institute; Waterways Council, Inc.; U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

California Water Authorities Coalition: Friant North Authority; Friant Water Authority; Kern County Water Agency; Metropolitan Water District; San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors; South Valley Water Association; Tehama Colusa Canal Authority; Westlands Water District.

Water Infrastructure Network: American Council of Engineering Companies; American Public Works Association; American Society of Civil Engineers; Associated General Contractors of America; International Union of Operating Engineers; Laborers International Union of North America; National Association Clean Water Agencies; National Rural Water Association; United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters; Vinyl Institute.

Highway Materials Group: American Coal Ash Association; American Traffic Safety Services Association; Association of Equipment Manufacturers; National Asphalt Pavement Association; National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association; Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute; American Concrete Pavement Association; Associated Equipment Distributors; Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute; National Ready Mixed Concrete Association; Portland Cement Association.

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

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

Unfortunately, today I rise in opposition to S. 612. At one point, I wholeheartedly supported this bill.

There should be nothing partisan about infrastructure. Building and rebuilding infrastructure for transportation of goods and people, for shipping, for rail, for other aspects, and clean water—all that should be non-partisan. It is in the best interests of the United States of America to make us more competitive and more efficient. This bill reflected the best of that tradition when it came out of the committee.

Unfortunately, a number of things have happened since. First, when we came to the floor, the leadership stripped out a provision which was adopted unanimously in committee to make the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund into a trust fund—spending the tax that is collected for harbor maintenance on—shocking in Washington, D.C.—harbor maintenance.

Right now, the Budget Committee diverts that money every year somewhere else—imaginary deficit reduc-

tion or some other program—and we underspend, through the appropriations process, that money. So the Americans are paying a tax. Every good you buy that is imported you pay a little bit more for it. You are paying that tax, and Congress is diverting the money while our harbors shoal in and our jetties crumble, and we can't compete in the world market.

The committee had adopted a provision to turn that into a real trust fund and spend the money on harbor maintenance. That was stripped out because of objections by the Budget Committee that wants to divert the money and the Appropriations Committee that wants to divert the money. That just shouldn't be.

I want to thank the chairman for promising to continue to work on that issue, which came out of committee, when we do the Water Resources Development bill again next year. Hopefully, the Trump administration will take a different position on this. There is \$9 billion sitting there waiting to be spent tomorrow of taxes that have already been collected to maintain our harbors that Congress doesn't want to spend, despite the shoaling in and the jetties' deteriorating conditions. So, hopefully, the new administration will take a different position in the budget on that.

Secondly, just this week, a 100-page provision which did not come from our committee, which relates to a hugely controversial water diversion and settlement of disputes in California pitting members of the California delegation on both sides of the aisle against one another, doesn't only just affect California, because Sacramento salmon swim north, and the last time we had a bad drought they shut down all the fishing on the southern Oregon coast because of endangered Sacramento salmon. Our salmon were doing fine. So if they start diverting more water from the delta, from the Sacramento, it is likely that our fisheries will be shut down in Oregon because of this misplaced provision which has not had any congressional review of any sort in any committee in this House.

□ 1100

Finally, gratuitously, as part of that gigantic project in California, they are undermining Buy America and Davis-Bacon provisions. I hope this isn't a harbinger of things to come, that despite the President who wants a stronger Buy America, that the Republican House is going to want to undermine Buy America and start buying Chinese and Russian steel for our projects and doing away with prevailing wages paying a good living wage to people who work in construction jobs. It is very unfortunate that was inserted in this bill.

But there are many meritorious provisions in the bill set aside for dredging of small harbors and many, many indi-

vidual projects and authorizations in the bill. Had these other three things not happened, I would have enthusiastically supported it, but, unfortunately, I will have to oppose the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

I rise in reluctant opposition to S. 612.

Mr. Speaker, at one time, this bill had great promise. At one time, this bill represented the bipartisan traditions of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. When the Committee unanimously reported this bill to the House, I was proud to support the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

However, since that time, the House Republican Leadership has unilaterally stripped key Democratic priorities and air-dropped-in controversial Republican provisions making it impossible for me to support the bill today. At every step of the legislative process, House Republican Leaders have morphed what was once the product of months of hard work by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure into something that I, as the Ranking Democrat on the Committee, can no longer support—despite the fact that some good policy provisions remain in this bill.

That being said, I thank the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. SHUSTER, for following through on his promise to pass a Water Resources Development Act this Congress.

In May, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure unanimously approved WRDA. That bipartisan bill took a bold step to ensure that Congress would begin to draw down the enormous surplus in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF). This position, one that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has fought for, on a bipartisan basis, for decades, would have made the \$9 billion surplus of the HMTF immediately available to the Secretary of the Army to dredge our Nation's harbors.

Unfortunately, this provision was stripped from the bill by the House Republican Leadership before Floor consideration, and was not included in the House-passed WRDA. This important provision would have unlocked the HMTF to ensure that revenues collected from shippers are used to dredge our Nation's harbors, and are not diverted to cover other debts of the U.S. Treasury.

Despite this, I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER for his commitment to work with me in the next Congress to unlock the HMTF once and for all. Without this provision, the balance in the Trust Fund will double in the next decade to more than \$17 billion and continue to grow year after year, despite the tremendous needs of our Nation's ports and harbors. I am confident that, in the 115th Congress, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure can achieve full use of the HMTF, and strengthen and maintain our ports, harbors and waterways, and our Nation's economic competitiveness. I thank Chairman SHUSTER for his promise to work with me to achieve full use of the HMTF in the next Congress.

Again, while I will oppose final passage of this bill, I do want to highlight several promising provisions in the bill. Emblematic of prior water resources legislation, S. 612 authorizes all pending Corps of Engineers' project authorizations—valued at more than \$10 billion. It also authorizes 32 new feasibility studies and

additional project modifications to existing Corps' projects—the first such provisions enacted since 2007.

The bill also includes several provisions to improve the overall efficiency and transparency of the Corps in carrying out its construction and regulatory missions while preserving existing Federal environmental protections.

For example, S. 612 includes a provision that requires the Corps to coordinate the regulatory review of project modifications (so-called section 408 reviews) with the expectation that these coordinated reviews will help expedite the decision-making process.

S. 612 also directs the Secretary to expeditiously complete a report to Congress on any materials, articles, or supplies manufactured outside the United States that are currently used in Corps projects. This report will be critical to increased oversight by this Committee of the use of foreign-manufactured goods in Corps projects.

S. 612 also includes provisions to preserve and enhance the participation of Indian tribes in our water-related infrastructure, as well as honor commitments made by the U.S. government to the tribes. First, the bill includes a provision that authorizes the Corps to provide immediate housing assistance to the Indian tribes displaced as a result of the construction of the Bonneville Dam, as well as to further study those Indian tribes displaced from the construction of the John Day Dam. Both of these provisions are intended to ensure that the Federal Government lives up to the commitments made to the tribes for construction of these two projects generations ago.

In addition, S. 612 includes a provision that directs the Corps to undertake a comprehensive study of the existing tribal consultation process for the construction of any water resources development project, or any other project that may require the Corps' approval or the issuance of a Corps permit. As recent events have shown, it is past time for the Corps to revisit its existing tribal consultation processes to ensure that the Corps undertakes meaningful consultation with Indian tribes for projects that may have an impact on tribal cultural or natural resources. I look forward to working with the Corps to ensure that this study and report are completed within the year.

I am also pleased that S. 612 provides the framework for the Federal Government to finally meet its commitment to help the families affected by lead-contaminated water in Flint, Michigan. While the funding for these projects will ultimately be included in the appropriations bill that funds the government into next year, I support the inclusion of additional Drinking Water State Revolving Fund resources for communities experiencing public health threats associated with lead-water contamination, and urge the Administration to release these funds to the State of Michigan and to the City of Flint as quickly as possible.

The bill also benefits my home state of Oregon.

First, and foremost, the bill makes permanent the existing set-aside of harbor maintenance funding for small commercial harbors. These small commercial harbors are the lifeblood of local and regional economies; yet, for

decades, Federal dredging needs at these harbors went unmet. S. 612 makes permanent the existing 10 percent set-aside of annual Federal maintenance dredging funds for these types of harbors, and ensures that this 10 percent is the minimum (not the maximum) amount allocated to small commercial harbors from both baseline funding and priority funds.

The bill also provides for the first-ever survey of the condition of existing breakwaters and jetties protecting Federal harbors. In the Northwest, these critical structures are crumbling, failing to provide necessary protection for shippers and fishermen alike, and increasing the long-term costs of maintaining our ports and harbors. This survey will provide Congress with critical information on the condition of breakwaters and levees so that we may start the process of repairing or replacing these structures in the near future.

I am pleased that S. 612 also authorizes a new Columbia River Basin Restoration Program at the Environmental Protection Agency to help reduce toxic contamination and clean up contaminated sites in the Columbia River Basin.

However, Mr. Speaker, there are also provisions in this bill that I cannot support.

For example, when the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 was considered in the House in September, I sponsored an amendment to ensure that scarce Federal funds are not used for the construction of non-economically-justified projects, or projects for the construction of ballfields and splash parks. Unfortunately, at the insistence of the Republican majority, the authorization of the Central City; Texas project remains in this final bill, without the protections for taxpayers that I sought in my amendment. Should this project continue, I will continue to press the Committee and the Corps to oversee this project to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not wasted on frivolous and non-economically-justified projects, regardless of where they are constructed.

In addition, I did not support the inclusion in this bill of those provisions which side with one State over another in regional water issues, such as those involving the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint watersheds in the States of Georgia, Florida, and Alabama.

I do not support the inclusion of any of the provisions that purport to grant a private citizen with some undefined property right to publically-owned or managed property. These provisions, such as section 1148 (Cumberland River, Kentucky), section 1185 (Table Rock Lake, Arkansas and Missouri), and section 5003 (Tennessee Valley Authority jurisdictional waters), follow a concerning trend that seeks to provide some enforceable interest in public lands and resources for which no right currently exists, or no agreement with or payment to the government is made. Congress should conduct proper oversight of these and any future proposals to grant such a property right to ensure that public resources are properly held in trust for the good of the Nation, and not the benefit of private individuals or interests.

In addition, I oppose efforts by the Republican Leadership to undermine worker protections and Buy America requirements for programs and projects authorized by this bill. If enacted, these provisions will undermine the

principle of prevailing wage protections for construction jobs, and open the door to using American taxpayer dollars to pass off goods made with Russian and Chinese steel as "Made-in-America".

Finally, and most egregiously, I am opposed to the inclusion of the last-minute, nearly 100-page California water poison pill that was developed behind closed doors and with no apparent public debate. It deeply divides the existing California Congressional delegation, regardless of party, and picks winners and losers in a region-against-region and industry-against-industry fight for water in California. This provision was dropped on our lap on Monday. It jeopardizes not only our bill, but also Oregon's fishing industry and thousands of jobs that depend on sustainable fisheries. I cannot support a bill that will jeopardize thousands of jobs and our economic engine on the Oregon coast.

Again, I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER for his work on this bill. I am disappointed that the good work of our Committee has been sullied by the whims of House Republican Leaders, and hope that, in the next Congress, we can restore the strong and lasting commitments made between the majority and minority members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

For these reasons, I oppose S. 612.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of S. 612, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, the WIIN Act. The WIIN Act is a vital water infrastructure bill that contains the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, our jurisdiction includes water resources development missions of the U.S. Corps of Engineers. This bill is a compromise between the Senate and the House and authorizes the construction of key water infrastructure projects throughout the Nation. These projects create jobs here at home and have a direct impact on our economy and our national security.

The critically important Corps project authorizations are for the purposes of navigation and flood control, recreation, water supply, environmental protection, and so on. Each of the projects—30 projects that were mentioned by the chairman—was recommended by non-Federal sponsors to the Corps. Each of these are economically justified, environmentally acceptable, and technically achievable. They are the gold standard.

My subcommittee held multiple hearings to discuss the chief's reports and post-authorization change reports in depth, and my subcommittee provided strong congressional oversight of these proposed activities.

Many State, local, and regional areas will gain from the economic benefits of

this bill. One example is the upper Ohio chief's report will greatly benefit my home State of Ohio by improving navigation within the existing locks and dams. More importantly, this project provides even greater benefits to the Nation, ensuring commodities reach foreign and domestic markets in a cost-effective manner.

This bill is fiscally responsible. The new project authorizations are fully offset by deauthorizations of projects that are outdated or no longer viable.

This bill contains an important pilot program for the beneficial reuse of dredged materials. This innovative program looks for ways to maximize dredged material based upon environmental, economic, and social benefits.

The WIIN Act contains no earmarks, it strengthens our water transportation networks, and it increases transparency for non-Federal sponsors and the public.

I strongly urge Members to support this bill.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO), the ranking member of the subcommittee.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Water Resources Development Act, S. 612.

I strongly support the bipartisan work done by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on the Army Corps provisions that create policy and authorize projects around the country for flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, water supply, recreation, and navigation. There is something for everyone in this bill.

I am particularly appreciative that this bill authorizes the Los Angeles River project, which will rejuvenate the river by improving wildlife habitat and creating recreational opportunities for southern California residents.

I thank Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and Chairman GIBBS for working with me and my staff to include multiple provisions that will improve water supply and local collaboration at the Army Corps facilities. These provisions include:

Providing more water supply to local communities by improving on WRDA '14 provisions and requiring the Corps to capture more water for groundwater replenishment, especially in Long Angeles County;

Promoting local and private sector combined efforts to remove sediment from Corps dams and improve water supply, which will benefit all dams, including Santa Fe Dam in my district;

Requiring the Corps to work more collaboratively with local communities on sharing water data and improving watershed management, in other words, transparency; and

Extending current law on donor port provisions important to the Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and many other ports.

I also support the provisions in the bill that include providing assistance for the drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan, and other areas of the country, which include California, although we should be investing more in our outdated drinking water infrastructure.

I disagree with the leadership's decision to add a California water provision to WRDA at the last minute. This provision should have been addressed as its own legislation and not attached to the traditionally bipartisan WRDA bill that so many Members, including Senator BOXER, have worked so hard on. If I had been consulted on this provision, I would have strongly advocated for more than \$50 million for title XVI and \$100 million for WaterSmart, as these programs are the most cost effective at addressing our drought crisis.

I want to thank the many water agencies and associations, such as the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, the Upper San Gabriel Valley Water District, and the Three Valleys Municipal Water District that have worked with my office on this bill throughout the process, and overwhelmingly support WRDA.

I greatly respect and recognize that there are Members who disagree on the final passage based on the needs of their own districts and constituents, and I would like to work with them.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER
DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,
December 6, 2016.

Re: Support Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Bi-Partisan Drought Provision

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: As the nation's largest provider of drinking water, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California would like to thank you for your leadership in responding to California's unprecedented drought. We support the drought provisions that you negotiated with the House, included in H.R. 2533 the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, to help us better manage our limited water resources. We also support the broader WRDA package which will provide strategic authorizations and investments to develop, manage and improve essential water infrastructure and operations in the United States.

While rains have returned to Northern California, we have little assurance of the water year ahead. Southern California is heading into its sixth year of drought. Were it not for the imported water that Metropolitan brings to the Southland, the groundwater basins and surface reservoirs would be at historic lows. This imported water remains an essential component of Southern California's water supply portfolio, and we cannot afford to miss out on capturing supplies during the few large storm events that come each year. Your drought provisions will help to maximize pumping while maintaining the protections provided to California's native species through the Endangered Species Act and the Biological Opinions that currently protect salmon and smelt. These

protections are important to Metropolitan to ensure we continue to operate in an environmentally responsible manner.

Equally important is the need for investment in new local water supplies to help California adjust to climate conditions that are reducing our snowpack and changing rain patterns. Investments in recycling, desalination, groundwater treatment and conservation that are included in the drought provisions of the legislation are vital to this region. Reforming Title XVI to allow recycled water projects to compete for funding is an important first step.

WRDA includes many other important provisions that will benefit California water users including funding for improvements to U.S. rivers and harbors, improved science, conservation initiatives, infrastructure development, ecosystem restoration and sustainability. These programs will improve the nation's drinking water resources and improve our water resiliency as a nation.

Metropolitan appreciates your leadership on national water policy initiatives and your ongoing support and commitment to finding solutions for California's water supply and water quality concerns. We look forward to continuing to work with you to advance these objectives.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY KIGHTLINGER,
General Manager.

THREE VALLEYS MWD,
December 6, 2016.

Re: S. 2533—California Emergency Drought Relief Act—Support

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: I am writing to you on behalf of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District (TVMWD) to express our support for S. 2533—the California Emergency Drought Relief Act. TVMWD is a wholesale water supplier and member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, responsible for providing treated import water supplies to over half a million people covering the Pomona, Walnut and East San Gabriel valleys.

Despite improving hydrologic conditions in 2016, many regions in California continued to suffer water supply shortages resulting from several years of prolonged drought and regulations that affect the operations of the State's major water supply projects. S. 2533 is designed to provide reasonable solutions to address both the short-term and long-term water supply needs for the State. It does this by investing in water storage, conservation, recycling and desalination, along with innovative water infrastructure financing. These provisions align with Proposition 1, which was passed by California voters in 2014, thus enhancing State law with the coordinated activities of the Federal agencies.

The bill upholds and protects state water rights and water law and there is an environmental protection mandate repeated throughout the text of the bill. Moreover, S. 2533 makes provision for additional protections of at-risk fish species and provides tools to improve the delta environment. The drought has shown how we must take a holistic look at how we manage the entire ecosystem for the benefit of both native species and water supply reliability.

S. 2533 will provide critical resources to assist California in the current drought and invest in long-term water infrastructure to help the state in the future and we are pleased to offer our support. We are requesting that our local representatives support

your efforts to pass this important legislation and ask that they make you aware of that support. If you have any questions regarding TVMWD and its position, please do not hesitate to contact me at 909-621-5568.

Sincerely,

RICHARD HANSEN, P.E.,
General Manager.

UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT,

Hon. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO,
House of Representatives,
Washington DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE NAPOLITANO: Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Upper District) supports S. 612, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN), a compromise bill that includes the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016. We believe this important legislation is vital to California's water future and is consistent with our state's policy of managing water resources for the coequal goals of enhancing ecosystem health and improving water supply reliability.

S. 612 contains key provisions from the WRDA which will authorize numerous projects in California, including restoration of the Los Angeles River, Lake Tahoe and the Salton Sea. Upper District is pleased to see the bill authorizes \$558 million for critical projects, that will help supplement state and local funding to construct new source water projects that will help manage our groundwater basin which has reached historic lows during California's five-year drought.

In addition, it will help local water agencies work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on stormwater capture projects and groundwater recharge projects, and provides direction to the Corps to engage in environmental infrastructure projects, including water recycling projects. We are also pleased to see reforms made to Title XVI to allow recycled water projects to compete for funding.

This legislation reflects compromises that will improve water supplies for all Californians and reflects a balanced compromise that will help provide improved water supplies without violating the Endangered Species Act or existing biological opinions that govern pumping operations in the sensitive Bay-Delta eco-system.

Upper District appreciates your leadership on national water policy initiatives and your ongoing support and commitment to finding solutions for California's water supply. We strongly support passage of this legislation and respectfully ask for your vote in favor.

Sincerely,

SHANE CHAPMAN,
General Manager.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the chairman on the Appropriations Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the WIIN Act. The bill contains a number of provisions that help improve the water infrastructure across the country.

My home State of California continues to suffer from drought conditions and a water system that has failed to keep up with tremendous population growth. Thankfully, this bill contains a number of solutions that

will help address California's water challenges.

In my experience, there are few things more difficult than water negotiations, and these negotiations over California water provisions proved to be no different.

I am also pleased that this bill includes legislation I introduced to finalize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Water Rights Settlement.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Senator FEINSTEIN for making today possible, Chairman SHUSTER and his committee for their hard work, Kiel Weaver for his efforts to get California water across the line, and Ian Foley for his tireless work.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to engage the chairman and ranking member in a brief colloquy on behalf of the Connecticut congressional delegation and Long Island Sound.

The sound is a treasured and integral source, one that generates \$9 billion annually through tourism, recreation, and economic activity, so the importance of dredging activities to our State and the larger region cannot be overstated.

Therefore, we seek clarification with the constant intent of section 1189 and the dredging provisions contained in the WIIN Act.

I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, if we understand section 1189 correctly, nothing in S. 612 gives any States any new rights by which to impose its own water quality standards on any other State. Rather, section 1189 is simply a restatement of current law under the Clean Water Act.

Additionally, we understand that no provision in this bill revises the Army Corps' Federal standard of dredged material from Federal projects; and as is affirmed through a sense of Congress in section 1188 of this bill, the best way to resolve any disagreements over State water quality standards is collaboratively with input from all stakeholders.

Is that a correct reading of the bill?

Mr. SHUSTER. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. DELAURO. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Yes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. DELAURO. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I would say yes.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY).

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and

I want to thank the chairman for his hard work on this bill and his bipartisan effort in putting it together.

Mr. Speaker, Americans understand intuitively that governments are set up for the benefit of the people. Those who are civic-minded, who pay their taxes, live according to the law, and treat their fellow citizens with respect deserve certain guarantees: their government will keep them safe from enemies at home and abroad; their government will defend their most basic constitutional rights; and their government will ensure that people have access to basic necessities fundamental to life.

I ask this body, Mr. Speaker, what could be more fundamental to life than water? America is not some Third World country—we are a wealthy nation—and we will not let any American go without water. I am proud we are voting on legislation today to deliver water to the people across the country by updating our water resource projects and changing outdated water policies.

But, Mr. Speaker, we cannot treat each community facing a water crisis in isolation. In my State of California, we are enduring the worst drought in over a century. Farmland has been fallowed, families are forced to cut back on water consumption, and some are out of water completely. They have to travel to community centers for drinking water or to even take showers and brush their teeth.

With each passing day, month, and year, our situation becomes more desperate. As we all know, the drought is an act of nature. It is one of those troubles that we can respond to and prepare for but not prevent. Yet our own government, the Federal Government, has not only failed to prepare for this drought, they have exacerbated it. Water that could have been used in homes or on farms has been sent out to sea. Water that could have been stored by building new reservoirs was lost. Water, our most precious resource, has been wasted.

The drought may be our biggest challenge, but its destructive effects have been compounded by stubborn regulatory and legal restraints. In California, rather than strive to bring people water, the State government is taking it away. This is more than incompetence. Government has failed in its primary duty to make sure people have that which is necessary for life. The people of California have put into the system, and they are not getting what they deserve, are due.

But today, and in large part thanks to Members on both sides of the aisle in this Chamber and the senior Senator of our Golden State with their good faith negotiation and partnership, water is coming.

We now have a bipartisan water bill. It is not the holistic one that this

House wants to pass, but it is a bill that helps deliver water to our communities, potentially enough to supply the annual needs of almost 450,000 households in California. It will increase pumping; it will increase storage; it will fund more desalinization, efficiency, and recycling projects; and it will do all of this in accordance with the Endangered Species Act and without costing the taxpayer one additional cent.

Our work to bring California water is by no means complete, but this deal shows that we have a path forward to fulfill our obligation to the American people.

Once we pass this bill today, I urge Senate Democrats and Republicans and the President to join with the House and enact this bill and help our communities in California, in Flint, and across this country get access to the water we desperately need.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oregon has 2½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, if this bill did what the previous speaker just said, I would be here to speak in favor of it. Unfortunately, this legislation is a giant leap in the wrong direction with the potential to undo all that our State has worked for. It sends operations mandates from Washington to water managers who have carefully balanced water allocation across users for the past 5 years of this terrible drought. It pits regions against each other. It reignites the water wars, which our State has struggled with for generations.

□ 1115

Though the authors have provided authorization for critical water infrastructure, they have prioritized huge water storage projects without enough congressional oversight.

The bill also leaves the door open for the Federal funding for our State's delta tunnels proposal, which is highly controversial in California; and funding for this measure, if it happens at all, would be left to the mercy of the Republican-controlled spending committees. Funding is not guaranteed for these projects.

Most fundamentally, this provision violates the bedrock environmental laws that protect ecosystems not just in California, but nationwide. When lawmakers overrule biological opinions—the determination of scientists about what is best for a species—the science-based management ecosystems everywhere are undermined.

The consequences could be catastrophic. We have seen it before. In 2002, we ignored science and diverted water out of the Klamath River, killing nearly 80,000 spawning salmon. Communities were devastated and livelihoods were lost. We can't afford to set a precedent. This is a bad provision of an otherwise good bill, and I urge a "no" vote.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

Mr. FARENTHOLD. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to support the WIIN Act. We have heard from both sides. It is a bipartisan bill. Nobody likes everything in it, which is typical of legislation in Washington, but it is absolutely critical to this country—to jobs and our economy.

In fact, in the district I represent, there are over 76,000 jobs associated with ports and waterways in the area. I would venture to say, however, 100 percent of the population is touched in the products that they buy, in the goods that they produce, and in the raw materials that are shipped.

This is a good bill that cuts redtape and gets our port projects going. It is what we need for our economy and it is what we need for America. I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

I thank all of the staff who worked so hard on this legislation, particularly the majority and minority staff of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. We would not be here today without the hard work of Ryan Seiger and Mike Brain on my staff and of others on the other side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in solidarity and in championing the cause of the steelworkers of our Nation and of the industrial heartland of Lorain, Ohio, and Gary, Indiana, and Youngstown.

Apparently, the Republican majority was not paying attention to the recent election because, in fact, Mr. Trump promised that the Buy American provision and American steel production would be supportive and primary; yet they are proposing to kill the Buy American provision in this bill.

I urge the majority not to forget the promises its party made to these proud and strong American workers. I can assure the majority they won't forget. We also have to stand up to Chinese dumping that has put out of work thousands and thousands and thousands of workers across this country. Given the woes of the American steel industry, encouraging more offshoring is unconscionable.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD).

Mr. SANFORD. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill.

I thank the chairman for his work and for the committee's work on this bill in the way that, in essence, it creates a lighthouse on how we might fund infrastructure projects going forward.

There is much talk about the new Trump administration and what will come next on that front, but what will be important is the process in the way that we fund infrastructure. We can have our different takes on what should or shouldn't happen in California, but if you look at the bill in its totality, it sets in place a process that, I think, is vital.

Second, it is important to take things off the Christmas tree, and this bill does that. I praise the chairman for what he has done. He deauthorized \$10 billion worth of projects. That is something we do not often see in Washington, D.C., and it is something we need to see more of.

Finally, I thank the gentleman for the way that he focused on Charleston. Any time one can count a resource on one hand, it is a natural resource. Indeed, that is the case with the port in Charleston, which I think will go to serve needs, along with a number of other ports on the Gulf and the East Coast, as the Panama Canal has been widened.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for all of their work on this legislation, particularly on the water resources component.

Mr. Speaker, you can look at water resource policy across the United States, whether it is building levees or it is restoring the coast. We have one of the most expensive and one of the most delayed processes for implementing infrastructure projects in the Nation. This bill begins to correct that process. It begins to expedite it. It begins to give better local control. It begins to provide people protection. It begins to restore the environment.

Just in August of this year, Mr. Speaker, we had one of the worst floods in U.S. history that will result in billions of dollars in flooding. We simply could have spent millions, once again, in preventing the flooding from happening, thus saving lives and saving this country billions of dollars. So I urge the adoption of the bill.

I want to quickly say that the West Shore project authorized in here and the environmental banks are critical and are going to result in much protection and efficiency.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate all of the work that has gone into this bill, especially by the staff on both sides of the committee. There were a lot of hours that they put in, and I can't thank them enough for what they did.

Again, I thank my counterpart, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), for his efforts on the bill as well as the ranking member's and the subcommittee chairman's.

I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 612, or the WIIN Act, so we can improve our ports, our harbors, and can protect this Nation from flooding and natural disasters.

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

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

I rise in support of S. 612, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, and I urge my colleagues to join me in that support.

As everyone knows, families in Flint, Michigan, have not been able to trust the drinking water coming out of their taps for more than 2 years, and bottled water and filters are only temporary solutions. They want answers, and they want results. The package before us includes legislation that will authorize funding to help improve the health of the people in Flint and in other communities who have had Federal emergencies declared due to there being unsafe levels of lead in their drinking water. Specifically, this package authorizes \$100 million in Safe Drinking Water Act capitalization grants to States that respond to a Presidentially declared disaster for health threats posed by their drinking water.

This bipartisan package also expresses that \$20 million should be approved under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act for eligible projects. It authorizes \$20 million for the creation of a Lead Registry and Advisory Committee at the Department of HHS, and it authorizes an additional \$15 million in appropriations for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at the CDC. It also authorizes \$15 million for the Healthy Start Initiative at the Department of HHS.

This fully offset package will not only serve as the basis for responding to decaying lead service lines across the country, but will also directly respond to the tragic toll that has been taken on the minds and bodies of Flint's youngest victims due to repeated exposures to elevated concentrations of lead in drinking water. We must pass this authorization to ensure the appropriation proposed in the continuing resolution does what we want it to do, not what the EPA might come up with for that funding.

As for the other parts of the WIIN Act, they are not perfect, but they represent a bipartisan, bicameral compromise that I expect the President to

sign. Under the jurisdiction of the Energy and Commerce Committee, there are several other proposals that address lead and other contaminants in drinking water:

WIIN includes the public notification provisions that the House passed this past February with 412 votes. Specifically, it requires public water systems to notify their customers if the utility, on a systemwide basis, is exceeding the Federal lead action level for the concentration of lead in its drinking water. If the water utility and the State fail to make the notice, then the EPA must advise the public.

These provisions also call for the creation of a strategic plan between the EPA, the State, and the local water utility for household-specific notification if the EPA learns about a particular household getting water above the Federal lead action level.

This legislation also targets assistance to small and economically disadvantaged communities, particularly those communities with any kind of formal plumbing or inadequate water delivery service.

Beyond Flint, WIIN institutes a new program to help communities finance activities to reduce the lead in their treated drinking water. The priority for these grants goes to economically disadvantaged communities that have concentrations of lead in their drinking water that exceed Federal standards. This bill also provides grants to States for voluntary testing programs for lead in school and childcare center drinking water systems.

There are other worthy provisions that are contained in this bill that I urge my colleagues to look into, but I want to mention two of them: Buy American iron and steel and State permitting for coal ash. While these provisions have been carried in appropriations bills for years, WIIN inserts a requirement into the Safe Drinking Water Act that iron and steel used in projects financed with Federal money have to be primarily made in the United States.

This language sends a strong signal that Congress supports American businesses and workers and will not allow foreign competitors to use our markets as a dumping ground for cheap products. Concerning coal ash, after 6 years of trying, we are close to reaching our goal of enacting legislation to establish permit programs for coal ash.

The language in WIIN provides for the establishment of State and EPA permit programs, which will alleviate the issue of the citizen suit enforcement of the EPA's final rule. Like past House proposals, States may incorporate the EPA final rule for coal combustion residuals or develop other criteria that are at least as protective as the final rule.

□ 1130

States and utilities alike are supportive of the language.

I commend our colleague, DAVID MCKINLEY, for his dogged determination on this issue and our Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chairman JOHN SHIMKUS for their work on this subject.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, this bill is, on balance, better than the status quo, and it is done in a more fiscally responsible way than the version that passed the other body: no direct spending, fully offset, and in line with House rules and protocols. It addresses critical issues facing our Nation in both water infrastructure and drinking water policy. It is worthy of our support, and it will benefit all Americans. I urge a "yes" vote on S. 612.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is far from perfect. It has some very good provisions and others that I oppose. I rise today to highlight the particular sections I worked on to get included in this bill.

I have worked across the aisle with my colleagues in the past on similar drinking water issues, and I have been asking my E&C colleagues for a hearing on broader reforms to the Safe Drinking Water Act through this entire session. While we have not been successful in having a hearing, I remain optimistic that my colleagues on the other side will make this a top priority next year.

With that said, the bill before us today includes a number of provisions very similar to language authored by myself, by Ranking Member PALLONE, and many of our Democratic colleagues contained within the AQUA Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 2016.

We know communities and low-income homeowners need assistance replacing lead service lines. This bill authorizes a new \$300 million grant program to get lead out of our communities. It gives priority to schools, to childcare centers, and other facilities that serve children. The bill also makes it easier for States to administer Federal funds.

In addition to these provisions from the AQUA Act, there are a number of other positive things included in this bill. We have heard about the struggles of small and disadvantaged communities. In my district, the mayor of Castleton, Joseph Keegan, testified that his community needs help but simply cannot afford a loan. He suggested allowing grants. This bill includes a significant grant program specifically for that purpose.

It also gives more flexibility for tribal governments and encourages innovative technologies. The bill improves public notification requirements when a system violates the Lead and Copper Rule, an issue the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) has fought for to help prevent another tragedy like

that in Flint. And it includes an authorization for a program to help schools test for lead.

Unfortunately, this bill fails to make sufficient commitments to Buy American. We must include stronger Buy American language in the statutes.

Finally, I am disheartened to see such a divisive bit of language on California water issues added at the last minute. It is frustrating to see a good bill, negotiated in good faith, get loaded up with a poison pill at the end. Ultimately, this bill has taken some good first steps to invest in our Nation's water systems and provide the city of Flint with the assistance it needs and deserves. But much more is needed.

Some \$384 billion is required over the next 20 years to simply keep up our drinking water systems, and 18 million Americans live in communities that violated the Lead and Copper Rule in 2015. We must, and we can, do better. It is time to get to work. There are many more provisions included in the AQUA Act that I hope this body seriously considers moving forward.

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

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I have witnessed a pattern of attacks against the Endangered Species Act as well as attacks on our industries and communities that rely on the California delta. House Republicans continue to attach environmentally damaging California water riders to every single piece of legislation that is moving on this floor. This time, it is on S. 612, the WIIN Act, also known as the WRDA bill.

This highly controversial language was developed behind closed doors, and it jeopardizes the Senate bipartisan bill that Senator BOXER and Senator INHOFE have worked on very hard, but Senator BOXER is now willing to sacrifice all that work to stop this bill. I strongly support the original bill, which includes some very good stuff.

I also want to recognize Mr. KILDEE, my colleague who has worked very hard on behalf of his constituents in Flint, Michigan.

I support the provisions in this bill that will provide assistance to the drinking water crisis in Flint and other areas of the Nation that need upgraded drinking water infrastructure.

But as long as the California so-called drought language remains, my State and the Pacific Coast are at risk. This California water rider would further degrade the California delta. It weakens protections for California fisheries; threatens thousands of fishing industry jobs, as we have heard, even up to the coast of Oregon; increases saltwater intrusion; and it picks winners and losers in my State.

This provision will provide freedom to export water above and beyond what the ESA currently allows. This will cause further saltwater intrusion into the delta. You know, farmers do not benefit when saltwater contaminates our water supplies.

If we truly believe in sound science, we should not override science with local interests that do not represent the entire State.

The administration and its agencies have serious concerns with this language. This rider will not create a path forward for effective operations but, instead, will create a firestorm of litigation.

Environmental organizations, the fishing industry, the fisheries believe this language will devastate our way of life on the Pacific Coast.

I, along with California, Oregon, and Washington Members, have urged the House and Senate leadership to reject similar riders in the past. I have had an opportunity to submit amendments to strip these riders in the past, but we do not have that opportunity today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Republicans should not hold funding for water infrastructure projects hostage. Instead of pitting communities against each other, we need to support conservation, storm water capture, and innovative recycling programs. We need real drought solutions that will actually improve water supply.

This is not a compromise. It sets a precedent for the next administration to further unravel environmental protections. I urge a "no" vote.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Indiana has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

Mr. CRAMER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the WIIN Act includes two provisions very important to constituents of mine in North Dakota that involve Bureau of Land Management properties; and because of the House rules, I was unable to put these provisions in the House WRDA Act. However, Senator HOEVEN was able to get them into the Senate bill; and, with the strong support of committee leadership and staff, we were able to work it out and get them in the final bill.

One provision concludes an issue that has been going on for years that involves the continued use of trailer homes around Lake Tschida, or the Heart Butte Reservoir. The requirements set in this provision will increase safety while supporting existing

investments and continued recreation around the lake.

The other deals with a more recent issue that has arisen lately of looming fee increases at cabins and trailers at three North Dakota BLM reservoirs: the Heart Butte, Dickinson, and Jamestown. Because market rent surveys weren't completed for many years, and then the recent increases in North Dakota property values, surveys completed last year concluded that the fees would have to be increased 91 to 232 percent overnight. Obviously, my constituents would be hit too hard by that, so this bill helps correct that and brings a smoother transition.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from New York (Mr. TONKO) for yielding and for his work advocating on behalf of the people of my hometown, Flint.

I also want to thank colleagues on both sides of the aisle: Leader PELOSI; our whip, Mr. HOYER; the Speaker who committed to help make sure that we get this Flint provision through; as well as other colleagues who have stood with me as I have fought now for a year and a half for the people of my hometown.

Flint is a city of 100,000 people who still can't drink their water. This is not a question of access to water. The water flowing through the pipes in Flint has poisoned that city: 100,000 people, 9,000 children under the age of 6 affected permanently by high levels of lead being delivered to them through their municipal water system, caused by careless, thoughtless decisions based on an obsession with austerity by the State government. And then they were told the water was safe to drink, when that same State government knew it was not.

Look, we know where we stand. No bill is perfect. This bill is far from perfect. Many of the provisions included in this legislation I disagree with. But I have been fighting for my hometown and have been told to wait and wait and wait, and the people of my community can wait no longer.

Drinking water is a basic human right, and that should be a human right exercised by the people everywhere, including the people of my hometown of Flint.

Every day that passes, every week that passes, every month that passes that Flint does not get the relief they so deserve is a day we don't get back. More people leave. More businesses fail. The city gets more poor and poor and poor and incapable of moving forward. That has to stop, and it has to stop right now. It has to stop before this Congress adjourns. We can't count on the next Congress to get this done. Time matters.

This bill would provide relief to my hometown. It would put it on a path,

and it would send a signal that it is okay to invest in Flint. It is okay to stay. The water will be fine. That is a responsibility we have. This is a moral obligation that we have.

It also makes sure that there is no more Flints, by including in this legislation the Kildee-Upton bill that passed this House nearly unanimously. It is long past time for us to act. I ask you to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE).

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the WIIN Act, which includes one of my top priorities in Congress, the Blackfeet Water Compact. I cannot stress how important this compact is to the Blackfeet Nation, a nation of warriors; the State of Montana; and our great Nation, the United States.

Not only has the compact receive the necessary and long signoff that involved Federal agencies, the House Natural Resources Committee, and House leadership, it is a net benefit to the American taxpayer.

I want to commend the Blackfeet warriors for all their hard work, especially Chairman Harry Barnes for his guidance and leadership, and also Chairman BISHOP for his leadership.

I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to put politics aside and pass this bill.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce who is doing a great job leading us in the House.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I oppose the WIIN Act in its current form. The decision by Republican leadership to include damaging legislation on California water in an otherwise good, bipartisan bill is deeply disappointing.

Members and staff have devoted months to the underlying package, including long overdue aid for the people of Flint. But I cannot support the California water poison pill, and I know that many of my colleagues in the Senate are in the same position.

I want to thank Leader PELOSI and Whip HOYER for working tirelessly over the last few months to develop this package and over the last few days to save it. I hope this is not the end of the story.

We have tried for years on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. Speaker, to get our Republican colleagues to work with us to strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act and provide more money for infrastructure, but they have refused. So I welcomed

the Senate's bipartisan passage of an expanded WRDA that included some valuable changes to the Safe Drinking Water Act and significant new authorizations for infrastructure, and I was pleasantly surprised that House Republicans agreed to some of the changes and authorizations in that bill.

However, the drinking water provisions in this bill fall short of what was included in the Senate WRDA bill; most notably, Republicans refuse to support a permanent requirement that projects funded through the SRF use American iron and steel. That requirement should not be controversial. It has been enacted through the appropriations process for years and has clear benefits for American workers and the American economy.

□ 1145

House Democrats have proposed significant changes to the Safe Drinking Water Act that go far beyond this bill, including changes needed to address dangerous drinking water contaminants and the risks to drinking water from climate change. Ignoring these challenges won't make them go away. House Republicans need to face these challenges in the coming months and not undermine our efforts with poison pills.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in support of S. 612, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, and I would urge every one of my colleagues to join me in that support.

As everybody knows, families in Flint, Michigan, have not been able to trust the drinking water coming out of their taps for more than 2 years. Bottled water and filters are only temporary solutions. In August, I traveled to Flint with my friend and colleague DAN KILDEE from Michigan. We visited health facilities and homes, and we heard firsthand from hundreds of residents. No matter where we went, we heard the same voices. Folks in Flint are tired of the partisan blame game. They really are. They wanted answers and they wanted results, and that is what this bill does.

That is why we worked so hard to have language included in this bipartisan legislation that will authorize funding to help improve the health of the folks in Flint and other communities who have had Federal emergencies declared due to the unsafe levels of lead in their drinking water.

Our package authorizes \$100 million in Safe Drinking Water Act capitalization grants to States responding to a Presidentially declared disaster for health threats associated with the presence of lead or other drinking water contaminants in a public water system.

This bipartisan package also expresses that \$20 million should be approved under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act for eligible projects. It authorizes \$20 million for the creation of a lead registry and advisory committee at the Department of HHS and authorizes an additional \$15 million appropriation for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act at CDC. It authorizes \$15 million for the Healthy Start Initiative at the Department of HHS. It also authorizes 30 new Army Corps of Engineers projects across the country, including critical harbor maintenance provisions that are vitally important in the Great Lakes.

This fully offset package will not only serve as the basis for responding to decaying lead service lines across the country, but also responds to the tragic toll that has been taken on the minds and bodies of Flint's youngest victims and similar communities due to repeated exposures to elevated concentrations of lead in drinking water.

Simply put, Flint needs action. This bipartisan legislation delivers that. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in very strong support of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, which will provide critical resources to address the needs of our waterway infrastructure directly affecting communities' economy and safety.

Communities I represent have suffered from chronic flooding, and I am proud to have worked with municipal leaders in Cranford, Kenilworth, Maplewood, Millburn, Rahway, Springfield, and Union, New Jersey, to include authorization language in this legislation that will complete the Rahway River Basin Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study.

For years, these New Jersey communities have pursued this project based on its great merits that will protect life and property. I have toured these communities and seen firsthand how the solution must come from collaboration between local leaders, State entities, and the Federal Government, including the Army Corps of Engineers.

This legislation gives the Army Corps the directive to get it done. This is how Congress should work, heeding the call of our constituents and building bipartisan consensus to make sure that this legislation passes. I congratulate all those responsible.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of S. 612.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

One of the things we have to realize is we have had communities that have

been suffering for a long time. Our job is to help people. We should be ashamed that it has taken us so long to try and move to a solution in these particular issues. What we have before us here is not a total solution, but it is a very, very good first step, and not just for the arid West. There are 17 Western States that will be assisted by this bill, but 29 States as well as Indian Country are going to be helped, especially as they try to repair their aging dams and their irrigation canals. We are finalizing Native American water rights settlements in California, Oklahoma, and Montana; doing land exchanges; helping with forestry management in the Nevada area; giving flexibility for Californians under the principle that, if it is going to rain, capture the water before it is lost to the ocean; having alternative end-water development programs like desalination. All of these are done without undermining the Endangered Species Act. I say that not as a virtue of the bill, but simply as a fact.

This bill in which we find some compromise between the Senate and the House, between Republicans and Democrats, is a final way of us being able to actually move forward. Let's make sure that we take "yes" as an answer.

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

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

WRDA has always been a bipartisan piece of legislation. I have always voted for WRDA. I voted for this WRDA earlier in this Congress before a 90-page poison pill, California water provision, was dropped in at the very last minute.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I must rise today in opposition to this WRDA in its current form. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on it and force a vote on a clean WRDA so that we can have the many projects, the many benefits, the aid to the people of Flint, Michigan, that they so richly deserve and have waited far too long to receive.

We are here, Mr. Speaker, because, unfortunately, the House Republicans have a problem with regular order. It is something that they have talked a lot about. We have heard many promises about an open legislative process, and yet here they come again with the latest attempt to jam through dangerous California water provisions that were crafted behind closed doors, without public review or scrutiny, and they are being thrown on the House floor literally in the final hours of this Congress.

Let's not forget that this same last-minute, closed-door maneuver, the same water grab, nearly torpedoed last year's must-pass spending bill. By insisting on this parochial poison pill, majority leadership is apparently willing to risk tanking the WRDA bill no matter the damage to the families of

Flint who have been waiting far too long, no matter the harm to fishing communities across the West, no matter how many jobs that would be created by WRDA might have to wait until the McCarthy rider is dealt with.

This power play feels a lot like déjà vu. Today, yet again, we are debating a California water measure that hasn't gone through the committee of jurisdiction or received sign-off from the affected tribal interests, the fishing industry, or State and Federal water agencies.

While this Congress was never given the opportunity to receive expert testimony on these provisions, we do know that the Obama administration just this week announced its strong opposition to the California water provisions that have been added to this bill. Senator BOXER, one of the primary authors of the WRDA bill before it was hijacked with this rider, has also called these provisions a last-minute poison pill, and she has vowed to do everything in her power to block this bill in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard significant opposition to this rider from other stakeholders who have warned this Congress that thousands of fishing industry jobs across the Pacific Coast will be threatened if this bill is enacted.

But I do have to hand it to my colleagues across the aisle about one thing: they are relentless. This rider is simply the latest of many attempts to pick winners and losers during California's historic drought. If it is enacted, the winners in this effort will certainly be some of the most powerful, politically active corporate farmers in the world.

Consider one group of water stakeholders, one group of contractors in one specific region. Now, this bill may call itself a drought solution, and we may talk about many different parts of it, but tucked into the details is a congressionally directed 100 percent water allocation for one group of water contractors. That is one heck of a drought solution if you have got the political juice to get it into a bill like this. Fishery protections, meanwhile, will be gutted in order to redistribute water supplies, primarily to large industrial farms in the Central Valley.

Let's talk about the losers in this effort. It is going to be pretty much everyone else. The California water rider will weaken fisheries protections that support thousands of jobs in numerous industries, including commercial and recreational fishing, fish processing, restaurants, docks and harbors, boating, equipment supply, and tourism. Pretty much everyone across the Pacific Coast who depends on healthy fisheries for their livelihoods will be hurt if this poison pill is enacted.

Thousands of fishermen and their families are already hanging on by a

thread right now. Because of this drought, fishery managers have severely restricted the commercial fishing season off the West Coast because of high salmon mortality in California. Last year we had a 97 percent mortality rate for juvenile Sacramento River winter-run salmon. The year before that it was a 95 percent mortality.

These are tough times for fishermen around the West. They are struggling to pay their mortgages. We have heard about boats being scrapped because the owners can't pay mooring fees; homes are being repossessed; restaurants, hotels, and other retail and service businesses are struggling just to scrape by.

The human impact during this drought has been devastating on the many small-business owners and thousands of working people across California, Washington, and Oregon who depend on healthy fisheries. This is the worst time to weaken the thin line of protections for these fragile salmon fisheries. Yet instead of increasing protections, as all the evidence tells us we need to do, this bill takes us in the opposite direction.

Now, the State of California has called for Federal drought legislation that does not favor one region or one sector of the State over another. This rider unquestionably fails that test.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress can do real things to solve California's water problems without pitting parts of the State against each other. I hope one day my House Republican colleagues will give up on the idea of jamming through dangerous, divisive measures that pit fishermen against farmers, that override the interests of the tribal community and numerous others who are suffering through California's historic drought.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO), one of the leaders in this particular effort.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I first want to start off with a big thank-you to Chairman BISHOP for all his hard work these past 4 years—it has been with his leadership and his support that we have been able to get to this point—Chairman SHUSTER as well, and, obviously, from California, Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY has been a big supporter.

This piece of legislation is a small step in the right direction. In no way, shape, or form are we celebrating as if we have reached the finish line. What this does is it helps us give a little more flexibility so we can help those poor people in my communities, and others south of me and even just a little bit north of me, who need this help desperately.

I have got people in my communities living in shantytowns, people who have

lost their jobs, schools struggling, infrastructure struggling, law enforcement on the verge of bankruptcy. I have got police chiefs resigning now because there are just not enough resources in these communities, all because of bad legislation that was passed.

We have had 20 years of restrictions on water. It has not helped one single species. The species are on the verge of extinction, and these policies have been place.

Why not try something different? Why not try some common sense? This legislation delivers that. It does not affect the Endangered Species Act. It does not affect the biological opinions. All the protections are still there. It just offers a little more flexibility to our agencies so we can help these communities that desperately need it.

If you care about the people of California, you will look at the big picture, you will pay attention, and you might actually even take some time and read the actual legislation. There are no handouts. This is something that actually provides jobs with new dollars for infrastructure, with new dollars for recycling and other resources that are very important, even things that I know my friends across the aisle are supportive of, things like desalinization.

I think this legislation makes a lot of sense. I would love to see some more support. I am thankful for all the support I do have across the aisle, but I am hopeful for more. I look forward to this.

□ 1200

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

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

Mr. Speaker, my region has much of the delta; I would say most of it. I am very concerned about saltwater intrusion with these new provisions. Saltwater is not something that you can drink. You can't do much with it. It is a problem.

It is easy to sympathize—and I do—with the farmers and communities south of the delta, but we shouldn't just pass the problem from one region to another. We don't need to do this.

We can develop recycling. Israel recycles 90 percent of their water. California recycles 15 percent. We can capture urban and suburban storm water. We can stop water leakage. We can reduce evaporative losses. We can start groundwater banking. We can create regional self-sufficiency, which will reduce reliance on the delta water and solve all these problems. Instead, we continue to do things the old way.

A region that needs water says: Well, they've got water over there. We are going to get it. We are going to use our politics, our money, and we are going

to get that water. Who cares what they think. Who cares what happens to them.

By the way, adding flexibility to the operations of the ESA is weakening the ESA.

So let's find real solutions for everyone. Please oppose this bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill for Flint, Michigan. It is a good bill for WRDA projects across the country. It is a good bill for California. Everybody knows that we have experienced over 5 years of drought conditions, the driest in 1,200 years.

I reject the notion that somehow there is a poison pill. This is a bipartisan effort that Senator FEINSTEIN, House Republicans, myself, and other Members from California have worked on for 2 years. As a matter of fact, some of the opponents of this legislation have provisions in this measure that they supported and advocated Senator FEINSTEIN insert.

The Obama administration drafted environmental protections, and one of the red lines was that it would not modify or amend the Endangered Species Act, nor would it change the biological opinions. Those are simply falsehoods. Falsehoods.

This bill authorizes \$580 million to offset for storage, recycling, and reuse and desalinization. That is very important. That is part of what the last speaker just talked about: recycling and reuse and water conservation.

It also provides programs to benefit fish and wildlife. It also works within the framework of the existing biological opinions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I reject the notion that these are poison pills. People in my district and in their homes and my colleagues have been without water, in some cases, for 2 years. This is not like a Third World country. This is the richest country in the world, but farm communities, farmers, and farmworkers are suffering.

This legislation would place a step in the right direction to provide people support to correct this broken water system that we have in California. I urge the support of this legislation not only for the people of California, but for Flint, Michigan, and the entire country. This is a bipartisan process and this legislation reflects that fact.

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

Mr. Speaker, there is a reason that every environmental group that is engaged on this and the Obama administration are opposing this language. It

is not harmless. It is not perfectly fine with the ESA. It is a congressional override of the scientific, peer-reviewed biological opinions that does grave harm to the ESA and sets a terrible precedent. But there are other problems with the bill, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), my colleague and ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that, once again, we are here today to discuss a divisive, last-minute attempt by House Republicans to jam through destructive legislation that favors House Republicans' special interests, industry friends at the expense of everybody else.

This week, I and nearly every one else saw for the first time a newly inserted 100-page rider that would weaken protections for West Coast fisheries, primarily to redirect water to large corporate farms in one section of California. This rider threatens the jobs of thousands of fishermen and others across the West Coast who depend on healthy fish runs for their livelihoods.

My colleagues and I will be voting today, soon, on a 100-page proposal that has not been reviewed by the numerous affected stakeholders, the committees of jurisdiction, nearly every Member of Congress, or the general public.

This rider fundamentally threatens the original WRDA bill that had bipartisan support in the House and bicameral support as well. What makes things worse is this poison pill rider now jeopardizes the approval of several pending Indian water rights settlements that are included in the original WRDA bill. The tribes whose water settlements are now jeopardized by this poison pill have been waiting, in many cases, to settle their claims for decades and even more.

Just one of the water settlements jeopardized by the House Republicans' latest stunt is for the Blackfeet Nation. The Blackfeet Nation, as mentioned by another colleague, has been trying for more than a century to protect and secure its water rights. Finally, we have a water settlement for the Blackfeet Nation that, once approved by Congress, would provide funding to conduct and rehabilitate Blackfeet Nation's water infrastructure so tribal residents can finally have reliable and safe drinking water.

Currently, at least 30 percent of reservation residents live in housing that lacks adequate plumbing or kitchen facilities. For the richest country in the world, it is an embarrassment that our Native American brothers and sisters continue to live in those conditions.

This Republican House has not funded an Indian water rights settlement in nearly 6 years. After years of work, we are as close as we have ever been to enacting a settlement since Democrats

controlled the House. Yet, my House Republican colleagues have decided this week that doing a favor for their special interest allies is worth the risk of jeopardizing the approval of every Indian water rights settlement that is part of the original legislation.

This behavior is wrong and shows that this congressional majority considers the needs of Indian country less important than pushing a sweetheart deal for some of the most powerful corporate farmers in the world.

It is time for this Congress to finally pay attention, take the needs of Indian country seriously, and bring us a clean WRDA bill that has bipartisan, bicameral support so that we can take action, protect those Indian water rights, and deal with the very important question of Flint.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), another member of the California delegation who has been working tirelessly on this issue.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman greatly for this opportunity, and all who have had a role in this; Chairman SHUSTER as well. This is a bipartisan effort. It truly is a bipartisan effort.

I thank Senator FEINSTEIN for coming forward and being a strong voice on this as well. So it is a bipartisan, bicameral effort. These long-term negotiations didn't happen just overnight. Indeed, since it is water in California, most of this takes many years.

These provisions will modernize California's water supply system in the short term and invest in new infrastructure to secure the State's economic future—a very critical one. This agreement improves water supply for all Californians. More supply helps everyone, north and south, and uses the latest science to provide more water without harming wildlife in any way. It does not harm wildlife.

From a northern California perspective, this agreement achieves several major goals, including ironclad protections of northern California water rights, improving water supply reliability, and authorizes construction, finally, of Sites Reservoir, a key project that has been talked about for years that will help California's future supply needs.

While this bill is a significant step in the right direction, it is not the be-all and end-all. It is not the comprehensive solution. It is a compromise. No one gets everything they want. Any honest observer will recognize that this agreement provides more water and does so without altering the Endangered Species Act or other environmental requires. It deserves your sport.

Those that are opposed to it seem to be just on the fringe, far edge of the environmental movement. Let's get this done. I enjoy the fact that we have all

come together, by and large, for a strong bipartisan effort.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK), who is one of our subcommittee chairmen on the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, like any compromise, I don't like everything in this bill, but the net effect is an important step forward in protecting California and its environment against devastating droughts, and it protects Lake Tahoe against catastrophic wildfires.

My colleague from California says the California provisions are a sudden surprise to him in this water development bill. Well, he needs to pay more attention to the business on the floor. These provisions have all been in water development bills passed by bipartisan majorities from this House over the past 6 years.

If he were truly concerned about the salmon, he should be supporting this bill. This bill encourages the fish hatcheries to produce burgeoning and abundant populations of salmon.

It finally controls the nonnative predators in the delta that are, by far, the biggest single threat to salmon and smelt and other endangered species.

The reservoirs are our most important defense against drought, ensuring year-round water flows. Without reservoirs, in a drought, the water heats to lethal temperatures and often dries up. There are no fish.

In addition, this bill provides \$335 million to increase our desperately needed reservoirs. It adds flexibility to management of the New Melones Reservoir. It streamlines water transfers to assure water can be more efficiently moved to where it is most needed. It adds strong protection to the northern California area of origin water rights, expedites approval of projects, and updates flood control criteria to make better use of our existing reservoirs.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. One more point on our fragile environment. This bill addresses the single greatest catastrophic threat to Lake Tahoe—catastrophic wildfire—by expediting the reduction of dangerous fuel loads.

Mr. Speaker, I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let me say in conclusion that we have been talking about this issue for the last 5 years. We have had four bills that have been brought forth on this issue. We passed this one this year as well.

One would assume by a lot of the discussion you just heard that this is only

a California issue. It is not. These provisions affect the entire West and entire Nation; 29 States. It affects my State, and I am not from California. It is important. It is based on the simple, commonsense idea that when it rains, store the water before you lose it to the ocean. That is there.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from Ducks Unlimited supporting this bill. I think they are going to be happy to know that I guess they are not an environmental group anymore.

DUCKS UNLIMITED,
December 6, 2016.

President BARACK OBAMA,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Ducks Unlimited (DU) is supportive of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. On behalf of our more than one million members and supporters nationwide, DU has worked closely with Senator Feinstein over the past two years to ensure that water and water rights critical to California's wildlife refuges were not diminished in California Drought Legislation. We believe the drought provisions now included in the WIIN Act safeguard existing water rights and take important steps toward improving the distribution of water to wildlife refuges in the Central Valley.

Water supply development takes a great toll on wetlands and any new water supply legislation must not further exacerbate this trend. The Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) was a critical step toward mitigating the environmental damage caused by decades of large-scale water development in California. A sustainable water future requires diligent preservation of that mitigation program, plus new innovations in water supply resilience.

Specifically, the bill protects water supplies for Central Valley Project (CVP) wildlife refuges by including refuge contractors in its water right provisions, and by expressly protecting the Department of Interior's obligations under the CVPIA. It authorizes an additional \$10 million in funding over five years to improve refuge water conveyance infrastructure. Implementation of this bill would likely increase the reliability of refuge water supplies delivered by the Department of Interior through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. It also authorizes funding for water storage projects that provide federal benefits, including wildlife refuge benefits.

California annually hosts one of the greatest concentrations of migratory waterfowl in North America, serving as the wintering home to millions of waterfowl, shorebirds and other wetland-dependent species. The majority of migratory birds that frequent Alaska, Washington and Oregon spend their winters in California, especially on winter-flooded rice fields. Rice agriculture in California plays a crucial role in fulfilling the annual life cycle needs of numerous Pacific Flyway birds. These migratory visitors provide countless hours of enjoyment to hunters and birdwatchers throughout the Pacific Flyway. As a result, migratory waterfowl are also an important economic driver across the region, especially in California. Sportsmen, including waterfowlers, contribute \$3.5 billion annually to California's economy. The birds of the Pacific Flyway are a shared resource, requiring the stewardship of not only California, but of all Western states, as

well as Canada and Mexico, as they migrate thousands of miles between their breeding grounds and winter homes.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding our assessment of the California Drought provisions in the WIIN Act and their importance to California's wildlife refuges and the millions of birds in the Pacific Flyway that visit these wetland habitats each year.

Sincerely,

H. DALE HALL,

Chief Executive Officer, Ducks Unlimited.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to realize that there are Native American water rights that have been included in this bill in Montana, in Oklahoma, and in California, to the point that the National Congress of American Indians has also endorsed this bill, which I include in the RECORD.

DECEMBER 7, 2016.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Re Support for S. 612—the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, SPEAKER RYAN, MINORITY LEADER REID, AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: On behalf of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Sovereignty Protection Fund, and the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA), we write to urge this Congress to pass S. 612—the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act). The WIIN Act contains many provisions that will benefit Indian Country's water infrastructure, provide access to clean drinking water and improvements to waste water systems, settle several Tribal water rights claims, and provide parity for Tribal Nations in water resources development projects.

First, S. 612 enhances the ability of Tribal Nations to address water infrastructure projects that benefit their citizens. Title I of the Act amends Section 1156 of the Water Resources Development Act making Tribes eligible for the cost sharing waiver for water resources development projects, and extends this waiver to Tribes for assistance with water planning. Tribes can also request feasibility studies on water resources development projects and enter into partnerships and cooperative agreements with the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regarding water resources data. Further, Alaska Native Villages, Regional Corporations, and Village Corporations will be able to enter into agreements to construct water projects.

With the recent national focus on tribal concerns regarding the infrastructure permitting process at the Corps, the WIIN Act allows for a full review of the Corps' procedures. The bill requires the Corps to conduct tribal consultations and issue a report to Congress within 1 year on how its existing policies, regulations, and guidance related to tribal consultation on water resources development projects, or activities requiring the issuance of a permit, many have an impact on tribal cultural or natural resources.

Title I also repatriates the remains of the Ancient One (Kennewick Man) back to the Tribes who have claimed him so he can be respectfully treated and properly buried pursuant to traditional practices. The Ancient One's repatriation is a longstanding request from Indian Country and will put an end to the disrespectful treatment of his ancestral remains and allow for healing to begin.

Further, several sections of Title II of S. 612 allow Tribal Nations to build technical capacity and self-sufficiency in administering water programs and projects. The legislation amends the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to ensure the availability of funding for Tribal water and waste water operator training and certification programs for Tribal organizations and Tribal consortia, which already have provided over 2,500 certifications to personnel employed by approximately 115 Tribal Nations. It also creates a new section in SDWA to provide assistance to small and disadvantaged communities to prioritize projects in consultation with Tribes, States, and local governments.

Additionally, S. 612 recognizes the outstanding maintenance and repair needs for existing water infrastructure projects in Indian Country. Title III contains a provision on Indian dams, based on S. 2717—the DRIFT Act, which addresses the deferred maintenance needs of Bureau of Indian Affairs dams, reforms the Corps' Tribal Partnership Program to pay for feasibility studies for flood mitigation and prevention in Indian Country, and creates a Tribal Safety of Dams Committee. This Title also provides for the much needed repair, replacement, and maintenance of back logged Indian irrigation programs in the west by creating an Indian Irrigation Fund at the Bureau of Reclamation based on S. 438—the IRRIGATE Act.

The WIIN Act will also finalize water rights settlements for the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, Blackfoot Nation, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Chickasaw Nation, and amendment to the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians' water settlement. Moreover, it takes land into trust for the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, Tule River Indian Tribe, and exchanges land for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. Finally, S. 612 contains a mechanism for the Environmental Protection Agency to reimburse costs incurred by Tribes, States, and local governments after the Gold King Mine spill in August of 2015.

While these are just selected highlights from the legislation, the WIIN Act takes great steps towards improving water infrastructure programs and development in Indian Country. NCAI, USET Sovereignty Protection Fund, and ITAA strongly urge you to consider and pass S. 612 in the last legislative days of the 114th Congress to resolve many important water-related concerns of Tribal Nations. If you have any questions, please contact Colby Duren, NCAI Staff Attorney & Legislative Counsel.

Sincerely,

BRIAN CLADOOSBY,
President, National
Congress of Amer-
ican Indians.

KIRK FRANCIS,
President, United
South and Eastern
Tribes Sovereignty
Protection Fund.

SHAN LEWIS,
President, Inter Tribal
Association of Ari-
zona, Vice-Chair-

man, Fort Mojave
Indian Tribe.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, these things are important, but the goal right here is to realize we are not after fear-mongering. We are after ways we can actually help people. That is the goal. Help our communities. That has to take place.

I am appreciative that the senior Senator from California, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, a Democrat, as well as the majority leader in the House, Mr. MCCARTHY, a Republican, have all agreed on this package.

We are the States where all of a sudden, in a bipartisan and bicameral way, we have found a solution to move us forward. That is why I am saying, when the answer is yes, let's take yes.

Vote "yes" on this provision, vote "yes" on this bill. It moves us forward. It is not a solution that is perfect, but it moves us forward in a way we haven't been able to do in the last decade.

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 612, that reauthorizes the Water Resource Development Act. WRDA is once again a bipartisan bill with broad support. This bill protects and develops our communities and our waterways.

As one of many members who represent a major port, I know firsthand that ports are enormous economic engines for growth.

The Port of Houston has allowed Houston and Harris County to be the energy capital of the world. The jobs and economic growth, including refining and manufacturing, associated with the Port are a driver for the entire region.

This WRDA bill provides essential federal support for the Houston Ship Channel dredging to 50 feet which will allow for larger, deeper draft ships that will increase trade at America's second busiest port. The bill also modernizes how partners can work with the Army Corps of Engineers to develop projects for local and national benefit as we move forward.

Additionally, flood control projects in this bill preserve our communities that are facing increased hazards from record rainfall and rising sea levels. The support for the Brays Bayou project will help shield areas that have been devastated by deadly flooding earlier this year.

I am proud to support a bipartisan bill that both supports our economic development and protects our vulnerable communities.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 612, the "Water Infrastructure Improvement Act," as amended, which authorizes variety of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water resources development projects, feasibility studies, and relationships with nonfederal project sponsors.

I thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for their work in shepherding this legislation to the floor and for their commitment to addressing the needs of America's harbors, locks, dams, flood protection, and other water resources infrastructure critical to the nation's health, economic competitiveness and growth.

I am pleased that the bill before us provides authorization for several water projects critical to my State of Texas:

1. Brazos River, Fort Bend County, Texas.—Project for flood damage reduction in the vicinity of the Brazos River, Fort Bend County, Texas.

2. Chacon Creek, City of Laredo, Texas.—Project for flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and recreation, Chacon Creek, city of Laredo, Texas.

3. Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Texas.—Project for navigation, Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Texas.

4. City of El Paso, Texas.—Project for flood damage reduction, city of El Paso, Texas.

5. Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Brazoria and Matagorda Counties, Texas.—Project for navigation and hurricane and storm damage reduction, Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Brazoria and Matagorda Counties, Texas.

6. Port of Bay City, Texas.—Project for navigation, Port of Bay City, Texas.

Additionally, the bill includes changes to the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Solid Waste Disposal Act to help communities, particularly economically distressed ones, pursue better quality drinking water and obtain certainty for protecting a community's economic, environmental, and public health well-being in the following ways:

1. Empowers small and economically disadvantaged communities to improve their drinking water services;

2. Equips communities with programs and activities to reduce concentrations of lead in drinking water, including the replacement of lead service lines;

3. Empowers states and provides flexibility to incorporate underserved communities that have inadequate drinking water systems, and aids smaller, lower-income communities, tribes, and states in water quality testing and general compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act requirements;

4. Benefits communities by requiring public water systems to notify customers if the utility is exceeding federal drinking water lead action levels, similar to H.R. 4470 which passed the House 416–2;

5. Creates a voluntary program for testing for lead in school and childcare center drinking water;

6. Promotes transparency and accountability by creating a clearinghouse of public information on the cost-effectiveness of alternative drinking water delivery systems, including systems that are supported by wells; and

7. Authorizes research on innovative water technologies, including those that identify and mitigate sources of drinking water contamination and improve compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Mr. Speaker, I am also very pleased that the bill before us addresses the need of funding that Flint, Michigan has been experiencing, authorizing \$170,000,000 to be used to repair or replace private infrastructure in communities that the President has declared to be in an emergency.

For the past two years, Flint, Michigan has lived in a state of fear, having to drink from bottles of filtered water in order to completely avoid lead poisoning and contamination.

Citizens of Flint, Michigan had to abandon their homes and the residents had to be compensated for their property as well as be provided for regarding current and future health

conditions that arise from the contamination by polluted water.

Wired Magazine estimated that most of the corroded pipes in Flint—20,000 to 25,000 in total—are one inch in diameter, and connect homes to the larger, main pipes running under the middles of streets.

The project of replacing all lead pipes will need a city-wide lead pipe map.

The water pipes are buried at a depth of 3.5 feet to put them below the frost line, and will need to be extracted.

The Michigan's state report produced in September 2015 on replacing all lead pipes in the city of Flint places the per-household cost at between \$2–8,000.

The report estimates that it would take fifteen years to completely replace lead pipes at an estimated cost of \$60 million.

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver announced that her goal would be to replace 13,000 lead pipes at a cost of \$2–3,000 for each pipe for a total of about \$42 million.

No one knows the reality of undertaking a massive effort such as what will be needed, so the cost could easily be much higher than estimates.

Flint cannot be another Katrina where the poor, people of color and marginalized are shutout of jobs as well as the political and decision making processes regarding their homes, neighborhoods or city.

Replacing the lead pipes of Flint, must include the cost of repairing homes that will be damaged to access the pipes; repaving driveways, or re-sodding lawns that are dug up to get to pipes, and restoring sidewalks that are damaged to access pipe.

These costs can easily put another \$40–50 million in addition cost to lead pipe replacement.

Further, the current and long term health effects on residents must be addressed.

These massive costs that Flint will incur cannot be placed on the shoulders of Michigan alone.

We will continue to work to help the people of Flint, Michigan in order to restore them to health and bring them out of this crisis.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 949, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, and was read the third time.

□ 1215

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. I am opposed to it in its current form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Michael F. Doyle of Pennsylvania moves to recommit the bill S. 612 to the

Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

In section 2113, in the matter proposed to be inserted into section 1452(a) of the Safe Drinking Water Act as paragraph (4)(a), strike "During fiscal year 2017, funds" and insert "Funds".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this motion to recommit in order to significantly improve this bill by restoring the bipartisan Buy American language that was inextricably stripped over the last 3 days.

The WIIN Act provides important funding for ports, harbors, and waterways around the country. I think infrastructure issues like this bill should be something we can all agree on. In fact, they have been historically bipartisan.

Then again, I also think that support for hardworking Americans should also be bipartisan. I was disappointed that my bipartisan amendment, offered by myself and my good friend from North Carolina, Representative WALTER JONES, was rejected yesterday at the Rules Committee by a party-line vote.

Our amendment would have made the Buy American provisions for EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund permanent, matching all other clean water programs and all other Federal infrastructure programs. I want to re-emphasize that. Every other program, Federal infrastructure programs, clean water programs, have permanent Buy American provisions.

So the question is: Why does this bill just have a 1-year provision?

If you don't think that sends a signal to China that 1 year from today they can start dumping steel over in the United States and undercutting our steel industry and our steelworkers, then you are not living on the same planet that I am.

The Senate passed their bill, including language making the Buy American requirement for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund permanent, with an overwhelming bipartisan vote, 95–3.

House Republican leadership, for some unexplained reason, replaced this bipartisan Senate language with a 1-year extension at the last minute. I don't understand why we would do this, why we would undercut the American steel industry; but I believe that their actions send a clear message to those folks in the steel mills around our country that we don't have their back.

These hardworking Americans depend on manufacturing jobs to support

their families, and they have suffered because of Chinese steel dumped in our markets. U.S. steel mills have closed. American steelworkers have lost their jobs, and others have had their hours cut.

This is personal to me. My father supported our family working in a steel mill, just like his father before him. They supported their families through these tough, dangerous jobs, like millions around the country. There is dignity in that work, and we need to make sure that Congress doesn't kill that dignity, along with the kind of jobs Americans can support a family on.

U.S. tax dollars should support American manufacturers and help preserve hardworking families across this Nation. I think these workers and their families deserve more certainty and more support.

President-elect Trump said just last week: "We have two simple rules when it comes to this massive rebuilding effort: Buy American and hire American."

Now, the President-elect and I may be from different parties, but we certainly agree on that.

I have had Members from both sides of the aisle come up to me and say that they support our amendment, and that they would vote for it on the floor. Members on both sides of the aisle at Rules spoke in favor of this amendment.

Well, we didn't get the vote we wanted out of the Rules Committee, but, colleagues, this is our chance to send a message and tell the American workers and American manufacturers that we have got their back by passing this motion to recommit.

It just does one simple thing. It changes this 1-year provision to permanent, just like the Senate bill that got sent down here and every other infrastructure bill that we do in this country.

Colleagues, let's not send the signal to China that America is open for them to dump their steel and put our companies and our workers out of jobs. Let's tell American companies and American workers that this Congress has their back.

Vote for this motion to recommit and let's stick up for the American worker and our American manufacturers.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from western Pennsylvania. I support Buy American provisions, and, of course, as he mentioned, there is a 1-year provision in this. I just disagree—this is not the process for doing this moving forward. I believe it will kill the bill.

This is a good bill. It was carefully negotiated with our counterparts in the Senate and both sides of the aisle. It represents a lot of—months and months of hard work.

First, the bill will create jobs. It keeps American jobs in America by strengthening our competitiveness and grows our economy, and it will be including American steel in it.

Second, it is a fiscally responsible bill. We fully offset it. It reduces a deficit by a half a billion dollars.

Finally, it reasserts congressional authority by restoring the 2-year cycle of considering WRDA bills. It returns us to regular order, preventing unelected bureaucrats from making decisions on our Nation's water infrastructure.

So stopping the bill now, I don't think, is the right thing to do. Let's pass it. Let's continue to work together to get strong, Buy American provisions as we move forward, which is something I do support. So I urge a "no" vote at this time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the order of the House today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 949, I call up the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the Senate amendment.

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

The following appropriations shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers for authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related efforts.

INVESTIGATIONS

For expenses necessary where authorized by law for the collection and study of basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related needs; for surveys and detailed studies, design work, and plans and specifications of proposed river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, and related efforts prior to construction; for restudy of authorized projects, and related efforts; and for miscellaneous investigations, and, when authorized by law, surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of projects prior to construction, \$126,522,000, to remain available until expended.

CONSTRUCTION

For expenses necessary for the construction of river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, and related projects authorized by law; for conducting detailed studies, design work, and plans and specifications, of such projects (including those involving participation by States, local governments, or private groups) authorized or made eligible for selection by law (but such detailed studies, and plans and specifications, shall not constitute a commitment of the Government to construction); \$1,813,649,000, to remain available until expended; of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of construction costs for facilities under the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities program shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund as authorized by Public Law 104-303; and of which such sums as are necessary to cover one-half of the costs of construction, replacement, rehabilitation, and expansion of inland waterways projects shall be derived from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, except as otherwise specifically provided for in law: Provided, That funds made available under this heading for shore protection may be prioritized for projects in areas that have suffered severe beach erosion requiring additional sand placement outside of the normal beach renourishment cycle or in which the normal beach renourishment cycle has been delayed.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

For expenses necessary for flood damage reduction projects and related efforts in the Mississippi River alluvial valley below Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as authorized by law, \$368,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for inland harbors shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

For expenses necessary for the operation, maintenance, and care of existing river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, and related projects authorized by law; providing security for infrastructure owned or operated by the Corps, including administrative buildings

and laboratories; maintaining harbor channels provided by a State, municipality, or other public agency that serve essential navigation needs of general commerce, where authorized by law; surveying and charting northern and northwestern lakes and connecting waters; clearing and straightening channels; and removing obstructions to navigation, \$3,173,829,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund; of which such sums as become available from the special account for the Army Corps of Engineers established by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 shall be derived from that account for resource protection, research, interpretation, and maintenance activities related to resource protection in the areas managed by the Army Corps of Engineers at which outdoor recreation is available; and of which such sums as become available from fees collected under section 217 of Public Law 104-303 shall be used to cover the cost of operation and maintenance of the dredged material disposal facilities for which such fees have been collected: Provided, That 1 percent of the total amount of funds provided for each of the programs, projects, or activities funded under this heading shall not be allocated to a field operating activity prior to the beginning of the fourth quarter of the fiscal year and shall be available for use by the Chief of Engineers to fund such emergency activities as the Chief of Engineers determines to be necessary and appropriate, and that the Chief of Engineers shall allocate during the fourth quarter any remaining funds which have not been used for emergency activities proportionally in accordance with the amounts provided for the programs, projects, or activities: Provided further, That of the funds provided herein, for any Corps of Engineers project located in a State in which a Bureau of Reclamation project is also located, any non-Federal project regulated for flood control by the Secretary of the Army located in a State in which a Bureau of Reclamation project is also located, or any Bureau of Reclamation facilities regulated for flood control by the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Army shall fund all or a portion of the costs to review or revise operational documents, including water control plans, water control manuals, water control diagrams, release schedules, rule curves, operational agreements with non-Federal entities, and any associated environmental documentation.

REGULATORY PROGRAM

For expenses necessary for administration of laws pertaining to regulation of navigable waters and wetlands, \$200,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

For expenses necessary to clean up contamination from sites in the United States resulting from work performed as part of the Nation's early atomic energy program, \$103,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For expenses necessary to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters as authorized by law, \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended.

EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the supervision and general administration of the civil works program in the Army Corps of Engineers headquarters and the division offices; and for costs

allocable to the civil works program of management and operation of the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity, the Institute for Water Resources, the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Finance Center, \$180,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, of which not more than \$5,000 may be used for official reception and representation purposes and only during the current fiscal year: Provided, That no part of any other appropriation provided in this title shall be available to fund such activities in the Army Corps of Engineers headquarters and division offices: Provided further, That any Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies appropriation may be used to fund the supervision and general administration of emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to any flood, hurricane, or other natural disaster.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 3016(b)(3), \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) None of the funds provided in title I of this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in title I of this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2017, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that:

- (1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;
- (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;
- (3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations;
- (4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity for a different purpose, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations;
- (5) augments or reduces existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of the amounts contained in paragraphs (6) through (10), unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations;

(6) INVESTIGATIONS.—For a base level over \$100,000, reprogramming of 25 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$150,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: Provided, That for a base level less than \$100,000, the reprogramming limit is \$25,000: Provided further, That up to \$25,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(7) CONSTRUCTION.—For a base level over \$2,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$3,000,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: Provided, That for a base level less than \$2,000,000, the reprogramming limit is \$300,000: Provided further, That up to \$3,000,000 may be reprogrammed for settled contractor claims, changed conditions, or real estate deficiency judgments: Provided further, That up to \$300,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(8) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—Unlimited reprogramming authority is granted for the Corps to be able to respond to emergencies: Provided, That the Chief of Engineers shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of these emergency actions as soon thereafter as practicable: Provided further, That for

a base level over \$1,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$5,000,000 per project, study, or activity is allowed: Provided further, That for a base level less than \$1,000,000, the reprogramming limit is \$150,000: Provided further, That \$150,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation;

(9) MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES.—The reprogramming guidelines in paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) shall apply to the Investigations, Construction, and Operation and Maintenance portions of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Account, respectively; and

(10) FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM.—Reprogramming of up to 15 percent of the base of the receiving project is permitted.

(b) DE MINIMUS REPROGRAMMINGS.—In no case should a reprogramming for less than \$50,000 be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

(c) CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM.—Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to any project or activity funded under the continuing authorities program.

(d) Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year which shall include:

(1) A table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if applicable, and the fiscal year enacted level; and

(2) A delineation in the table for each appropriation both by object class and program, project and activity as detailed in the budget appendix for the respective appropriations; and

(3) An identification of items of special congressional interest.

(e) The Secretary shall allocate funds made available in this Act solely in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act, including the determination and designation of new starts.

(f) None of the funds made available in this title may be used to award or modify any contract that commits funds beyond the amounts appropriated for that program, project, or activity that remain unobligated, except that such amounts may include any funds that have been made available through reprogramming pursuant to section 101.

SEC. 102. The Secretary of the Army may transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service may accept and expend, up to \$5,400,000 of funds provided in this title under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" to mitigate for fisheries lost due to Corps of Engineers civil works projects.

SEC. 103. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act making appropriations for Energy and Water Development for any fiscal year may be used by the Corps of Engineers during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, to develop, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce any change to the regulations in effect on October 1, 2012, pertaining to the definitions of the terms "fill material" or "discharge of fill material" for the purposes of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

SEC. 104. None of the funds provided in this act may be used for open lake disposal of dredged sediment in Lake Erie unless such disposal meets water and environmental standards agreed to by the administrator of a State's water permitting agency and is consistent with a State's Coastal Zone Management Plan. If this standard is not met, the Corps of Engineers will

maintain its long-standing funding obligations for upland placement of dredged material with cost sharing as specified in section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, Public Law 99-662, as amended by section 201 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1196, Public Law 104-303 (33 U.S.C. 2211) and section 217(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, Public Law 104-303, as amended by section 2005 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, Public Law 110-300 (33 U.S.C. 2326a(d)).

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available by this title may be used for any acquisition that is not consistent with section 225.7007 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 106. Of the amounts made available under this title for operation and maintenance, \$2,000,000 shall be available for Upper Missouri River Basin flood and drought monitoring under section 4003(a) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 128 Stat. 1310).

SEC. 107. Section 2006 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2242) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting “in which the project is located or of a community that is located in the region that is served by the project and that will rely on the project” after “community”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or of a community that is located in the region to be served by the project and that will rely on the project” after “community”;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “local population” and inserting “regional population to be served by the project”; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking “community” and inserting “local community or to a community that is located in the region to be served by the project and that will rely on the project”.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For carrying out activities authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$1,300,000 shall be deposited into the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Account for use by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission: Provided, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$1,350,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for expenses necessary in carrying out related responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2017, of the amount made available to the Commission under this Act or any other Act, the Commission may use an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for administrative expenses.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The following appropriations shall be expended to execute authorized functions of the Bureau of Reclamation:

WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For management, development, and restoration of water and related natural resources and for related activities, including the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of reclamation and other facilities, participation in fulfilling related Federal responsibilities to Native Americans, and related grants to, and cooperative and other agreements with, State and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, and others, \$1,114,394,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$158,841,000 shall be available for additional funding for work and are

authorized to be used consistent with activities described in the Commissioner's transmittal to Congress dated February 8, 2016; \$22,000 shall be available for transfer to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and \$5,551,000 shall be available for transfer to the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund; of which such amounts as may be necessary may be advanced to the Colorado River Dam Fund: Provided, That such transfers may be increased or decreased within the overall appropriation under this heading: Provided further, That of the total appropriated, the amount for program activities that can be financed by the Reclamation Fund or the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6806 shall be derived from that Fund or account: Provided further, That funds contributed under 43 U.S.C. 395 are available until expended for the purposes for which the funds were contributed: Provided further, That funds advanced under 43 U.S.C. 397a shall be credited to this account and are available until expended for the same purposes as the sums appropriated under this heading: Provided further, That of the amounts provided herein, funds may be used for high-priority projects which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps, as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1706.

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT RESTORATION FUND

For carrying out the programs, projects, plans, habitat restoration, improvement, and acquisition provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, \$55,606,000, to be derived from such sums as may be collected in the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund pursuant to sections 3407(d), 3404(c)(3), and 3405(f) of Public Law 102-575, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Bureau of Reclamation is directed to assess and collect the full amount of the additional mitigation and restoration payments authorized by section 3407(d) of Public Law 102-575: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used for the acquisition or leasing of water for in-stream purposes if the water is already committed to in-stream purposes by a court adopted decree or order.

CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA RESTORATION (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For carrying out activities authorized by the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, consistent with plans to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, \$36,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such amounts as may be necessary to carry out such activities may be transferred to appropriate accounts of other participating Federal agencies to carry out authorized purposes: Provided, That funds appropriated herein may be used for the Federal share of the costs of CALFED Program management: Provided further, That CALFED implementation shall be carried out in a balanced manner with clear performance measures demonstrating concurrent progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the Program.

POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for policy, administration, and related functions in the Office of the Commissioner, the Denver office, and offices in the five regions of the Bureau of Reclamation, to remain available until September 30, 2018, \$59,000,000, to be derived from the Reclamation Fund and be nonreimbursable as provided in 43 U.S.C. 377: Provided, That no part of any other appropriation in this Act shall be available for activities or functions budgeted as policy and administration expenses.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

Appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation shall be available for purchase of not to exceed

five passenger motor vehicles, which are for replacement only.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 201. (a) None of the funds provided in title II of this Act for Water and Related Resources, or provided by previous or subsequent appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in title II of this Act for Water and Related Resources that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2017, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) initiates or creates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity unless the program, project or activity has received no appropriated funding for at least five fiscal years;

(3) increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate;

(4) restarts or resumes any program, project or activity for which funds are not provided in this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate;

(5) transfers funds in excess of the following limits, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate:

(A) 15 percent for any program, project or activity for which \$2,000,000 or more is available at the beginning of the fiscal year; or

(B) \$400,000 for any program, project or activity for which less than \$2,000,000 is available at the beginning of the fiscal year;

(6) transfers more than \$500,000 from either the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category or the Resources Management and Development category to any program, project, or activity in the other category, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate; or

(7) transfers, where necessary to discharge legal obligations of the Bureau of Reclamation, more than \$5,000,000 to provide adequate funds for settled contractor claims, increased contractor earnings due to accelerated rates of operations, and real estate deficiency judgments, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(b) Subsection (a)(5) shall not apply to any transfer of funds within the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term transfer means any movement of funds into or out of a program, project, or activity.

(d) The Bureau of Reclamation shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing all the funds reprogrammed between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 202. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to determine the final point of discharge for the interceptor drain for the San Luis Unit until development by the Secretary of the Interior and the State of California of a plan, which shall conform to the water quality standards of the State of California as approved by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to minimize any detrimental effect of the San Luis drainage waters.

(b) The costs of the Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and the costs of the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program shall be classified by the Secretary of the Interior as reimbursable or nonreimbursable and collected until fully repaid pursuant to the "Cleanup Program—Alternative Repayment Plan" and the "SJVDP—Alternative Repayment Plan" described in the report entitled "Repayment Report, Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program, February 1995", prepared by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. Any future obligations of funds by the United States relating to, or providing for, drainage service or drainage studies for the San Luis Unit shall be fully reimbursable by San Luis Unit beneficiaries of such service or studies pursuant to Federal reclamation law.

SEC. 203. Title I of Public Law 108-361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act) (118 Stat. 1681), as amended by section 210 of Public Law 111-85, is amended by striking "2017" each place it appears and inserting "2019".

SEC. 204. Section 9504(e) of the Secure Water Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 10364(e)) is amended by striking "\$350,000,000" and inserting "\$450,000,000, on the condition that of that amount, \$50,000,000 is used to carry out section 206 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (43 U.S.C. 620 note; Public Law 113-235)".

SEC. 205. Section 205 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113; 129 Stat. 2242), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking "feasibility studies described in clauses (i)(II) and (ii)(I)" and inserting "feasibility study described in clause (i)(II)"; and

(B) by striking "such studies" and inserting "such study";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

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

"(3) not later than November 30, 2017, complete and submit to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate the feasibility study described in section 103(d)(1)(A)(ii)(I) of the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act (Public Law 108-361; 118 Stat. 1684);"

SEC. 206. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Agriculture, may enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy of Sciences shall conduct a comprehensive study, to be completed not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, on the effectiveness and environmental impact of salt cedar control efforts (including biological control) in increasing water supplies, restoring riparian habitat, and improving flood management.

(b) Not later than 1 year after the date of completion of the study under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, may prepare a plan for the removal of salt cedar from all Federal land in the Lower Colorado River basin based on the findings and recommendations of the study conducted by the National Academy of Sciences that includes—

(1) provisions for revegetating Federal land with native vegetation;

(2) provisions for adapting to the increasing presence of biological control in the Lower Colorado River basin;

(3) provisions for removing salt cedar from Federal land during post-wildfire recovery activities;

(4) strategies for developing partnerships with State, tribal, and local governmental entities in the eradication of salt cedar; and

(5) budget estimates and completion timelines for the implementation of plan elements.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENERGY PROGRAMS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy efficiency and renewable energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$2,073,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$153,500,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction: Provided further, That of such amount \$220,600,000 shall be available for the Weatherization Assistance Program, of which \$6,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the amount otherwise available for Building Technologies: Provided further, That of such amount, \$95,400,000 shall be available for wind energy.

ELECTRICITY DELIVERY AND ENERGY RELIABILITY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for electricity delivery and energy reliability activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$206,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$28,500,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for nuclear energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and the purchase of no more than three emergency service vehicles for replacement only, \$1,057,903,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, the Secretary of Energy may obligate up to \$10,000,000 under existing authorities, for contracting for the management of used nuclear fuel to which the Secretary holds the title or has a contract to accept title: Provided further, That of such amount, \$80,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

FOSSIL ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out fossil energy research and development activities, under the authority of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition of interest, including defeasible and equitable interests in any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition or expansion, and for conducting inquiries, technological investigations and research concerning the extraction, processing, use, and disposal of mineral substances without objectionable social and environmental costs (30 U.S.C. 3, 1602, and 1603), \$632,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of the amount made available under this heading in this Act, \$60,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

NAVAL PETROLEUM AND OIL SHALE RESERVES

For Department of Energy expenses necessary to carry out naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities, \$14,950,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, unobligated funds remaining from prior years shall be available for all naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility development and operations and program management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended. Provided, That as authorized by section 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-74), the Secretary of the Department of Energy shall drawdown and sell not to exceed \$375,400,000 of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in fiscal year 2017: Provided further, That the proceeds from such drawdown and sale shall be deposited into the Energy Security and Infrastructure Modernization Fund during fiscal year 2017 and shall remain available until expended for necessary expenses in carrying out construction, operations, maintenance, repair, and replacement activities of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve storage, operation, and management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$6,500,000, to remain available until expended.

ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities of the Energy Information Administration, \$122,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NON-DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for non-defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$255,000,000, to remain available until expended.

URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING FUND

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out uranium enrichment facility decontamination and decommissioning, remedial actions, and other activities of title II of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, \$717,741,000, to be derived from the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund, to remain available until expended, of which \$30,000,000 shall be available in accordance with title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

SCIENCE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for science activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and purchase of not more than 17 passenger motor vehicles for replacement only, including one ambulance and one bus, \$5,400,000,000, to

remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$191,500,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY—
ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities authorized by section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110-69), \$325,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$29,250,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

OFFICE OF INDIAN ENERGY

For necessary expenses for Indian Energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That, of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$4,800,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

TRIBAL ENERGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

For the cost of loan guarantees provided under section 2602(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(c)), \$8,500,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the cost of those loan guarantees (including the costs of modifying loans, as applicable) shall be determined in accordance with section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a): Provided further, That, for necessary administrative expenses to carry out that program, \$500,000 is appropriated, to remain available until expended: Provided further, That, of the subsidy amounts provided by section 1425 of the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (Public Law 112-10; 125 Stat. 126), for the cost of loan guarantees for renewable energy or efficient end-use energy technologies under section 1703 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16513), \$9,000,000 is permanently canceled.

TITLE 17 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN
GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Such sums as are derived from amounts received from borrowers pursuant to section 1702(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 under this heading in prior Acts, shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided, That for necessary administrative expenses to carry out this Loan Guarantee program, \$37,000,000 is appropriated from fees collected in prior years pursuant to section 1702(h) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 which are not otherwise appropriated, to remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided further, That if the amount in the previous proviso is not available from such fees, an amount for such purposes is also appropriated from the general fund so as to result in a total amount appropriated for such purpose of no more than \$37,000,000: Provided further, That fees collected pursuant to such section 1702(h) for fiscal year 2017 shall be credited as offsetting collections under this heading and shall not be available until appropriated: Provided further, That the Department of Energy shall not subordinate any loan obligation to other financing in violation of section 1702 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 or subordinate any Guaranteed Obligation to any loan or other debt obligations in violation of section 609.10 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES
MANUFACTURING LOAN PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary in carrying out the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Department of Energy necessary for departmental adminis-

tration in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$232,142,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$30,000, plus such additional amounts as necessary to cover increases in the estimated amount of cost of work for others notwithstanding the provisions of the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.): Provided, That such increases in cost of work are offset by revenue increases of the same or greater amount: Provided further, That moneys received by the Department for miscellaneous revenues estimated to total \$103,000,000 in fiscal year 2017 may be retained and used for operating expenses within this account, as authorized by section 201 of Public Law 95-238, notwithstanding the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 3302: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$129,142,000.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of the Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$44,424,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY

ADMINISTRATION

WEAPONS ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for atomic energy defense weapons activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$9,285,147,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$106,600,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for defense nuclear nonproliferation activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,821,916,000, to remain available until expended.

NAVAL REACTORS

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for naval reactors activities to carry out the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition (by purchase, condemnation, construction, or otherwise) of real property, plant, and capital equipment, facilities, and facility expansion, \$1,351,520,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$47,100,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

FEDERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for Federal Salaries and Expenses in the National Nuclear Security Administration, \$408,603,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, including official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$12,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER DEFENSE
ACTIVITIES

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for atomic energy defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and the purchase of not to exceed one fire apparatus pumper truck, one aerial lift truck, one refuse truck, and one semi-truck for replacement only, \$5,379,018,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount \$290,050,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

DEFENSE URANIUM ENRICHMENT
DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for atomic energy defense environmental cleanup activities for Department of Energy contributions for uranium enrichment decontamination and decommissioning activities, \$717,741,000, to be deposited into the Defense Environmental Cleanup account which shall be transferred to the "Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund".

OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses, necessary for atomic energy defense, other defense activities, and classified activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$791,552,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$258,061,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, for program direction.

POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION FUND

Expenditures from the Bonneville Power Administration Fund, established pursuant to Public Law 93-454, are approved for official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$5,000: Provided, That during fiscal year 2017, no new direct loan obligations may be made.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHEASTERN
POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, including transmission wheeling and ancillary services, pursuant to section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the southeastern power area, \$1,000,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, up to \$1,000,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southeastern Power Administration: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation estimated at

not more than \$0: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$60,760,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, for construction and acquisition of transmission lines, substations and appurtenant facilities, and for administrative expenses, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500 in carrying out section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration, \$45,643,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), up to \$34,586,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southwestern Power Administration: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation estimated at not more than \$11,057,000: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$73,000,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

For carrying out the functions authorized by title III, section 302(a)(1)(E) of the Act of August 4, 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7152), and other related activities including conservation and renewable resources programs as authorized, \$307,144,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended, of which \$299,742,000 shall be derived from the Department of the Interior Reclamation Fund: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), and section 1 of the Interior Department Appropriation Act, 1939 (43 U.S.C. 392a), up to \$211,563,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Western Area Power Administration: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation estimated at

not more than \$95,581,000, of which \$88,179,000 is derived from the Reclamation Fund: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$367,009,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 and the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

FALCON AND AMISTAD OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE FUND

For operation, maintenance, and emergency costs for the hydroelectric facilities at the Falcon and Amistad Dams, \$4,070,000, to remain available until expended, and to be derived from the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund of the Western Area Power Administration, as provided in section 2 of the Act of June 18, 1954 (68 Stat. 255): Provided, That notwithstanding the provisions of that Act and of 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$3,838,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services from the Falcon and Amistad Dams shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the hydroelectric facilities of these Dams and associated Western Area Power Administration activities: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation estimated at not more than \$232,000: Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2017, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration may accept up to \$323,000 in funds contributed by United States power customers of the Falcon and Amistad Dams for deposit into the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund, and such funds shall be available for the purpose for which contributed in like manner as if said sums had been specifically appropriated for such purpose: Provided further, That any such funds shall be available without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation for use by the Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission for the sole purpose of operating, maintaining, repairing, rehabilitating, replacing, or upgrading the hydroelectric facilities at these Dams in accordance with agreements reached between the Administrator, Commissioner, and the power customers.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to carry out the provisions of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$3,000, and the hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$346,800,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$346,800,000 of revenues from fees and annual charges, and other services and collections in fiscal year 2017 shall be retained and used for expenses necessary in this account, and shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be

reduced as revenues are received during fiscal year 2017 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 301. (a) No appropriation, funds, or authority made available by this title for the Department of Energy shall be used to initiate or resume any program, project, or activity or to prepare or initiate Requests For Proposals or similar arrangements (including Requests for Quotations, Requests for Information, and Funding Opportunity Announcements) for a program, project, or activity if the program, project, or activity has not been funded by Congress.

(b)(1) Unless the Secretary of Energy notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 full business days in advance, none of the funds made available in this title may be used—

(A) make a grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling \$1,000,000 or more;

(B) make a discretionary contract award or Other Transaction Agreement totaling \$1,000,000 or more, including a contract covered by the Federal Acquisition Regulation;

(C) issue a letter of intent to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A) or (B); or

(D) announce publicly the intention to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 15 days of the conclusion of each quarter a report detailing each grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling less than \$1,000,000 provided during the previous quarter.

(3) The notification required by paragraph (1) and the report required by paragraph (2) shall include the recipient of the award, the amount of the award, the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated, the account and program, project, or activity from which the funds are being drawn, the title of the award, and a brief description of the activity for which the award is made.

(c) The Department of Energy may not, with respect to any program, project, or activity that uses budget authority made available in this title under the heading "Department of Energy—Energy Programs", enter into a multiyear contract, award a multiyear grant, or enter into a multiyear cooperative agreement unless—

(1) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award; or

(2) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement includes a clause conditioning the Federal Government's obligation on the availability of future year budget authority and the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 days in advance.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g), the amounts made available by this title shall be expended as authorized by law for the programs, projects, and activities specified in the "Final Bill" column in the "Department of Energy" table included under the heading "Title III—Department of Energy" in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act.

(e) The amounts made available by this title may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Department shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program, project, or activity funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$5,000,000 or 10

percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(f) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates, initiates, or eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(2) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act; or

(3) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by this Act.

(g)(1) The Secretary of Energy may waive any requirement or restriction in this section that applies to the use of funds made available for the Department of Energy if compliance with such requirement or restriction would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver.

(h) The unexpended balances of prior appropriations provided for activities in this Act may be available to the same appropriation accounts for such activities established pursuant to this title. Available balances may be merged with funds in the applicable established accounts and thereafter may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

SEC. 302. (a) Unobligated balances available from appropriations are hereby permanently rescinded from the following accounts of the Department of Energy in the specified amounts:

(1) "Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Weapons Activities", \$50,400,000.

(2) "Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation", \$14,000,000.

(3) "Energy Program—Fossil Energy Research and Development", \$240,000,000.

(4) "Energy Program—Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program", \$9,500,000.

(5) "Energy Program—Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy", \$20,600,000.

(6) "Energy Program—Nuclear Energy", \$231,000.

(7) "Energy Program—Strategic Petroleum Reserve", \$150,000.

(8) "Energy Program—Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves", \$150,000.

(9) "Energy Program—Science", \$1,700,000.

(b) No amounts may be rescinded by this section from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 303. Funds appropriated by this or any other Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094) during fiscal year 2017 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

SEC. 304. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for the construction of facilities classified as high-hazard nuclear facilities under 10 CFR Part 830 unless independent oversight is conducted by the Office of Enterprise Assessments to ensure the project is in compliance with nuclear safety requirements.

SEC. 305. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to approve critical deci-

sion-2 or critical decision-3 under Department of Energy Order 413.3B, or any successive departmental guidance, for construction projects where the total project cost exceeds \$100,000,000, until a separate independent cost estimate has been developed for the project for that critical decision.

SEC. 306. (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFECTED INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "affected Indian tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

(2) HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE.—The term "high-level radioactive waste" has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

(3) NUCLEAR WASTE FUND.—The term "Nuclear Waste Fund" means the Nuclear Waste Fund established under section 302(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10222(c)).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy.

(5) SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL.—The term "spent nuclear fuel" has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.), the Secretary is authorized, in the current fiscal year and subsequent fiscal years, to conduct a pilot program, through 1 or more private sector partners, to license, construct, and operate 1 or more government or privately owned consolidated storage facilities to provide interim storage as needed for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, with priority for storage given to spent nuclear fuel located on sites without an operating nuclear reactor.

(c) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals for cooperative agreements—

(1) to obtain any license necessary from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the construction of 1 or more consolidated storage facilities;

(2) to demonstrate the safe transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, as applicable; and

(3) to demonstrate the safe storage of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, as applicable, at the 1 or more consolidated storage facilities pending the construction and operation of deep geologic disposal capacity for the permanent disposal of the spent nuclear fuel.

(d) CONSENT-BASED APPROVAL.—Prior to siting a consolidated storage facility pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement to host the facility with—

(1) the Governor of the State;

(2) each unit of local government within the jurisdiction of which the facility is proposed to be located; and

(3) each affected Indian tribe.

(e) APPLICABILITY.—In executing this section, the Secretary shall comply with—

(1) all licensing requirements and regulations of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and

(2) all other applicable laws (including regulations).

(f) PILOT PROGRAM PLAN.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary issues the request for proposals under subsection (c), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a plan to carry out this section that includes—

(1) an estimate of the cost of licensing, constructing, and operating a consolidated storage facility, including the transportation costs, on an annual basis, over the expected lifetime of the facility;

(2) a schedule for—

(A) obtaining any license necessary to construct and operate a consolidated storage facility from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission;

(B) constructing the facility;

(C) transporting spent fuel to the facility; and

(D) removing the spent fuel and decommissioning the facility; and

(3) an estimate of the cost of any financial assistance, compensation, or incentives proposed to be paid to the host State, Indian tribe, or local government;

(4) an estimate of any future reductions in the damages expected to be paid by the United States for the delay of the Department of Energy in accepting spent fuel expected to result from the pilot program;

(5) recommendations for any additional legislation needed to authorize and implement the pilot program; and

(6) recommendations for a mechanism to ensure that any spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste stored at a consolidated storage facility pursuant to this section shall move to deep geologic disposal capacity, following a consent-based approval process for that deep geologic disposal capacity consistent with subsection (d), within a reasonable time after the issuance of a license to construct and operate the consolidated storage facility.

(g) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—Prior to choosing a site for the construction of a consolidated storage facility under this section, the Secretary shall conduct 1 or more public hearings in the vicinity of each potential site and in at least 1 other location within the State in which the site is located to solicit public comments and recommendations.

(h) USE OF NUCLEAR WASTE FUND.—The Secretary may make expenditures from the Nuclear Waste Fund to carry out this section, subject to appropriations.

SEC. 307. (a) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(1) examines the use of a provision described in subsection (b) in any power contracts of the Western Area Power Administration that were executed before or on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) explains the circumstances for not including a provision described in subsection (b) in power contracts of the Western Area Power Administration executed before or on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) A provision referred to in subsection (a) is a termination clause described in section 11 of the general power contract provisions of the Western Power Administration, effective September 1, 2007.

TITLE IV INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the programs authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, and for expenses necessary for the Federal Co-Chairman and the Alternate on the Appalachian Regional Commission, for payment of the Federal share of the administrative expenses of the Commission, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, and hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$151,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in carrying out activities authorized by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by Public Law 100-456, section 1441, \$31,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Delta Regional Authority and to carry out its activities, as authorized by the Delta Regional Authority Act of

2000, notwithstanding sections 382C(b)(2), 382F(d), 382M, and 382N of said Act, \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DENALI COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Denali Commission including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment as necessary and other expenses, \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended, notwithstanding the limitations contained in section 306(g) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998: Provided, That funds shall be available for construction projects in an amount not to exceed 80 percent of total project cost for distressed communities, as defined by section 307 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (division C, title III, Public Law 105-277), as amended by section 701 of appendix D, title VII, Public Law 106-113 (113 Stat. 1501A-280), and an amount not to exceed 50 percent for non-distressed communities: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding payment of a non-Federal share in connection with a grant-in-aid program, amounts under this heading shall be available for the payment of such a non-Federal share for programs undertaken to carry out the purposes of the Commission.

NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Northern Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amounts shall be available for administrative expenses, notwithstanding section 15751(b) of title 40, United States Code.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Commission in carrying out the purposes of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 and the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, \$939,000,000, including official representation expenses not to exceed \$25,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of the amount appropriated herein, not more than \$7,500,000 may be made available for salaries, travel, and other support costs for the Office of the Commission, to remain available until September 30, 2018, of which, notwithstanding section 201(a)(2)(c) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5841(a)(2)(c)), the use and expenditure shall only be approved by a majority vote of the Commission: Provided further, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$822,240,000 in fiscal year 2017 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, and shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, not less than \$5,000,000 shall be for activities related to the development of regulatory infrastructure for advanced nuclear reactor technologies, and \$5,000,000 of that amount shall not be available from fee revenues, notwithstanding 42 U.S.C. 2214: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2017 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation estimated at not more than \$116,760,000: Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, not less than \$543,000 shall be used to implement the requirements of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-101; 128 Stat. 1146).

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$12,129,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided, That revenues from licensing fees, inspec-

tion services, and other services and collections estimated at \$10,044,000 in fiscal year 2017 shall be retained and be available until September 30, 2018, for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2017 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation estimated at not more than \$2,085,000: Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$969,000 shall be for Inspector General services for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, which shall not be available from fee revenues.

NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, as authorized by Public Law 100-203, section 5051, \$3,600,000, to be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund, to remain available until September 30, 2018.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

SEC. 401. (a) The amounts made available by this title for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(b)(1) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission may waive the notification requirement in (a) if compliance with such requirement would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver and shall provide a detailed report to the Committees of such waiver and changes to funding levels to programs, projects, or activities.

(c) Except as provided in subsections (a), (b), and (d), the amounts made available by this title for "Nuclear Regulatory Commission—Salaries and Expenses" shall be expended as directed in the report accompanying this Act.

(d) None of the funds provided for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act.

(e) The Commission shall provide a monthly report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, which includes the following for each program, project, or activity, including any prior year appropriations—

- (1) total budget authority;
- (2) total unobligated balances; and
- (3) total unliquidated obligations.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 502. (a) None of the funds made available in title III of this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the

United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(b) None of the funds made available for any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may be transferred to accounts funded in title III of this Act, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(c) The head of any relevant department or agency funded in this Act utilizing any transfer authority shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a semi-annual report detailing the transfer authorities, except for any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality, used in the previous 6 months and in the year-to-date. This report shall include the amounts transferred and the purposes for which they were transferred, and shall not replace or modify existing notification requirements for each authority.

This Act may be cited as the "Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017".

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY
Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2028 with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-70 modified by the amendment printed in House Report 114-849.

The text of the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the text is as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited the "Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.
- Sec. 4. Availability of funds.

DIVISION A—FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

DIVISION B—SECURITY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

Title I—Department of Defense

Title II—Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in division B of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

SEC. 4. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

(a) Each amount designated in this Act, or in an amendment made by this Act, by the

Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

(b) Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or rescinded, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

DIVISION A—FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

SEC. 101. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (division C of Public Law 114–223) is amended by—

(1) striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting “April 28, 2017”;

(2) striking “0.496 percent” in section 101(b) and inserting “0.1901 percent”; and

(3) inserting after section 145 the following new sections:

“SEC. 146. Amounts made available by section 101 for ‘Department of Agriculture—Farm Service Agency—Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account’ may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to fund loans for which applications are approved.

“SEC. 147. Amounts made available by section 101 for ‘Department of Agriculture—Food and Nutrition Service—Child Nutrition Programs’ to carry out section 749(g) of the Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–80) may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to ensure that the program can be fully operational by May, 2017.

“SEC. 148. Section 26(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769g(d)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ‘2010 through 2016’ and inserting ‘2010 through 2017’.

“SEC. 149. Amounts made available by section 101 for ‘Department of Agriculture—Rural Utilities Service’ may be transferred between appropriations under such heading as necessary for the cost of direct telecommunications loans authorized by section 305 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 935).

“SEC. 150. Amounts made available by Section 101 for ‘Department of Agriculture—Rural Housing Service—Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account’ for the section 538 Guaranteed Multi-Family Housing Loan Program may be apportioned up to the rate necessary to fund loans for which applications are approved.

“SEC. 151. Amounts made available by section 101 for ‘Department of Commerce—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Procurement, Acquisition and Construction’ may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain the planned launch schedules for the Joint Polar Satellite System.

“SEC. 152. Amounts made available by section 101 for ‘Department of Commerce—Bureau of the Census—Periodic Censuses and Programs’ may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain the schedule and deliver the required data according to statutory deadlines in the 2020 Decennial Census Program.

“SEC. 153. Amounts made available by section 101 for ‘National Aeronautics and Space Administration—Exploration’ may be apportioned up to the rate for operations nec-

essary to maintain the planned launch capability schedules for the Space Launch System launch vehicle, Exploration Ground Systems, and Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle programs.

“SEC. 154. In addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101, and notwithstanding section 104 and section 109, for ‘Department of Justice—State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Office of Justice Programs—State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance’, there is appropriated \$7,000,000, for an additional amount for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program for the purpose of providing reimbursement of extraordinary law enforcement overtime costs directly and solely associated with protection of the President-elect incurred from November 9, 2016 until the inauguration of the President-elect as President: *Provided*, That reimbursement shall be provided only for overtime costs that a State or local law enforcement agency can document as being over and above normal law enforcement operations and directly attributable to security for the President-elect.

“SEC. 155. Notwithstanding sections 101, 102, and 104 of this Act, from within amounts provided for ‘Department of Defense—Procurement—Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy’, funds are provided for ‘Ohio Replacement Submarine (AP)’ at a rate for operations of \$773,138,000.

“SEC. 156. (a) Notwithstanding sections 102 and 104 of this Act, amounts made available pursuant to section 101 may be used for multiyear procurement contracts, including advance procurement, for the AH–64E Attack Helicopter and the UH–60M Black Hawk Helicopter.

“(b) The Secretary of the Army may exercise the authority conferred in subsection (a) notwithstanding subsection (i)(1) of section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, until the date of enactment of an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, subject to satisfaction of all other requirements of such section 2306b.

“SEC. 157. Notwithstanding section 102, funds made available pursuant to section 101 for ‘Department of Defense—Procurement—Aircraft Procurement, Air Force’ are provided for the KC–46A Tanker up to the rate for operations necessary to support the production rate specified in the President’s fiscal year 2017 budget request.

“SEC. 158. Notwithstanding section 101, section 301(d) of division D of Public Law 114–113 shall not apply to amounts made available by this Act for ‘Department of Energy—Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Weapons Activities’: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 15 days after funds made available by this Act for such account are allotted to a Department of Energy program, project, or activity at a rate for operations that differs from that provided under such heading in division D of Public Law 114–113 by more than \$5,000,000 or 10 percent.

“SEC. 159. As authorized by section 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–74; 42 U.S.C. 6239 note), the Secretary of Energy shall draw down and sell not to exceed \$375,400,000 of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in fiscal year 2017: *Provided*, That the proceeds from such drawdown and sale shall be deposited into the ‘Energy Security and Infrastructure Modernization Fund’ (in this section referred

to as the ‘Fund’) during fiscal year 2017: *Provided further*, That in addition to amounts otherwise made available by section 101, and notwithstanding section 104, any amounts deposited in the Fund shall be made available and shall remain available until expended at a rate for operations of \$375,400,000, for necessary expenses in carrying out the Life Extension II project for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

“SEC. 160. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund’ at a rate for operations of \$767,014,000: *Provided*, That such amounts may not be reprogrammed below the levels provided in the table referred to in section 301(d) of division D of Public Law 114–113.

“(b) As of the date of the enactment of this section, section 123 of this Act shall not be in effect.

“SEC. 161. In addition to amounts provided by section 101, amounts are provided for ‘General Services Administration—Allowances and Office Staff for Former Presidents’ for the pension of the outgoing President at a rate for operations of \$157,000.

“SEC. 162. (a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ‘SOAR Funding Availability Act’.

“(b) REQUIREMENT OF FUNDS REMAINING UNOBLIGATED FROM PREVIOUS FISCAL YEARS.—Section 3007 of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (sec. 38–1853.07, D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) REQUIREMENT OF FUNDS REMAINING UNOBLIGATED FROM PREVIOUS FISCAL YEARS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that any funds appropriated for the opportunity scholarship program under this division for any fiscal year remain available for subsequent fiscal years under section 3014(c), the Secretary shall make such funds available to eligible entities receiving grants under section 3004(a) for the uses described in paragraph (2)—

“(A) in the case of any remaining funds that were appropriated before the date of enactment of the SOAR Funding Availability Act, beginning on the date of enactment of such Act; and

“(B) in the case of any remaining funds appropriated on or after the date of enactment of such Act, by the first day of the first subsequent fiscal year.

“(2) USE OF FUNDS.—If an eligible entity to which the Secretary provided additional funds under paragraph (1) elects to use such funds during a fiscal year, the eligible entity shall use—

“(A) not less than 95 percent of such additional funds to provide additional scholarships for eligible students under subsection (a), or to increase the amount of the scholarships, during such year; and

“(B) not more than a total of 5 percent of such additional funds for administrative expenses, parental assistance, or tutoring, as described in subsections (b), (c), and (d), during such year.

“(3) SPECIAL RULE.—Any amounts made available for administrative expenses, parental assistance, or tutoring under paragraph (2)(B) shall be in addition to any other amounts made available for such purposes in accordance with subsections (b), (c), and (d).”

“(c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Section 3014 of such Act (sec. 38–1853.14, D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated under subsection (a)(1), including amounts appropriated and available under such subsection before the date of enactment of the SOAR Funding Availability Act, shall remain available until expended.”

“(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this section.

“SEC. 163. Amounts made available by section 101 for ‘U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Operations and Support’, ‘U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—Operations and Support’, ‘Transportation Security Administration—Operations and Support’, and ‘United States Secret Service—Operations and Support’ accounts of the Department of Homeland Security shall be apportioned at a rate for operations as necessary, and apportioned to provide staffing levels as necessary, to ensure border security, fulfill immigration enforcement priorities, maintain aviation security activities, and carry out the mission associated with the protection of the President-elect.

“SEC. 164. Amounts made available by section 101 for ‘National Gallery of Art—Salaries and Expenses’ may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to provide for staffing, maintenance, security, and administrative expenses for the recently reopened galleries.

“SEC. 165. Amounts made available by section 101 for ‘Smithsonian Institution—Salaries and Expenses’ may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to provide for facilities maintenance, facilities operations, security, and support at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

“SEC. 166. Amounts made available by section 101 for ‘Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Services’ and for ‘Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Facilities’, respectively, may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to provide for costs of staffing and operating newly constructed facilities.

“SEC. 167. MINERS HEALTH BENEFITS.—“(a) IN GENERAL.—This section may be cited as the ‘Continued Health Benefits for Miners Act’.

“(b) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN RETIREES IN THE MULTIEMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.—Section 402(h)(2)(C) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(h)(2)(C)) is amended—

“(1) by striking ‘A transfer’ and inserting the following:

“(i) TRANSFER TO THE PLAN.—A transfer’;

“(2) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and moving such subclauses 2 ems to the right; and

“(3) by striking the matter following such subclause (II) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

“(i) CALCULATION OF EXCESS.—The excess determined under clause (i) shall be calculated—

“(I) except as provided in subclause (II), by taking into account only those beneficiaries actually enrolled in the Plan as of December 31, 2006, who are eligible to receive health benefits under the Plan on the first day of the calendar year for which the transfer is made; and

“(II) for purposes of the transfer made for fiscal year 2017, as if, for the period beginning January 1, 2017, and ending April 30, 2017, only—

“(aa) those beneficiaries actually enrolled in the Plan as of the date of the enactment

of the Continued Health Benefits for Miners Act who are eligible to receive health benefits under the Plan on January 1, 2017, other than those beneficiaries enrolled in the Plan under the terms of a participation agreement with the current or former employer of such beneficiaries; and

“(bb) those beneficiaries whose health benefits, defined as those benefits payable directly following death or retirement or upon a finding of disability by an employer in the bituminous coal industry under a coal wage agreement (as defined in section 9701(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), would be denied or reduced as a result of a bankruptcy proceeding commenced in 2012 or 2015, were taken into account, and for any other period during such fiscal year, only the beneficiaries described in subclause (I) were taken into account.

“(iii) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN RETIREES.—Individuals referred to in clause (ii)(II)(bb) shall be treated as eligible to receive health benefits under the Plan for the plan year that includes January 1, 2017.

“(iv) REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFER.—The amount of the transfer otherwise determined under this subparagraph for fiscal year 2017 shall be reduced by any amount transferred for the fiscal year to the Plan, to pay benefits required under the Plan, from a voluntary employees’ beneficiary association established as a result of a bankruptcy proceeding described in clause (ii)(II).

“(v) VEBA TRANSFER.—The administrator of such voluntary employees’ beneficiary association shall transfer to the Plan any amounts received as a result of such bankruptcy proceeding, reduced by an amount for administrative costs of such association.”

“(c) PRESERVATION OF PAYMENTS TO STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—Subparagraph (B) of section 402(i)(3) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(i)(3)) is amended—

“(1) by striking ‘so that’ and inserting ‘under paragraph (1) so that’;

“(2) by striking ‘each transfer’ in clause (i) and inserting ‘each such transfer’; and

“(3) by striking ‘this subsection’ in clause (iii) and inserting ‘paragraph (1)’.

“(d) BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—

“(1) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

“(2) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

“(3) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this section shall not be estimated—

“(A) for purposes of section 251 of such Act; and

“(B) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

“SEC. 168. Notwithstanding section 111, the fourth proviso under the heading ‘Department of Labor—Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs—Special Benefits’ shall be applied by substituting ‘\$66,675,000’ for ‘\$62,170,000’, ‘\$22,740,000’ for ‘\$21,140,000’, ‘\$16,866,000’ for ‘\$16,668,000’ and ‘\$4,101,000’ for ‘\$1,394,000’.

“SEC. 169. Section 458(a)(4) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087h(a)(4)) shall be applied by substituting ‘2017’ for ‘2016’.

“SEC. 170. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’) may transfer up to \$300,000,000 from the Fund established by section 223 of the Department of Health and Human Services Appropriations Act, 2008 (42 U.S.C. 3514a) to ‘Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Refugee and Entrant Assistance’ only for activities authorized under section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279) and section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232): *Provided*, That such funds transferred shall not be available for obligation prior to February 1, 2017.

“(b) In addition to amounts provided by subsection (a), if after March 1, 2017, and before the date specified in section 106(3), the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, determines that the percentage increase in the cumulative number of cases transferred to the custody of the Secretary pursuant to such sections 462 and 235 for the current fiscal year over the number transferred through the comparable date in the previous fiscal year exceeds 40 percent, an amount not to exceed \$200,000,000 may be made available to ‘Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Refugee and Entrant Assistance’ only for activities authorized under such sections 462 and 235.

“(c) The Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate shall be notified at least 15 days in advance of any funds being made available under subsection (a).

“(d) Of the unobligated balances available in the Fund established by section 223 of the Department of Health and Human Services Appropriations Act, 2008 (42 U.S.C. 3514a), \$100,000,000 is hereby rescinded.

“SEC. 171. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, within 10 days of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall transfer funds appropriated for fiscal year 2017 under section 4002 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C. 300u-11) to the accounts specified, in the amounts specified, and for the activities specified in subsection (a) of section 221 of division H of Public Law 114-113, except that the Secretary shall adjust the amounts transferred to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under this section to result in a total amount transferred to such agency under this section that is \$1,000,000 less than the total amount transferred to such agency under such section 221: *Provided*, That subsections (b) and (c) of such section 221 shall apply to amounts transferred under this section.

“SEC. 172. The fifth proviso under the heading ‘Social Security Administration—Limitation on Administrative Expenses’ in division H of Public Law 114-113 shall be applied during the period covered by this Act by substituting ‘shall be used for activities to address the hearing backlog within the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review’ for ‘shall be for necessary expenses for the renovation and modernization of the Arthur J. Altmeyer Building’.

“SEC. 173. Activities authorized under part A of title IV and section 1108(b) of the Social Security Act (except for activities authorized in section 403(b)) shall continue through

the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2016, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose.

“SEC. 174. The Secretary of Health and Human Services may use discretionary amounts appropriated in this Act for the Department of Health and Human Services to carry out section 399V-6 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g-17).

“SEC. 175. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment shall be made under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during fiscal year 2017.

“SEC. 176. TRANSFER OF O’NEILL BUILDING TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—(a) TRANSFER.—Effective upon the expiration of the 180-day period that begins on the date of the enactment of this section—

“(1) the building described in subsection (e) shall become an office building of the House of Representatives;

“(2) the Administrator of General Services shall transfer custody, control, and administrative jurisdiction over the building to the Architect of the Capitol; and

“(3) the Architect of the Capitol shall exercise custody, control, and administrative jurisdiction over the building subject to the direction of the House Office Building Commission.

“(b) TREATMENT AS HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING AND PART OF CAPITOL GROUNDS.—Upon the transfer of custody, control, and administrative jurisdiction under subsection (a), the building and grounds described in subsection (e) shall be treated as a House Office Building and as part of the United States Capitol Grounds for purposes of all laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the House Office Buildings and the Capitol Grounds, including—

“(1) chapter 51 of title 40, United States Code (relating to the administration of the United States Capitol Buildings and Grounds); and

“(2) section 9 of the Act entitled ‘An Act to define the area of the United States Capitol Grounds, to regulate the use thereof, and for other purposes’, approved July 31, 1946 (2 U.S.C. 1961) (relating to the authority of the United States Capitol Police to police the United States Capitol Buildings and Grounds).

“(c) AUTHORITY OF ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL TO ENTER INTO LEASES AND OTHER AGREEMENTS WITH FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES FOR USE OF BUILDING.—

“(1) AUTHORITY DESCRIBED.—The Architect of the Capitol is authorized to enter into leases and other agreements with departments and agencies of the Federal Government for the use of the building described in subsection (e) (or portions thereof), subject to the approval of the House Office Building Commission.

“(2) COLLECTION OF PAYMENTS.—Pursuant to a lease or other agreement entered into between the Architect of the Capitol and a department or agency of the Federal Government under the authority described in paragraph (1), the Architect of the Capitol is authorized to collect payments from such department or agency and such department or agency is authorized to make payments to the Architect of the Capitol, including payments of commercially-equivalent rent.

“(3) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—Any payments received by the Architect of the Capitol pursuant to any lease or other agree-

ment entered into under this subsection shall be deposited to the appropriation available to the Architect of the Capitol from the House Office Buildings Fund established under subsection (d) and shall be subject to future appropriation.

“(d) HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS FUND.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the ‘House Office Buildings Fund’ (hereafter in this section referred to as the ‘Fund’).

“(2) CONTENTS OF FUND.—The Fund shall consist of the following amounts:

“(A) Amounts transferred by the Architect of the Capitol under paragraph (3) of subsection (c).

“(B) Interest earned on the balance of the Fund.

“(C) Such other amounts as may be appropriated by law.

“(3) USE OF FUND.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available to the Architect of the Capitol for the maintenance, care, and operation of the House office buildings, and may be used to reimburse the United States Capitol Police, the House of Representatives, or any other office of the legislative branch which provides goods or services for the maintenance, care, and operation of the building and grounds described in subsection (e), in such amounts as may be appropriated under law.

“(4) NOTIFICATION TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.—Upon making any obligation or expenditure of any amount in the Fund, the Architect of the Capitol shall notify the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives of the amount and purpose of the obligation or expenditure.

“(5) CONTINUING AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the Fund are available without regard to fiscal year limitation.

“(e) DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS.—

“(1) DESCRIPTION.—The building and grounds described in this subsection is the Federal building located in the District of Columbia which is commonly known as the ‘Thomas P. O’Neill Jr. Federal Building’, and which is more particularly described as follows: Square 579, Lot 827, at 200 C Street Southwest, bounded by C Street Southwest on the north, by 2nd Street Southwest on the east, by D Street Southwest on the south, and by 3rd Street Southwest on the west, and by all that area contiguous to and surrounding Square 579 from the property line thereof to the west curb of 3rd Street Southwest, the north curb of C Street Southwest, the east curb of 2nd Street Southwest, and the south curb of D Street Southwest.

“(2) RETENTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—The Mayor of the District of Columbia will retain responsibility for the maintenance and improvement of those portions of the streets which are situated between the curb lines of the streets referenced in paragraph (1).

“SEC. 177. (a) During the 115th Congress—

“(1) amounts made available for the Office of the Secretary of the Conference of the Minority of the Senate shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Minority Leader of the Senate; and

“(2) the duties and authorities of the Secretary of the Conference of the Minority of the Senate under section 3 of title I of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (2 U.S.C. 6154), section 101 of chapter VIII of title I of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1979 (2 U.S.C. 6156), or any other provision of law shall be duties and authorities of the Assistant Minority Leader of the Senate.

“(b) For purposes of any individual employed by the Office of the Assistant Minority Leader of the Senate during the 115th Congress—

“(1) section 506(e) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1973 (2 U.S.C. 6314(e)) shall be applied by substituting ‘Assistant Minority Leader’ for ‘Secretary of the Conference of the Minority’;

“(2) section 207(e)(9)(M) of title 18, United States Code, shall be applied by substituting ‘Assistant Minority Leader’ for ‘secretary of the Conference of the Minority’; and

“(3) subsection (b) of the first section of S. Res. 458 (98th Congress) shall be applied by substituting ‘Assistant Minority Leader’ for ‘Secretary of the Conference of the Minority’.

“(c) For purposes of any individual employed by the Office of the Assistant Minority Leader of the Senate during the 115th Congress, with respect to any practice that occurs during that Congress, section 220(e)(2)(C) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1351(e)(2)(C)) shall be applied by substituting ‘the Office of the Assistant Minority Leader of the Senate’ for ‘the Office of the Secretary of the Conference of the Minority of the Senate’.

“(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to have any effect on the continuation of any procedure or action initiated under the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) or section 207 of title 18, United States Code.

“SEC. 178. Section 21(d) of Senate Resolution 64 of the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress, 1st session (agreed to on March 5, 2013) is amended by striking ‘December 31, 2016’ and inserting ‘December 31, 2018’.

“SEC. 179. EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN LEGISLATION.—

“(a) QUALIFYING LEGISLATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘qualifying legislation’ means a Senate bill or joint resolution—

“(1) that is introduced in the Senate during the 30-calendar day period beginning on the date on which Congress convenes the First Session of the 115th Congress;

“(2) the title of which is as follows: ‘To provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.’; and

“(3) the matter after the enacting or resolving clause of which is as follows:

“SECTION 1. EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY AS REGULAR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the second sentence of section 113(a) of title 10, United States Code, the first person appointed, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as Secretary of Defense after the date of the enactment of this Act may be a person who is, on the date of appointment, within seven years after relief, but not within three years after relief, from active duty as a commissioned officer of a regular component of the Armed Forces.

“(b) LIMITED EXCEPTION.—This section applies only to the first person appointed as Secretary of Defense as described in subsection (a) after the date of the enactment of this Act, and to no other person.’

“(b) INTRODUCTION.—During the 30-calendar day period described in subsection (a)(1), qualifying legislation may be introduced in the Senate by the Majority Leader (or the Majority Leader’s designee), the Minority

Leader (or the Minority Leader's designee), the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, or the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Armed Services.

“(c) CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

“(1) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—Qualifying legislation introduced in the Senate shall be referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

“(2) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the Committee on Armed Services has not reported the qualifying legislation within 5 session days after the date of referral of the legislation, the Committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the legislation, and the qualifying legislation shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

“(3) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time after the Committee on Armed Services reports the qualifying legislation to the Senate or has been discharged from its consideration (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of the qualifying legislation, and all points of order against the qualifying legislation (and against consideration of the qualifying legislation) are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the qualifying legislation is agreed to, the qualifying legislation shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

“(4) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration of the qualifying legislation, and all debate, debatable motions, and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between, and controlled by, the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their designees. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the qualifying legislation is not in order.

“(5) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage shall occur immediately following the conclusion of the debate on the qualifying legislation and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate, if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate. Passage of the qualifying legislation shall require an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

“(6) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to qualifying legislation shall be decided without debate.

“(7) CONSIDERATION OF VETO MESSAGES.—Consideration in the Senate of any veto message with respect to the qualifying legislation, including all debate, debatable motions, and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to 10 hours, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their designees.

“(d) RULES OF THE SENATE.—This section is enacted—

“(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and as such is deemed a part of the rules of the Senate, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in the Senate in the case of qualifying legislation described in subsection (a), and supercedes other rules only to the extent that this section is inconsistent with such rules; and

“(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of the Senate to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of the Senate) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of the Senate.

“SEC. 180. Section 133 of division L of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, Public Law 114-113, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the requirement for two off-duty periods from 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. under paragraph 395.3(c) or the restriction on use of more than one restart during a 168-hour period under paragraph 395.3(d) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, and those provisions shall have no force or effect upon submission of the final report issued by the Secretary of Transportation, as required by section 133 of division K of Public Law 113-235, unless the Secretary and the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation each review and determine that the final report

“(1) meets the statutory requirements set forth in such section; and

“(2) establishes that commercial motor vehicle drivers who operated under the restart provisions in operational effect between July 1, 2013, and the day before the date of enactment of such Public Law demonstrated statistically significant improvement in all outcomes related to safety, operator fatigue, driver health and longevity, and work schedules, in comparison to commercial motor vehicle drivers who operated under the restart provisions in operational effect on June 30, 2013.

“(b) If the Secretary and the Inspector General do not each make the findings outlined in subsection (a) of this section with respect to the final report, hereafter, the 34-hour restart rule in operational effect on June 30, 2013 shall be restored to full force and effect on the date that the Secretary submits the final report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act shall be available to implement, administer, or enforce the rule.”

“SEC. 181. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for ‘Department of Transportation—Federal Aviation Administration—Operations’ may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid disruption of continuing projects or activities funded by this appropriation.

“(b) Notwithstanding section 101, the matter preceding the first proviso under the heading ‘Department of Transportation—Federal Aviation Administration—Facilities and Equipment’ in division L of Public Law 114-113 shall be applied by substituting ‘\$479,412,000’ for ‘\$470,049,000’ and ‘\$2,375,588,000’ for ‘\$2,384,951,000’.

“SEC. 182. (a) Amounts available under section 101 for ‘Department of Transportation—Maritime Administration—Operations and Training’ for facilities maintenance and repair, equipment, and capital improvements at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and any available prior year balances for the Student Incentive Program at State Maritime Academies may, either in whole or part, be used for costs associated with the midshipmen Sea Year training program of the Academy without regard to any limitations on reprogramming or transfer under division L of Public Law 114-113 or otherwise applicable under a provision of this Act.

“(b) The matter under the heading ‘Department of Transportation—Maritime Adminis-

tration—Operations and Training’ in division L of Public Law 114-113 is amended by striking the third proviso (relating to an Academy spending plan).

“SEC. 183. Amounts made available by section 101 for ‘Department of Housing and Urban Development—Public and Indian Housing—Tenant-Based Rental Assistance’ may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to renew grants for rental assistance and administrative costs that were provided pursuant to the third through tenth provisos of paragraph (5) under such heading in title II of division K of Public Law 113-235 (128 Stat. 2732).

“SEC. 184. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if not later than 10 days after the end of the Second Session of the 114th Congress, the Office of Management and Budget (‘OMB’) determines that the total of enacted appropriations for fiscal year 2017 subject to the discretionary spending limits in section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, excluding any appropriations that would result in adjustments under section 251(b)(2) of such Act, does not exceed the sum of the unadjusted discretionary spending limits for fiscal year 2017 in section 251(c)(4) of such Act and provides written notification of that determination, then the final sequestration report for fiscal year 2017 under section 254(f)(1) of such Act and any order for fiscal year 2017 under section 254(f)(5) of such Act shall be issued, for the Congressional Budget Office, 10 days after the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act and, for OMB, 15 days after the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act: *Provided*, That the written notification required by this section shall include the total dollar amount and estimated uniform percentage that would be required to eliminate a breach within a category if OMB were to issue such final sequestration report and order pursuant to the timetable in section 254(a) of such Act.

“SEC. 185. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, and in addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101 for the ‘Emergency Watershed Protection Program’, there is appropriated \$103,140,000 for an additional amount for fiscal year 2017, to remain available until expended, and for the ‘Emergency Conservation Program’, there is appropriated \$102,978,524 for an additional amount for fiscal year 2017, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That all amounts made available by this section are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

“SEC. 186. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, and in addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101, there is appropriated \$74,700,000 for an additional amount for fiscal year 2017, to remain available until expended, for ‘National Aeronautics and Space Administration—Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration’ for repairs at National Aeronautics and Space Administration facilities damaged by Hurricane Matthew: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

“SEC. 187. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, and in addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101, there is appropriated \$54,827,000 for ‘Corps of Engineers—Civil—Construction’ for an additional amount for fiscal year 2017, to remain

available until expended, for necessary expenses to address emergency situations at Corps of Engineers projects, and to rehabilitate and repair damages to Corps of Engineers projects, caused by natural disasters: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That beginning not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide monthly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds.

“SEC. 188. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, and in addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101, there is appropriated \$290,708,000 for ‘Corps of Engineers—Civil—Mississippi River and Tributaries’ for an additional amount for fiscal year 2017, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses to dredge navigation projects in response to, and repair damages to Corps of Engineers projects caused by, natural disasters: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That beginning not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide monthly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds.

“SEC. 189. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, and in addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101, there is appropriated \$259,574,000 for ‘Corps of Engineers—Civil—Operation and Maintenance’ for an additional amount for fiscal year 2017, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses to dredge navigation projects in response to, and repair damages to Corps of Engineers projects caused by, natural disasters: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That beginning not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide monthly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds.

“SEC. 190. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, and in addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101, there is appropriated \$419,891,000 for ‘Corps of Engineers—Civil—Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies’, as authorized by section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n), for an additional amount for fiscal year 2017, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses to prepare for flood, hurricane and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters as authorized by law: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That beginning not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Assistant Secretary of the Army

for Civil Works shall provide monthly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds.

“SEC. 191. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, and in addition to any amount otherwise provided by section 101 for the ‘Emergency Relief Program’, as authorized by section 125 of title 23, United States Code, there is appropriated \$1,004,017,000 for fiscal year 2017, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

“SEC. 192. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, and in addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101 for ‘Department of Housing and Urban Development—Community Planning and Development—Community Development Fund’, there is appropriated \$1,808,976,000 for an additional amount for fiscal year 2017, to remain available until expended, that is identical to the additional appropriation for fiscal year 2016 in section 145(a) of this Act (except that ‘enactment of this Act’ shall be treated as referring to enactment of this section, and except for the last proviso under such subsection), and with respect to which the same authority and conditions shall be in effect: *Provided*, That of the amount made available by this subsection, \$1,416,000,000 is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and \$392,976,000 is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

“(b) Of the amounts made available by subsection (a) and designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, up to \$3,000,000 may be transferred, in aggregate, to ‘Department of Housing and Urban Development—Program Office Salaries and Expenses—Community Planning and Development’ for necessary costs, including information technology costs, of administering and overseeing the obligation and expenditure of amounts in section 145 and all amounts in this section.

“SEC. 193. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, and in addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an additional amount for fiscal year 2017 of \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended, is provided for ‘Department of Health and Human Services—Food and Drug Administration—FDA Innovation Account’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Account’): *Provided*, That such amounts are appropriated pursuant to section 1002(b)(3) of the 21st Century Cures Act, are to be derived from amounts transferred under section 1002(b)(2)(A) of such Act, are for the necessary expenses to carry out the purposes described under section 1002(b)(4) of such Act, and may be transferred by the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to the appropriation for ‘Department of Health and Human Services—Food and Drug Administration—Salaries and Expenses’ solely for the purposes provided in such Act: *Provided further*, That upon a determination by the Commissioner that funds transferred pursuant to the previous proviso are not necessary for the purposes provided, such amounts may be transferred back to the Account: *Provided further*,

That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

“SEC. 194. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, and in addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an additional amount for fiscal year 2017 of \$352,000,000, to remain available until expended, is provided for ‘Department of Health and Human Services—National Institutes of Health—NIH Innovation Account’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Account’): *Provided*, That such amounts are appropriated pursuant to section 1001(b)(3) of the 21st Century Cures Act, are to be derived from amounts transferred under section 1001(b)(2)(A) of such Act, are for the necessary expenses to carry out the purposes described in section 1001(b)(4) of such Act and in the amounts provided for fiscal year 2017 in such section 1001(b)(4), and may be transferred by the Director of the National Institutes of Health to other accounts of the National Institutes of Health solely for the purposes provided in such Act: *Provided further*, That upon a determination by the Director that funds transferred pursuant to the previous proviso are not necessary for the purposes provided, such amounts may be transferred back to the Account: *Provided further*, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

“SEC. 195. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, and in addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an additional amount for fiscal year 2017 of \$500,000,000, to remain available until expended, is provided for ‘Department of Health and Human Services—Office of the Secretary—Account For the State Response to the Opioid Abuse Crisis’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Account’): *Provided*, That such amounts are appropriated pursuant to section 1003(b)(3) of the 21st Century Cures Act, are to be derived from amounts transferred under section 1003(b)(2)(A) of such Act, are for the necessary expenses to carry out the purposes described under section 1003(c) of such Act, and may be transferred by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to other accounts of the Department solely for the purposes provided in such Act: *Provided further*, That upon a determination by the Secretary that funds transferred pursuant to the previous proviso are not necessary for the purposes provided, such amounts may be transferred back to the Account: *Provided further*, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

“SEC. 196. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101 for ‘Environmental Protection Agency—State and Tribal Assistance Grants’, there is appropriated \$100,000,000 for an additional amount for fiscal year 2017, to remain available until expended, for making capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act pursuant to section 2201 of the Water and Waste Act of 2016.

“(b) The last proviso of paragraph (1) under the heading ‘Environmental Protection Agency—State and Tribal Assistance Grants’ in division G of Public Law 114-113 shall be applied to amounts made available by this section by substituting for ‘only where such debt was incurred on or after the date of enactment of this Act’ the following: ‘where such debt was incurred on or after the date of enactment of this Act, or where such debt was incurred prior to the date of enactment

if the State, with concurrence from the Administrator, determines that such funds could be used to help address a threat to public health from heightened exposure to lead in drinking water or if a Federal or State emergency declaration has been issued due to a threat to public health from heightened exposure to lead in a municipal drinking water supply before the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That in a State in which such an emergency declaration has been issued, the State may use more than 20 percent of the funds made available under this title to the State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients'.

"SEC. 197. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, there is provided for 'Environmental Protection Agency—Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program Account' for the cost of direct loans and for the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.), \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans, including capitalized interest, and total loan principal, including capitalized interest, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$2,073,000,000.

"(b) In addition, fees authorized to be collected pursuant to sections 5029 and 5030 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3908 and 3909) shall be credited to the appropriation made by this section to remain available until expended.

"(c) Of the amounts provided under subsection (a), not to exceed \$3,000,000 shall be for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, notwithstanding section 5033 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3912).

"SEC. 198. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101 for 'Department of Health and Human Services—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Environmental Health', for carrying out section 2203 of the Water and Waste Act of 2016, there is appropriated \$20,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, of which \$17,500,000 shall be for carrying out section 2203(b) of the Water and Waste Act of 2016 and \$2,500,000 shall be for carrying out section 2203(c) of the Water and Waste Act of 2016: *Provided*, That such funds may be made available to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, for carrying out such sections of the Water and Waste Act of 2016.

"SEC. 199. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101 for 'Department of Health and Human Services—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Environmental Health', for carrying out section 2204(a) of the Water and Waste Act of 2016, there is appropriated \$15,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, for childhood lead poisoning prevention programs authorized under section 317A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-1).

"SEC. 200. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in addition to the amount

otherwise provided by section 101 for 'Department of Health and Human Services—Health Resources and Services Administration—Maternal and Child Health', for carrying out section 2204(b) of the Water and Waste Act of 2016, there is appropriated \$15,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, for the Healthy Start Initiative authorized under section 330H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-8).

"SEC. 201. (a) Of any available amounts appropriated under section 301(b)(3) of Public Law 114-10, \$170,000,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this section.

"(b) In the Senate, the budgetary effects of this section shall not count for purposes of the amount in section 3103(b)(3) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016 (S. Con. Res. 11) when determining points of order pursuant to section 3103(b)(1) of that section of that concurrent resolution."

This division may be cited as the "Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017".

DIVISION B—SECURITY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY PERSONNEL

MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for "Military Personnel, Army", \$196,964,000, of which \$94,034,000 is to support counter-terrorism operations and \$102,930,000 is to support the European Reassurance Initiative: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY

For an additional amount for "Military Personnel, Navy", \$10,484,000, of which \$7,354,000 is to support counter-terrorism operations and \$3,130,000 is to support the European Reassurance Initiative: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for "Military Personnel, Marine Corps", \$5,840,000, to support counter-terrorism operations: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Military Personnel, Air Force", \$51,830,000, of which \$37,640,000 is to support counter-terrorism operations and \$14,190,000 is to support the European Reassurance Initiative: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For an additional amount for "Operation and Maintenance, Army", \$3,173,679,000, of

which \$2,734,952,000 is to support counter-terrorism operations and \$438,727,000 is to support the European Reassurance Initiative: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

For an additional amount for "Operation and Maintenance, Navy", \$97,881,000, of which \$95,531,000 is to support counter-terrorism operations and \$2,350,000 is to support the European Reassurance Initiative: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for "Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps", \$180,546,000, of which \$168,446,000 is to support counter-terrorism operations and \$12,100,000 is to support the European Reassurance Initiative: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Operation and Maintenance, Air Force", \$428,046,000, of which \$382,496,000 is to support counter-terrorism operations and \$45,550,000 is to support the European Reassurance Initiative: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide", \$446,283,000, of which \$412,959,000 is to support counter-terrorism operations and \$33,324,000 is to support the European Reassurance Initiative: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

IRAQ TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND

For an additional amount for "Iraq Train and Equip Fund", \$289,500,000, to support counter-terrorism operations: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for "Missile Procurement, Army", \$229,100,000, to support counter-terrorism operations: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for "Other Procurement, Army", \$72,000,000, to support counter-terrorism operations: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress

for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force”, \$201,563,000, to support counter-terrorism operations: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Missile Procurement, Air Force”, \$83,900,000, to support counter-terrorism operations: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Air Force”, \$137,884,000, to support counter-terrorism operations: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army”, \$78,700,000, to support counter-terrorism operations: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide”, \$3,000,000, to support counter-terrorism operations: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

JOINT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DEFEAT FUND

For an additional amount for “Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund”, \$87,800,000, to support counter-terrorism operations: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Diplomatic and Consular Programs”, \$1,052,400,000 to remain available until September 30, 2018, of which \$927,189,000 is for Worldwide Security

Protection and shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such funds are for operational and security requirements to support activities to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, other terrorist organizations, and violent extremism in Africa, Europe and Eurasia, the Middle East, and South and Central Asia, and to counter Russian influence: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for “Office of Inspector General”, \$2,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

EMBASSY SECURITY, CONSTRUCTION, AND MAINTENANCE

For an additional amount for “Embassy Security, Construction, and Maintenance”, \$654,411,000, to remain available until expended, for construction of, and security enhancements for, United States diplomatic facilities in Africa, Europe and Eurasia, the Middle East, and South and Central Asia, of which \$618,411,000 is for Worldwide Security Upgrades: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT OPERATING EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Operating Expenses”, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, for operational and security requirements to support activities to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, other terrorist organizations, and violent extremism in Africa, Europe and Eurasia, the Middle East, and South and Central Asia: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND

For an additional amount for “Capital Investment Fund”, \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Capital Security Cost Sharing Program: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for “Office of Inspector General”, \$2,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “International Disaster Assistance”, \$616,100,000, to

remain available until expended, for international disaster relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction assistance, including in Africa, Europe and Eurasia, the Middle East, and South and Central Asia: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TRANSITION INITIATIVES

For an additional amount for “Transition Initiatives”, \$50,234,000, to remain available until expended, for programs to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, other terrorist organizations, and violent extremism, and address the needs of populations impacted by such organizations: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND

For an additional amount for “Economic Support Fund”, \$1,030,555,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, for programs to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, other terrorist organizations, and violent extremism, and address the needs of populations impacted by such organizations: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading shall be made available for programs that include activities to document, investigate, and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other human rights violations in Iraq and Syria, including to build capacity of Syrian and Iraqi investigators; atrocity prevention, transitional justice, reconciliation, and reintegration programs for vulnerable and persecuted minorities and ethnic groups in the Middle East and North Africa; and support for higher education institutions in Iraq: *Provided further*, That such funds shall also be made available for assistance for major non-North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies in the Middle East and North Africa, including Jordan and Tunisia: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ASSISTANCE FOR EUROPE, EURASIA AND CENTRAL ASIA

For an additional amount for “Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia”, \$157,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, for programs to counter Russian influence: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading shall be made available for assistance for Ukraine, Georgia, and other countries affected by Russian aggression: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, up to \$6,000,000 may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated under the heading “Broadcasting Board of Governors—International Broadcasting Operations” for programs to counter Russian influence: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “Migration and Refugee Assistance”, \$300,000,000, to remain available until expended, to respond to

refugee and migration crises, including in Africa, Europe and Eurasia, the Middle East, and South and Central Asia, except that such funds shall not be made available for the resettlement costs of refugees in the United States: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW
ENFORCEMENT

For an additional amount for “International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement”, \$26,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, for programs in Africa, Europe and Eurasia, and the Middle East: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NONPROLIFERATION, ANTI-TERRORISM,
DEMINE AND RELATED PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs”, \$128,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, for anti-terrorism, demining and related programs and activities in Africa and the Middle East: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

For an additional amount for “Peacekeeping Operations”, \$50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, for equipment, training, logistics, and related support for peacekeeping, stabilization, and counterterrorism programs in Africa and the Middle East: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for a United States contribution to the Multinational Force and Observers mission in the Sinai: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM

For an additional amount for “Foreign Military Financing Program”, \$200,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018, for assistance for countries in Africa, Europe and Eurasia, and the Middle East: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading shall be made available for assistance for Ukraine, Georgia, the Baltic states, Tunisia, and Jordan: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES AND CONDITIONS

SEC. 201. Unless otherwise provided for by this title, the additional amounts appropriated by this title to appropriations accounts in this Act shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2017.

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

SEC. 202. Funds appropriated by this title shall not be available for obligation unless the Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, has notified the Committees on Appropriations in writing at least 15 days in advance of such obligation: *Provided*, That the requirement of this section shall not apply to funds made available by this title under the headings “Department of State—Administration of Foreign Affairs—Office of Inspector General”, “United States Agency for International Development—Funds Appropriated to the President—Office of Inspector General”, “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—International Disaster Assistance”, and “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Department of State—Migration and Refugee Assistance”.

TRANSFER AUTHORITY

SEC. 203. (a) Funds appropriated by this title under the headings “Diplomatic and Consular Programs”, including for Worldwide Security Protection, and “Embassy Security, Construction, and Maintenance” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this title under such headings if the Secretary of State determines and reports to the Committees on Appropriations that to do so is necessary to implement the recommendations of the Benghazi Accountability Review Board, or to prevent or respond to security situations and requirements.

(b) Funds appropriated by this title under the headings “International Disaster Assistance” and “Migration and Refugee Assistance” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this title under such headings.

(c) Funds appropriated by this title under the headings “Economic Support Fund” and “Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this title under the heading “International Disaster Assistance”.

(d) Funds appropriated by this title under the headings “International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement”, “Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs”, “Peacekeeping Operations”, and “Foreign Military Financing Program” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this title under such headings.

(e) The transfer authority provided by this section shall be subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any transfer authority otherwise available under any other provision of law.

CONSOLIDATED REPORTING REQUIREMENT

SEC. 204. Not later than 45 days after enactment of this Act and prior to the initial obligation of funds made available by this title, the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit a consolidated report to the Committees on Appropriations on the anticipated uses of such funds on a country and project basis for which the obligation of funds is anticipated, including estimated personnel and administrative costs: *Provided*, That such report shall be updated and submitted to such Committees every 60 days until September 30, 2018, and every 180 days thereafter until all funds have been expended: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated by this title under the headings “International Disaster Assist-

ance” and “Migration and Refugee Assistance” may be obligated prior to submission of the report required by this section.

LOAN AUTHORITY

SEC. 205. (a) Funds appropriated by this title under the heading “Economic Support Fund” and in prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs under such heading may be made available for the costs, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of loan guarantees for Iraq, which are authorized to be provided: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this subsection for the costs of such guarantees shall not be considered assistance for the purposes of provisions of law limiting assistance to a country: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of State should obtain a commitment from the Government of Iraq that such government will make available the proceeds of such financing to regions and governorates, including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, in a manner consistent with the principles of equitable share of national revenues contained in clause “Third” of Article 121 of the Constitution of Iraq: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations, except that any such notification shall include a detailed summary of the terms and conditions of such financing and an assessment of the extent to which the proposed financing agreement between the Governments of the United States and Iraq supports the constitutional principles of equitable share of national revenues to regions and governorates, including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this Act, the authority provided by section 1101 of division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114–113) shall continue in effect through fiscal year 2017: *Provided*, That any notification submitted pursuant to such section shall include a detailed summary of the terms and conditions of such loan and an assessment of the extent to which use of the proposed loan proceeds would place special emphasis on the Kurdish Peshmerga, Sunni tribal security forces, or other local security forces, with a national security mission.

(c) Funds made available pursuant to this section and section 7034(o)(1) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2016 (division K of Public Law 114–113) from prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs that were previously designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, are designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of such Act and shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS

SEC. 206. Funds appropriated by this title to support counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism programs, including activities to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, may be used to enter into contracts with individuals for the provision of personal services (as described in section 37.104 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (48 CFR 37.104)) in the United States or

abroad: *Provided*, That such individuals may not be deemed employees of the United States for the purposes of any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management: *Provided further*, That the authority made available pursuant to this section shall expire on September 30, 2018.

This division may be cited as the “Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 949, the motion shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 2028, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to present the second Fiscal Year 2017 Continuing Resolution this year, which will fund the Federal Government through April 28 of 2017.

This bill is a necessary measure to continue vital government programs and services, like our national defense. It keeps the lights on in our government, preventing the uncertainty and harm of a shutdown. Our current continuing resolution expires tomorrow, so we must act today.

This continuing resolution is a responsible compromise, making only limited adjustments where required to preserve the security of the Nation, to prevent serious lapses in government services, and to ensure the careful expenditure of taxpayer dollars.

To highlight a few of these changes: we take care of our troops by increasing overseas contingency operations resources, and include provisions that accelerate production rates for critical defense equipment and systems, like the Ohio replacement submarine, the Apache helicopter, and the KC-46A tanker. The bill also maintains adequate funding for the Department of Homeland Security to keep our Nation safe.

In addition to these changes, the bill includes necessary funding to help communities recover from recent natural disasters, like Hurricane Matthew, flooding in States like Louisiana and West Virginia, and devastating droughts.

The legislation also includes \$170 million for important health and water infrastructure improvements, as well as \$872 million for the House-passed 21st Century Cures Act, including \$500 million to respond to the opioid abuse

epidemic. These items are both fully offset.

As I have said on this floor many times over the past 6 years, standing in this exact spot, a continuing resolution is a last resort. It is not what I would prefer to bring to the floor as my final bill as chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

At the end of the day, a CR is simply a Band-Aid on a gushing wound. This is no way to run a railroad. It is bad for Congress, bad for the Federal Government, and bad for our country. A CR extends outdated policies and funding levels, wasting money, and preventing good changes from being made. A CR also creates uncertainty in Federal budgets and in our economy. Lastly, it diminishes the Congress’ power of the purse, giving away the people’s voice in how the government uses their tax dollars.

I truly hope that in the near future we can stop lurching from CR to CR and return to regular order, for the sake of our national security, our economy, and the well-being of all Americans.

However, at this point, this is our best and only path forward. It is absolutely imperative that we complete the work on the 11 remaining appropriations bills as soon as possible when Congress returns.

This is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the CR.

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

SECURITY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017
 (DIV. B, HOUSE AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2028)
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2017 Request	Final Bill	Bill vs. Request

TITLE I			
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE			
Military Personnel			
Military Personnel, Army (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	94,034	196,964	+102,930
Military Personnel, Navy (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	7,354	10,484	+3,130
Military Personnel, Marine Corps (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	5,840	5,840	---
Military Personnel, Air Force (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	37,640	51,830	+14,190
Subtotal.....	144,868	265,118	+120,250
Operations and Maintenance			
Operations and Maintenance, Army (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	2,934,269	3,173,679	+239,410
Operations and Maintenance, Navy (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	95,531	97,881	+2,350
Operations and Maintenance, Marine Corps (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	168,446	180,546	+12,100
Operations and Maintenance, Air Force (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	382,496	428,046	+45,550
Operations and Maintenance, Defense-Wide (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	412,959	446,283	+33,324
Defense Health Program (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	2,547	---	-2,547
Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	814,500	---	-814,500
Iraq Train and Equip Fund (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	289,500	289,500	---
Subtotal.....	5,100,248	4,615,935	-484,313
Procurement			
Missile Procurement, Army (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	46,500	229,100	+182,600
Other Procurement, Army (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	98,500	72,000	-26,500
Other Procurement, Navy (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	5,000	---	-5,000
Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	---	201,563	+201,563
Missile Procurement, Air Force (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	---	83,900	+83,900
Other Procurement, Air Force (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	137,884	137,884	---
Subtotal.....	287,884	724,447	+436,563
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation			
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	139,200	78,700	-60,500
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	3,000	3,000	---
Subtotal.....	142,200	81,700	-60,500

SECURITY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017
 (DIV. B, HOUSE AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2028)
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2017 Request	Final Bill	Bill vs. Request

Other Department of Defense Programs			
Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	99,800	87,800	-12,000
	=====	=====	=====
Total, Title I, Department of Defense.....	5,775,000	5,775,000	---
	=====	=====	=====
TITLE II			
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS			
Department of State			
Administration of Foreign Affairs			
Diplomatic and Consular Programs (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	746,210	1,052,400	+306,190
Office of Inspector General (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	2,500	2,500	---
Embassy, Security, Construction, and Maintenance (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	1,024,000	654,411	-369,589
Subtotal.....	1,772,710	1,709,311	-63,399
UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT			
Funds Appropriated to the President			
Operating Expenses (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	15,000	5,000	-10,000
Capital Investment Fund (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	---	25,000	+25,000
Office of Inspector General (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	2,500	2,500	---
Subtotal.....	17,500	32,500	+15,000
BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE			
Funds Appropriated to the President			
International Disaster Assistance (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	953,200	616,100	-337,100
Transition Initiatives (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	73,490	50,234	-23,256
Economic Support Fund (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	2,640,400	1,030,555	-1,609,845
Assistance for Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	---	157,000	+157,000
Department of State			
Migration and Refugee Assistance (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	260,400	300,000	+39,600
Subtotal.....	3,927,490	2,153,889	-1,773,601

SECURITY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017
 (DIV. B, HOUSE AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2028)
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2017 Request	Final Bill	Bill vs. Request

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE			
Department of State			
International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	19,300	26,300	+7,000
Non-Proliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	128,000	128,000	---
Peacekeeping Operations (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	90,000	50,000	-40,000
Funds Appropriated to the President			
Foreign Military Financing Program (Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism).....	---	200,000	+200,000
Subtotal.....	237,300	404,300	+167,000
	=====	=====	=====
Total, Title II, Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs.....	5,955,000	4,300,000	-1,655,000
	=====	=====	=====
Grand Total.....	11,730,000	10,075,000	-1,655,000
Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism.....	(11,730,000)	(10,075,000)	(-1,655,000)
(Defense).....	(5,775,000)	(5,775,000)	---
(Non-Defense).....	(5,955,000)	(4,300,000)	(-1,655,000)

□ 1230

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

Today we consider the second continuing resolution to keep most of the government open. To say that I am disappointed in this Band-aid approach to operating the government would be an understatement. The legislation before us is an abdication of responsibility for the entire Congress. It is a disgrace that more than 2 months into the new fiscal year, Congress will kick the can down the road nearly another 5 months for purely partisan reasons.

Having already failed this year to adopt a budget, pass appropriation bills, and restore regular order, the majority's failure to enact full-year funding is not surprising, but nonetheless shameful. Several administration requests were either not included or were drastically discounted. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission would be frozen under this CR, likely causing staff furloughs and making it impossible to adequately protect market participants.

I am extremely concerned about the majority including just \$7 million—one-fifth of the amount requested by the administration and by New York City—to reimburse New York for the cost of helping New York and other State and local governments protect the President-elect until his inauguration. Local and State taxpayers should not be forced to foot the bill for the Federal responsibility of protecting the President-elect. I view the amount in the CR as a down payment, and I am putting the majority on notice that a future funding bill must fully cover these costs.

At a time when economic hardship is common among those who have worked in unsafe and unhealthy coal mines, this Congress should be united in ensuring these men and women have both the health and pension benefits they have earned. These hardworking individuals need more than empty promises.

I am pleased the CR provides additional funding to respond to natural disasters, to assist Flint, Michigan, in recovering from a lead crisis, to respond to threats abroad, to prevent opioid addiction, and to support biomedical research; however, we should have made these investments along with a full-year bill that would have dealt with every government program.

Finally, this bill should not include the provision that would limit debate on providing a waiver to allow the next Secretary of Defense to have been retired from Active Duty for less than the current requirement of 7 years. Civilian leadership of the military is a bedrock principle of our democracy, and any new standard deserves full debate by the Congress.

I know Chairman ROGERS worked to have the Appropriations Committee re-

turn to regular order. I tried to be a partner with him because I think the American people want us to do our job of keeping the government operating. Notwithstanding the constraints facing the chairman, the bill we consider today should be a bipartisan, full-year spending measure.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), who will assume the chair of the Appropriations Committee come January and in whom I have great confidence and pride.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge support of the continuing resolution. But first I must pay tribute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) as he manages his last appropriations bill as full committee chairman.

I know I speak for Ranking Member LOWEY and all members of the committee, Republicans and Democrats, and our remarkable professional staff when I say that this body and this Nation owe a tremendous debt of gratitude for his many contributions on the Appropriations Committee for 30 years and as its chairman for the last 6. No one understands better than HAL ROGERS the House's constitutional duty to responsibly fund the Federal Government. No one has defended this body's power of the purse with more vigor. He has always supported rigorous oversight.

Under Chairman ROGERS' leadership, the committee has held over 600 public hearings to ensure that Federal tax dollars are well spent, and the committee has earned results, cutting wasteful spending to the tune of \$126 billion since fiscal year 2010. In fact, the chairman has worked tirelessly to restore public trust in our Federal funding process, all with professionalism, good humor, and class.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for all members of the committee and all Members of the House in extending to you our heartfelt thanks for your continued service on the committee and your remarkable service as chairman.

On the resolution, briefly—and this is relative to national security—the reality is we are a nation at war, engaged with enemies in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, and we have no greater responsibility than to ensure that our men and women in uniform have the resources that this continuing resolution assures so they can carry out their missions and return home safely.

In this regard, we have scrubbed the President's budget amendment \$5.8 billion for overseas operations. In doing so, we have redirected funding to replenish our stocks of various munitions that our troops need to fight ISIS and the Taliban; and in light of increased

activity on behalf of the Russians, we have provided funding for our NATO allies. This resolution needs to be supported for national defense and homeland security.

Again, I salute Chairman ROGERS for his leadership.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY), who is the ranking member of the Defense Subcommittee on the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am sorely disappointed that, despite the very best efforts of Chairman ROGERS, Mrs. LOWEY, and all of the members of our committee, we yet again find ourselves in the position of considering another continuing resolution.

In June, on the floor, I stated that our fiscal year begins on October 1, 2016, and not May 1, 2017, and that it is the responsibility of those of us holding office in this session of this Congress to execute the 2017 appropriations process. We should not foist our responsibility upon the next. Unfortunately, almost 6 months later, it is appropriate to repeat myself.

As the ranking member on the Defense Subcommittee, I feel it is important to highlight some of the complications that we are compounding for next year, again, despite the very best efforts of Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and the members of our subcommittee and the full committee.

First, the CR hinders the DoD from adapting to emergency conditions around the globe. Although we have included a few adjustments in this CR, many more programs and initiatives were not addressed, and we will have created unforeseen but real impacts to our warfighters and their families.

Second, the defense budget that we are deferring was planned for back in late 2015. Our actions to complete the fiscal year 2017 appropriations process by April 28 will present the Department with a fundamental management challenge.

Third, it will require a significant amount of interchange with the DOD for Congress to complete the work for the remainder of this fiscal year's appropriation into spring. Those same individuals and offices in the Department will simultaneously be making adjustments to the 2018 budget for the new administration. While it is likely that a 2018 budget request will be delayed beyond the normal first week in February, the two activities will overlap significantly, and it creates inefficiencies.

Let me also point out the Department will be well into the development of its fiscal year 2019 budget at the same time. The Department will be presenting the fiscal year 2018 budget to the Congress. At the same time, it will patiently be waiting for the resolution of this budget, all the while operating under 2016 levels that we have

now extended with two consecutive CRs.

This CR has the likelihood of being particularly disruptive because it also coincides with the change in the executive branch. So while claiming to recognize the difficulty the new President faces, we add a much greater burden to the incoming administration and the next Congress by not completing our work now.

In closing, I again appreciate the work of the chairman, the ranking member, the staff, and the committee. I regret that we find ourselves on the House floor again creating manufactured uncertainty.

I am sorely disappointed that despite the very best efforts of Chairman ROGERS, Ranking Member LOWEY, and the members of our committee, we yet again find ourselves in the position of considering another Continuing Resolution (CR).

In June, during the debate on the House floor for H.R. 5293, the Fiscal Year 2017 Defense Appropriations Act, I expressed my concerns with that bill because it did not provide enough funding to support the warfighter for the full fiscal year. Specifically, I stated that our “fiscal year begins on October 1, 2016, not May 1, 2017, and it is the responsibility of those of us holding office in the 2nd session of the 114th Congress to execute the FY 2017 appropriations process,” and that we should demonstrate some legislative pragmatism and not foist our responsibility upon the 115th Congress. Unfortunately, almost exactly six months later, it is appropriate to repeat myself. Only in this circumstance it is applicable to nearly the entire federal government and not just a small portion of the Defense Appropriations Bill.

With regard to the CR, I grant that it has some positive aspects. Most notably it averts a government shutdown until at least April 28, 2017. It provides much needed funding to the Department of Defense for Overseas Contingency Operations and the European Reassurance Initiative. And it contains \$170 million to address the infrastructure and health needs of those communities affected by contaminated drinking water.

However, CRs are no way to run a nation and I wholeheartedly agree with Ranking Member LOWEY that there is no practical reason that two months into a fiscal year, we are kicking the can down the road for another five months. Congress has no credibility to demand good government if it is incapable of providing appropriations to the whole of the federal government in a timely and predictable manner.

As the Ranking Member on the Defense Subcommittee, I feel it is important to highlight some of the complications we are compounding in 2017 should the Department of Defense have to operate under a CR for a total of 6 months and 28 days.

First, CRs hinder the DoD from adapting to emerging conditions around the globe. Although we are including a few anomalies and adjustments in this CR, many more programs and initiatives simply did not make the “cutlist” and we will have created unforeseen but real impacts to our warfighters and their families.

Second, the defense budget we are deferring was planned for back in late 2015. Our actions to complete the FY 2017 appropriations by April 28, 2017, will be challenged in synchronizing a final budget solution that is at a minimum 16 months later than when it was drafted and planned by the Defense Department.

Third, it will require a significant amount of interchange with the DoD for Congress to complete the work on the remainder of the FY 2017 appropriations in the spring. Those same individuals and offices in the Department will simultaneously be making adjustments to the FY 2018 budget for the new administration. And while it is likely that the FY 2018 budget request will be delayed beyond the normal first Tuesday in February delivery, the two activities will overlap significantly, which is incredibly inefficient.

Let me just further that thought by acknowledging that the Department will be well into their development of the FY 2019 budget at that same time. They will be presenting the FY 2018 budget to this Congress. And patiently waiting for resolution of this FY 2017 budget. All the while operating at FY 2016 levels that we extended in two consecutive CRs because we cannot find the initiative and political will to complete our jobs.

And this CR has the likelihood of being particularly disruptive because it also coincides with a change in the Executive Branch. As has been pointed out, no incoming Administration has ever had to inherit a Department of Defense operating under a CR. So while claiming to recognize the difficulty a new President faces by including a provision to allow the expedited consideration in the Senate of legislation that overrides current law in the appointment of the next Secretary of Defense, we add a much greater burden to the incoming administration and Congress by not completing the FY 2017 Appropriation process.

I understand that Chairman ROGERS has described the legislation before us as just a Band-Aid to give us time to complete the annual appropriations process. That is unfortunately a refrain we have heard too often in recent Congresses. In what fiscal year will we stop putting Band-Aids over our self-inflicted wounds to the appropriations process? The American people deserve so much more.

In closing, I regret that we again find ourselves on the House floor creating manufactured uncertainty. It is imperative that we bring an end to the reliance on CRs and get back into the habit of completing our budgetary work in a timely manner.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), who chairs the largest civilian piece of the Federal budget, the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, on our committee. The gentleman is the most articulate member of our committee, I would say, and one of the great Members of this body.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the gentleman for yielding and those extremely kind and gracious words, and I certainly rise in support of this very important bill. I want to echo

the praise that has been offered on this floor by members of both parties for our chairman, who is bringing his last full appropriations bill to the floor as the full committee chairman, and just tell him what a pleasure it has been to work under his leadership and to learn, frankly, at his knee, and usually with a pretty good cigar at the same time. So I have enjoyed that, and I think he has done a great job.

I also want to congratulate my friend, the ranking member. This is a chairman and a ranking member that, frankly, have done their jobs the last 2 years. All 12 bills were reported out of the Appropriations Committee most years, and all 12 should have been on this floor and dealt with, and I regret that they were not.

There are a lot of good things in this continuing resolution—as has been mentioned earlier, the additional funds for biomedical research, the adjustments and extra funding for defense at a critical time for our country, and certainly the disaster relief funds which certain parts of our country share—but I know this is not the bill that Chairman ROGERS wanted to bring to this floor. Frankly, we have got to get out of this.

I couldn't agree more with my friend from Indiana who said it pretty well: this is not this committee's fault. It is a failure in this Congress. This is the responsibility of this Congress and this administration to write the bill for next year. This is a failure to meet that responsibility. It is a necessary step, and I certainly will support it, but we have simply got to get back to the point of regular order.

Next year, believe me, I will push very hard to make sure we don't have another CR on April 28 and that we actually do the appropriations for FY17—we shouldn't be doing it in FY17, but that would be better than another CR—and then we will push to make sure that we do the FY18. I know the chairman has done everything humanly possible to do that, and I know he has had a willing partner in that in the ranking member.

So let's all make a New Year's resolution. Let's pass this bill, but let's get back to regular order. Let's restore things. There is a bipartisan sense of frustration on the Appropriations Committee, and, frankly, the leadership on both sides in this body need to work to achieve that. It is not an Appropriations Committee failure. This is the failure of Congress—the House of Representatives and the Senate—to do its job. That should not happen again.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the measure.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into a colloquy with Chairman ROGERS.

Mr. Speaker, section 170(b) of the continuing resolution creates a contingency fund which could make available

an additional \$200 million after March 1.

Can you clarify if the additional funds in section 170(b) will be available for obligation for three fiscal years, the same period of time as other fiscal year 2017 funds appropriated to carry out the same purpose?

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. LOWEY. I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. The answer is yes.

Mrs. LOWEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to discuss this short-term healthcare provision for coal miners that is in the CR.

A few months ago, approximately 20,000 retired coal miners and their families received notices that they would lose their health benefits at the end of this year—not for anything that they did, but because of President Obama's war on coal and the excessive regulations that have forced their former employers into bankruptcy.

□ 1245

Remember, these men and women did nothing to cause this problem. The extension of their healthcare benefits will give these families, unfortunately, little relief. It is for only 4 months, not any longer.

After this bill passes, in just a few short weeks, they will be back in the same position. They will get the same notice.

I am deeply disturbed that this bill does not include a long-term solution. Some in the Senate are even willing to kill this bill, but, in so doing, they would be abandoning the 20,000 coal miners. We can't do that. We have to accept what we have. We can't turn our back on these families.

Stopping this CR would put 20,000 people in harm's way. So I am supporting its passage, extending my hand to the leadership, and asking that they work with me when we return next Congress to find a long-term solution. Our coal miners deserve the peace of mind to know that their benefits will not be threatened in the future. I am willing to work with leadership, and anyone else, in Congress to get that done.

Mr. Chairman, I have enjoyed very much working with you for the last 6 years. So my question to you is: Is it your understanding that we will have the opportunity to pursue a long-term solution and fund the healthcare benefits of retired coal miners in the first months of the 115th Congress and before the CR expires?

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCKINLEY. I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Yes, that is my understanding. Just across the river from you, in my home State of Kentucky, there are thousands of retired miners who will be impacted by the expiration of these healthcare benefits, many of them in my district. These miners have worked hard their entire lives to earn these benefits, and they deserve to know that the promises made to them, while working day in and day out in the mines, will be honored.

I am committed to working with you and other Members representing coal country to arrive at a lasting solution to this problem in the new Congress and to provide some lasting relief to our coalfields, which have suffered so much in the last 8 years.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Reclaiming my time, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to working with you. You have been very honorable, and someone that I have truly enjoyed working with. As we proceed on this in the next year, I think we can be successful. With incoming Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, I am even more excited. This is a way to get a final resolution.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York has 22 minutes remaining.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the ranking member of the Energy and Water Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and compliment her on her work as ranking member, and to the chairman of our full committee, Mr. ROGERS, an incredible chairman. Both of them did their work.

I rise today—as the underlying bill that all of this is attached to is our energy and water bill—appalled at this Christmas tree bill that the Republican leadership has foisted on this Congress in the last minute. This is exactly the type of bill the public hates.

The top brass over there literally disrespected our committee work and produced, instead, a rotten egg. Today, we will take a vote that forces us to choose between shutting the government down 2 weeks before Christmas or supporting a disgrace of a funding bill, laced with nongermane, controversial provisions.

What kind of choice is this? What happened to the Republican's top priority of funding the government under regular order? It is not our committee's fault. We did our job. What happened to voting on 12 appropriations bills and allowing amendments under regular order? We want to do that, but we are being handcuffed.

I will tell you what happened. The Republican leaders threw out our up-to-date bills. They threw them in the trash, and they replaced them with yet another bill that looks in the rearview mirror with numbers that are 2 years old and doesn't meet America's current realities. It forces our government agencies, including Defense, which Republicans claim to care so passionately about, to operate without any predictability or stability. This is disgraceful. No wonder Americans are so mad at us.

If Republicans wanted to take care of the military, they have failed. The military has never, ever operated under a continuing resolution during a Presidential transition until now. Imagine how the commanders in the field feel when the April deadline hits. What is going to happen in May?

If Republicans wanted to take care of American workers, they have failed. This resolution abandons hardworking coal miners after years of faithful service, right at Christmastime. Gosh, what a Christmas present.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. KAPTUR. If Republicans wanted to run the House under regular order, they have failed. They only brought up half of the 2017 bills to the floor for a vote. Where are the other six?

If Republicans wanted to fund the government in a responsible and efficient way, they have failed.

This resolution will likely cost us millions of dollars more in delayed projects, contract breaches, and lost American jobs. Is this a sign of what is to come? What happens on April 28 when this filthy Band-Aid falls off?

If we can't pass bills under regular order this year—when we had a bipartisan budget agreement and a Republican majority—what will we do in May when we have not only the rest of the 2017 budget to fix but also the 2018 budget and the debt ceiling to address?

I wonder what chaotic path the Republican leaders will lead us down in the new year? This is certainly a sign, a terrible sign, of what is to come.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the outstanding chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, first, I must join a long line of folks congratulating our friend and chairman of the important Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), for great service, assembling a wonderful, hardworking staff, and making sure that, particularly at Christmastime now, we are not going to be looking at shutting down the government.

I rise in support of this CR, the continuing resolution. I want to just inform a couple of my colleagues of some

of the very important provisions that are included in this package, including funding to begin some of the work enacting 21st Century Cures and relief for families in Flint, Michigan, and elsewhere around the country.

There is not a single person in this Chamber watching at home today who has not been touched by disease in some way. We have said all too many goodbyes to the people that we hold dear. Every day, countless folks living vibrant lives are delivered unexpected diagnoses. It is a cycle that repeats itself over and over in every community. Life can change in an instant, and hope seems sometimes out of reach. Whether it be Alzheimer's, lupus, MS, cancer, you name the disease—diabetes.

That is why both the House and the Senate overwhelmingly passed the bipartisan 21st Century Cures Act with 392 votes in the House and 94 in the Senate just yesterday. It is set to be signed into law next week, and our effort will help change the conversation on innovation and research. But it is patients that it is going to help the most.

This bill fulfills our commitment to hit the ground running immediately in our effort to deliver cures now, delivering valuable funds in this fiscal year, something that was critical as we worked together on both sides of the aisle in both the House and the Senate to get it done.

The bill also fulfills our commitment to the folks of Flint, Michigan. Again, an issue that we have dealt with. I commend Mr. KILDEE, who is on the floor, for working with him in a bipartisan way. The system failed them at every level of government. But that is not what the folks in Flint wanted to hear. They wanted answers. This bill finally delivers that, and it has been a long struggle. And, again, I commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for his leadership on this. We worked together. This bill provides the effort to right those past wrongs. They want answers and results, and this bill delivers exactly that.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this bill and send it to the Senate and then to the President.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

I rise to join my voice to those from New York and other places who continue to ask: Why not fairness in reimbursing New York City for the work that it is doing, the money that it is spending, to take care of the President-elect? We don't have a problem with safeguarding him, but someone should pay, other than the local government.

I must remind you, or warn you, that he loves New York, and that is fine. I suspect this will be a President who will spend a lot of time in New York City, rather than in the White House. That might sell well on some TV networks, but it won't sell well for the taxpayers of New York.

So I think it is important for us now to be able to get New York the \$35 million it has already paid. Now, there is \$7 million in the bill, and some will say, I can't vote for this because it only has \$7 million. I am looking at Chairman ROGERS, I am looking at Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, and I suspect that this is a downpayment on what is to come, and that the negotiations will get better.

As I close, let me just take a second to say, HAL, you have been a great chairman. Every time I get up and you look to your right, which is not difficult for you to do, but when you look to your right and you single me out to speak, I have always felt that I am part of the team. You are not leaving the Congress, but you are leaving the chairmanship. We are going to miss you in that position, but you are replaced by a friend who now has to sit closer to me when I travel on the train so I can tell him all of my thoughts. I thank you.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK), a member of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for giving me a couple of minutes here to speak on behalf of this bill.

I am not real sure, Mr. Speaker, how much more constructive I could be on this discussion of this underlying bill. The truth has already been spoken by both sides. It is not the bill that we wanted to bring to the floor. It is not the bills that we have marked up after some very serious oversight meetings and discussions within the Appropriations Committee.

As has already been mentioned, we have moved each of the 12 bills through committee. Only half of them have made it through the floor of the House. So it is not the final product that any of us on the Appropriations Committee, and I would guess most of the people in our Congress, would have wanted to bring.

But it is the bill that is on the floor today, and it is quite essential that we pass it and leave for the holidays without turning Washington upside down or our economy upside down. So I support the underlying bill, and I would recommend that it get a thunderous amount of approval here within in the Congress.

Before I close, I can't help but remember back 6 years ago, Mr. Speaker, when I came to this Congress. During the orientation period, I had an oppor-

tunity to engage in conversation with my friend from Kentucky, HAL ROGERS.

I told him then that I wanted to be on his committee. I knew he was committed to regular order, and I knew he understood the process. I had the desire to serve on a committee that was actually going to do something that Washington is not real familiar with, and that is cut spending. He has done that.

I promised him that I would be willing to take the tough votes, and that I would be standing there with him and the rest of my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to do our job—to restore regular order and, really, the Article I powers that the Congress should enjoy.

□ 1300

He has never failed me, nor has he failed our committee. Our Congress—our House—should appreciate what this gentleman has done with this regard.

I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for the leadership he has given our committee, and I thank him for the time here to express my feelings publicly on the floor of the House.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), the ranking member on the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I thank our ranking member, and I associate myself with the kind remarks others have made regarding our departing chairman, with whom I also share many years of productive and cooperative work in this institution.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that this continuing resolution includes significant funding to help ensure that North Carolina and other affected States have the resources necessary to recover and rebuild in the wake of Hurricane Matthew and other major storms that struck earlier this year.

As North Carolina's only member on the Appropriations Committee, securing this funding has been my top priority since Hurricane Matthew made landfall, and I am grateful for the bipartisan cooperation of our State's congressional delegation and also of the Appropriations Committee leadership throughout this entire process.

The bill before us also includes critical funding to address the Flint water crisis, our national opioid epidemic, and Vice President BIDEN's Cancer Moonshot initiative.

It is heartening to see these efforts bear fruit, but this bipartisan success stands in stark contrast to how the Republican leadership of this House has managed the appropriations end game this year. Rather than work in a productive way with Democrats to finalize our fiscal year 2017 appropriations bills, Republican leaders of the House have, again, decided, this time in con-
nivance with the Trump transition, to

abandon the appropriations bills we negotiated in good faith in favor of yet another stopgap measure, this one arbitrarily lasting for 5 months.

This doesn't bode well for the appropriations process. We have heard the alarm bells sounded here today by appropriations leaders from both sides of the aisle.

Make no mistake, there are some immediate consequences as well. This CR will damage HUD programs that serve our most vulnerable populations. It will prevent States from receiving new highway and transit funding called for in the bipartisan FAST Act. The CR also contains a partisan anti-safety provision that would block overnight rest requirements for commercial truck drivers, endangering highway travel for millions of drivers across the country.

Perhaps the most egregious, as well as unprecedented, is the inclusion of a waiver for President-elect Trump's nominee for Secretary of Defense. Whatever the merits of this nomination, setting aside the 7-year waiting period that is designed to protect the civilian control of the military deserves more deliberation and debate than a CR provides.

Mr. Speaker, as we enter this period of political uncertainty, I hope that we can commit in future fiscal years to an appropriations process that allows us to exercise the power of the purse—this body's essential constitutional power—in a measured and bipartisan way.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), who chairs the all-important Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on our committee.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the chairman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank the chairman for the job he has done over the last 6 years of leading this committee. It is a difficult job. We have to make tough choices, and this committee has been willing to do this. I appreciate the leadership that the chairman and Ranking Member LOWEY have provided for this committee and for the direction in which we have been able to go.

Let me say also, Mr. Speaker, that I don't really like what we are doing here. I don't think anybody on the Appropriations Committee likes what we are doing here. We all know it is necessary because we don't want the government to shut down, but it is amazing to listen to the number of people who come on the floor. I know all of the Appropriations Committee members want to get back to regular order and do individual bills, conference them, and then do individual conference reports of all of the bills. That is what should be done. That is called regular order. The last time that was done was in 1994; 22 years ago. Under

Republican and Democrat leadership, we have not been able to do it in the last 22 years, and it is time we do.

It is amazing the number of people who come to the floor and who aren't on the Appropriations Committee who say, Man, we need to get back to regular order.

We all agree with that.

So how do we do it?

I will tell you how we do it. It takes a commitment. It takes a commitment of Republican and Democratic leadership that, if you are going to have open rules, which is when any amendment can be offered—a lot of these appropriations bills come to the floor, and we have 100 or 150 amendments offered—they take a lot of time to pass. That is okay, but we have got to have a commitment that we are going to spend the time on the floor to do these appropriations bills. We are willing to do that, but it takes a commitment from leadership that we are going to have the floor time.

We used to have a time when, all during the month of June and the first of July, it was called appropriations season. We were here for 6 weeks in a row, 5 days a week—sometimes until very late at night and early in the morning—doing the appropriations bills. We don't do that anymore. We have a new schedule because the district work period is very important also, and I understand that for a lot of Members. At about every third week, we go home and do work in our districts. That time is important, but we are elected to do a job. We have got to be in Washington, and we have got to be on the floor, and we have got to be debating these bills if we want to get back to regular order. We act as if it comes down from on high that, geez, this just can't happen, like it is not in our control. It is in our control. We on both sides of the aisle need to make a commitment that we will get back to regular order and do individual appropriations bills because that is the way this place is supposed to work.

I thank the chairman for all of the job and all of the effort that he and Ranking Member LOWEY have done to bring us back to regular order to the extent we can, and, hopefully, we will keep moving forward.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), the ranking member of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. FARR. I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very bitter-sweet moment for me. It is the last time I will speak on this floor after 23 years of serving in the House of Representatives.

It is sweet because it is about the appropriations process and the wonderful

camaraderie on that committee, which, I think, is the most important committee and the most exciting committee in Congress because you deal with all aspects of how government operates. You really do the policy wonk, the technical stuff, the drilling down—all of those words we use in order to understand how government works and how much it is going to cost. You have just heard this incredible bipartisanship of people—those dedicated to the job they were elected to do on the committees they serve on—do the appropriations process. All of that has developed this incredible friendship and, I think, professional respect we have for one another regardless of our philosophies.

The bitterness of it is that you have just heard everyone so eloquently speak about the failure of the process in that we are doing a CR that nobody wants to do.

Why is that?

Frankly—and they are not saying it—I think this is the first test of how the Congress is going to respond to the new President-elect Trump's agenda. It was our former Member—now Vice President-elect—Mike Pence who said: We want a CR.

He served in this House, and he knows the process. We were all in agreement. We were going to do a comprehensive bill. We have caved to this request, and we shouldn't have, because this is the only place in which you do checks and balances. The abuses of the administration can be only checked and balanced mostly on this committee.

It is going to be a tough year next year, Mr. Speaker. It is going to be a tough year. Some of the proposals being made are really radical. They are going to cut a lot of things and hurt a lot of people if this Congress doesn't correct them. We have a sense of how to do that, but we can't do it with a CR.

So I leave here really appreciative of the incredible responsibility that my electorate has given me to be here—the privilege of being in the House of Representatives. I really have loved the opportunity to be on the Appropriations Committee. I respect, through the leadership of our chair and of our ranking member, they have been able to produce some remarkable appropriations bills.

I will just say to my colleagues: Take back your power. Be what the electorate wants. Be what the Constitution asks us to do. Be that serious-minded, representational government that really drills down on how all of government is going to operate. Don't cave in to CRs.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FARR. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman and I do not

agree on many issues, but I think all of us agree that he has been an outstanding Member of the Congress. He has been a workhorse on our committee, and we are going to miss him.

Congratulations to you on a great career. Thank you for serving.

Mr. FARR. In reclaiming my time, I thank the chairman. I really appreciate those kind remarks.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the ranking member of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, once again, this Congress has abandoned its responsibility to provide a full-year appropriation. Months of hard work were thrown away, pushing important funding decisions down the road. I have heard from families and business leaders in my district who are worried about the uncertainty that continuing resolutions create in their daily lives. It is not a good way to govern. It is not a good way forward for our country.

As the ranking member of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I am disappointed that this bill only provides 5 months of funding for priorities like clean air, clean water, national parks, and our treaty obligations.

We need to secure funding for hospitals and for schools in Indian Country, and it should be for a full year. We need to manage our national forests and parks and the Environmental Protection Agency's monitoring of toxins that threaten the health of our families. The decision that we have before us today only allows these programs to continue for 5 months and be in jeopardy again in April. This bill does take one important step, however, to assist with the lead poisoning crisis in Flint; although, it is less than what is needed and it comes far too late.

I thank, however, Chairman CALVERT and Chairman ROGERS, and I thank Ranking Member LOWEY for their work to ensure that this bill does not contain any new policy riders that would impact the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee's jurisdiction.

My biggest concern with this legislation, however, is not interior-related, but, instead, involves the fundamental principle of our democracy. The decision by Republican leadership to include language that would limit a full public debate on Senate confirmation for the nominee of Secretary of Defense is alarming. Civilian control of our military has been a cornerstone of American democracy since our country's founding. When the Secretary of Defense position was created in 1947, this principle was enshrined into law. I

think the decision moving forward in this bill is deeply concerning to all Americans.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), a member of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. KILDEE. I thank my friend and colleague, the ranking member, for yielding and for her work on behalf of my hometown of Flint. She has been one of the strong advocates.

Mr. Speaker, no piece of legislation that I have yet seen in the 4 years I have been in Congress and that has come before this floor is perfect, and this bill is included; but the people of Flint today—the people of my hometown—cannot drink their water because of actions by the State government and, frankly, as we know, because of the failure of the Federal Government, through the EPA, to alert the citizens of Flint to the crisis. The fact that their water had been poisoned has caused this community to face the biggest crisis that it has faced in all of its years.

□ 1315

I am a product of Flint, Michigan. I grew up in Flint. Everything I have, everything I am, I owe to that community—and it has faced some terrible struggles over the years: the loss of manufacturing jobs, 90 percent of those manufacturing jobs are gone; the loss of half of its population, blight and abandonment. It is a community that had just begun to rebuild itself when this water crisis caused Flint to face the toughest times it has ever faced. It needs every level of government to step up to provide relief.

This bill includes necessary funding to put Flint back on a path that allows its citizens to have the basic human right of clean drinking water. So I ask my colleagues, as we go forward, obviously consider all of the elements of all legislation, but also keep in mind this is the last day of this session of Congress in the House of Representatives, this is our last chance to provide that much-needed help to my hometown. This is why I was sent to Congress: to fight for the people whom I represent, to make sure they have what they need, and to make sure, at this moment of their greatest need, that every level of government responds to them. That is why I will support this bill, and I would hope my colleagues will join me in that.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER), who chairs the all-important Homeland Security Subcommittee on our committee.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud member of the Appropriations Committee. I have one of the most difficult areas as far as current events in the country, and that is homeland security.

I don't like a CR any more than any other appropriator likes a CR, but our job is to fund the government. The Constitution tells us we are to fund the government, and we have hardworking people like HAL ROGERS, who reads the Constitution and realizes we have got to take the best medium we can for now and fund the government. So, of course, I am going to support this CR and I hope all my colleagues will.

I want to tell you, all of us on the Appropriations Committee go through the entire process of doing the best we can for the departments we represent, to give them suggestions of leadership and direction to fund the projects that they need, to take care of the employees who work there and take care of the mission of every department we have. To have to see cede all that to a CR is painful, but reality is reality. The government must go on, and at this point in this time the government will go on with a CR.

I also wanted to get up and say, as you go through these battles, wonderful people like my chairman and ranking member, Mr. ROGERS and Mrs. LOWEY, fight through the frustrations through the entire committee, and we do this. Yet these great minds like HAL ROGERS know what it takes to make things work around here, and they are willing to put in the time and the effort to get it done no matter how it has to be done. Our preference is to pass all appropriations bills into law. A necessity at this time is a CR, and I trust absolutely that my chairman is doing the right thing.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), from the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Homeland Security.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for yielding, and I thank her for her leadership.

I want to associate myself with the words about the chairman, Mr. ROGERS, and thank him for his years of commitment and dedication to this Nation.

I also want to acknowledge my good friend SAM FARR, and I thank him so very much for being so strong and committed to the right things of this body and the Nation. I thank him for his service.

I join with my colleagues. Many have said this is the wrong way to fund the government, that appropriations legislation done by the Appropriations Committee was ready and done. I join my colleague who says that we caved. We conceded to not doing our job in the 114th Congress, and for that reason, I am very concerned.

Earlier today we had the WRDA bill, and I support that bill for the many

projects that are going to help the citizens of Texas. I wish I could say the same thing as we go into the continuing resolution, for, yes, we have suffered in the State of Texas. There is \$1 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, \$1.8 billion for the Community Development Block Grant, and \$1 billion for the Federal highway.

Certainly, I would say, in the WRDA bill is the authorization for helping the people of Flint and a reform of the Safe Drinking Water Act to make sure we protect our children from lead-filled water. That is a good thing, but it is not a good thing to only put \$100 million in for Flint. But I support my colleague from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) because this money is needed, and it is needed now.

I think there is more we can do, and we should have done it in regular order; and if we had done regular order, a few more days, we would have passed appropriations bills.

Let me also say that what really skews and takes this bill, the CR, off its wheels is the waiver, the expedited process of trying to move forward a nominee of the incoming President, violating statutory law that has not been utilized in 66 years since the famous General Marshall was selected. Why not regular order—hearings, legislation, understanding what this will do to the military-civilian separation?

Mr. Speaker, let me simply say we have got to do our job the right way. The CR is not the right way. The American people need us to do our job the right way.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about Senate Amendment to H.R. 2028, the "Energy and Water and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2016."

This bill is an imperfect vehicle for appropriations for FY 2017, because it does not fully fund the government for the entire fiscal year; it includes language to change a law that is unrelated to the budgetary or appropriations process; and it keeps in place sequestration.

The leadership of the House is using the last day the 114th Congress will be in session to do work that should take 8 months to complete in a regular appropriations process.

Senate Amendment to H.R. 2028 goes against sound fiscal practice by including the budget gimmickry known as sequestration, a fiscal bludgeon that makes across the board cuts in funding for the valuable services depended upon by American children, seniors, workers, veterans, students, and small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, the Continuing Resolution before us extends current Fiscal Year 2017 government funding through April 28, 2017, at its current rate, which includes an across-the-board cut of .19% for all accounts, defense and non-defense.

Senate Amendment to H.R. 2028 also does something very serious, and has nothing to do with funding the federal government; this bill changes the number of years a retired member of the armed services must wait before being considered for the position of Secretary of Defense.

The bill's critical imperfection has nothing to do with funding the federal government—it is a change in law that would allow a retired military person to serve after only 3 years of retirement instead of 7.

The service to our nation and the honor and integrity of the person under consideration at present to be the next Secretary of Defense is not in question—it is the reason why there is a waiting period and why that is important.

By placing this change in a continuing resolution—a bill designed not to allow more than an hour of debate and no changes is not the vehicle we should use to make this change.

If President Obama had suggested a change in law to be accomplished in a continuing resolution appropriations bill, his request would have been denied.

The politicization of the legislative process has seriously undermined the credibility of the Congress to do the important work of funding the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that we have again been placed in the position of having to fund the government through the device of a continuing resolution rather than through the normal appropriations process of considering and voting on the twelve separate spending bills reported by the Committee on Appropriations.

The use of this appropriations measure to further a political objective adds further insult to this body and the appropriations process.

There are oversight committees with the knowledge, expertise and experience to make the determination on whether this change is prudent and if they determine that it is—to make the appropriate changes in law.

Senate Amendment to H.R. 2028 is not perfect—far from it—but it is a modest and positive step toward preventing Republicans from shutting down the government again and manufacturing crises that only harm our economy, destroy jobs, and weaken our middle class.

The government shutdown of 2013, which was manufactured by the Republican majority, lasted 16 days and cost taxpayers \$24 billion.

The cost to federal employees and the people they serve cannot be calculated.

Mr. Speaker, as with any compromise there are some things in the agreement that I support and some things that I strongly oppose.

For example, I support the provisions in the Continuing Resolution ensuring that funding for appropriated entitlements continue at a rate maintaining program levels under current law.

The Continuing Resolution provides \$4 billion in emergency funding for disaster relief for damage caused by Hurricane Matthew in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida; and severe flooding that occurred in Texas, Louisiana, West Virginia, and elsewhere.

Funding includes:

\$1 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers to repair damage to federal projects resulting from recent severe storms;

\$1.8 billion for the Community Development Block Grant;

\$1 billion for the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief program to rebuild infrastructure after natural disasters;

The Continuing Resolution includes \$5.8 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding for defense priorities from the budget amendment submitted in November:

\$5.1 billion is to support counterterrorism operations; and

\$652 million is to support the European Reassurance Initiative.

The Continuing Resolution includes \$4.3 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations funding for non-defense priorities, including:

\$1.6 billion for Embassy Security;

\$1.2 billion for Economic and Stabilization Assistance, including countering Russian influence;

\$916 million for Humanitarian Assistance to respond to 65 million displaced persons;

\$160 million for State Department and USAID operations; and

\$404 million in Security Assistance for civilian police training and judicial aid, anti-terrorism training and explosive ordnance removal, peacekeeping and stabilization programs in Africa and the Middle East;

The Continuing Resolution provides:

\$100 million for making capitalization grants to Flint, Michigan under the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. These funds will address lead or other contaminants in drinking water, including repair and replacement of lead service lines and public water system infrastructure;

\$20 million for Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation (WIFIA) Grants to finance water infrastructure efforts, including those to address lead and other contaminants in drinking water systems;

\$20 million for a Lead Exposure Registry to collect data on lead exposure and an Advisory Committee to review programs, services, and research related to lead poisoning prevention;

\$15 million in additional funding for CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to conduct screenings and referrals for children with elevated blood lead levels; and

\$15 million in additional funding for HRSA's Healthy Start Program to reduce infant mortality and improve perinatal outcomes.

The Continuing Resolution appropriates \$872 million from accounts funded by the 21st Century Cures Act, including:

\$500 million to support grants to States to respond to the opioid abuse crisis; and

\$352 million to support biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health.

Mr. Speaker, to illustrate how strongly I feel about the need to end sequestration, let me chronicle the severity of the suffering and pain inflicted by sequestration on the most vulnerable residents of Texas and the constituents that I serve.

Head Start and Early Head Start services were eliminated or severely impacted with approximately 4,800 children being impacted throughout the state of Texas.

Families in my district who rely on Federal Government programs like Head Start are hurting.

The pain did not start with the 2013 shutdown, but with sequestration which hit Head Start programs for 3 to 4 year olds in the Houston area hard: \$5,341 million cut; 109 Employees cut; 699 Slots for children cut.

Head Start and Early Head Start Programs were further stressed by the federal government shutdown.

My support of Head Start and Early Head Start is based on what I have seen and heard about programs like the AVANCE-Houston

Early Head Start program serving parents and children in the 18th Congressional District.

The AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start is a program serving low income families in my Houston, Texas District.

I have visited with AVANCE-Houston administrators many times to get an update on how low-income families with infants and toddlers and pregnant women served by the program were doing.

The AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start's mission is simple: AVANCE-Houston works for healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhances the development of very young children, and promotes healthy family functioning.

AVANCE-Houston serves nearly 1,800 children citywide; each of these families and their children are suffering the effect of the sequestration.

Sequestration has cost AVANCE-Houston over \$842,518 in Head Start and Early Head Start lost funding and put on hold the head start on the future our children deserve.

As I stated, Mr. Speaker, this Continuing Resolution is not perfect and it only funds the government until April 28, 2017.

For that reason, I renew my call that all members of the House and Senate work together to reach agreement on an appropriate budget framework that ends sequestration but does not harm our economy or require draconian cuts to the nation's priorities.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the State of California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I commend her for her excellent leadership as the ranking Democratic member on the Appropriations Committee.

As an appropriator myself, I understand the culture. I understand the camaraderie between parties. For that reason, I want to commend our distinguished chairman, Mr. ROGERS, for his wonderful service as the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. I served with him for many years on the committee. I know firsthand his concern for the American people, and I thank him for his service. I know he will continue as an appropriator, but I thank him for his leadership as chairman.

I join in commending one of our Members who is leaving, SAM FARR, for his always looking out for America's children, whether it was their health or education, especially in terms of their access to food security. I thank Mr. FARR for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great regret that I come to the floor to express my personal disappointment with this legislation, and I will be voting "no." My colleagues have asked me what I think about it. I am not urging them to do anything, but I am telling you why I think this is a missed opportunity.

While we all recognize that it was a moral challenge for us to do something

for the children of Flint, the manner in which it was done, in a bifurcated way, was used to get votes for another bill, which I think was wrong. But not to dwell on process—not to dwell on process—let's just look at the facts. The facts are these:

This will probably be billed at over \$1.5 trillion, over \$1.5 trillion. There could have been \$170 million appropriated for the children of Flint in this bill. Some would say that is not authorized. Probably \$250 billion to \$300 billion in this bill is not authorized, so why should the children of Flint have to step over a higher barrier? And that is just exemplary of the partisan nature of the bill.

We have always worked in a bipartisan way, House and Senate appropriations, and then especially as we come to the end of the year. But this year it was Republican-Republican, House and Senate.

Again, forget process. But what does that mean in terms of priorities? It means that Families First, an initiative to help foster kids in our country, something that had bipartisan support in the House and Senate, was rejected from consideration. It means, again, that the miners and the families of coal miners who needed—suppose that business that you work for, Mr. Speaker, went bankrupt or declared themselves insolvent and, therefore, your pension and your health care benefits disappeared. How would you feel? Well, that is just what happened to the miners, and what was needed was long-term security for them that Mr. MCKINLEY, a Republican, put forth in his legislation that we hoped could be taken up and be part of this. But it was rejected by our Republican colleagues.

It is interesting, because one of the other things that is not in this bill that we hoped would be is a correction to last year's bill for extenders for renewable energy. I was told by Republicans that we don't want to do that for renewable energy because we are fossil fuel guys. Well, if you are fossil fuel guys, take care of the miners and their families.

The anticipation would be that there could be a 5-year proposal for pension and healthcare benefits. Right now, there is a 4-month provision for health care—4 months, not 5 years—not pensions and benefits, just health care.

Why? Why is that so unimportant when we are talking about people who are part of a culture of coal mining in our country, which is fading, and they need help, and we should be here to help them?

So, as we reject any proposals for renewables that might provide many, many jobs for these same people, we are also rejecting their right to their health benefits and their pensions.

The list goes on, but it is really so sad that the Flint issue should have been all in one bill. It was bifurcated

for reasons I can't explain, and that is why, if I can't explain it, I am not voting for it. That is why I call upon my colleagues.

Recognizing the many good things in the bill but not meeting the needs of the American people, foster kids had bipartisan support in the House and Senate, but it was rejected—rejected.

Now, there is funding for the opioids in this legislation, and I am pleased about that. I have been told that I should be happy about that because that was one of our requests. I think it was a bipartisan request of everyone, House and Senate, to have funding for opioids. That is what I thought. That is what I thought, and I am glad it is in the bill.

So, in any event, for the opportunity lost, for the ignoring of some very legitimate proposals to help the American people, for the rejection of Republican suggestions in terms of the miners, for these and other reasons, I will be voting against this, regretfully. We have tried to work in a bipartisan way in the past, but this year, instead of four-poster, it is two; and that has had an impact on the content of what this is, and that content has an impact on the lives of the American people.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will just say that that is why I am not voting for the bill. Members will have to make their own decisions. But we cannot go down the path of missed opportunities and just roll over and not speak out and say this isn't the best that we can do for the American people. We owe them much better than this bill.

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

□ 1330

Mrs. LOWEY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we conclude debate on the CR, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the service of Chairman ROGERS. This may be the last bill Mr. ROGERS will manage as full committee chairman. I have appreciated his partnership and his friendship. I support his ultimate goal as chairman, to pass individual spending bills, allowing Members to exercise their constitutional duty of providing funding for government programs. It may be an understatement to say he has faced political headwinds each year that made regular order out of reach, but I know he will remain as a senior member of the committee, and he will continue to work to pass full-year bills. I thank him for your partnership.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to recognize my departing colleagues on the committee. For 23 years, SAM FARR has worked tirelessly to support agriculture, ensure the safety of our food and medicine, and protect the vitality and cleanliness of our oceans. He has also been a tireless defender of our military veterans,

the Peace Corps, and the institution of Congress itself.

We are also losing the ranking member of the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee, MIKE HONDA. MIKE's life experiences, including his early years with his family in a Japanese American internment camp, helped shape his efforts addressing income inequality, LGBTQ equity, and technology issues that are vital to his Silicon Valley district.

New York and all of America's middle class are losing one of their strongest advocates with STEVE ISRAEL, who has been a champion of our Armed Forces, clean air and water, and the U.S.-Israel relationship.

On the Republican side, we will miss SCOTT RIGELL, DAVID JOLLY, and especially my good friend, chairman of the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, ANDER CRENSHAW.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted earlier, this may be the last time I speak before the body as chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations. Let me first say how much I appreciate the friendship and the camaraderie with the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY). She has been a pleasure to work with. She is perceptive; she is persistent; she is a personal friend; and we enjoy a great friendship.

Without a doubt, the last 6 years have had their ups and downs, but I have always been proud to serve the people of Kentucky, the people of this Nation, the Committee on Appropriations, and this great institution that we admire.

Let me highlight, Mr. Speaker, just a few of these ups and downs that I mentioned with one of my favorite exercises, a by-the-numbers reflection on our many shared experiences. Here is my by-the-numbers recollection of my last 6 years at the helm of the Committee on Appropriations:

650, the number of hearings held by appropriations subcommittees.

140, the number of appropriations bills considered on the House floor.

19, the number of appropriations bills considered on the floor in just 1 month, October of 2013.

12, the number of appropriations bills we should pass every year.

2,122, the number of floor amendments considered to appropriations bills.

555 and counting, the number of floor hours spent debating appropriations bills.

70, the number of appropriations bills enacted into law. Hopefully this will make it 71.

Two trillion, the number of dollars saved in discretionary outlays as a direct result of our appropriations work.

Too many to count, the number of cigars smoked in my office. And they were not only me.

Number 1, the number of basketball championships won by the University of Kentucky.

70, the number of mighty fine Members who have served on the committee over the last 6 years.

Incalculable, the number of hours our staff—the best on the Hill—have put into their tireless work on behalf of all of us. This includes late nights, weekends, holidays, you name it. When we need them, they are there, and they have done a wonderful job.

In particular, Mr. Speaker, let me take a moment to thank Will Smith, sitting beside me here. Will worked up the ranks in my personal office, serving as my chief of staff before moving to the committee in 2011, first as deputy staff director and now as staff director. He has been with me for so long and through so much, it is hard to calculate. In any year, he is a first-round draft pick, and I am fortunate to have had him by my side these past 6 years. He has done a wonderful, wonderful job.

Thanks also to Mrs. LOWEY and our Senate counterparts, Chairman COCHRAN and Ranking Member MIKULSKI, for all their partnership throughout the process, and the great work that they have done.

Today is a bittersweet day, but I am deeply honored to have served this institution at the head of the committee I love. I hope this institution and the people we serve are better off now because of our work over the last 6 years. I know that under the steadfast leadership of our new chairman, my dear friend, RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN, the progress we have made will only continue to grow.

In addition to Will, let me thank the front office staff of the committee: Will Smith, Jim Kulikowski, Dale Oak, Stephen Sepp, Jennifer Hing, Matt Leffingwell, Marta Hernandez, Tammy Hughes, Kaitlyn Eisner-Poor, Victoria Luck, Kelicia Rice, and Brad Allen. Thank you also to the clerks of the subcommittees, the people who really do the hard work: Tom O'Brien, John Martens, Rob Blair, Donna Shahbaz, Winnie Chang, Valerie Baldwin, Dave LesStrang, Susan Ross, Liz Dawson, Maureen Holohan, Craig Higgins, Dena Baron, and all of the staff who work with them in the subcommittees and in the full committee.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me thank you for the help that you have given me as chairman of the committee over the years, both on the committee and off, the friendships that we have devel-

oped, the camaraderie that develops and exists on our committee and throughout the body. It has been a great honor to serve in this role. I look forward to continuing to work in the committee to do the Nation's work. Thank you all for your collaboration, consideration, and your companionship over the last 6 years.

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

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 949, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the order of the House of today, this 15-minute vote on adoption of the motion will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of the motion to recommit on S. 612; passage of S. 612, if ordered; and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 326, nays 96, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 620]

YEAS—326

Abraham	Clay	Engel
Adams	Cleaver	Esty
Aderholt	Coffman	Evans
Aguilar	Cohen	Farenthold
Allen	Cole	Fitzpatrick
Amodei	Collins (GA)	Fleischmann
Ashford	Collins (NY)	Fleming
Babin	Comer	Flores
Barletta	Comstock	Fortenberry
Barr	Conaway	Foster
Barton	Connolly	Foxo
Beatty	Conyers	Frankel (FL)
Benishek	Cook	Frelinghuysen
Bera	Cooper	Gabbard
Bilirakis	Costa	Garamendi
Bishop (GA)	Costello (PA)	Garrett
Bishop (MI)	Courtney	Gibbs
Bishop (UT)	Cramer	Goodlatte
Black	Crawford	Gosar
Blackburn	Crenshaw	Graham
Bonamici	Cuellar	Granger
Bost	Culberson	Graves (GA)
Boustany	Cummings	Graves (LA)
Brady (PA)	Curbelo (FL)	Graves (MO)
Brady (TX)	Davidson	Grayson
Brat	Davis (CA)	Griffith
Brooks (IN)	Davis, Danny	Grothman
Brown (FL)	Davis, Rodney	Guinta
Brownley (CA)	DeGette	Guthrie
Buchanan	Delaney	Hanabusa
Bucshon	DeLauro	Hanna
Burgess	DelBene	Hardy
Bustos	Denham	Harper
Butterfield	Dent	Hartzler
Byrne	DeSantis	Heck (NV)
Calvert	Deuth	Heck (WA)
Cárdenas	Diaz-Balart	Hensarling
Carney	Dingell	Herrera Beutler
Carter (GA)	Dold	Hice, Jody B.
Carter (TX)	Donovan	Higgins
Chabot	Duffy	Hill
Chaffetz	Edwards	Himes
Chu, Judy	Ellison	Hinojosa
Ciilline	Ellmers (NC)	Holding
Clawson (FL)	Emmer (MN)	Hoyer

Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry

McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.

NAYS—96

Amash
Bass
Becerra
Beyer
Blum
Blumenauer
Boyle, Brendan F.
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Capps
Capuano
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Crowley
DeFazio
DeSaunier
DesJarlais
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth

Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Eshoo
Farr
Franks (AZ)
Fudge
Gallego
Gibson
Gohmert
Gowdy
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Harris
Hastings
Honda
Huelskamp
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kind
King (IA)
Labrador

Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Forbes
Green, Gene
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Schakowsky
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Takano
Thompson (MS)
Titus

Clyburn
Fincher
Forbes
Green, Gene

NOT VOTING—11

Kirkpatrick
Poe (TX)
Price, Tom
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Westmoreland
Wilson (FL)

□ 1403

Ms. ESHOO, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. MOORE, Messrs. GUTIEREZ, JEFFRIES, GOWDY, DESAULNIER, WEBER of Texas, and WALKER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. ELLISON, Mses. SEWELL of Alabama, ROYBAL-ALLARD, and DEGETTE changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to concur was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (S. 612) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”, offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 184, nays 236, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 621]

YEAS—184

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Clarney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Ciilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
DeSaunier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa

Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Williams
Wittman
Yarmuth
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodi
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais

Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)

NAYS—236

Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Elmrs (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly

Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer

Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus

Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott

Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—13

Clyburn
Fincher
Forbes
Green, Gene
Hardy

Kirkpatrick
McDermott
Poe (TX)
Price, Tom
Renacci

Sanchez, Loretta
Smith (NJ)
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1410

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

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 621.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. MCCARTHY was allowed to speak out of order.)

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues that, upon completion of our work today, the House will no longer be in session next week, and these will be the last votes expected in the 114th Congress.

Additionally, I would like to recognize those Members who will not be returning next Congress. To those Members, we wish to say thank you for your hard work and for your service to this great body.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

To those Members who are returning next Congress, I would say this: You can expect a very busy legislative schedule. You need to get your rest because in the House we will be working to make America great again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 360, noes 61, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 622]

AYES—360

Abraham
Adams
Aguilar
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishak
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny

Davis, Rodney
Delaney
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Esty
Farenthold
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Portenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Hoyer
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)

Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney

Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Palazzo
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Price (NC)
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen

Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanford
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Takano
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton

Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOES—61

Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brooks (AL)
Capps
Capuano
Cartwright
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
DeFazio
DeGette
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Eshoo
Farr
Franks (AZ)
Galleo
Grijalva
Honda

Huelskamp
Huffman
Jones
Jordan
Kilmer
Lee
Lieu, Ted
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Marino
Massie
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Moore
Neugebauer
Pallone
Palmer
Pelosi
Pocan

Polis
Quigley
Ribble
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rush
Salmon
Sarbanes
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Swell (AL)
Smith (WA)
Spicer
Swalwell (CA)
Thompson (CA)
Titus
Vargas
Visclosky

NOT VOTING—12

Clyburn
Evans
Fincher
Forbes

Green, Gene
Kirkpatrick
Olson
Poe (TX)

Posey
Price, Tom
Sanchez, Loretta
Westmoreland

□ 1419

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 620, “nay” on rollcall No. 621, and “yea” on rollcall No. 622.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of

the Journal, which the Chair will put *de novo*.

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL S. 612

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER *pro tempore* (Mr. CLAWSON of Florida). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 183

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill S. 612, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following correction: Amend the long title so as to read: "An Act to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes."

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INSPECTOR GENERAL EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6450) to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6450

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2016".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Additional authority provisions for Inspectors General.

Sec. 3. Additional responsibilities of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

Sec. 4. Reports and additional information.

Sec. 5. Full and prompt access to all documents.

Sec. 6. Access to information for certain Inspectors General.

Sec. 7. Technical and conforming amendments.

Sec. 8. No additional funds authorized.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY PROVISIONS FOR INSPECTORS GENERAL.

Section 6 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by section 5 of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(j)(1) In this subsection, the terms 'agency', 'matching program', 'record', and 'system of records' have the meanings given those terms in section 552a(a) of title 5, United States Code.

"(2) For purposes of section 552a of title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law, a computerized comparison of two or more automated Federal systems of records, or a computerized comparison of a Federal system of records with other records or non-Federal records, performed by an Inspector General or by an agency in coordination with an Inspector General in conducting an audit, investigation, inspection, evaluation, or other review authorized under this Act shall not be considered a matching program.

"(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to impede the exercise by an Inspector General of any matching program authority established under any other provision of law.

"(k) Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to the collection of information during the conduct of an audit, investigation, inspection, evaluation, or other review conducted by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency or any Office of Inspector General, including any Office of Special Inspector General."

SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY.

Section 11 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3)(B), by amending clause (viii) to read as follows:

"(viii) prepare and transmit an annual report on behalf of the Council on the activities of the Council to—

"(I) the President;

"(II) the appropriate committees of jurisdiction of the Senate and the House of Representatives;

"(III) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

"(IV) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives."

(2) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (G), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (H) as subparagraph (I); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

"(H) except for matters coordinated among Inspectors General under section 3033 of title 50, United States Code, receive, review, and mediate any disputes submitted in writing to

the Council by an Office of Inspector General regarding an audit, investigation, inspection, evaluation, or project that involves the jurisdiction of more than one Office of Inspector General; and"; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (C);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(iii) in the matter preceding clause (i), as so redesignated, by striking "The Integrity" and inserting the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Integrity";

(iv) in clause (i), as so redesignated, by striking ", who" and all that follows through "the Committee";

(v) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by inserting "or the designee of the Director" before the period at the end; and

(vi) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) CHAIRPERSON.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Integrity Committee shall elect one of the Inspectors General referred to in subparagraph (A)(ii) to act as Chairperson of the Integrity Committee.

"(ii) TERM.—The term of office of the Chairperson of the Integrity Committee shall be 2 years."

(B) by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

"(5) REVIEW OF ALLEGATIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 7 days after the date on which the Integrity Committee receives an allegation of wrongdoing against an Inspector General or against a staff member of an Office of Inspector General described under paragraph (4)(C), the allegation of wrongdoing shall be reviewed and referred to the Department of Justice or the Office of Special Counsel for investigation, or to the Integrity Committee for review, as appropriate, by—

"(i) a representative of the Department of Justice, as designated by the Attorney General;

"(ii) a representative of the Office of Special Counsel, as designated by the Special Counsel; and

"(iii) a representative of the Integrity Committee, as designated by the Chairperson of the Integrity Committee.

"(B) REFERRAL TO THE CHAIRPERSON.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), not later than 30 days after the date on which an allegation of wrongdoing is referred to the Integrity Committee under subparagraph (A), the Integrity Committee shall determine whether to refer the allegation of wrongdoing to the Chairperson of the Integrity Committee to initiate an investigation.

"(ii) EXTENSION.—The 30-day period described in clause (i) may be extended for an additional period of 30 days if the Integrity Committee provides written notice to the congressional committees described in paragraph (8)(A)(iii) that includes a detailed, case-specific description of why the additional time is needed to evaluate the allegation of wrongdoing."

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking "paragraph (5)(C)" and inserting "paragraph (5)(B)"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking "may provide resources" and inserting "shall provide assistance";

(D) in paragraph (7)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) in subclause (III), by striking "and" at the end;

(bb) in subclause (IV), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(cc) by adding at the end the following:

“(V) except as provided in clause (ii), ensuring, to the extent possible, that investigations are conducted by Offices of Inspector General of similar size;

“(VI) creating a process for rotation of Inspectors General assigned to investigate allegations through the Integrity Committee; and

“(VII) creating procedures to avoid conflicts of interest for Integrity Committee investigations.”;

(II) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(III) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—The requirement under clause (i)(V) shall not apply to any Office of Inspector General with less than 50 employees who are authorized to conduct audits or investigations.”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) COMPLETION OF INVESTIGATION.—If an allegation of wrongdoing is referred to the Chairperson of the Integrity Committee under paragraph (5)(B), the Chairperson of the Integrity Committee—

“(i) shall complete the investigation not later than 150 days after the date on which the Integrity Committee made the referral; and

“(ii) if the investigation cannot be completed within the 150-day period described in clause (i), shall—

“(I) promptly notify the congressional committees described in paragraph (8)(A)(iii); and

“(II) brief the congressional committees described in paragraph (8)(A)(iii) every 30 days regarding the status of the investigation and the general reasons for delay until the investigation is complete.

“(D) CONCURRENT INVESTIGATION.—If an allegation of wrongdoing against an Inspector General or a staff member of an Office of Inspector General described under paragraph (4)(C) is referred to the Department of Justice or the Office of Special Counsel under paragraph (5)(A), the Chairperson of the Integrity Committee may conduct any related investigation referred to the Chairperson under paragraph (5)(B) concurrently with the Department of Justice or the Office of Special Counsel, as applicable.

“(E) REPORTS.—

“(i) INTEGRITY COMMITTEE INVESTIGATIONS.—For each investigation of an allegation of wrongdoing referred to the Chairperson of the Integrity Committee under paragraph (5)(B), the Chairperson of the Integrity Committee shall submit to members of the Integrity Committee and to the Chairperson of the Council a report containing the results of the investigation.

“(ii) OTHER INVESTIGATIONS.—For each allegation of wrongdoing referred to the Department of Justice or the Office of Special Counsel under paragraph (5)(A), the Attorney General or the Special Counsel, as applicable, shall submit to the Integrity Committee a report containing the results of the investigation.

“(iii) AVAILABILITY TO CONGRESS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The congressional committees described in paragraph (8)(A)(iii) shall have access to any report authored by the Integrity Committee.

“(II) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—Subject to any other provision of law that would other-

wise prohibit disclosure of such information, the Integrity Committee may provide any report authored by the Integrity Committee to any Member of Congress.”;

(E) by striking paragraph (8)(A)(iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) submit the report, with the recommendations of the Integrity Committee, to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and other congressional committees of jurisdiction; and

“(iv) following the submission of the report under clause (iii) and upon request by any Member of Congress, submit the report, with the recommendations of the Integrity Committee, to that Member.”;

(F) in paragraph (9)(B), by striking “other agencies” and inserting “the Department of Justice or the Office of Special Counsel”;

(G) in paragraph (10), by striking “any of the following” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “any Member of Congress.”; and

(H) by adding at the end the following:

“(12) ALLEGATIONS OF WRONGDOING AGAINST SPECIAL COUNSEL OR DEPUTY SPECIAL COUNSEL.—

“(A) SPECIAL COUNSEL DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘Special Counsel’ means the Special Counsel appointed under section 1211(b) of title 5, United States Code.

“(B) AUTHORITY OF INTEGRITY COMMITTEE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An allegation of wrongdoing against the Special Counsel or the Deputy Special Counsel may be received, reviewed, and referred for investigation to the same extent and in the same manner as in the case of an allegation against an Inspector General or against a staff member of an Office of Inspector General described under paragraph (4)(C), subject to the requirement that the representative designated by the Special Counsel under paragraph (5)(A)(ii) shall recuse himself or herself from the consideration of any allegation brought under this paragraph.

“(ii) COORDINATION WITH EXISTING PROVISIONS OF LAW.—This paragraph shall not eliminate access to the Merit Systems Protection Board for review under section 7701 of title 5, United States Code. To the extent that an allegation brought under this paragraph involves section 2302(b)(8) of such title, a failure to obtain corrective action within 120 days after the date on which the allegation is received by the Integrity Committee shall, for purposes of section 1221 of such title, be considered to satisfy section 1214(a)(3)(B) of such title.

“(C) REGULATIONS.—The Integrity Committee may prescribe any rules or regulations necessary to carry out this paragraph, subject to such consultation or other requirements as may otherwise apply.

“(13) COMMITTEE RECORDS.—The Chairperson of the Council shall maintain the records of the Integrity Committee.”.

SEC. 4. REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

(a) REPORT ON VACANCIES IN THE OFFICES OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a study of prolonged vacancies in the Offices of Inspector General during which a temporary appointee has served as the head of the office that includes—

(A) the number and duration of Inspector General vacancies;

(B) an examination of the extent to which the number and duration of such vacancies has changed over time;

(C) an evaluation of the impact such vacancies have had on the ability of the relevant Office of Inspector General to effectively carry out statutory requirements; and

(D) recommendations to minimize the duration of such vacancies;

(2) not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, present a briefing on the findings of the study conducted under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives; and

(3) not later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this Act, submit a report on the findings of the study conducted under paragraph (1) to the committees described in paragraph (2).

(b) REPORT ON ISSUES INVOLVING MULTIPLE OFFICES OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency shall—

(1) conduct an analysis of critical issues that involve the jurisdiction of more than one individual Federal agency or entity to identify—

(A) each such issue that could be better addressed through greater coordination among, and cooperation between, individual Offices of Inspector General;

(B) the best practices that can be employed by the Offices of Inspector General to increase coordination and cooperation on each issue identified; and

(C) any recommended statutory changes that would facilitate coordination and cooperation among the Offices of Inspector General on critical issues; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, submit a report on the findings of the analysis described in paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

(c) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—Section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (10)—

(i) by striking “period for which” and inserting “period—

“(A) for which”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) for which no establishment comment was returned within 60 days of providing the report to the establishment; and

“(C) for which there are any outstanding unimplemented recommendations, including the aggregate potential cost savings of those recommendations.”;

(B) in paragraph (15), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in paragraph (16), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(17) statistical tables showing—

“(A) the total number of investigative reports issued during the reporting period;

“(B) the total number of persons referred to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution during the reporting period;

“(C) the total number of persons referred to State and local prosecuting authorities for criminal prosecution during the reporting period; and

“(D) the total number of indictments and criminal information during the reporting period that resulted from any prior referral to prosecuting authorities;

“(18) a description of the metrics used for developing the data for the statistical tables under paragraph (17);

“(19) a report on each investigation conducted by the Office involving a senior Government employee where allegations of misconduct were substantiated, including a detailed description of—

“(A) the facts and circumstances of the investigation; and

“(B) the status and disposition of the matter, including—

“(i) if the matter was referred to the Department of Justice, the date of the referral; and

“(ii) if the Department of Justice declined the referral, the date of the declination;

“(20) a detailed description of any instance of whistleblower retaliation, including information about the official found to have engaged in retaliation and what, if any, consequences the establishment imposed to hold that official accountable;

“(21) a detailed description of any attempt by the establishment to interfere with the independence of the Office, including—

“(A) with budget constraints designed to limit the capabilities of the Office; and

“(B) incidents where the establishment has resisted or objected to oversight activities of the Office or restricted or significantly delayed access to information, including the justification of the establishment for such action; and

“(22) detailed descriptions of the particular circumstances of each—

“(A) inspection, evaluation, and audit conducted by the Office that is closed and was not disclosed to the public; and

“(B) investigation conducted by the Office involving a senior Government employee that is closed and was not disclosed to the public.”;

(2) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) Subject to any other provision of law that would otherwise prohibit disclosure of such information, the information described in paragraph (1) may be provided to any Member of Congress upon request.

“(5) An Office may not provide to Congress or the public any information that reveals the personally identifiable information of a whistleblower under this section unless the Office first obtains the consent of the whistleblower.”;

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) the term ‘senior Government employee’ means—

“(A) an officer or employee in the executive branch (including a special Government employee as defined in section 202 of title 18, United States Code) who occupies a position classified at or above GS-15 of the General Schedule or, in the case of positions not under the General Schedule, for which the rate of basic pay is equal to or greater than 120 percent of the minimum rate of basic pay payable for GS-15 of the General Schedule; and

“(B) any commissioned officer in the Armed Forces in pay grades O-6 and above.”.

(d) DUTY TO SUBMIT AND MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS.—Section 4 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e)(1) In carrying out the duties and responsibilities established under this Act,

whenever an Inspector General issues a recommendation for corrective action to the agency, the Inspector General—

“(A) shall submit the document making a recommendation for corrective action to—

“(i) the head of the establishment;

“(ii) the congressional committees of jurisdiction; and

“(iii) if the recommendation for corrective action was initiated upon request by an individual or entity other than the Inspector General, that individual or entity;

“(B) may submit the document making a recommendation for corrective action to any Member of Congress upon request; and

“(C) not later than 3 days after the recommendation for corrective action is submitted in final form to the head of the establishment, post the document making a recommendation for corrective action on the website of the Office of Inspector General.

“(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as authorizing an Inspector General to publicly disclose information otherwise prohibited from disclosure by law.”.

(e) POSTING OF REPORTS ON WEBSITES OF OFFICES OF INSPECTORS GENERAL.—Section 8M(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “is made publicly available” and inserting “is submitted in final form to the head of the Federal agency or the head of the designated Federal entity, as applicable”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as authorizing an Inspector General to publicly disclose information otherwise prohibited from disclosure by law.”.

SEC. 5. FULL AND PROMPT ACCESS TO ALL DOCUMENTS.

Section 6 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1)(A) to have timely access to all records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, or other materials available to the applicable establishment which relate to the programs and operations with respect to which that Inspector General has responsibilities under this Act;

“(B) to have access under subparagraph (A) notwithstanding any other provision of law, except pursuant to any provision of law enacted by Congress that expressly—

“(i) refers to the Inspector General; and

“(ii) limits the right of access of the Inspector General; and

“(C) except as provided in subsection (i), with regard to Federal grand jury materials protected from disclosure pursuant to rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, to have timely access to such information if the Attorney General grants the request in accordance with subsection (h);”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (f) as subsections (c) through (g), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing an Inspector General to publicly disclose information otherwise prohibited from disclosure by law.”; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (g), as redesignated, the following:

“(h)(1) If the Inspector General of an establishment submits a request to the head of the establishment for Federal grand jury materials pursuant to subsection (a)(1), the head of the establishment shall immediately notify the Attorney General of such request.

“(2) Not later than 15 days after the date on which a request is submitted to the Attorney General under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall determine whether to grant or deny the request for Federal grand jury materials and shall immediately notify the head of the establishment of such determination. The Attorney General shall grant the request unless the Attorney General determines that granting access to the Federal grand jury materials would be likely to—

“(A) interfere with an ongoing criminal investigation or prosecution;

“(B) interfere with an undercover operation;

“(C) result in disclosure of the identity of a confidential source, including a protected witness;

“(D) pose a serious threat to national security; or

“(E) result in significant impairment of the trade or economic interests of the United States.

“(3)(A) The head of the establishment shall inform the Inspector General of the establishment of the determination made by the Attorney General with respect to the request for Federal grand jury materials.

“(B) The Inspector General of the establishment described under subparagraph (A) may submit comments on the determination submitted pursuant to such subparagraph to the committees listed under paragraph (4) that the Inspector General considers appropriate.

“(4) Not later than 30 days after notifying the head of an establishment of a denial pursuant to paragraph (2), the Attorney General shall submit a statement that the request for Federal grand jury materials by the Inspector General was denied and the reason for the denial to each of the following:

“(A) The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

“(B) The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

“(C) Other appropriate committees and subcommittees of Congress.

“(i) Subsections (a)(1)(C) and (h) shall not apply to requests from the Inspector General of the Department of Justice.”.

SEC. 6. ACCESS TO INFORMATION FOR CERTAIN INSPECTORS GENERAL.

The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by this Act, is amended—

(1) in section 8(b)(2)—

(A) by inserting “from accessing information described in paragraph (1),” after “completing any audit or investigation,”; and

(B) by inserting “, access such information,” after “complete such audit or investigation”;

(2) in section 8D(a)(2)—

(A) by inserting “from accessing information described in paragraph (1),” after “completing any audit or investigation,”; and

(B) by inserting “, access such information,” after “complete such audit or investigation”;

(3) in section 8E(a)(2)—

(A) by inserting “from accessing information described in paragraph (1),” after “completing any audit or investigation,”; and

(B) by inserting “, access such information,” after “complete such audit or investigation”;

(4) in section 8G(d)(2)(A), by inserting “, or from accessing information available to an

element of the intelligence community specified in subparagraph (D),” after “investigation”;

(5) in section 8I(a)(2)—

(A) by inserting “from accessing information described in paragraph (1),” after “completing any audit or investigation,”; and

(B) by inserting “, access such information,” after “complete such audit or investigation”;

(6) in section 8J, by striking “or 8H” and inserting “8H, or 8N”; and

(7) by inserting after section 8M the following:

“SEC. 8N. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

“(a) The Secretary of Energy may prohibit the Inspector General of the Department of Energy from accessing Restricted Data and nuclear safeguards information protected from disclosure under chapter 12 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2161 et seq.) and intelligence or counterintelligence, as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003), if the Secretary of Energy determines that the prohibition is necessary to protect the national security or prevent the significant impairment to the national security interests of the United States.

“(b) Not later than 7 days after the date on which the Secretary of Energy exercises any power authorized under subsection (a), the Secretary shall notify the Inspector General of the Department of Energy in writing the reasons for such exercise. Within 30 days after receipt of any such notice, the Inspector General of the Department of Energy shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a statement concerning such exercise.”.

SEC. 7. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) REPEALS.—

(1) INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 2008.—Section 7(b) of the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-409; 122 Stat. 4312; 5 U.S.C. 1211 note) is repealed.

(2) FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009.—Section 744 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2009 (division D of Public Law 111-8; 123 Stat. 693) is repealed.

(b) AGENCY APPLICABILITY.—

(1) AMENDMENTS.—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(A) in section 8M—

(i) in subsection (a)(1)—

(I) by striking “Each agency” and inserting “Each Federal agency and designated Federal entity”; and

(II) by striking “that agency” each place that term appears and inserting “that Federal agency or designated Federal entity”;

(ii) in subsection (b)—

(I) in paragraph (1), by striking “agency” and inserting “Federal agency and designated Federal entity”; and

(II) in paragraph (2), by striking “agency” each place that term appears and inserting “Federal agency and designated Federal entity”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘designated Federal entity’ and ‘head of the designated Federal entity’ have the meanings given those terms in section 8G(a).”; and

(B) in section 11(c)(3)(A)(ii), by striking “department, agency, or entity of the executive branch” and inserting “Federal agency

or designated Federal entity (as defined in section 8G(a))”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR INSPECTORS GENERAL WEBSITES.—Section 8M(b)(1) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “report or audit (or portion of any report or audit)” and inserting “audit report, inspection report, or evaluation report (or portion of any such report)”; and

(2) by striking “report or audit (or portion of that report or audit)” each place that term appears and inserting “report (or portion of that report)”.

(d) CORRECTIONS.—

(1) EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER.—Section 7(c)(2) of the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-409; 122 Stat. 4313; 31 U.S.C. 501 note) is amended by striking “12933” and inserting “12993”.

(2) PUNCTUATION AND CROSS-REFERENCES.—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(A) in section 4(b)(2)—

(i) by striking “8F(a)(2)” each place that term appears and inserting “8G(a)(2)”; and

(ii) by striking “8F(a)(1)” and inserting “8G(a)(1)”; and

(B) in section 5(a)(5), by striking “section 6(b)(2)” and inserting “section 6(c)(2)”; and

(C) in section 5(a)(13), by striking “05(b)” and inserting “804(b)”; and

(D) in section 6(a)(4), by striking “information, as well as any tangible thing” and inserting “information), as well as any tangible thing”;

(E) in section 8A(d), by striking “section 6(c)” and inserting “section 6(d)”; and

(F) in section 8G(g)(3), by striking “8C” and inserting “8D”; and

(G) in section 11(d)(8)(A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “paragraph (7)(C)” and inserting “paragraph (7)(E)”.

(3) SPELLING.—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(A) in section 3(a), by striking “subpena” and inserting “subpoena”;

(B) in section 6(a)(4), by striking “subpenas” and inserting “subpoenas”;

(C) in section 8D(a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “subpenas” and inserting “subpoenas”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “subpena” each place that term appears and inserting “subpoena”;

(D) in section 8E(a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “subpenas” and inserting “subpoenas”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “subpena” each place that term appears and inserting “subpoena”; and

(E) in section 8G(d)(1), by striking “subpena” and inserting “subpoena”.

SEC. 8. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act or the amendments made by this Act. The requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be carried out using amounts otherwise appropriated.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CHAFFETZ

Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the bill at the desk. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 18, line 11, strike “information” and insert “informations”.

Page 33, line 19, strike “appropriated” and insert “authorized”.

Mr. CHAFFETZ (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REFORM ACT OF 2016

Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6451) to improve the Government-wide management of Federal property, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6451

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Property Management Reform Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Federal Government in managing property of the Federal Government by—

(1) requiring the United States Postal Service to take appropriate measures to better manage and account for property;

(2) providing for increased collocation with Postal Service facilities and guidance on Postal Service leasing practices; and

(3) establishing a Federal Real Property Council to develop guidance on and ensure the implementation of strategies for better managing Federal property.

SEC. 3. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of subtitle I of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Subchapter VII—Property Management

“§ 621. Definitions

“In this subchapter:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of General Services.

“(2) COUNCIL.—The term ‘Council’ means the Federal Real Property Council established by section 623(a).

“(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(4) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term ‘Federal agency’ means—

“(A) an executive department or independent establishment in the executive branch of the Government; or

“(B) a wholly owned Government corporation (other than the United States Postal Service).

“(5) FIELD OFFICE.—The term ‘field office’ means any office of a Federal agency that is not the headquarters office location for the Federal agency.

“(6) POSTAL PROPERTY.—The term ‘postal property’ means any property owned or leased by the United States Postal Service.

“(7) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘public-private partnership’ means any partnership or working relationship between a Federal agency and a corporation, individual, or nonprofit organization for the purpose of financing, constructing, operating, managing, or maintaining 1 or more Federal real property assets.

“(8) UNDERUTILIZED PROPERTY.—The term ‘underutilized property’ means a portion or the entirety of any real property, including any improvements, that is used—

“(A) irregularly or intermittently by the accountable Federal agency for program purposes of the Federal agency; or

“(B) for program purposes that can be satisfied only with a portion of the property.

“§ 622. Collocation among United States Postal Service properties

“(a) IDENTIFICATION OF POSTAL PROPERTY.—Each year, the Postmaster General shall—

“(1) identify a list of postal properties with space available for use by Federal agencies; and

“(2) not later than September 30, submit the list to—

“(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

“(b) VOLUNTARY IDENTIFICATION OF POSTAL PROPERTY.—Each year, the Postmaster General may submit the list under subsection (a) to the Council.

“(c) SUBMISSION OF LIST OF POSTAL PROPERTIES TO FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of a list under subsection (a), the Council shall provide the list to each Federal agency.

“(2) REVIEW BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Not later than 90 days after the receipt of the list submitted under paragraph (1), each Federal agency shall—

“(A) review the list;

“(B) review properties under the control of the Federal agency; and

“(C) recommend collocations if appropriate.

“(d) TERMS OF COLLOCATION.—On approval of the recommendations under subsection (c) by the Postmaster General and the applicable agency head, the Federal agency or appropriate landholding entity may work with the Postmaster General to establish appropriate terms of a lease for each postal property.

“(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section exceeds, modifies, or supplants any other Federal law relating to any competitive bidding process governing the leasing of postal property.

“§ 623. Establishment of a Federal Real Property Council

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Federal Real Property Council.

“(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Council shall be—

“(1) to develop guidance and ensure implementation of an efficient and effective real property management strategy;

“(2) to identify opportunities for the Federal Government to better manage property and assets of the Federal Government; and

“(3) to reduce the costs of managing property of the Federal Government, including operations, maintenance, and security associated with Federal property.

“(c) COMPOSITION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be composed exclusively of—

“(A) the senior real property officers of each Federal agency;

“(B) the Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget;

“(C) the Controller of the Office of Management and Budget;

“(D) the Administrator; and

“(E) any other full-time or permanent part-time Federal officials or employees, as the Chairperson determines to be necessary.

“(2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget shall serve as Chairperson of the Council.

“(3) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson shall designate an Executive Director to assist in carrying out the duties of the Council.

“(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Executive Director shall—

“(i) be appointed from among individuals who have substantial experience in the areas of commercial real estate and development, real property management, and Federal operations and management; and

“(ii) hold no outside employment that may conflict with duties inherent to the position.

“(d) MEETINGS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall meet subject to the call of the Chairperson.

“(2) MINIMUM.—The Council shall meet not fewer than 4 times each year.

“(e) DUTIES.—The Council, in consultation with the Director and the Administrator, shall—

“(1) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subchapter, establish a real property management plan template, to be updated annually, which shall include performance measures, specific milestones, measurable savings, strategies, and Government-wide goals based on the goals established under section 524(a)(7) to reduce surplus property or to achieve better utilization of underutilized property, and evaluation criteria to determine the effectiveness of real property management that are designed—

“(A) to enable Congress and heads of Federal agencies to track progress in the achievement of property management objectives on a Government-wide basis;

“(B) to improve the management of real property; and

“(C) to allow for comparison of the performance of Federal agencies against industry and other public sector agencies;

“(2) develop utilization rates consistent throughout each category of space, considering the diverse nature of the Federal portfolio and consistent with nongovernmental space use rates;

“(3) develop a strategy to reduce the reliance of Federal agencies on leased space for long-term needs if ownership would be less costly;

“(4) provide guidance on eliminating inefficiencies in the Federal leasing process;

“(5) compile a list of field offices that are suitable for collocation with other property assets;

“(6) research best practices regarding the use of public-private partnerships to manage properties and develop guidelines for the use of those partnerships in the management of Federal property; and

“(7) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subchapter and annually during the 4-year period beginning on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this subchapter and ending on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this subchapter, the Council shall submit to the Director a report that contains—

“(A) a list of the remaining excess property that is real property, surplus property that is real property, and underutilized property of each Federal agency;

“(B) the progress of the Council toward developing guidance for Federal agencies to ensure that the assessment required under section 524(a)(11)(B) is carried out in a uniform manner;

“(C) the progress of Federal agencies toward achieving the goals established under section 524(a)(7);

“(D) if necessary, recommendations for legislation or statutory reforms that would further the goals of the Council, including streamlining the disposal of excess or underutilized real property; and

“(E) a list of entities that are consulted under subsection (f).

“(f) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the duties described in subsection (e), the Council shall also consult with representatives of—

“(1) State, local, and tribal authorities, as appropriate, and other affected communities; and

“(2) appropriate private sector entities and nongovernmental organizations that have expertise in areas of—

“(A) commercial real estate and development;

“(B) government management and operations;

“(C) space planning;

“(D) community development, including transportation and planning;

“(E) historic preservation; and

“(F) providing housing to the homeless population.

“(g) COUNCIL RESOURCES.—The Director and the Administrator shall provide staffing, and administrative support for the Council, as appropriate.

“(h) ACCESS TO REPORT.—The Council shall provide, on an annual basis, the real property management plan template required under subsection (e)(1) and the reports required under subsection (e)(7) to—

“(1) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(2) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

“(3) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives;

“(4) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

“(5) the Comptroller General of the United States.

“(i) EXCLUSIONS.—In this section, surplus property shall not include—

“(1) any military installation (as defined in section 2910 of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note; Public Law 101-510));

“(2) any property that is excepted from the definition of the term ‘property’ under section 102;

“(3) Indian and native Eskimo property held in trust by the Federal Government as described in section 3301(a)(5)(C)(iii);

“(4) real property operated and maintained by the Tennessee Valley Authority pursuant to the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 (16 U.S.C. 831 et seq.);

“(5) any real property the Director excludes for reasons of national security;

“(6) any public lands (as defined in section 203 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1722)) administered by—

“(A) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through—

“(i) the Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

“(ii) the Director of the National Park Service;

“(iii) the Commissioner of Reclamation; or

“(iv) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; or

“(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; or

“(7) any property operated and maintained by the United States Postal Service.

“§ 624. Information on certain leasing authorities

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), not later than December 31 of each year following the date of enactment of this subchapter, a Federal agency with independent leasing authority shall submit to the Council a list of all leases, including operating leases, in effect on the date of enactment of this subchapter that includes—

“(1) the date on which each lease was executed;

“(2) the date on which each lease will expire;

“(3) a description of the size of the space;

“(4) the location of the property;

“(5) the tenant agency;

“(6) the total annual rental payment; and

“(7) the amount of the net present value of the total estimated legal obligations of the Federal Government over the life of the contract.

“(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to—

“(1) the United States Postal Service; or

“(2) any other property the Director excludes from subsection (a) for reasons of national security.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 5 of subtitle I of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 611 the following:

“SUBCHAPTER VII—PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

“Sec. 621. Definitions.

“Sec. 622. Collocation among United States Postal Service properties.

“Sec. 623. Establishment of a Federal Real Property Council.

“Sec. 624. Information on certain leasing authorities.”.

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 102 of title 40, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “The” and inserting “Except as provided in subchapter VII of chapter 5 of this title, the”.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part III of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“CHAPTER 29—PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

“Sec.

“2901. Definitions.

“2902. Property management.

“§ 2901. Definitions

“In this chapter:

“(1) EXCESS PROPERTY.—The term ‘excess property’ means any postal property that the Postal Service determines is not required to meet the needs or responsibilities of the Postal Service.

“(2) POSTAL PROPERTY.—The term ‘postal property’ means any property owned or leased by the Postal Service.

“(3) UNDERUTILIZED PROPERTY.—The term ‘underutilized property’ means a portion or the entirety of any real property that is postal property, including any improvements, that is used—

“(A) irregularly or intermittently by the Postal Service for program purposes of the Postal Service; or

“(B) for program purposes that can be satisfied only with a portion of the property.

“§ 2902. Property management

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service—

“(1) shall maintain adequate inventory controls and accountability systems for postal property;

“(2) shall develop current and future workforce projections so as to have the capacity to assess the needs of the Postal Service workforce regarding the use of property;

“(3) may develop a 5-year management template that—

“(A) establishes goals and policies that will lead to the reduction of excess property and underutilized property in the inventory of the Postal Service;

“(B) adopts workplace practices, configurations, and management techniques that can achieve increased levels of productivity and decrease the need for real property assets;

“(C) assesses leased space to identify space that is not fully used or occupied;

“(D) develops recommendations on how to address excess capacity at Postal Service facilities without negatively impacting mail delivery; and

“(E) develops recommendations on ensuring the security of mail processing operations; and

“(4) if the Postal Service develops a template under paragraph (3) shall, as part of that template and on a regular basis—

“(A) conduct an inventory of postal property that is real property; and

“(B) publish a report that covers each property identified under subparagraph (A), similar to the USPS Owned Facilities Report and the USPS Leased Facilities Report, that includes—

“(i) the date on which the Postal Service first occupied the property;

“(ii) the size of the property in square footage and acreage;

“(iii) the geographical location of the property, including an address and description;

“(iv) the extent to which the property is being utilized;

“(v) the actual annual operating costs associated with the property;

“(vi) the total cost of capital expenditures associated with the property;

“(vii) the number of postal employees, contractor employees, and functions housed at the property;

“(viii) the extent to which the mission of the Postal Service is dependent on the property; and

“(ix) the estimated amount of capital expenditures projected to maintain and operate the property over each of the next 5 years after the date of enactment of this chapter.

“(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (a)(4)(B) shall be construed to require the Postal Service to obtain an appraisal of postal property.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for part III of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“29. Property Management 2901”.

SEC. 5. INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT ON UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE PROPERTY.

(a) DEFINITION OF EXCESS PROPERTY.—In this section, the term ‘excess property’ has the meaning given the term in section 2901 of title 39, United States Code, as added by section 4.

(b) EXCESS PROPERTY REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) a survey of excess property held by the United States Postal Service; and

(2) recommendations for repurposing property identified in paragraph (1)—

(A) to—

(i) reduce excess capacity; and

(ii) increase collocation with other Federal agencies; and

(B) without diminishing the ability of the United States Postal Service to meet the service standards established under section 3691 of title 39, United States Code, as in effect on January 1, 2016.

SEC. 6. DUTIES OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 524(a) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) develop current and future workforce projections so as to have the capacity to assess the needs of the Federal workforce regarding the use of real property;

“(7) establish goals and policies that will lead the executive agency to reduce excess property and underutilized property in the inventory of the executive agency;

“(8) submit to the Federal Real Property Council an annual report on all excess property that is real property and underutilized property in the inventory of the executive agency, including—

“(A) whether underutilized property can be better utilized, including through collocation with other executive agencies or consolidation with other facilities; and

“(B) the extent to which the executive agency believes that retention of the underutilized property serves the needs of the executive agency;

“(9) adopt workplace practices, configurations, and management techniques that can achieve increased levels of productivity and decrease the need for real property assets;

“(10) assess leased space to identify space that is not fully used or occupied;

“(11) on an annual basis and subject to the guidance of the Federal Real Property Council—

“(A) conduct an inventory of real property under control of the executive agency; and

“(B) make an assessment of each property, which shall include—

“(i) the age and condition of the property;

“(ii) the size of the property in square footage and acreage;

“(iii) the geographical location of the property, including an address and description;

“(iv) the extent to which the property is being utilized;

“(v) the actual annual operating costs associated with the property;

“(vi) the total cost of capital expenditures incurred by the Federal Government associated with the property;

“(vii) sustainability metrics associated with the property;

“(viii) the number of Federal employees and contractor employees and functions housed at the property;

“(ix) the extent to which the mission of the executive agency is dependent on the property;

“(x) the estimated amount of capital expenditures projected to maintain and operate the property during the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this paragraph; and

“(xi) any additional information required by the Administrator of General Services to carry out section 623; and

“(12) provide to the Federal Real Property Council and the Administrator of General Services the information described in paragraph (11)(B) to be used for the establishment and maintenance of the database described in section 21 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016.”.

(b) DEFINITION OF EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—Section 524 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) DEFINITION OF EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—For the purpose of paragraphs (6) through (12) of subsection (a), the term ‘executive agency’ shall have the meaning given the term ‘Federal agency’ in section 621.”.

SEC. 7. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE ACT.—In this section, the term “applicable Act” means the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (H.R. 4465, 114th Congress, 2d Session).

(b) BOARD.—Section 4(c) of the applicable Act is amended by striking paragraphs (1) through (3) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall be composed of a Chairperson appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and 6 members appointed by the President.

“(2) APPOINTMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In selecting individuals for appointments to the Board, the President shall appoint members in the following manner:

“(i) 2 members recommended by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

“(ii) 2 members recommended by the majority leader of the Senate.

“(iii) 1 member recommended by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

“(iv) 1 member recommended by the minority leader of the Senate.

“(B) DEADLINE.—The appointment of members to the Board shall be made not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

“(3) TERMS.—The term for each member of the Board shall be 6 years.”.

(c) AGENCY RETENTION OF PROCEEDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 571 of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 20 of the applicable Act), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section modifies, alters, or repeals any other provision of Federal law directing the use of retained proceeds relating to the sale of property of an agency.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect as if enacted as part of the applicable Act.

(d) SALE.—Section 24 of the applicable Act is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the sale of the property by the Administrator of General Services shall ensure continuity of security measures, parking access, and infrastructure requirements of the James Forrestal Build-

ing while it is occupied by the Department of Energy.”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as provided in subsection (c)(2), this section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect immediately after the enactment of the applicable Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENSURING ACCESS TO PACIFIC FISHERIES ACT

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6452) to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6452

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ensuring Access to Pacific Fisheries Act”.

TITLE I—NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES

Subtitle A—North Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the North Pacific Fisheries Commission established in accordance with the North Pacific Fisheries Convention.

(2) COMMISSIONER.—The term “Commissioner” means a United States Commissioner appointed under section 102(a).

(3) CONVENTION AREA.—The term “Convention Area” means the area to which the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean applies under Article 4 of such Convention.

(4) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, or the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council established under section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852), as the context requires.

(5) EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—The term “exclusive economic zone” means—

(A) with respect to the United States, the zone established by Presidential Proclamation Numbered 5030 of March 10, 1983 (16 U.S.C. 1453 note); and

(B) with respect to a foreign country, a designated zone similar to the zone referred to in subparagraph (A) for that country, consistent with international law.

(6) FISHERIES RESOURCES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term “fisheries resources” means all fish, mollusks, crustaceans, and other marine species caught by a fishing vessel within the Convention Area, as well as any products thereof.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “fisheries resources” does not include—

(i) sedentary species insofar as they are subject to the sovereign rights of coastal nations consistent with Article 77, paragraph 4 of the 1982 Convention and indicator species of vulnerable marine ecosystems as listed in, or adopted pursuant to, Article 13, paragraph 5 of the North Pacific Fisheries Convention;

(ii) catadromous species;

(iii) marine mammals, marine reptiles, or seabirds; or

(iv) other marine species already covered by preexisting international fisheries management instruments within the area of competence of such instruments.

(7) FISHING ACTIVITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “fishing activities” means—

(i) the actual or attempted searching for, catching, taking, or harvesting of fisheries resources;

(ii) engaging in any activity that can reasonably be expected to result in the locating, catching, taking, or harvesting of fisheries resources for any purpose;

(iii) the processing of fisheries resources at sea;

(iv) the transshipment of fisheries resources at sea or in port; or

(v) any operation at sea in direct support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in clauses (i) through (iv), including transshipment.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “fishing activities” does not include any operation related to an emergency involving the health or safety of a crew member or the safety of a fishing vessel.

(8) FISHING VESSEL.—The term “fishing vessel” means any vessel used or intended for use for the purpose of engaging in fishing activities, including a processing vessel, a support ship, a carrier vessel, or any other vessel directly engaged in such fishing activities.

(9) HIGH SEAS.—The term “high seas” does not include an area that is within the exclusive economic zone of the United States or of any other country.

(10) NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES CONVENTION.—The term “North Pacific Fisheries Convention” means the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean (including any annexes, amendments, or protocols that are in force, or have come into force) for the United States, which was adopted at Tokyo on February 24, 2012.

(11) PERSON.—The term “person” means—

(A) any individual, whether or not a citizen or national of the United States;

(B) any corporation, partnership, association, or other entity, whether or not organized or existing under the laws of any State; or

(C) any Federal, State, local, tribal, or foreign government or any entity of such government.

(12) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(13) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American

Samoa, Guam, and any other commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(14) STRADDLING STOCK.—The term “straddling stock” means a stock of fisheries resources that migrates between, or occurs in, the economic exclusion zone of one or more parties to the Convention and the Convention Area.

(15) TRANSSHIPMENT.—The term “transshipment” means the unloading of any fisheries resources taken in the Convention Area from one fishing vessel to another fishing vessel either at sea or in port.

(16) 1982 CONVENTION.—The term “1982 Convention” means the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982.

SEC. 102. UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES CONVENTION.

(a) UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS.—

(1) NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS.—The United States shall be represented on the Commission by five United States Commissioners.

(2) SELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS.—The Commissioners shall be as follows:

(A) APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Two of the Commissioners shall be appointed by the President and shall be an officer or employee of—

- (I) the Department of Commerce;
- (II) the Department of State; or
- (III) the Coast Guard.

(ii) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In making each appointment under clause (i), the President shall select a Commissioner from among individuals who are knowledgeable or experienced concerning fisheries resources in the North Pacific Ocean.

(B) NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.—One Commissioner shall be the chairman of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council or a designee of such chairman.

(C) PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.—One Commissioner shall be the chairman of the Pacific Fishery Management Council or a designee of such chairperson.

(D) WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.—One Commissioner shall be the chairman of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council or a designee of such chairperson.

(b) ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS.—In the event of a vacancy in a position as a Commissioner appointed under subsection (a), the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary, may designate from time to time and for periods of time considered appropriate an alternate Commissioner to the Commission. An alternate Commissioner may exercise all powers and duties of a Commissioner in the absence of a Commissioner appointed under subsection (a), and shall serve the remainder of the term of the absent Commissioner for which designated.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

(1) EMPLOYMENT STATUS.—An individual serving as a Commissioner, or an alternate Commissioner, other than an officer or employee of the United States Government, shall not be considered a Federal employee, except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

(2) COMPENSATION.—An individual serving as a Commissioner or an alternate Commissioner, although an officer of the United States while so serving, shall receive no compensation for the individual’s services as such Commissioner or alternate Commissioner.

(3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall pay the necessary travel expenses of a Commissioner or an alternate Commissioner in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5, United States Code.

(B) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary may reimburse the Secretary of State for amounts expended by the Secretary of State under this paragraph.

(d) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(A) MEMBERSHIP.—There is established an advisory committee which shall be composed of 11 members appointed by the Secretary as follows:

(i) A member engaging in commercial fishing activities in the management area of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

(ii) A member engaging in commercial fishing activities in the management area of the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

(iii) A member engaging in commercial fishing activities in the management area of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council.

(iv) Three members from the indigenous population of the North Pacific, including an Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, or a native-born inhabitant of any State of the United States in the Pacific, and an individual from a Pacific Coast tribe.

(v) A member that is a marine fisheries scientist that is a resident of a State the adjacent exclusive economic zone for which is bounded by the Convention Area.

(vi) A member nominated by the Governor of the State of Alaska.

(vii) A member nominated by the Governor of the State of Hawaii.

(viii) A member nominated by the Governor of the State of Washington.

(ix) A member nominated by the Governor of the State of California.

(B) TERMS AND PRIVILEGES.—Each member of the Advisory Committee shall serve for a term of 2 years and shall be eligible for reappointment for not more than 3 consecutive terms. The Commissioners shall notify the Advisory Committee in advance of each meeting of the Commissioners. The Advisory Committee shall attend each meeting and shall examine and be heard on all proposed programs, investigations, reports, recommendations, and regulations of the Commissioners.

(C) PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Committee shall determine its organization and prescribe its practices and procedures for carrying out its functions under this subtitle, the North Pacific Fisheries Convention, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(ii) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF PROCEDURES.—The Advisory Committee shall publish and make available to the public a statement of its organization, practices, and procedures.

(iii) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum to conduct business.

(iv) PUBLIC MEETINGS.—Meetings of the Advisory Committee, except when in executive session, shall be open to the public. Prior notice of each non-executive meeting shall be made public in a timely fashion. The Advisory Committee shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(v) COST SAVINGS.—In order to reduce the cost of Advisory Committee meetings, the Advisory Committee shall, to the extent

practicable, utilize teleconferences and webinars for that purpose.

(D) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary and the Secretary of State shall furnish the Advisory Committee with relevant information concerning fisheries resources and international fishery agreements.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

(A) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Secretary shall provide to the Advisory Committee in a timely manner such administrative and technical support services as are necessary to function effectively.

(B) COMPENSATION; STATUS.—An individual appointed to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee—

(i) shall serve without pay; and

(ii) shall not be considered a Federal employee, except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

(C) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may pay the necessary travel expenses of members of the Advisory Committee in carrying out the duties of the Advisory Committee in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5, United States Code.

(ii) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary may reimburse the Secretary of State for amounts expended by the Secretary of State under this subparagraph.

SEC. 103. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Secretary of State may—

(1) receive and transmit, on behalf of the United States, reports, requests, recommendations, proposals, decisions, and other communications of and to the Commission;

(2) in consultation with the Secretary, act upon, or refer to another appropriate authority, any communication received pursuant to paragraph (1);

(3) with the concurrence of the Secretary, and in accordance with the Convention, object to the decisions of the Commission; and

(4) request and utilize on a reimbursed or non-reimbursed basis the assistance, services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of other Federal departments and agencies, foreign governments or agencies, or international intergovernmental organizations, in the conduct of scientific research and other programs under this subtitle.

SEC. 104. AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

(a) PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and, with respect to enforcement measures, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, may promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the United States international obligations under the North Pacific Fisheries Convention and this subtitle, including recommendations and decisions adopted by the Commission.

(2) REGULATIONS OF STRADDLING STOCKS.—In the implementation of a measure adopted by the Commission that would govern a straddling stock under the authority of a Council, any regulation promulgated by the Secretary to implement such measure within the exclusive economic zone shall be approved by such Council.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Regulations promulgated under subsection (a) shall be

applicable only to a person or a fishing vessel that is or has engaged in fishing activities, or fisheries resources covered by the North Pacific Fisheries Convention under this subtitle.

(c) **ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may conduct, and may request and utilize on a reimbursed or nonreimbursed basis the assistance, services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of other Federal departments and agencies in—

(1) scientific, research, and other programs under this subtitle;

(2) fishing operations and biological experiments for purposes of scientific investigation or other purposes necessary to implement the North Pacific Fisheries Convention;

(3) the collection, utilization, and disclosure of such information as may be necessary to implement the North Pacific Fisheries Convention, subject to sections 552 and 552a of title 5, United States Code, and section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1881a(b));

(4) the issuance of permits to owners and operators of United States vessels to engage in fishing activities in the Convention Area seaward of the exclusive economic zone of the United States, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, including the period of time that a permit is valid; and

(5) if recommended by the United States Commissioners, the assessment and collection of fees, not to exceed 3 percent of the ex-vessel value of fisheries resources harvested by vessels of the United States in fisheries conducted in the Convention Area, to recover the actual costs to the United States to carry out the functions of the Secretary under this subtitle.

(d) **CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER LAWS.**—The Secretary shall ensure the consistency, to the extent practicable, of fishery management programs administered under this subtitle, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 (16 U.S.C. 951 et seq.), the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 973 et seq.), section 401 of Public Law 108-219 (16 U.S.C. 1821 note) (relating to Pacific albacore tuna), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (16 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-567) and the amendments made by that Act, and Public Law 100-629 (102 Stat. 3286).

(e) **JUDICIAL REVIEW OF REGULATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Regulations promulgated by the Secretary under this subtitle shall be subject to judicial review to the extent authorized by, and in accordance with, chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, if a petition for such review is filed not later than 30 days after the date on which the regulations are promulgated.

(2) **RESPONSES.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall file a response to any petition filed in accordance with paragraph (1), not later than 30 days after the date the Secretary is served with that petition, except that the appropriate court may extend the period for filing such a response upon a showing by the Secretary of good cause for that extension.

(3) **COPIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD.**—A response of the Secretary under paragraph (2) shall include a copy of the administrative record for the regulations that are the subject of the petition.

(4) **EXPEDITED HEARINGS.**—Upon a motion by the person who files a petition under this

subsection, the appropriate court shall assign the matter for hearing at the earliest possible date.

SEC. 105. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating—

(1) shall administer and enforce this subtitle and any regulations issued under this subtitle; and

(2) may request and utilize on a reimbursed or nonreimbursed basis the assistance, services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of other Federal departments and agencies in the administration and enforcement of this subtitle.

(b) **SECRETARIAL ACTIONS.**—The Secretary and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall prevent any person from violating this subtitle with respect to fishing activities or the conservation of fisheries resources in the Convention Area in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though sections 308 through 311 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1858, 1859, 1860, and 1861) were incorporated into and made a part of this subtitle. Any person that violates this subtitle is subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, power, and duties as though sections 308 through 311 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1858, 1859, 1860, and 1861) were incorporated into and made a part of this subtitle.

(c) **JURISDICTION OF THE COURTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction over any case or controversy arising under this subtitle, and any such court may at any time—

(A) enter restraining orders or prohibitions;

(B) issue warrants, process in rem, or other process;

(C) prescribe and accept satisfactory bonds or other security; and

(D) take such other actions as are in the interest of justice.

(2) **HAWAII AND PACIFIC INSULAR AREAS.**—In the case of Hawaii or any possession of the United States in the Pacific Ocean, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii, except that—

(A) in the case of Guam and Wake Island, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of Guam; and

(B) in the case of the Northern Mariana Islands, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(3) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Each violation shall be a separate offense and the offense is deemed to have been committed not only in the district where the violation first occurred, but also in any other district authorized by law. Any offense not committed in any district is subject to the venue provisions of section 3238 of title 18, United States Code.

(d) **CONFIDENTIALITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Any information submitted to the Secretary in compliance with any requirement under this subtitle, and information submitted under any requirement of this subtitle that may be necessary to implement the Convention, including information submitted before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be confidential and may not be disclosed, except—

(A) to a Federal employee who is responsible for administering, implementing, or enforcing this subtitle;

(B) to the Commission, in accordance with requirements in the North Pacific Fisheries Convention and decisions of the Commission, and, insofar as possible, in accordance with an agreement with the Commission that prevents public disclosure of the identity or business of any person;

(C) to State, Council, or marine fisheries commission employees pursuant to an agreement with the Secretary that prevents public disclosure of the identity or business of any person;

(D) when required by court order; or

(E) when the Secretary has obtained written authorization from the person submitting such information to release such information to another person for a reason not otherwise provided for in this paragraph, and such release does not violate other requirements of this subtitle.

(2) **USE OF INFORMATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall promulgate regulations regarding the procedures the Secretary considers necessary to preserve the confidentiality of information submitted under this subtitle.

(B) **EXCEPTION.**—The Secretary may release or make public information submitted under this subtitle if the information is in any aggregate or summary form that does not directly or indirectly disclose the identity or business of any person.

(3) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted or construed to prevent the use for conservation and management purposes by the Secretary of any information submitted under this subtitle.

SEC. 106. PROHIBITED ACTS.

It is unlawful for any person—

(1) to violate this subtitle or any regulation or permit issued under this subtitle;

(2) to use any fishing vessel to engage in fishing activities without, or after the revocation or during the period of suspension of, an applicable permit issued pursuant to this subtitle;

(3) to refuse to permit any officer authorized to enforce this subtitle to board a fishing vessel subject to such person's control for the purposes of conducting any search, investigation, or inspection in connection with the enforcement of this subtitle or any regulation, permit, or the North Pacific Fisheries Convention;

(4) to assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with any such authorized officer in the conduct of any search, investigation, or inspection in connection with the enforcement of this subtitle or any regulation, permit, or the North Pacific Fisheries Convention;

(5) to resist a lawful arrest for any act prohibited by this subtitle or any regulation promulgated or permit issued under this subtitle;

(6) to ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, purchase, import, export, or have custody, control, or possession of, any fisheries resources taken or retained in violation of this subtitle or any regulation or permit referred to in paragraph (1) or (2);

(7) to interfere with, delay, or prevent, by any means, the apprehension or arrest of another person, knowing that such other person has committed any act prohibited by this section;

(8) to submit to the Secretary false information (including false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United States fish processor, on an annual

basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States), regarding any matter that the Secretary is considering in the course of carrying out this subtitle;

(9) to assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, sexually harass, bribe, or interfere with any observer on a vessel under this subtitle, or any data collector employed by or under contract to any person to carry out responsibilities under this subtitle;

(10) to engage in fishing activities in violation of any regulation adopted pursuant to this subtitle;

(11) to fail to make, keep, or furnish any catch returns, statistical records, or other reports required by regulations adopted pursuant to this subtitle to be made, kept, or furnished;

(12) to fail to stop a vessel upon being hailed and instructed to stop by a duly authorized official of the United States;

(13) to import, in violation of any regulation adopted pursuant to this subtitle, any fisheries resources in any form of those species subject to regulation pursuant to a recommendation, resolution, or decision of the Commission, or any fisheries resources in any form not under regulation but under investigation by the Commission, during the period such fisheries resources have been denied entry in accordance with this subtitle;

(14) to make or submit any false record, account, or label for, or any false identification of, any fisheries resources that have been, or are intended to be imported, exported, transported, sold, offered for sale, purchased, or received in interstate or foreign commerce; or

(15) to refuse to authorize and accept boarding by a duly authorized inspector pursuant to procedures adopted by the Commission for the boarding and inspection of fishing vessels in the Convention Area.

SEC. 107. COOPERATION IN CARRYING OUT CONVENTION.

(a) FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES; PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary may cooperate with any Federal agency, any public or private institution or organization within the United States or abroad, and, through the Secretary of State, a duly authorized official of the government of any party to the North Pacific Fisheries Convention, in carrying out responsibilities under this subtitle.

(b) SCIENTIFIC AND OTHER PROGRAMS; FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL.—Each Federal agency may, upon the request of the Secretary, cooperate in the conduct of scientific and other programs and furnish facilities and personnel for the purpose of assisting the Commission in carrying out its duties under the North Pacific Fisheries Convention.

(c) SANCTIONED FISHING OPERATIONS AND BIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS.—Nothing in this subtitle, or in the laws of any State, prevents the Secretary or the Commission from—

(1) conducting or authorizing the conduct of fishing operations and biological experiments at any time for purposes of scientific investigation; or

(2) discharging any other duties prescribed by the North Pacific Fisheries Convention.

(d) STATE JURISDICTION NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to diminish or to increase the jurisdiction of any State in the territorial sea of the United States.

SEC. 108. TERRITORIAL PARTICIPATION.

The Secretary of State shall ensure participation in the Commission and its sub-

sidary bodies by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Guam to the extent allowed under United States law.

SEC. 109. EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE NOTIFICATION.

Masters of commercial fishing vessels of countries fishing under the management authority of the North Pacific Fisheries Convention that do not carry vessel monitoring systems capable of communicating with United States enforcement authorities shall, prior to or as soon as reasonably possible after, entering and transiting the exclusive economic zone bounded by the Convention Area, ensure that all fishing gear on board the vessel is stowed below deck or otherwise removed from the place it is normally used for fishing activities and placed where it is not readily available for fishing activities.

SEC. 110. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated out of funds made available to the Secretary and the Secretary of State \$300,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 to carry out this subtitle and to pay the United States contribution to the Commission under Article 12 of the North Pacific Fisheries Convention.

Subtitle B—Miscellaneous

SEC. 121. FUNDING FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES.

(a) NORTH PACIFIC BERING SEA FISHERIES ADVISORY BODY.—Section 5 of the Act entitled “An Act to approve the governing international fishery agreement between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and for other purposes”, approved November 7, 1988 (Public Law 100-629; 16 U.S.C. 1823 note), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may pay the necessary travel expenses of the members of the advisory body established pursuant to this section in carrying out their service as such members in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary of Commerce may reimburse the Secretary of State for amounts expended by the Secretary of State under this subsection.”.

(b) NORTH PACIFIC ANADROMOUS FISH COMMISSION.—

(1) UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS.—Section 804 of the North Pacific Anadromous Stocks Act of 1992 (16 U.S.C. 5003) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may pay the necessary travel expenses of the United States Commissioners and Alternate United States Commissioners in carrying out the duties of the Commission in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary of Commerce may reimburse the Secretary for amounts expended by the Secretary under this subparagraph.”.

(2) ADVISORY PANEL.—Section 805 of the North Pacific Anadromous Stocks Act of 1992 (16 U.S.C. 5004) is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) COMPENSATION.—The members of the Advisory Panel shall receive no compensation for their service as such members.

“(f) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may pay the necessary travel expenses of the members of the Advisory Panel in carrying out their service as such members in accordance

with the Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary of Commerce may reimburse the Secretary for amounts expended by the Secretary under this subparagraph.”.

SEC. 122. NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998.

Section 10 of the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 1541) is amended by striking “the United States Coast Guard” each place it appears and inserting “another Federal agency”.

TITLE II—IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGH SEAS FISHERY RESOURCES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) 1982 CONVENTION.—The term “1982 Convention” means the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization established in accordance with the South Pacific Fishery Resources Convention.

(3) CONVENTION AREA.—The term “Convention Area” means the area to which the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean applies under Article 5 of such Convention.

(4) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

(5) EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—The term “exclusive economic zone” means—

(A) with respect to the United States, the zone established by Presidential Proclamation Numbered 5030 of March 10, 1983 (16 U.S.C. 1453 note); and

(B) with respect to a foreign country, a designated zone similar to the zone referred to in subparagraph (A) for that country, consistent with international law.

(6) FISHERY RESOURCES.—The term “fishery resources” means all fish, mollusks, crustaceans, and other marine species, and any products thereof, caught by a fishing vessel within the Convention Area, but excluding—

(A) sedentary species insofar as they are subject to the national jurisdiction of coastal States pursuant to Article 77 paragraph 4 of the 1982 Convention;

(B) highly migratory species listed in Annex I of the 1982 Convention;

(C) anadromous and catadromous species; and

(D) marine mammals, marine reptiles and sea birds.

(7) FISHING.—The term “fishing”—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means—

(i) the actual or attempted searching for, catching, taking, or harvesting of fishery resources;

(ii) engaging in any activity that can reasonably be expected to result in the locating, catching, taking or harvesting of fishery resources for any purpose;

(iii) transshipment and any operation at sea, in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in this subparagraph; and

(iv) the use of any vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or hovercraft in relation to any activity described in this subparagraph; and

(B) does not include any operation related to emergencies involving the health and

safety of crew members or the safety of a fishing vessel.

(8) **FISHING VESSEL.**—The term “fishing vessel” means any vessel used or intended to be used for fishing, including any fish processing vessel support ship, carrier vessel, or any other vessel directly engaged in fishing operations.

(9) **PERSON.**—The term “person” means any individual (whether or not a citizen or national of the United States); any corporation, partnership, association, or other entity (whether or not organized or existing under the laws of any State); and any Federal, State, local, or foreign government or any entity of any such government.

(10) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(11) **SOUTH PACIFIC FISHERY RESOURCES CONVENTION.**—The term “South Pacific Fishery Resources Convention” means the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean (including any annexes, amendments, or protocols that are in force, or have come into force, for the United States), which was adopted at Auckland, New Zealand, on November 14, 2009, by the International Consultations on the Proposed South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization.

(12) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and any other commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

SEC. 202. APPOINTMENT OR DESIGNATION OF UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS.

(a) **APPOINTMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The United States shall be represented on the Commission by not more than 3 Commissioners. In making each appointment, the President shall select a Commissioner from among individuals who are knowledgeable or experienced concerning fishery resources in the South Pacific Ocean.

(2) **REPRESENTATION.**—At least 1 of the Commissioners shall be—

(A) serving at the pleasure of the President, an officer or employee of—

- (i) the Department of Commerce;
- (ii) the Department of State; or
- (iii) the Coast Guard; and

(B) the chairperson or designee of the Council.

(b) **ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS.**—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary, may designate from time to time and for periods of time considered appropriate an alternate Commissioner to the Commission. An alternate Commissioner may exercise all powers and duties of a Commissioner in the absence of a Commissioner appointed under subsection (a).

(c) **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.**—

(1) **EMPLOYMENT STATUS.**—An individual serving as a Commissioner, or as an alternate Commissioner, other than an officer or employee of the United States Government, shall not be considered a Federal employee, except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

(2) **COMPENSATION.**—An individual serving as a Commissioner or an alternate Commissioner, although an officer of the United States while so serving, shall receive no compensation for the individual’s services as such Commissioner or alternate Commissioner.

(3) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State shall pay the necessary travel expenses of a Commissioner or an alternate Commissioner in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5, United States Code.

(B) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—The Secretary may reimburse the Secretary of State for amounts expended by the Secretary of State under this paragraph.

(d) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—

(A) **MEMBERSHIP.**—There is established an advisory committee which shall be composed of 7 members appointed by the Secretary as follows:

(i) A member engaging in commercial fishing in the management area of the Council.

(ii) Two members from the indigenous population of the Pacific, including a Native Hawaiian and a native-born inhabitant of any State in the Pacific.

(iii) A member that is a marine fisheries scientist and a member of the Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee.

(iv) A member representing a non-governmental organization active in fishery issues in the Pacific.

(v) A member nominated by the Governor of the State of Hawaii.

(vi) A member designated by the Council.

(B) **TERMS AND PRIVILEGES.**—Each member of the Advisory Committee shall serve for a term of 2 years and shall be eligible for reappointment for not more than 3 consecutive terms. The Commissioners shall notify the Advisory Committee in advance of each meeting of the Commissioners. The Advisory Committee may attend each meeting and may examine and be heard on all proposed programs, investigations, reports, recommendations, and regulations of the Commissioners.

(C) **PROCEDURES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Advisory Committee shall determine its organization and prescribe its practices and procedures for carrying out its functions under this title, the South Pacific Fisheries Convention, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(ii) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF PROCEDURES.**—The Advisory Committee shall publish and make available to the public a statement of its organization, practices, and procedures.

(iii) **QUORUM.**—A majority of the members of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum to conduct business.

(iv) **PUBLIC MEETINGS.**—Meetings of the Advisory Committee, except when in executive session, shall be open to the public. Prior notice of each non-executive meeting shall be made public in a timely fashion. The Advisory Committee shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(v) **COST SAVINGS.**—In order to reduce the cost of Advisory Committee meetings, the Advisory Committee shall, to the extent practicable, utilize teleconferences and webinars for that purpose.

(D) **PROVISION OF INFORMATION.**—The Secretary and the Secretary of State shall furnish the Advisory Committee with relevant information concerning fishery resources and international fishery agreements.

(2) **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.**—

(A) **SUPPORT SERVICES.**—The Secretary shall provide to the Advisory Committee in a timely manner such administrative and technical support services as are necessary to function effectively.

(B) **COMPENSATION; STATUS; EXPENSES.**—An individual appointed to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee—

(i) shall serve without pay; and

(ii) shall not be considered a Federal employee, except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 203. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Secretary of State may—

(1) receive and transmit, on behalf of the United States, reports, requests, recommendations, proposals, decisions, and other communications of and to the Commission;

(2) in consultation with the Secretary, act upon, or refer to other appropriate authority, any communication pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(3) with the concurrence of the Secretary, and in accordance with the South Pacific Fishery Resources Convention, object to decisions of the Commission.

SEC. 204. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY AND RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.

(a) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Secretary may—

(1) administer this title and any regulations issued under this title, except to the extent otherwise provided for in this title;

(2) issue permits to vessels subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and to owners and operators of such vessels, to fish in the Convention Area, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe; and

(3) if recommended by the United States Commissioners, assess and collect fees, not to exceed 3 percent of the ex-vessel value of fisheries resources harvested by vessels of the United States in fisheries conducted in the Convention Area, to recover the actual costs to the United States to carry out the functions of the Secretary under this title.

(b) **PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, may promulgate such regulations as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the international obligations of the United States under the South Pacific Fishery Resources Convention and this title, including decisions adopted by the Commission.

(2) **APPLICABILITY.**—Regulations promulgated under this subsection shall be applicable only to a person or fishing vessel that is or has engaged in fishing, and fishery resources covered by the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean under this title.

(c) **CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER LAWS.**—The Secretary shall ensure the consistency, to the extent practicable, of fishery management programs administered under this title, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 (16 U.S.C. 951 et seq.), the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 973 et seq.), section 401 of Public Law 108-219 (16 U.S.C. 1821 note) (relating to Pacific albacore tuna), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (16 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-567) and the amendments made by that Act, and Public Law 100-629 (102 Stat. 3286).

(d) JUDICIAL REVIEW OF REGULATIONS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Regulations promulgated by the Secretary under this title shall be subject to judicial review to the extent authorized by, and in accordance with, chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, if a petition for such review is filed not later than 30 days after the date on which the regulations are promulgated or the action is published in the Federal Register, as applicable.

(2) **RESPONSES.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall file a response to any petition filed in accordance with paragraph (1) not later than 30 days after the date the Secretary is served with that petition, except that the appropriate court may extend the period for filing such a response upon a showing by the Secretary of good cause for that extension.

(3) **COPIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD.**—A response of the Secretary under paragraph (2) shall include a copy of the administrative record for the regulations that are the subject of the petition.

(4) **EXPEDITED HEARINGS.**—Upon a motion by the person who files a petition under this subsection, the appropriate court shall assign the matter for hearing at the earliest possible date.

SEC. 205. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) **RESPONSIBILITY.**—This title, and any regulations or permits issued under this title, shall be enforced by the Secretary and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating. Such Secretaries shall, and the head of any Federal or State agency that has entered into an agreement with either such Secretary under this section may (if the agreement so provides), authorize officers to enforce this title or any regulation promulgated under this title. Any officer so authorized may enforce this title in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though section 311 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861) were incorporated into and made a part of this title.

(b) **ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.**—The Secretary and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall prevent any person from violating this title in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though sections 308 through 311 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1858 through 1861) were incorporated into and made a part of this title. Any person that violates this title shall be subject to the penalties, and entitled to the privileges and immunities, provided in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) in the same manner and by the same means as though sections 308 through 311 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1858 through 1861) were incorporated into and made a part of this title.

(c) DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction over any actions arising under this section.

(2) **HAWAII AND PACIFIC INSULAR AREAS.**—Notwithstanding subsection (b), for the purpose of this section, for Hawaii or any possession of the United States in the Pacific Ocean, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii, except that—

(A) in the case of Guam and Wake Island, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of Guam; and

(B) in the case of the Northern Mariana Islands, the appropriate court is the United

States District Court for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(3) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Each violation shall be a separate offense and the offense is deemed to have been committed not only in the district where the violation first occurred, but also in any other district as authorized by law. Any offenses not committed in any district are subject to the venue provisions of section 3238 of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 206. PROHIBITED ACTS.

It is unlawful for any person—

(1) to violate any provision of this title or of any regulation promulgated or permit issued under this title;

(2) to use any fishing vessel to engage in fishing without a valid permit or after the revocation, or during the period of suspension, of an applicable permit pursuant to this title;

(3) to refuse to permit any officer authorized to enforce this title to board a fishing vessel subject to such person's control for the purposes of conducting any investigation or inspection in connection with the enforcement of this title;

(4) to assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with any such authorized officer in the conduct of any search, investigation, or inspection in connection with the enforcement of this title or any regulation promulgated or permit issued under this title;

(5) to resist a lawful arrest for any act prohibited by this title or any regulation promulgated or permit issued under this title;

(6) to ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, purchase, import, export, or have custody, control, or possession of, any fishery resources taken or retained in violation of this title or any regulation or permit referred to in paragraph (1) or (2);

(7) to interfere with, delay, or prevent, by any means, the apprehension or arrest of another person, knowing that such other person has committed any act prohibited by this title;

(8) to submit to the Secretary false information, regarding any matter that the Secretary is considering in the course of carrying out this title;

(9) to assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, sexually harass, bribe, or interfere with any observer on a vessel pursuant to the requirements of this title, or any data collector employed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or under contract to any person to carry out responsibilities under this title;

(10) to fail to make, keep, or furnish any catch returns, statistical records, or other reports as are required by regulations adopted pursuant to this title to be made, kept, or furnished;

(11) to fail to stop a vessel upon being hailed and instructed to stop by a duly authorized official of the United States;

(12) to import, in violation of any regulation promulgated under this title, any fishery resources in any form of those species subject to regulation pursuant to a decision of the Commission;

(13) to make or submit any false record, account, or label for, or any false identification of, any fishery resources that have been or are intended to be imported, exported, transported, sold, offered for sale, purchased, or received in interstate or foreign commerce; or

(14) to refuse to authorize and accept boarding by a duly authorized inspector pursuant to procedures adopted by the Commission for the boarding and inspection of fishing vessels in the Convention Area.

SEC. 207. COOPERATION IN CARRYING OUT THE CONVENTION.

(a) **FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES; PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS.**—The Secretary may cooperate with agencies of the United States Government, any public or private institutions or organizations within the United States or abroad, and, through the Secretary of State, the duly authorized officials of the government of any party to the South Pacific Fishery Resources Convention, in carrying out responsibilities under this title.

(b) **SCIENTIFIC AND OTHER PROGRAMS; FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL.**—All Federal agencies may, upon the request of the Secretary, cooperate in the conduct of scientific and other programs and to furnish facilities and personnel for the purpose of assisting the Commission in carrying out its duties under the South Pacific Fishery Resources Convention.

(c) **SANCTIONED FISHING OPERATIONS AND BIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS.**—Nothing in this title, or in the laws or regulations of any State, prevents the Secretary or the Commission from—

(1) conducting or authorizing the conduct of fishing operations and biological experiments at any time for purposes of scientific investigation; or

(2) discharging any other duties prescribed by the South Pacific Fishery Resources Convention.

(d) **STATE JURISDICTION NOT AFFECTED.**—Nothing in this title shall be construed to diminish or to increase the jurisdiction of any State in the territorial sea of the United States.

SEC. 208. TERRITORIAL PARTICIPATION.

The Secretary of State shall ensure participation in the Commission and its subsidiary bodies by American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to the extent allowed under United States law.

SEC. 209. EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE NOTIFICATION.

Masters of commercial fishing vessels of countries fishing under the management authority of the South Pacific Fisheries Convention that do not carry vessel monitoring systems capable of communicating with United States enforcement authorities shall, before or as soon as reasonably possible after, entering and transiting the exclusive economic zone bounded by the Convention Area, ensure that all fishing gear on board the vessel is stowed below deck or otherwise removed from the place it is normally used for fishing activities and placed where it is not readily available for fishing activities.

SEC. 210. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated out of funds made available to the Secretary and the Secretary of State \$300,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 to carry out this title and to pay the United States contribution to the Commission under Article 15 of the South Pacific Fisheries Convention.

(b) **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the limits of available appropriations and consistent with applicable law, the Secretary or the Secretary of State may provide appropriate assistance, including grants, to developing nations and international organizations of which such nations are members to assist those nations in meeting their obligations under the South Pacific Fisheries Convention.

(2) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Subject to the limits of available appropriations and consistent with other applicable law, the Secretary and the Secretary of State are authorized to transfer funds to any foreign government and any international, non-governmental, or international organization, including the Commission, for purposes of carrying out the international responsibilities under paragraph (1).

TITLE III—WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

SEC. 301. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AGENDA OF ANNUAL MEETINGS OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act is amended—

(1) in section 503 (16 U.S.C. 6902)—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting “and commercial fishing” after “fish stocks”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), by adding at the end the following:

“(E) AGENDA RECOMMENDATIONS.—No later than 30 days before each annual meeting of the Commission, the Advisory Committee shall transmit to the United States Commissioners recommendations relating to the agenda of the annual meeting. The recommendations must be agreed to by a majority of the Advisory Committee members. The United States Commissioners shall consider such recommendations, along with additional views transmitted by Advisory Committee members, in the formulation of the United States position for the Commission meeting and during the negotiations at that meeting.”; and

(2) by redesignating section 511 (16 U.S.C. 6910) as section 512, and inserting after section 510 the following:

“SEC. 511. UNITED STATES CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT, AND ENFORCEMENT OBJECTIVES.

“The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, in the course of negotiations, shall seek—

“(1) to minimize any disadvantage to United States fishermen in relation to other members of the Commission;

“(2) to maximize the opportunities for fishing vessels of the United States to harvest fish stocks on the high seas in the Convention area, recognizing that such harvests may be restricted if the Commission, based on the best available scientific information provided by the Scientific Committee, determines it is necessary to achieve the conservation objective set forth in Article 2 of the Convention;

“(3) to prevent any requirement for the transfer to other nations or foreign entities of the fishing capacity, fishing capacity rights, or fishing vessels of the United States or its territories, unless any such requirement is voluntary and market-based; and

“(4) to ensure that conservation and management measures take into consideration traditional fishing patterns of fishing vessels of the United States and the operating requirements of the fisheries covered by the Western and Central Pacific Convention.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 is amended in the table of contents by striking the item relating to section 511 (121 Stat. 3576) and inserting the following:

“Sec. 511. United States conservation, management, and enforcement objectives.

“Sec. 512. Authorization of appropriations.”.

TITLE IV—ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED, AND UNREPORTED FISHING

SEC. 401. AMENDMENTS TO THE HIGH SEAS DRIFTNET FISHING MORATORIUM PROTECTION ACT.

(a) APPLICATION OF ACT.—Section 606(b) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826g(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) the Ensuring Access to Pacific Fisheries Act.”.

(b) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Section 607 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826h) is amended by inserting “on June 1 of that year” after “every 2 years thereafter.”.

(c) IDENTIFICATION OF VESSELS.—Section 609(a) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(a)) is amended by striking “fishing vessels of that nation are engaged, or have” and inserting “any fishing vessel of that nation is engaged, or has”.

(d) IDENTIFICATION OF NATIONS.—Section 610(a)(2)(A) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826k) is amended by striking “calendar year” and inserting “3 years”.

TITLE V—NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES CONVENTION AMENDMENTS ACT

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES TO THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES CONVENTION ACT OF 1995.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This title may be cited as the “Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Amendments Act”.

(b) REFERENCES TO THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES CONVENTION ACT OF 1995.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.).

SEC. 502. REPRESENTATION OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER CONVENTION.

Section 202 (16 U.S.C. 5601) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “General Council and the Fisheries”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “at a meeting of the General Council or the Fisheries Commission”;

(3) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “, at any meeting of the General Council or the Fisheries Commission for which the Alternate Commissioner is designated”;

(4) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “at a meeting of the Scientific Council”;

(5) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “, at any meeting of the Scientific Council for which the Alternate Representative is designated”;

(6) in subsection (f)(1)(A), by striking “Magnuson Act” and inserting “Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act”.

SEC. 503. REQUESTS FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE.

Section 203 (16 U.S.C. 5602) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “The Representatives may” and inserting “A Representative may”;

(B) by striking “described in subsection (b)(1) or (2)” and inserting “described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b)”;

(C) by striking “the Representatives have” and inserting “the Representative has”;

(2) by striking “VII(1)” each place it appears and inserting “VII(10)(b)”;

(3) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “VIII(2)” and inserting “VII(11)”.

SEC. 504. AUTHORITIES OF SECRETARY OF STATE WITH RESPECT TO CONVENTION.

Section 204 (16 U.S.C. 5603) is amended by striking “Fisheries Commission” each place it appears and inserting “Commission consistent with the procedures detailed in Articles XIV and XV of the Convention”.

SEC. 505. INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.

Section 205(a) (16 U.S.C. 5604(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) AUTHORITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out the provisions of the Convention and this title, the Secretary may arrange for cooperation with—

“(1) any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States;

“(2) a State;

“(3) a Council; or

“(4) a private institution or an organization.”.

SEC. 506. PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTIES.

Section 207(a)(5) (16 U.S.C. 5606(a)(5)) is amended by striking “fish” and inserting “fishery resources”.

SEC. 507. CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

Section 208 (16 U.S.C. 5607) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “two” and inserting “2”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “General Council or the Fisheries” each place it appears.

SEC. 508. DEFINITIONS.

Section 210 (16 U.S.C. 5609) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 210. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) 1982 CONVENTION.—The term ‘1982 Convention’ means the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982.

“(2) AUTHORIZED ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term ‘authorized enforcement officer’ means a person authorized to enforce this title, any regulation issued under this title, or any measure that is legally binding on the United States under the Convention.

“(3) COMMISSION.—The term ‘Commission’ means the body provided for by Articles V, VI, XIII, XIV, and XV of the Convention.

“(4) COMMISSIONER.—The term ‘Commissioner’ means a United States Commissioner to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization appointed under section 202.

“(5) CONVENTION.—The term ‘Convention’ means the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, done at Ottawa on October 24, 1978, and as amended on September 28, 2007.

“(6) CONVENTION AREA.—The term ‘Convention Area’ means the waters of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean north of 35°00’ N and west of a line extending due north from 35°00’ N and 42°00’ W to 59°00’ N, thence due west to 44°00’ W, and thence due north to the coast of Greenland, and the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Davis Strait and Baffin Bay south of 78°10’ N.

“(7) COUNCIL.—The term ‘Council’ means the New England Fishery Management Council or the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

“(8) FISHERY RESOURCES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘fishery resources’ means all fish, mollusks, and crustaceans, including any products thereof, within the Convention Area.

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘fishery resources’ does not include—

“(i) sedentary species over which coastal States may exercise sovereign rights consistent with Article 77 of the 1982 Convention; or

“(ii) insofar as they are managed under other international treaties, anadromous and catadromous stocks and highly migratory species listed in Annex I of the 1982 Convention.

“(9) FISHING ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘fishing activities’ means harvesting or processing fishery resources, or transshipping of fishery resources or products derived from fishery resources, or any other activity in preparation for, in support of, or related to the harvesting of fishery resources.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘fishing activities’ includes—

“(i) the actual or attempted searching for or catching or taking of fishery resources;

“(ii) any activity that can reasonably be expected to result in locating, catching, taking, or harvesting of fishery resources for any purpose; and

“(iii) any operation at sea in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in this paragraph.

“(C) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘fishing activities’ does not include any operation related to emergencies involving the health and safety of crew members or the safety of a vessel.

“(10) FISHING VESSEL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘fishing vessel’ means a vessel that is or has been engaged in fishing activities.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘fishing vessel’ includes a fish processing vessel or a vessel engaged in transshipment or any other activity in preparation for or related to fishing activities, or in experimental or exploratory fishing activities.

“(11) ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Organization’ means the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization provided for by Article V of the Convention.

“(12) PERSON.—The term ‘person’ means any individual (whether or not a citizen or national of the United States), and any corporation, partnership, association, or other entity (whether or not organized or existing under the laws of any State).

“(13) REPRESENTATIVE.—The term ‘Representative’ means a United States Representative to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Scientific Council appointed under section 202.

“(14) SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL.—The term ‘Scientific Council’ means the Scientific Council provided for by Articles V, VI, and VII of the Convention.

“(15) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Commerce.

“(16) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and any other commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

“(17) TRANSSHIPMENT.—The term ‘transshipment’ means the unloading of all or any of the fishery resources on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel either at sea or in port.”.

SEC. 509. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 211 (16 U.S.C. 5610) is amended—

(1) by striking “including use for payment as the United States contribution to the Organization as provided in Article XVI of the Convention” and inserting “including to pay the United States contribution to the Organization as provided in Article IX of the Convention”; and

(2) by striking “2012” and inserting “2021”.

SEC. 510. QUOTA ALLOCATION PRACTICE.

Section 213 (16 U.S.C. 5612) is repealed.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 601. REPEAL OF NOAA OCEANS AND HUMAN HEALTH INITIATIVE REPORT.

Section 904 of the Oceans and Human Health Act (33 U.S.C. 3103) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—” and indenting appropriately; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6480) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Intelligence Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6480

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Explanatory statement.

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

- Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 102. Classified Schedule of Authorizations.
- Sec. 103. Personnel ceiling adjustments.
- Sec. 104. Intelligence Community Management Account.

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

- Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—GENERAL INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MATTERS

- Sec. 301. Restriction on conduct of intelligence activities.
- Sec. 302. Increase in employee compensation and benefits authorized by law.
- Sec. 303. Support to nonprofit organizations assisting intelligence community employees.
- Sec. 304. Promotion of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education in the intelligence community.
- Sec. 305. Retention of employees of the intelligence community who have science, technology, engineering, or mathematics expertise.

- Sec. 306. Multi-sector workforce.
- Sec. 307. Notification of repair or modification of facilities to be used primarily by the intelligence community.
- Sec. 308. Guidance and reporting requirement regarding the interactions between the intelligence community and entertainment industry.
- Sec. 309. Protections for independent inspectors general of certain elements of the intelligence community.
- Sec. 310. Congressional oversight of policy directives and guidance.
- Sec. 311. Notification of memoranda of understanding.
- Sec. 312. Assistance for nationally significant critical infrastructure.
- Sec. 313. Technical correction to Executive Schedule.
- Sec. 314. Maximum amount charged for declassification reviews.

TITLE IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Subtitle A—Office of the Director of National Intelligence

- Sec. 401. Designation of the Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.
- Sec. 402. Analyses and impact statements by Director of National Intelligence regarding investment into the United States.
- Sec. 403. Assistance for governmental entities and private entities in recognizing online violent extremist content.

Subtitle B—Central Intelligence Agency

- Sec. 411. Enhanced death benefits for personnel of the Central Intelligence Agency.
- Sec. 412. Pay and retirement authorities of the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Subtitle C—Other Elements

- Sec. 421. Enhancing the technical workforce for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- Sec. 422. Plan on assumption of certain weather missions by the National Reconnaissance Office.

TITLE V—MATTERS RELATING TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

- Sec. 501. Committee to counter active measures by the Russian Federation to exert covert influence over peoples and governments.
- Sec. 502. Travel of accredited diplomatic and consular personnel of the Russian Federation in the United States.
- Sec. 503. Study and report on enhanced intelligence and information sharing with Open Skies Treaty member states.

TITLE VI—REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 601. Declassification review with respect to detainees transferred from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- Sec. 602. Cyber Center for Education and Innovation-Home of the National Cryptologic Museum.
- Sec. 603. Report on national security systems.
- Sec. 604. Joint facilities certification.
- Sec. 605. Leadership and management of space activities.
- Sec. 606. Advances in life sciences and biotechnology.

- Sec. 607. Reports on declassification proposals.
- Sec. 608. Improvement in Government classification and declassification.
- Sec. 609. Report on implementation of research and development recommendations.
- Sec. 610. Report on Intelligence Community Research and Development Corps.
- Sec. 611. Report on information relating to academic programs, scholarships, fellowships, and internships sponsored, administered, or used by the intelligence community.
- Sec. 612. Report on intelligence community employees detailed to National Security Council.
- Sec. 613. Intelligence community reporting to Congress on foreign fighter flows.
- Sec. 614. Report on cybersecurity threats to seaports of the United States and maritime shipping.
- Sec. 615. Report on programs to counter terrorist narratives.
- Sec. 616. Report on reprisals against contractors of the intelligence community.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.**—The term “congressional intelligence committees” means—

(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) **INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.**—The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given that term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

SEC. 3. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

The explanatory statement regarding this Act, printed in the House section of the Congressional Record on or about December 8, 2016, by the Chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2017 for the conduct of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the following elements of the United States Government:

- (1) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.
- (2) The Central Intelligence Agency.
- (3) The Department of Defense.
- (4) The Defense Intelligence Agency.
- (5) The National Security Agency.
- (6) The Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force.
- (7) The Coast Guard.
- (8) The Department of State.
- (9) The Department of the Treasury.
- (10) The Department of Energy.
- (11) The Department of Justice.
- (12) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- (13) The Drug Enforcement Administration.
- (14) The National Reconnaissance Office.
- (15) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.
- (16) The Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 102. CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) **SPECIFICATIONS OF AMOUNTS.**—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 101 and, subject to section 103, the authorized personnel ceilings as of September 30, 2017, for the conduct of the intelligence activities of the elements listed in paragraphs (1) through (16) of section 101, are those specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations prepared to accompany this Act.

(b) **AVAILABILITY OF CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.**—

(1) **AVAILABILITY.**—The classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in subsection (a) shall be made available to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and to the President.

(2) **DISTRIBUTION BY THE PRESIDENT.**—Subject to paragraph (3), the President shall provide for suitable distribution of the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in subsection (a), or of appropriate portions of such Schedule, within the executive branch.

(3) **LIMITS ON DISCLOSURE.**—The President shall not publicly disclose the classified Schedule of Authorizations or any portion of such Schedule except—

(A) as provided in section 601(a) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (50 U.S.C. 3306(a));

(B) to the extent necessary to implement the budget; or

(C) as otherwise required by law.

SEC. 103. PERSONNEL CEILING ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) **AUTHORITY FOR INCREASES.**—The Director of National Intelligence may authorize employment of civilian personnel in excess of the number authorized for fiscal year 2017 by the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) if the Director of National Intelligence determines that such action is necessary to the performance of important intelligence functions, except that the number of personnel employed in excess of the number authorized under such section may not, for any element of the intelligence community, exceed 3 percent of the number of civilian personnel authorized under such schedule for such element.

(b) **TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL.**—The Director of National Intelligence shall establish guidelines that govern, for each element of the intelligence community, the treatment under the personnel levels authorized under section 102(a), including any exemption from such personnel levels, of employment or assignment in—

- (1) a student program, trainee program, or similar program;
- (2) a reserve corps or as a reemployed annuitant; or
- (3) details, joint duty, or long-term, full-time training.

(c) **NOTICE TO CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.**—The Director of National Intelligence shall notify the congressional intelligence committees in writing at least 15 days prior to each exercise of an authority described in subsection (a).

(d) **CONTRACTOR CONVERSIONS.**—

(1) **AUTHORITY FOR INCREASES.**—In addition to the authority under subsection (a), the Director of National Intelligence may authorize employment of civilian personnel in an element of the intelligence community in excess of the number authorized for fiscal year 2017 by the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a), as such number may be increased pursuant to subsection (a), if—

(A) the Director determines that the increase under this paragraph is necessary to

convert the performance of any function of the element by contractors to performance by civilian personnel; and

(B) the number of civilian personnel of the element employed in excess of the number authorized under such section 102(a), as such number may be increased pursuant to both subsection (a) and this paragraph, does not exceed 10 percent of the number of civilian personnel authorized under such schedule for the element.

(2) **NOTICE TO CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.**—Not less than 30 days prior to exercising the authority described in paragraph (1), the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, in writing—

(A) notification of exercising such authority;

(B) justification for making the conversion described in subparagraph (A) of such paragraph; and

(C) certification that such conversion is cost effective.

SEC. 104. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence for fiscal year 2017 the sum of \$561,788,000. Within such amount, funds identified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

(b) **AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL LEVELS.**—The elements within the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence are authorized 787 positions as of September 30, 2017. Personnel serving in such elements may be permanent employees of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence or personnel detailed from other elements of the United States Government.

(c) **CLASSIFIED AUTHORIZATIONS.**—

(1) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account by subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account for fiscal year 2017 such additional amounts as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a). Such additional amounts made available for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF PERSONNEL.**—In addition to the personnel authorized by subsection (b) for elements of the Intelligence Community Management Account as of September 30, 2017, there are authorized such additional personnel for the Community Management Account as of that date as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a).

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability Fund for fiscal year 2017 the sum of \$514,000,000.

TITLE III—GENERAL INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MATTERS

SEC. 301. RESTRICTION ON CONDUCT OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

The authorization of appropriations by this Act shall not be deemed to constitute authority for the conduct of any intelligence

activity which is not otherwise authorized by the Constitution or the laws of the United States.

SEC. 302. INCREASE IN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Appropriations authorized by this Act for salary, pay, retirement, and other benefits for Federal employees may be increased by such additional or supplemental amounts as may be necessary for increases in such compensation or benefits authorized by law.

SEC. 303. SUPPORT TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY EMPLOYEES.

(a) DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.—Section 102A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(y) FUNDRAISING.—(1) The Director of National Intelligence may engage in fundraising in an official capacity for the benefit of nonprofit organizations that—

“(A) provide support to surviving family members of a deceased employee of an element of the intelligence community; or

“(B) otherwise provide support for the welfare, education, or recreation of employees of an element of the intelligence community, former employees of an element of the intelligence community, or family members of such employees.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘fundraising’ means the raising of funds through the active participation in the promotion, production, or presentation of an event designed to raise funds and does not include the direct solicitation of money by any other means.

“(3) Not later than 7 days after the date the Director engages in fundraising authorized by this subsection or at the time the decision is made to participate in such fundraising, the Director shall notify the congressional intelligence committees of such fundraising.

“(4) The Director, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, shall issue regulations to carry out the authority provided in this subsection. Such regulations shall ensure that such authority is exercised in a manner that is consistent with all relevant ethical constraints and principles, including the avoidance of any prohibited conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety.”

(b) DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.—Section 12(f) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3512(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) Not later than the date that is 7 days after the date the Director engages in fundraising authorized by this subsection or at the time the decision is made to participate in such fundraising, the Director shall notify the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives of the fundraising.”

SEC. 304. PROMOTION OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR STEM RECRUITING AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.—Along with the budget for fiscal year 2018 submitted by the President pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit a five-year investment strategy for outreach and recruiting efforts in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), to include cybersecurity and computer literacy.

(b) REQUIREMENT FOR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PLANS FOR STEM RECRUITING AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.—For each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2022, the head of each element of the intelligence community shall submit an investment plan along with the materials submitted as justification of the budget request of such element that supports the strategy required by subsection (a).

SEC. 305. RETENTION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WHO HAVE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, OR MATHEMATICS EXPERTISE.

(a) SPECIAL RATES OF PAY FOR CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 113A the following:

“SEC. 113B. SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, OR MATHEMATICS POSITIONS.

“(a) AUTHORITY TO SET SPECIAL RATES OF PAY.—Notwithstanding part III of title 5, United States Code, the head of each element of the intelligence community may establish higher minimum rates of pay for 1 or more categories of positions in such element that require expertise in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM).

“(b) MAXIMUM SPECIAL RATE OF PAY.—A minimum rate of pay established for a category of positions under subsection (a) may not exceed the maximum rate of basic pay (excluding any locality-based comparability payment under section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, or similar provision of law) for the position in that category of positions without the authority of subsection (a) by more than 30 percent, and no rate may be established under this section in excess of the rate of basic pay payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

“(c) NOTIFICATION OF REMOVAL FROM SPECIAL RATE OF PAY.—If the head of an element of the intelligence community removes a category of positions from coverage under a rate of pay authorized by subsection (a) after that rate of pay takes effect—

“(1) the head of such element shall provide notice of the loss of coverage of the special rate of pay to each individual in such category; and

“(2) the loss of coverage will take effect on the first day of the first pay period after the date of the notice.

“(d) REVISION OF SPECIAL RATES OF PAY.—Subject to the limitations in this section, rates of pay established under this section by the head of the element of the intelligence community may be revised from time to time by the head of such element and the revisions have the force and effect of statute.

“(e) REGULATIONS.—The head of each element of the intelligence community shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section with respect to such element, which shall, to the extent practicable, be comparable to the regulations promulgated to carry out section 5305 of title 5, United States Code.

“(f) REPORTS.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT FOR REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, the head of each element of the intelligence community shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on any rates of pay established for such element under this section.

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall contain for each element of the intelligence community—

“(A) a description of any rates of pay established under subsection (a); and

“(B) the number of positions in such element that will be subject to such rates of pay.”

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 113A the following:

“Sec. 113B. Special pay authority for science, technology, engineering, or math positions.”

SEC. 306. MULTI-SECTOR WORKFORCE.

(a) MULTI-SECTOR WORKFORCE INITIATIVE.—(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Director of National Intelligence shall implement a multi-sector workforce initiative—

(A) to improve management of the workforce of the intelligence community;

(B) to achieve an appropriate ratio of employees of the United States Government and core contractors in such workforce; and

(C) to establish processes that enables elements of the intelligence community to build and maintain an appropriate ratio of such employees and core contractors.

(2) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall brief the congressional intelligence committees on the initiative required by paragraph (1).

(b) MANAGEMENT BASED ON WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 102 and 103, during each of fiscal years 2017 and 2018, the personnel of the intelligence community shall be managed each fiscal year solely on the basis of, and consistent with—

(A) the workload required to carry out the functions and activities of the intelligence community; and

(B) the funds made available to the intelligence community for such fiscal year.

(2) PROHIBITION ON CONSTRAINTS OR LIMITATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 102 and 103, the management of the personnel of the intelligence community in any fiscal year shall not be subject to any constraint or limitation in terms of man years, end strength, positions, or maximum number of employees.

(B) TERMINATION.—The prohibition on constraints and limitations under subparagraph (A) shall terminate on September 30, 2018.

(3) NEW STARTS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2)(A), any initiation, resumption, or continuation by an element of intelligence community of any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, or subprogram within a program element for which an appropriation, fund, or other authority was not made available during the previous fiscal year may only be carried out if such project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, or subprogram is specifically authorized consistent with section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094).

(c) REQUIRED EMPLOYEES.—Notwithstanding to sections 102 and 103, during each of fiscal years 2017 and 2018 the Director of National Intelligence shall ensure that there are employed during a fiscal year employees in the number and with the combination of skills and qualifications that are necessary to carry out the functions for which funds are provided to the intelligence community for that fiscal year.

(d) BRIEFING AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the

enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall issue a written report and provide a briefing to the congressional intelligence committees on—

(1) the methodology used to calculate the number of civilian and contractor full-time equivalent positions in the intelligence community;

(2) the cost analysis tool used to calculate personnel costs in the intelligence community; and

(3) the plans of the Director of National Intelligence and the head of each element of the intelligence community to implement a multi-sector workforce as required by subsections (a) and (b).

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a written report on the accuracy of intelligence community data for the numbers and costs associated with the civilian and contractor workforce in each element of the intelligence community.

SEC. 307. NOTIFICATION OF REPAIR OR MODIFICATION OF FACILITIES TO BE USED PRIMARILY BY THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Section 602(a)(2) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995 (50 U.S.C. 3304(a)(2)) is amended by striking “improvement project to” and inserting “project for the improvement, repair, or modification of”.

SEC. 308. GUIDANCE AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT REGARDING THE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ENGAGEMENT.—The term “engagement” —

(A) means any significant interaction between an element of the intelligence community and an entertainment industry entity for the purposes of contributing to an entertainment product intended to be heard, read, viewed, or otherwise experienced by the public; and

(B) does not include routine inquiries made by the press or news media to the public affairs office of an intelligence community.

(2) ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY ENTITY.—The term “entertainment industry entity” means an entity that creates, produces, promotes, or distributes a work of entertainment intended to be heard, read, viewed, or otherwise experienced by an audience, including—

(A) theater productions, motion pictures, radio broadcasts, television broadcasts, podcasts, webcasts, other sound or visual recording, music, or dance;

(B) books and other published material; and

(C) such other entertainment activity, as determined by the Director of National Intelligence.

(b) DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall issue, and release to the public, guidance regarding engagements by elements of the intelligence community with entertainment industry entities.

(2) CRITERIA.—The guidance required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) permit an element of the intelligence community to conduct engagements, if the head of the element, or a designee of such head, provides prior approval; and

(B) require an unclassified annual report to the congressional intelligence committees regarding engagements.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each report required by subsection (b)(2)(B) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the nature and duration of each engagement included in the review.

(2) The cost incurred by the United States Government for each such engagement.

(3) A description of the benefits to the United States Government for each such engagement.

(4) A determination of whether any information was declassified, and whether any classified information was improperly disclosed, or each such engagement.

(5) A description of the work produced through each such engagement.

SEC. 309. PROTECTIONS FOR INDEPENDENT INSPECTORS GENERAL OF CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) LIMITATION ON ACTIVITIES OF EMPLOYEES OF AN OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

(1) LIMITATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall develop and implement a uniform policy for each covered office of an inspector general to better ensure the independence of each such office. Such policy shall include—

(A) provisions to prevent any conflict of interest related to a matter any employee of a covered office of an inspector general personally and substantially participated in during previous employment;

(B) standards to ensure personnel of a covered office of an inspector general are free both in fact and in appearance from personal, external, and organizational impairments to independence;

(C) provisions to permit the head of each covered office of an inspector general to waive the application of the policy with respect to an individual if such head—

(i) prepares a written and signed justification for such waiver that sets out, in detail, the need for such waiver, provided that waivers shall not be issued for in fact impairments to independence; and

(ii) submits to the congressional intelligence committees each such justification; and

(D) any other protections the Director determines appropriate.

(2) COVERED OFFICE OF AN INSPECTOR GENERAL DEFINED.—The term “covered office of an inspector general” means—

(A) the Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community; and

(B) the office of an inspector general for—

(i) the Office of the Director of National Intelligence;

(ii) the Central Intelligence Agency;

(iii) the National Security Agency;

(iv) the Defense Intelligence Agency;

(v) the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; and

(vi) the National Reconnaissance Office.

(3) BRIEFING TO THE CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—Prior to the date that the policy required by paragraph (1) takes effect, the Director of National Intelligence shall provide the congressional intelligence committees a briefing on such policy.

(b) LIMITATION ON ROTATION OF EMPLOYEES OF AN OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Section 102A(1)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(1)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) The mechanisms prescribed under subparagraph (A) and any other policies of the Director—

“(i) may not require an employee of an office of inspector general for an element of the intelligence community, including the Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, to rotate to a position in an office or organization of such an element over which such office of inspector general exercises jurisdiction; and

“(ii) shall be implemented in a manner that exempts employees of an office of inspector general from a rotation that may impact the independence of such office.”.

SEC. 310. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF POLICY DIRECTIVES AND GUIDANCE.

(a) COVERED POLICY DOCUMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered policy document” means any classified or unclassified Presidential Policy Directive, Presidential Policy Guidance, or other similar policy document issued by the President, including any classified or unclassified annex to such a Directive, Guidance, or other document, that assigns tasks, roles, or responsibilities to the intelligence community or an element of the intelligence community.

(b) SUBMISSIONS TO CONGRESS.—The Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees the following:

(1) Not later than 15 days after the date that a covered policy document is issued, a written notice of the issuance and a summary of the subject matter addressed by such covered policy document.

(2) Not later than 15 days after the date that the Director issues any guidance or direction on implementation of a covered policy document or implements a covered policy document, a copy of such guidance or direction or a description of such implementation.

(3) Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, for any covered policy document issued prior to such date that is being implemented by any element of the intelligence community or that is in effect on such date—

(A) a written notice that includes the date such covered policy document was issued and a summary of the subject matter addressed by such covered policy document; and

(B) if the Director has issued any guidance or direction on implementation of such covered policy document or is implementing such covered policy document, a copy of the guidance or direction or a written description of such implementation.

SEC. 311. NOTIFICATION OF MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each element of the intelligence community shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a copy of each memorandum of understanding or other agreement regarding significant operational activities or policy between or among such element and any other entity or entities of the United States Government—

(1) for such a memorandum or agreement that is in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, not later than 60 days after such date; and

(2) for such a memorandum or agreement entered into after such date, in a timely manner and not more than 60 days after the date such memorandum or other agreement is entered into.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM OR AGREEMENT.—Nothing in this section may be construed to require an element of the intelligence community to submit to the congressional intelligence committees any memorandum or agreement that is solely administrative in nature, including a memorandum

or agreement regarding joint duty or other routine personnel assignments.

SEC. 312. ASSISTANCE FOR NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term “covered critical infrastructure” means the critical infrastructure identified pursuant to section 9(a) of Executive Order No. 13636 of February 12, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 11742; related to improving critical infrastructure cybersecurity).

(2) COVERED CYBER ASSET.—The term “covered cyber asset” means an information system or industrial control system that is essential to the operation of covered critical infrastructure.

(3) PROGRAM.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, the term “program” means the program required by subsection (b).

(4) SECTOR-SPECIFIC AGENCY.—The term “sector-specific agency” has the meaning given that term in Presidential Policy Directive-21, issued February 12, 2013 (related to critical infrastructure security and resilience), or any successor.

(5) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPANT.—The term “voluntary participant” means an entity eligible to participate in the program under subsection (b) that has voluntarily elected to participate in the program.

(b) REQUIREMENT FOR PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary appointed pursuant to section 103(a)(1)(H) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113(a)(1)(H)), in consultation with appropriate covered critical infrastructure and sector-specific agencies, shall carry out a program to provide assistance to covered critical infrastructure consistent with subsection (f).

(c) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the program shall be to reduce the risk of regional or national catastrophic harm caused by a cyber attack against covered critical infrastructure.

(d) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Participation in the program by covered critical infrastructure shall be on a voluntary basis.

(e) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.—

(1) COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT.—The Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security shall coordinate and lead the provision of assistance from appropriate elements of the intelligence community to the Under Secretary appointed pursuant to section 103(a)(1)(H) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113(a)(1)(H)) to assist the national cybersecurity and communications integration center established under section 227 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 148) to fulfill the requirements of this section.

(2) ACTIVITIES.—In the manner required by paragraph (1) and subject to the approval of the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security, such assistance may include:

(A) Activities to develop a national strategy to effectively leverage intelligence community resources made available to support the program.

(B) Activities to consult with the Director of National Intelligence and other appropriate intelligence and law enforcement agencies to identify within the existing framework governing intelligence prioritization, intelligence gaps and foreign intelligence collection requirements relevant to the security of covered cyber assets and covered critical infrastructure.

(C) Activities to improve the detection, prevention, and mitigation of espionage conducted by foreign actors against or concerning covered critical infrastructure.

(D) Activities to identify or provide assistance related to the research, design, and development of protective and mitigation measures for covered cyber assets and the components of covered cyber assets.

(E) Activities to provide technical assistance and input for testing and exercises related to covered cyber assets.

(f) RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING PROGRAMS.—This section shall be carried out in a manner consistent with the existing roles, responsibilities, authorities, and activities of the United States Government.

(g) NO COST TO COVERED CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PARTICIPANTS.—A voluntary participant in the program that is covered critical infrastructure shall not be required to reimburse the United States Government for the use of any facility, personnel, contractor, equipment, service, or information of the United States Government utilized in an activity carried out pursuant to the program.

(h) PRIORITIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.—The Director of National Intelligence shall consider the national significance of covered critical infrastructure identified by the Under Secretary appointed pursuant to section 103(a)(1)(H) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113(a)(1)(H)) in the Director’s process for prioritizing requirements and effectively allocating the resources of the intelligence community for assisting government efforts to help protect critical infrastructure owned or operated in the private sector.

(i) PARTICIPATION APPROVAL.—Participation in the program by any private entity shall be subject to the approval of the Under Secretary appointed pursuant to section 103(a)(1)(H) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113(a)(1)(H)), and in the case of any support assistance provided by the intelligence community, the approval of the Director of National Intelligence.

(j) NO NEW REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or any other Federal regulator to promulgate new regulations.

(k) BRIEFING.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis shall brief the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives on progress and challenges of the program.

(k) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit any authority or responsibility of an agency or department of the United States under any law in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 313. TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE.

Section 5313 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to “Director of the National Counter Proliferation Center.”.

SEC. 314. MAXIMUM AMOUNT CHARGED FOR DECLASSIFICATION REVIEWS.

In reviewing and processing a request by a person for the mandatory declassification of information pursuant to Executive Order No. 13526, a successor executive order, or any provision of law, the head of an element of the intelligence community—

(1) may not charge the person reproduction fees in excess of the amount of fees that the

head would charge the person for reproduction required in the course of processing a request for information under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Freedom of Information Act”); and

(2) may waive or reduce any processing fees in the same manner as the head waives or reduces fees under such section 552.

TITLE IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Subtitle A—Office of the Director of National Intelligence

SEC. 401. DESIGNATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 902 of the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act of 2002 (50 U.S.C. 3382) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 902. DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be a Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center (referred to in this section as the ‘Director’), who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(b) MISSION.—The mission of the Director shall be to serve as the head of national counterintelligence for the United States Government.

“(c) DUTIES.—Subject to the direction and control of the Director of National Intelligence, the duties of the Director are as follows:

“(1) To carry out the mission referred to in subsection (b).

“(2) To act as chairperson of the National Counterintelligence Policy Board established under section 811 of the Counterintelligence and Security Enhancements Act of 1994 (50 U.S.C. 3381).

“(3) To act as head of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center established under section 904.

“(4) To participate as an observer on such boards, committees, and entities of the executive branch as the Director of National Intelligence considers appropriate for the discharge of the mission and functions of the Director and the National Counterintelligence and Security Center under section 904.”.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-306; 116 Stat. 2383) is amended by striking the item relating to section 902 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 902. Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.”.

(3) TECHNICAL EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) of section 401 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (division M of Public Law 114-113) shall not take effect, or, if the date of the enactment of this Act is on or after the effective date specified in subsection (b) of such section, such amendment shall be deemed to not have taken effect.

(b) NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 904 of the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act of 2002 (50 U.S.C. 3383) is amended—

(A) by striking the section heading and inserting “NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER.”; and

(B) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and inserting the following:

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be a National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

“(b) HEAD OF CENTER.—The Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center shall be the head of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

“(c) LOCATION OF CENTER.—The National Counterintelligence and Security Center shall be located in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.”.

(2) FUNCTIONS.—Section 904(d) of the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act of 2002 (50 U.S.C. 3383(d)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “National Counterintelligence Executive, the functions of the Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive” and inserting “Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, the functions of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center”;

(B) in paragraph (5), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “In consultation with” and inserting “At the direction of”;

(C) in paragraph (6), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Office” and inserting “National Counterintelligence and Security Center”.

(3) PERSONNEL.—Section 904(f) of the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act of 2002 (50 U.S.C. 3383(f)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive may consist of personnel employed by the Office” and inserting “National Counterintelligence and Security Center may consist of personnel employed by the Center”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “National Counterintelligence Executive” and inserting “Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center”.

(4) TREATMENT OF ACTIVITIES UNDER CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE LAWS.—Section 904(g) of the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act of 2002 (50 U.S.C. 3383(g)) is amended by striking “Office shall be treated as operational files of the Central Intelligence Agency for purposes of section 701 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 431)” and inserting “National Counterintelligence and Security Center shall be treated as operational files of the Central Intelligence Agency for purposes of section 701 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3141)”.

(5) OVERSIGHT BY CONGRESS.—Section 904(h) of the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act of 2002 (50 U.S.C. 3383(h)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive” and inserting “National Counterintelligence and Security Center”;

(B) in paragraphs (1) and (2), by striking “Office” and inserting “Center” both places that term appears.

(6) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-306; 116 Stat. 2383), as amended by subsection (a)(2), is further amended by striking the item relating to section 904 and inserting the following: “Sec. 904. National Counterintelligence and Security Center.”.

(c) OVERSIGHT OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE CENTERS.—Section 102A(f)(2) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(f)(2)) is amended by inserting “, the National Counterproliferation Center, and the National Counterintelligence and Security Center” after “National Counterterrorism Center”.

(d) DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.—Paragraph (8) of section 103(c) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3025(c)) is amended to read as follows: “(8) The Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.”.

(e) DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 103F of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3031) is amended—

(A) by striking the section heading and inserting “DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER”;

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking the subsection heading and inserting “DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER.—”;

(ii) by striking “National Counterintelligence Executive under section 902 of the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act of 2002 (title IX of Public Law 107-306; 50 U.S.C. 402b et seq.)” and inserting “Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center appointed under section 902 of the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act of 2002 (50 U.S.C. 3382)”;

(C) in subsection (b), by striking “National Counterintelligence Executive” and inserting “Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center”.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by striking the item relating to section 103F and inserting the following:

“Sec. 103F. Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.”.

(f) COORDINATION OF COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Section 811 of the Counterintelligence and Security Enhancements Act of 1994 (50 U.S.C. 3381) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “National Counterintelligence Executive under section 902 of the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act of 2002” and inserting “Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center appointed under section 902 of the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act of 2002 (50 U.S.C. 3382)”;

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “National Counterintelligence Executive.” and inserting “Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.”;

(3) in subsection (d)(1)(B)(ii)—

(A) by striking “National Counterintelligence Executive” and inserting “Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center”;

(B) by striking “by the Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive under section 904(e)(2) of that Act” and inserting “pursuant to section 904(d)(2) of that Act (50 U.S.C. 3383(d)(2))”.

(g) INTELLIGENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY ASPECTS OF ESPIONAGE PROSECUTIONS.—Section 341(b) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108-177, 28 U.S.C. 519 note) is amended by striking “Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive,” and inserting “National Counterintelligence and Security Center.”.

SEC. 402. ANALYSES AND IMPACT STATEMENTS BY DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE REGARDING INVESTMENT INTO THE UNITED STATES.

Section 102A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024), as amended by section 303, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(z) ANALYSES AND IMPACT STATEMENTS REGARDING PROPOSED INVESTMENT INTO THE UNITED STATES.—(1) Not later than 20 days after the completion of a review or an investigation of any proposed investment into the United States for which the Director has prepared analytic materials, the Director shall submit to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representative copies of such analytic materials, including any supplements or amendments to such analysis made by the Director.

“(2) Not later than 60 days after the completion of consideration by the United States Government of any investment described in paragraph (1), the Director shall determine whether such investment will have an operational impact on the intelligence community, and, if so, shall submit a report on such impact to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives. Each such report shall—

“(A) describe the operational impact of the investment on the intelligence community; and

“(B) describe any actions that have been or will be taken to mitigate such impact.”.

SEC. 403. ASSISTANCE FOR GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES AND PRIVATE ENTITIES IN RECOGNIZING ONLINE VIOLENT EXTREMIST CONTENT.

(a) ASSISTANCE TO RECOGNIZE ONLINE VIOLENT EXTREMIST CONTENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and consistent with the protection of intelligence sources and methods, the Director of National Intelligence shall publish on a publicly available Internet website a list of all logos, symbols, insignia, and other markings commonly associated with, or adopted by, an organization designated by the Secretary of State as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)).

(b) UPDATES.—The Director shall update the list published under subsection (a) every 180 days or more frequently as needed.

Subtitle B—Central Intelligence Agency

SEC. 411. ENHANCED DEATH BENEFITS FOR PERSONNEL OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

Section 11 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3511) is amended to read as follows:

“BENEFITS AVAILABLE IN EVENT OF THE DEATH OF PERSONNEL

“SEC. 11. (a) AUTHORITY.—The Director may pay death benefits substantially similar to those authorized for members of the Foreign Service pursuant to the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.) or any other provision of law. The Director may adjust the eligibility for death benefits as necessary to meet the unique requirements of the mission of the Agency.

“(b) REGULATIONS.—Regulations issued pursuant to this section shall be submitted to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives before such regulations take effect.”.

SEC. 412. PAY AND RETIREMENT AUTHORITIES OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 17(e)(7) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(e)(7)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C)(i) The Inspector General may designate an officer or employee appointed in accordance with subparagraph (A) as a law enforcement officer solely for purposes of subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, if such officer or employee is appointed to a position with responsibility for investigating suspected offenses against the criminal laws of the United States.

“(ii) In carrying out clause (i), the Inspector General shall ensure that any authority under such clause is exercised in a manner consistent with section 3307 of title 5, United States Code, as it relates to law enforcement officers.

“(iii) For purposes of applying sections 3307(d), 8335(b), and 8425(b) of title 5, United States Code, the Inspector General may exercise the functions, powers, and duties of an agency head or appointing authority with respect to the Office.”

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Subparagraph (C) of section 17(e)(7) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(e)(7)), as added by subsection (a), may not be construed to confer on the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency, or any other officer or employee of the Agency, any police or law enforcement or internal security functions or authorities.

Subtitle C—Other Elements

SEC. 421. ENHANCING THE TECHNICAL WORKFORCE FOR THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Building on the basic cyber human capital strategic plan provided to the congressional intelligence committees in 2015, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and updated two years thereafter, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a comprehensive strategic workforce report regarding initiatives to effectively integrate information technology expertise in the investigative process.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment, including measurable benchmarks, of progress on initiatives to recruit, train, and retain personnel with the necessary skills and experiences in vital areas, including encryption, cryptography, and big data analytics.

(2) An assessment of whether officers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who possess such skills are fully integrated into the Bureau’s work, including Agent-led investigations.

(3) A description of the quality and quantity of the collaborations between the Bureau and private sector entities on cyber issues, including the status of efforts to benefit from employees with experience transitioning between the public and private sectors.

(4) An assessment of the utility of reinstating, if applicable, and leveraging the Director’s Advisory Board, which was originally constituted in 2005, to provide outside advice on how to better integrate technical expertise with the investigative process and on emerging concerns in cyber-related issues.

SEC. 422. PLAN ON ASSUMPTION OF CERTAIN WEATHER MISSIONS BY THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE.

(a) **PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (c), the Director of the National Re-

connaissance Office shall develop a plan for the National Reconnaissance Office to address how to carry out covered space-based environmental monitoring missions. Such plan shall include—

(A) a description of the related national security requirements for such missions;

(B) a description of the appropriate manner to meet such requirements; and

(C) the amount of funds that would be necessary to be transferred from the Air Force to the National Reconnaissance Office during fiscal years 2018 through 2022 to carry out such plan.

(2) **ACTIVITIES.**—In developing the plan under paragraph (1), the Director may conduct pre-acquisition activities, including with respect to requests for information, analyses of alternatives, study contracts, modeling and simulation, and other activities the Director determines necessary to develop such plan.

(3) **SUBMISSION.**—Not later than July 1, 2017, and except as provided in subsection (c), the Director shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the plan under paragraph (1).

(b) **INDEPENDENT COST ESTIMATE.**—The Director of the Cost Assessment Improvement Group of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees that the amounts of funds identified under subsection (a)(1)(C) as being necessary to transfer are appropriate and include funding for positions and personnel to support program office costs.

(c) **WAIVER BASED ON REPORT AND CERTIFICATION OF AIR FORCE ACQUISITION PROGRAM.**—The Director of the National Reconnaissance Office may waive the requirement to develop a plan under subsection (a), if the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Technology, and Logistics and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report by not later than July 1, 2017) that contains—

(1) a certification that the Secretary of the Air Force is carrying out a formal acquisition program that has received Milestone A approval to address the cloud characterization and theater weather imagery requirements of the Department of Defense; and

(2) an identification of the cost, schedule, requirements, and acquisition strategy of such acquisition program.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees; and

(B) the congressional defense committees (as defined in section 101(a)(16) of title 10, United States Code).

(2) **COVERED SPACE-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING MISSIONS.**—The term “covered space-based environmental monitoring missions” means the acquisition programs necessary to meet the national security requirements for cloud characterization and theater weather imagery.

(3) **MILESTONE A APPROVAL.**—The term “Milestone A approval” has the meaning given that term in section 2366a(d) of title 10, United States Code.

TITLE V—MATTERS RELATING TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

SEC. 501. COMMITTEE TO COUNTER ACTIVE MEASURES BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO EXERT COVERT INFLUENCE OVER PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ACTIVE MEASURES BY RUSSIA TO EXERT COVERT INFLUENCE.**—The term “active measures by Russia to exert covert influence” means activities intended to influence a person or government that are carried out in coordination with, or at the behest of, political leaders or the security services of the Russian Federation and the role of the Russian Federation has been hidden or not acknowledged publicly, including the following:

(A) Establishment or funding of a front group.

(B) Covert broadcasting.

(C) Media manipulation.

(D) Disinformation and forgeries.

(E) Funding agents of influence.

(F) Incitement and offensive counterintelligence.

(G) Assassinations.

(H) Terrorist acts.

(2) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established within the executive branch an interagency committee to counter active measures by the Russian Federation to exert covert influence.

(c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **APPOINTMENT.**—Each head of an agency or department of the Government set out under paragraph (2) shall appoint one member of the committee established by subsection (b) from among officials of such agency or department who occupy a position that is required to be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) **HEAD OF AN AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT.**—The head of an agency or department of the Government set out under this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Director of National Intelligence.

(B) The Secretary of State.

(C) The Secretary of Defense.

(D) The Secretary of the Treasury.

(E) The Attorney General.

(F) The Secretary of Energy.

(G) The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(H) The head of any other agency or department of the United States Government designated by the President for purposes of this section.

(d) **MEETINGS.**—The committee shall meet on a regular basis.

(e) **DUTIES.**—The duties of the committee established by subsection (b) shall be as follows:

(1) To counter active measures by Russia to exert covert influence, including by exposing falsehoods, agents of influence, corruption, human rights abuses, terrorism, and assassinations carried out by the security services or political elites of the Russian Federation or their proxies.

(2) Such other duties as the President may designate for purposes of this section.

(f) STAFF.—The committee established by subsection (b) may employ such staff as the members of such committee consider appropriate.

(g) BUDGET REQUEST.—A request for funds required for the functioning of the committee established by subsection (b) may be included in each budget for a fiscal year submitted by the President pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

(h) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, and consistent with the protection of intelligence sources and methods, the committee established by subsection (b) shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing steps being taken by the committee to counter active measures by Russia to exert covert influence.

(2) CONTENT.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A summary of the active measures by the Russian Federation to exert covert influence during the previous year, including significant incidents and notable trends.

(B) A description of the key initiatives of the committee.

(C) A description of the implementation of the committee's initiatives by the head of an agency or department of the Government set out under subsection (c)(2).

(D) An analysis of the impact of the committee's initiatives.

(E) Recommendations for changes to the committee's initiatives from the previous year.

(3) SEPARATE REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The requirement to submit an annual report under paragraph (1) is in addition to any other reporting requirements with respect to Russia.

SEC. 502. TRAVEL OF ACCREDITED DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PERSONNEL OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(b) ADVANCE NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of State shall, in coordination with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Director of National Intelligence, establish a mandatory advance notification regime governing all travel by accredited diplomatic and consular personnel of the Russian Federation in the United States and take necessary action to secure full compliance by Russian personnel and address any noncompliance.

(c) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—The Secretary of State, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Director of National Intelligence shall develop written mechanisms to share information—

(1) on travel by accredited diplomatic and consular personnel of the Russian Federation who are in the United States; and

(2) on any known or suspected noncompliance by such personnel with the regime required by subsection (b).

(d) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and quarterly thereafter, and consistent with the protection of intelligence sources and methods—

(1) the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a written report detailing the number of notifications submitted under the regime required by subsection (b); and

(2) the Secretary of State and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a written report detailing the number of known or suspected violations of such requirements by any accredited diplomatic and consular personnel of the Russian Federation.

SEC. 503. STUDY AND REPORT ON ENHANCED INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION SHARING WITH OPEN SKIES TREATY MEMBER STATES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED STATE PARTY.—The term "covered state party" means a foreign country, that—

(A) was a state party to the Open Skies Treaty on February 22, 2016; and

(B) is not the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus.

(3) OPEN SKIES TREATY.—The term "Open Skies Treaty" means the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki, March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

(b) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall conduct and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a study to determine the feasibility of creating an intelligence sharing arrangement and database to provide covered state parties with imagery that is comparable, delivered more frequently, and in equal or higher resolution than imagery available through the database established under the Open Skies Treaty.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The study required by paragraph (1) shall include an evaluation of the following:

(A) The methods by which the United States could collect and provide imagery, including commercial satellite imagery, national technical means, and through other intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms, under an information sharing arrangement and database referred to in paragraph (1).

(B) The ability of other covered state parties to contribute imagery to the arrangement and database.

(C) Any impediments to the United States and other covered states parties providing such imagery, including any statutory barriers, insufficiencies in the ability to collect the imagery or funding, under such an arrangement.

(D) Whether imagery of Moscow, Chechnya, the international border between Russia and Georgia, Kaliningrad, or the Republic of Belarus could be provided under such an arrangement.

(E) The annual and projected costs associated with the establishment of such an arrangement and database, as compared with costs to the United States and other covered state parties of being parties to the Open Skies Treaty, including Open Skies Treaty plane maintenance, aircraft fuel, crew expenses, mitigation measures necessary asso-

ciated with Russian Federation overflights over the United States or covered state parties, and new sensor development and acquisition.

(3) SUPPORT FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Each head of a Federal agency shall provide such support to the Director as may be necessary for the Director to conduct the study required by paragraph (1).

(c) REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the report described in this subsection.

(2) CONTENT OF REPORT.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An intelligence assessment on Russian Federation warfighting doctrine and the extent to which Russian Federation flights under the Open Skies Treaty contribute to such doctrine.

(B) A counterintelligence analysis as to whether the Russian Federation has, could have, or intends to have the capability to exceed the imagery limits set forth in the Open Skies Treaty.

(C) A list of intelligence exchanges with covered state parties that have been updated on the information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) and the date and form such information was provided.

(d) FORM OF SUBMISSION.—The study required by subsection (b) and the report required by subsection (c) shall be submitted in an unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

TITLE VI—REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 601. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW WITH RESPECT TO DETAINEES TRANSFERRED FROM UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who was transferred or released from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the Director of National Intelligence shall—

(1)(A) complete a declassification review of intelligence reports regarding past terrorist activities of that individual prepared by the National Counterterrorism Center for the individual's Periodic Review Board sessions, transfer, or release; or

(B) if the individual's transfer or release occurred prior to the date on which the National Counterterrorism Center first began to prepare such reports regarding detainees, such other intelligence report or reports that contain the same or similar information regarding the individual's past terrorist activities;

(2) make available to the public—

(A) any intelligence reports declassified as a result of the declassification review; and

(B) with respect to each individual transferred or released, for whom intelligence reports are declassified as a result of the declassification review, an unclassified summary which shall be prepared by the President of measures being taken by the country to which the individual was transferred or released to monitor the individual and to prevent the individual from carrying out future terrorist activities; and

(3) submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report setting out the results of the declassification review, including a description of intelligence reports covered by the review that were not declassified.

(b) SCHEDULE.—

(1) TRANSFER OR RELEASE PRIOR TO ENACTMENT.—Not later than 210 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit the report required by subsection (a)(3), which shall include the results of the declassification review completed for each individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who was transferred or released from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) TRANSFER OR RELEASE AFTER ENACTMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date an individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act is transferred or released from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, the Director shall submit the report required by subsection (a)(3) for such individual.

(c) PAST TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of this section, the past terrorist activities of an individual shall include all terrorist activities conducted by the individual before the individual's transfer to the detention facility at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, including, at a minimum, the following:

(1) The terrorist organization, if any, with which affiliated.

(2) The terrorist training, if any, received.

(3) The role in past terrorist attacks against United States interests or allies.

(4) The direct responsibility, if any, for the death of United States citizens or members of the Armed Forces.

(5) Any admission of any matter specified in paragraphs (1) through (4).

(6) A description of the intelligence supporting any matter specified in paragraphs (1) through (5), including the extent to which such intelligence was corroborated, the level of confidence held by the intelligence community, and any dissent or reassessment by an element of the intelligence community.

SEC. 602. CYBER CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND INNOVATION-HOME OF THE NATIONAL CRYPTOLOGIC MUSEUM.

(a) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE CENTER.—Chapter 449 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 4781. Cyber Center for Education and Innovation-Home of the National Cryptologic Museum

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) The Secretary of Defense may establish at a publicly accessible location at Fort George G. Meade the ‘Cyber Center for Education and Innovation-Home of the National Cryptologic Museum’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Center’).

“(2) The Center may be used for the identification, curation, storage, and public viewing of materials relating to the activities of the National Security Agency, its predecessor or successor organizations, and the history of cryptology.

“(3) The Center may contain meeting, conference, and classroom facilities that will be used to support such education, training, public outreach, and other purposes as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(b) DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND OPERATION.—The Secretary may enter into an agreement with the National Cryptologic Museum Foundation (in this section referred to as the ‘Foundation’), a nonprofit organization, for the design, construction, and operation of the Center.

“(c) ACCEPTANCE AUTHORITY.—(1) If the Foundation constructs the Center pursuant to an agreement with the Foundation under

subsection (b), upon satisfactory completion of the Center's construction or any phase thereof, as determined by the Secretary, and upon full satisfaction by the Foundation of any other obligations pursuant to such agreement, the Secretary may accept the Center (or any phase thereof) from the Foundation, and all right, title, and interest in the Center or such phase shall vest in the United States.

“(2) Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, the Secretary may accept services from the Foundation in connection with the design construction, and operation of the Center. For purposes of this section and any other provision of law, employees or personnel of the Foundation shall not be considered to be employees of the United States.

“(d) FEES AND USER CHARGES.—(1) The Secretary may assess fees and user charges to cover the cost of the use of Center facilities and property, including rental, user, conference, and concession fees.

“(2) Amounts received under paragraph (1) shall be deposited into the fund established under subsection (e).

“(e) FUND.—(1) Upon the Secretary's acceptance of the Center under subsection (c)(1) there is established in the Treasury a fund to be known as the ‘Cyber Center for Education and Innovation-Home of the National Cryptologic Museum Fund’ (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Fund’).

“(2) The Fund shall consist of the following amounts:

“(A) Fees and user charges deposited by the Secretary under subsection (d).

“(B) Any other amounts received by the Secretary which are attributable to the operation of the Center.

“(3) Amounts in the Fund shall be available to the Secretary for the benefit and operation of the Center, including the costs of operation and the acquisition of books, manuscripts, works of art, historical artifacts, drawings, plans, models, and condemned or obsolete combat materiel.

“(4) Amounts in the Fund shall be available without fiscal year limitation.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 449 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“4781. Cyber Center for Education and Innovation-Home of the National Cryptologic Museum.”

SEC. 603. REPORT ON NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS.

(a) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director of the National Security Agency, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on national security systems.

(c) CONTENT.—Each report submitted under subsection (b) shall include information related to—

(1) national security systems or components thereof that have been decertified and are still in operational use;

(2) extension requests and the current status of any national security systems still in

use or components thereof that have been decertified and are still in use;

(3) national security systems known to not be in compliance with the policies, principles, standards, and guidelines issued by the Committee on National Security Systems established pursuant to National Security Directive 42, signed by the President on July 5, 1990; and

(4) organizations which have not provided access or information to the Director of the National Security Agency that is adequate to enable the Director to make a determination as to whether such organizations are in compliance with the policies, principles, standards, and guidelines issued by such Committee on National Security Systems.

SEC. 604. JOINT FACILITIES CERTIFICATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Director of National Intelligence set a strategic goal to use joint facilities as a means to save costs by consolidating administrative and support functions across multiple elements of the intelligence community.

(2) The use of joint facilities provides more opportunities for operational collaboration and information sharing among elements of the intelligence community.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—Before an element of the intelligence community purchases, leases, or constructs a new facility that is 20,000 square feet or larger, the head of that element of the intelligence community shall submit to the Director of National Intelligence—

(1) a written certification that, to the best of the knowledge of the head of such element, all prospective joint facilities in the vicinity have been considered and the element is unable to identify a joint facility that meets the operational requirements of such element; and

(2) a written statement listing the reasons for not participating in the prospective joint facilities considered by the element.

SEC. 605. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF SPACE ACTIVITIES.

(a) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(b) UPDATE TO STRATEGY FOR COMPREHENSIVE INTERAGENCY REVIEW OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL SECURITY OVERHEAD SATELLITE ARCHITECTURE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shall issue a written update to the strategy required by section 312 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (division M of Public Law 114-113; 129 Stat. 2919).

(c) UNITY OF EFFORT IN SPACE OPERATIONS BETWEEN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a plan to functionally integrate the governance, operations, analysis, collection, policy, and acquisition activities related to space and counterspace carried out by the intelligence community. The plan shall include analysis of no fewer than 2 alternative constructs to implement

this plan, and an assessment of statutory, policy, organizational, programmatic, and resources changes that may be required to implement each alternative construct.

(2) **APPOINTMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall appoint a single official to oversee development of the plan required by paragraph (1).

(3) **SCOPE OF PLAN.**—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall include methods to functionally integrate activities carried out by—

(A) the National Reconnaissance Office;

(B) the functional managers for signals intelligence and geospatial intelligence;

(C) the Office of the Director of National Intelligence;

(D) other Intelligence Community elements with space-related programs;

(E) joint interagency efforts; and

(F) other entities as identified by the Director of National Intelligence in coordination with the Secretary of Defense.

(d) **INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY SPACE WORKFORCE.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a workforce plan to recruit, develop, and retain personnel in the intelligence community with skills and experience in space and counterspace operations, analysis, collection, policy, and acquisition.

(e) **JOINT INTERAGENCY COMBINED SPACE OPERATIONS CENTER.**—

(1) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—The Director of the National Reconnaissance Office and the Commander of the United States Strategic Command, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress concept of operations and requirements documents for the Joint Interagency Combined Space Operations Center by the date that is the earlier of—

(A) the completion of the experimental phase of such Center; or

(B) 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS.**—The Director of the National Reconnaissance Office and the Commander of the United States Strategic Command, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, shall provide to the appropriate committees of Congress briefings providing updates on activities and progress of the Joint Interagency Combined Space Operations Center to begin 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. Such briefings shall be quarterly for the first year following enactment, and annually thereafter.

SEC. 606. ADVANCES IN LIFE SCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY.

(a) **REQUIREMENT FOR PLAN.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall brief the congressional intelligence committees on a proposed plan to monitor advances in life sciences and biotechnology to be carried out by the Director.

(b) **CONTENTS OF PLAN.**—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of the approach the elements of the intelligence community will take to make use of organic life science and biotechnology expertise within and outside the intelligence community on a routine and contingency basis;

(2) an assessment of the current collection and analytical posture of the life sciences and biotechnology portfolio as it relates to United States competitiveness and the global bio-economy, the risks and threats evolving with advances in genetic editing technologies, and the implications of such advances on future biodefense requirements; and

(3) an analysis of organizational requirements and responsibilities, including potentially creating new positions.

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report and provide a briefing on the role of the intelligence community in the event of a biological attack on the United States, including an assessment of the capabilities and gaps in technical capabilities that exist to address the potential circumstance of a novel unknown pathogen.

SEC. 607. REPORTS ON DECLASSIFICATION PROPOSALS.

(a) **COVERED STUDIES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “covered studies” means the studies that the Director of National Intelligence requested that the elements of the intelligence community produce in the course of producing the fundamental classification guidance review for fiscal year 2017 required by Executive Order No. 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note), as follows:

(1) A study of the feasibility of reducing the number of original classification authorities in each element of the intelligence community to the minimum number required and any negative impacts that reduction could have on mission capabilities.

(2) A study of the actions required to implement a proactive discretionary declassification program distinct from the systematic, automatic, and mandatory declassification review programs outlined in part 2001 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, including section 2001.35 of such part.

(3) A study of the benefits and drawbacks of implementing a single classification guide that could be used by all elements of the intelligence community in the nonoperational and more common areas of such elements.

(4) A study of whether the classification level of “confidential” could be eliminated within agency-generated classification guides from use by elements of the intelligence community and any negative impacts that elimination could have on mission success.

(b) **REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **PROGRESS REPORT.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit a report to the congressional intelligence committees and provide the congressional intelligence committees a briefing on the progress of the elements of the intelligence community in producing the covered studies.

(2) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than the earlier of 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act or June 30, 2017, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit a report and provide a briefing to the congressional intelligence committees on—

(A) the final versions of the covered studies that have been provided to the Director by the elements of the intelligence community; and

(B) a plan for implementation of each initiative included in each such covered study.

SEC. 608. IMPROVEMENT IN GOVERNMENT CLASSIFICATION AND DECLASSIFICATION.

(a) **REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT CLASSIFICATION AND DECLASSIFICATION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall—

(1) review the system by which the Government classifies and declassifies information;

(2) develop recommendations—

(A) to make such system a more effective tool for the protection of information relating to national security;

(B) to improve the sharing of information with partners and allies of the Government; and

(C) to support the appropriate declassification of information; and

(3) submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report with—

(A) the findings of the Director with respect to the review conducted under paragraph (1); and

(B) the recommendations developed under paragraph (2).

(b) **ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF CONTROLLED ACCESS PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not less frequently than once each year, the Director of National Intelligence shall certify in writing to the congressional intelligence committees whether the creation, validation, or substantial modification, including termination, for all existing and proposed controlled access programs, and the compartments and subcompartments within each, are substantiated and justified based on the information required by paragraph (2).

(2) **INFORMATION REQUIRED.**—Each certification pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the rationale for the revalidation, validation, or substantial modification, including termination, of each controlled access program, compartment and subcompartment;

(B) the identification of a control officer for each controlled access program; and

(C) a statement of protection requirements for each controlled access program.

SEC. 609. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report that includes the following:

(1) An assessment of the actions each element of the intelligence community has completed to implement the recommendations made by the National Commission for the Review of the Research and Development Programs of the United States Intelligence Community established under section 1002 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-306; 50 U.S.C. 3001 note).

(2) An analysis of the balance between short-, medium-, and long-term research efforts carried out by each element of the intelligence community.

SEC. 610. REPORT ON INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPS.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report and provide a briefing on a plan, with milestones and benchmarks, to implement an Intelligence Community Research and Development Corps, as recommended in the Report of the National Commission for the

Review of the Research and Development Programs of the United States Intelligence Community, including an assessment—

(1) of the funding and modification to existing authorities needed to allow for the implementation of such Corps; and

(2) of additional legislative authorities, if any, necessary to undertake such implementation.

SEC. 611. REPORT ON INFORMATION RELATING TO ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND INTERNSHIPS SPONSORED, ADMINISTERED, OR USED BY THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report by the intelligence community regarding covered academic programs. Such report shall include—

(1) a description of the extent to which the Director and the heads of the elements of the intelligence community independently collect information on covered academic programs, including with respect to—

(A) the number of applicants for such programs;

(B) the number of individuals who have participated in such programs; and

(C) the number of individuals who have participated in such programs and were hired by an element of the intelligence community after completing such program;

(2) to the extent that the Director and the heads independently collect the information described in paragraph (1), a chart, table, or other compilation illustrating such information for each covered academic program and element of the intelligence community, as appropriate, during the three-year period preceding the date of the report; and

(3) to the extent that the Director and the heads do not independently collect the information described in paragraph (1) as of the date of the report—

(A) whether the Director and the heads can begin collecting such information during fiscal year 2017; and

(B) the personnel, tools, and other resources required by the Director and the heads to independently collect such information.

(b) **COVERED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “covered academic programs” means—

(1) the Federal Cyber Scholarship-for-Service Program under section 302 of the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014 (15 U.S.C. 7442);

(2) the National Security Education Program under the David L. Boren National Security Education Act of 1991 (50 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.);

(3) the Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation Defense Education Program under section 2192a of title 10, United States Code;

(4) the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance and Cyber Defense of the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security; and

(5) any other academic program, scholarship program, fellowship program, or internship program sponsored, administered, or used by an element of the intelligence community.

SEC. 612. REPORT ON INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY EMPLOYEES DETAILED TO NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report,

in writing, listing, by year, the number of employees of an element of the intelligence community who have been detailed to the National Security Council during the 10-year period preceding the date of the report. Such report may be submitted in classified form.

SEC. 613. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY REPORTING TO CONGRESS ON FOREIGN FIGHTER FLOWS.

(a) **REPORTS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Director of National Intelligence, consistent with the protection of intelligence sources and methods, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on foreign fighter flows to and from terrorist safe havens abroad.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall include, with respect to each terrorist safe haven, the following:

(1) The total number of foreign fighters who have traveled or are suspected of having traveled to the terrorist safe haven since 2011, including the countries of origin of such foreign fighters.

(2) The total number of United States citizens present in the terrorist safe haven.

(3) The total number of foreign fighters who have left the terrorist safe haven or whose whereabouts are unknown.

(c) **FORM.**—The reports submitted under subsection (a) may be submitted in classified form. If such a report is submitted in classified form, such report shall also include an unclassified summary.

(d) **SUNSET.**—The requirement to submit reports under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) in the Senate—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services;

(B) the Select Committee on Intelligence;

(C) the Committee on the Judiciary;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs;

(E) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs;

(F) the Committee on Foreign Relations; and

(G) the Committee on Appropriations; and

(2) in the House of Representatives—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services;

(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence;

(C) the Committee on the Judiciary;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security;

(E) the Committee on Financial Services;

(F) the Committee on Foreign Affairs; and

(G) the Committee on Appropriations.

SEC. 614. REPORT ON CYBERSECURITY THREATS TO SEAPORTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND MARITIME SHIPPING.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, and consistent with the protection of sources and methods, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the cybersecurity threats to, and the cyber vulnerabilities within, the software, communications networks, computer networks, or other systems employed by—

(1) entities conducting significant operations at seaports in the United States;

(2) the maritime shipping concerns of the United States; and

(3) entities conducting significant operations at transshipment points in the United States.

(b) **MATTERS INCLUDED.**—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of any recent and significant cyberattacks or cybersecurity threats directed against software, communications networks, computer networks, or other systems employed by the entities and concerns described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a).

(2) An assessment of—

(A) any planned cyberattacks directed against such software, networks, and systems;

(B) any significant vulnerabilities to such software, networks, and systems; and

(C) how such entities and concerns are mitigating such vulnerabilities.

(3) An update on the status of the efforts of the Coast Guard to include cybersecurity concerns in the National Response Framework, Emergency Support Functions, or both, relating to the shipping or ports of the United States.

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 615. REPORT ON PROGRAMS TO COUNTER TERRORIST NARRATIVES.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the programs of the Department of Homeland Security to counter the narratives of the Islamic State and other extremist groups.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of whether, and to what extent, the Secretary, in carrying out programs to counter the narratives of the Islamic State and other extremist groups, consults or coordinates with the Secretary of State regarding the counter-messaging activities undertaken by the Department of State with respect to the Islamic State and other extremist groups, including counter-messaging activities conducted by the Global Engagement Center of the Department of State.

(2) Any criteria employed by the Secretary of Homeland Security for selecting, developing, promulgating, or changing the programs of the Department of Homeland Security to counter the narratives of the Islamic State and other extremist groups.

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 616. REPORT ON REPRISALS AGAINST CONTRACTORS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, consistent with the protection of sources and methods, shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on reprisals made against covered contractor employees.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Identification of the number of known or claimed reprisals made against covered contractor employees during the 3-year period preceding the date of the report and any evaluation of such reprisals.

(2) An evaluation of the usefulness of establishing a prohibition on reprisals against covered contractor employees as a means of encouraging such contractors to make protected disclosures.

(3) A description of any challenges associated with establishing such a prohibition, including with respect to the nature of the relationship between the Federal Government, the contractor, and the covered contractor employee.

(4) A description of any approaches taken by the Federal Government to account for reprisals against non-intelligence community contractors who make protected disclosures, including pursuant to section 2409 of title 10, United States Code, and sections 4705 and 4712 of title 41, United States Code.

(5) Any recommendations the Inspector General determines appropriate.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEE.**—The term “covered contractor employee” means an employee of a contractor of an element of the intelligence community.

(2) **REPRISAL.**—The term “reprisal” means the discharge or other adverse personnel action made against a covered contractor employee for making a disclosure of information that would be a disclosure protected by law if the contractor were an employee of the Federal Government.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, The following consists of the joint explanatory statement to accompany H.R. 6480, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (“Joint Explanatory Statement”).

The Joint Explanatory Statement reflects further negotiations between the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (“the Agreement”) since the passage by the House, on November 30, 2016, of H.R. 6393—a previous version of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. The Joint Explanatory Statement shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee.

The Joint Explanatory Statement comprises three parts: (1) an overview of the application of the classified annex to accompany the Joint Explanatory Statement; (2) unclassified congressional direction; (3) and, in lieu of a full, section-by-section analysis and explanation of legislative text provisions, an identification of the differences between the text of H.R. 6480 and the text of H.R. 6393, including text provisions newly added by H.R. 6480, or changed by it.

PART I: APPLICATION OF THE CLASSIFIED ANNEX

The classified nature of U.S. intelligence activities prevents the congressional intelligence committees from publicly disclosing many details concerning the conclusions and

recommendations of the Agreement. Therefore, a classified Schedule of Authorizations and a classified annex have been prepared to describe in detail the scope and intent of the congressional intelligence committees’ actions. The Agreement authorizes the Intelligence Community (IC) to obligate and expend funds not altered or modified by the classified Schedule of Authorizations as requested in the President’s budget, subject to modification under applicable reprogramming procedures.

The classified annex is the result of negotiations between the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. It reconciles the differences between the committees’ respective versions of the bill for the National Intelligence Program (NIP) and the Homeland Security Intelligence Program (HSIP) for Fiscal Year 2017. The Agreement also makes recommendations for the Military Intelligence Program (MIP), and the Information Systems Security Program (ISSP), consistent with the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, and provides certain direction for these two programs.

The Agreement supersedes the classified annexes to the reports accompanying H.R. 5077, passed by the House on May 24, 2016; S. 3017, reported by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on June 15, 2016; and H.R. 6393, passed by the House on November 30, 2016. All references to the House-passed and Senate-reported annexes are made solely to provide the heritage of, and context for, specific provisions.

The classified Schedule of Authorizations is incorporated into the bill pursuant to Section 102. It has the status of law. The classified annex supplements and adds detail to clarify the authorization levels found in the bill and the classified Schedule of Authorizations. The classified annex shall have the same legal force as this Joint Explanatory Statement to accompany the bill.

PART II: SELECT UNCLASSIFIED CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTION

The Agreement reiterates, and incorporates herein by reference, the unclassified direction set forth in the Joint Explanatory Statement to H.R. 6393, and found at pages 15483 to 15485 of the Congressional Record for November 30, 2016.

Managing a Multi-Sector Workforce in the Intelligence Community

In addition to the unclassified direction set forth in the Joint Explanatory Statement to H.R. 6393, and the requirements of Section 306 of this Act, the Agreement directs the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) to ensure that each element of the IC includes in the budget justification materials submitted to Congress for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 the number of civilian (direct and reimbursable) full-time equivalents, core contractor full-time equivalents, and military personnel of such element.

The Agreement further directs the DNI, in completing the report required by subsection (d) of Section 306, to identify how the tool used to calculate personnel costs, as required by paragraph (2) of that subsection, accounts for compensation (including locality pays and allowances, benefits, pay raises, and promotions) and other factors to ensure that the DNI can effectively project and compare long-term costs of civilian personnel and contractors to the whole of the U.S. Government.

Finally, the transfer to or from personal services funding in below-threshold re-

programming is a concern to the congressional intelligence committees. Therefore, the Agreement designates personal services and non-personal service funding at the program level as congressional special interest items.

PART III: SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION OF LEGISLATIVE TEXT

There are important differences between H.R. 6480 and a prior version of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, H.R. 6393. Because most of the provisions contained in H.R. 6480 are substantively identical to those in H.R. 6393—save for changes to section numbers—this Joint Explanatory Statement dispenses with a full section-by-section analysis and explanation of the text for H.R. 6480. Instead, the Agreement reiterates, and incorporates herein by reference, the section-by-section analysis and explanation of the text for H.R. 6393 found at pages 15485 to 15488 of the Congressional Record for November 30, 2016, except as follows:

Provisions of H.R. 6480 not included in H.R. 6393

Section 3. This section provides that this Joint Explanatory Statement shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of this H.R. 6480 as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

Section 306. The section directs the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) to implement a multi-sector workforce initiative to improve the management of the workforce of the intelligence community, achieve appropriate ratios of government and contract workers, and establish processes for such ratios to be built and maintained. The section provides that personnel caps for IC components will be eliminated during a trial period in Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018. Absent further congressional action, at the start of Fiscal Year 2019, the trial period will sunset and personnel caps will be restored.

Section 308. This section requires the DNI to issue and release guidance regarding engagements between the entertainment industry and the IC.

Section 312. This section directs the Department of Homeland Security to establish a program to provide assistance to covered critical infrastructure, in order to reduce the risk of regional or national catastrophic harm caused by cyberattacks against such infrastructure.

Provisions of H.R. 6393 not included in H.R. 6480

Section 308. Modification of certain whistleblower procedures.

Section 421. Clarification of authority, direction, and control over the information assurance directorate of the National Security Agency.

Section 601. Information on activities of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

Section 602. Authorization of appropriations for Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

Provisions of H.R. 6480 that Differ from H.R. 6393

Section 104. This section has been modified to authorize for the Intelligence Community Management Account of DNI for Fiscal Year 2017 the sum \$561,788,000 vice \$559,796,000, and add “Intelligence” before “Community Management Account” and “made available” before “for advance research” in paragraph (1) of subsection (c).

Section 304. The title of this section has been modified to read “Math” rather than “Mathematics.”

Section 305. The title of this section has been modified to read “Math” rather than “Mathematics”; additionally, in subsection (a), “one” is rendered as “1” and “math” is changed to “mathematics.”

Section 307 (Section 306 in H.R. 6393). This section has been retitled; additionally, subsection (a) has been deleted.

Section 310 (Section 309 in H.R. 6393). This section has been modified to add: “classified or unclassified” before “annex,” change “takes” to “tasks,” and add “to the intelligence community or an element of before “the intelligence community” in subsection (a); “written” before “notice” in paragraph (1) and subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) in subsection (b); and “written” before “description” in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3) in subsection (b).

Section 314 (Section 312 of H.R. 6393). This section has been modified to strike “other.”

Section 402. This section has been modified to make technical changes regarding the statutory location of the new subsection.

Section 421 (Section 422 of H.R. 6393). This section has been modified to add the Committees on the Judiciary of the House and Senate to the reporting requirement in subsection (a).

Section 422 (Section 423 of H.R. 6393). This section has been modified to make technical corrections to conform to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

Section 501. This section has been modified to make technical corrections to subsection (c), and minor changes to the report required by paragraph (2) of subsection (h).

Section 502. This section has been modified to substitute new language directing the Secretary of State to take the lead role in establishing procedures for mandatory, advance notification of all travel by accredited diplomatic and consular personnel of the Russian Federation in the United States. It also has been modified to make conforming changes to the title.

Section 601 (Section 701 in H.R. 6393). This section has been modified to strike “after September 11, 2001,” in subsection (a), and add a further required element to the report required by subsection (c).

Section 602 (Section 702 in H.R. 6393). This section has been modified to make technical corrections to conform to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

Section 603 (Section 703 in H.R. 6393). This section has been substantially modified to replace operative language with direction requiring the Director of the National Security Agency to submit an annual report to the intelligence committees on national security systems.

Section 604 (Section 704 in H.R. 6393). This section has been modified to add “written” before “certification” and “statement” in paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, of subsection (b).

Section 605 (Section 705 in H.R. 6393). This section has been modified to add “a written” before “an update” in subsection (b); changes “90” to “180” in paragraph (1) of subsection (c); and add the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to those who must assist with the report directed by paragraph (1) of subsection (e).

Section 608 (Section 708 in H.R. 6393). This section has been modified to add “in writing” before “to the congressional intelligence committees” in paragraph (1) of subsection (b).

Section 610 (Section 710 in H.R. 6393). This section has been modified to add “provide” before “a briefing.”

Section 612 (Section 712 in H.R. 6393). This section has been modified to add “, in writ-

ing,” before “listing” and, at the end, “Such report may be submitted in classified form.”

Section 614 (Section 714 in H.R. 6393). This section has been modified to add the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate to the reporting requirement in subsection (a).

Section 615 (Section 715 in H.R. 6393). This section has been modified to change the title; direct a report on “programs to counter terrorist narratives” rather than one on “counter-messaging”; direct the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, rather than the Department’s Undersecretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence & Analysis; make appropriate conforming changes; and add the Committees on the Judiciary of the House and Senate to the reporting requirement in subsection (a).

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to submit statements and extraneous materials for the RECORD on H.R. 6480.

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

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016, TO MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 3 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2016.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker’s appointment, pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431) and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Commission on International Religious Freedom for a term ending May 14, 2018:

Dr. Tenzin Dorjee, Fullerton, California, to succeed Ms. Hannah Rosenthal.

□ 1430

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY AND INTEGRITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker’s ap-

pointment, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1011c and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following individual on the part of the House to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Upon the recommendation of the majority leader:

Mr. Brian Jones, Washington, D.C.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

DECEMBER 7, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
*Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 4 of the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission Act (Pub. L. 114-224), I am pleased to appoint the following individual to the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission.

Ms. Stacey Plaskett of the United States Virgin Islands.

Thank you for your consideration of this appointment.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

HONORING LIEUTENANT JOHN CAIN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lieutenant John Cain of the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department, who passed away on Sunday, December 4, after a hard-fought battle against pancreatic cancer.

Lieutenant Cain dedicated 27 years of his life to Savannah’s police department, and most recently worked in the Southside Precinct. There, he was honored as the precinct’s Supervisor of the Year for 2015. Because of his dedication, and all of his outstanding accomplishments for the police department, he was promoted to lieutenant in November before officially retiring.

Amongst all of his efforts to help the Savannah community, one clearly stands out in many people’s minds. In 2015, Savannah newspapers published a photo of Lieutenant Cain helping a marathon runner, who had fallen about 200 yards from the finish line at the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon. Lieutenant Cain rushed to his side and helped him to cross the finish line. The runner was participating in the race in honor of his father, who had recently passed away of cancer, and desperately wanted to finish for him.

The runner said: “Lieutenant Cain meant a lot to me, and not just for

helping me then. He was inspiring. He was a hero to me.”

Lieutenant John Cain was inspiring to us all, and I urge everyone to learn from his great life.

FOREIGN CULTURAL EXCHANGE JURISDICTIONAL IMMUNITY CLARIFICATION ACT

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 6477) to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6477

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act”.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF JURISDICTIONAL IMMUNITY OF FOREIGN STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1605 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) JURISDICTIONAL IMMUNITY FOR CERTAIN ART EXHIBITION ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If—

“(A) a work is imported into the United States from any foreign state pursuant to an agreement that provides for the temporary exhibition or display of such work entered into between a foreign state that is the owner or custodian of such work and the United States or one or more cultural or educational institutions within the United States;

“(B) the President, or the President's designee, has determined, in accordance with subsection (a) of Public Law 89-259 (22 U.S.C. 2459(a)), that such work is of cultural significance and the temporary exhibition or display of such work is in the national interest; and

“(C) the notice thereof has been published in accordance with subsection (a) of Public Law 89-259 (22 U.S.C. 2459(a)), any activity in the United States of such foreign state, or of any carrier, that is associated with the temporary exhibition or display of such work shall not be considered to be commercial activity by such foreign state for purposes of subsection (a)(3).

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(A) NAZI-ERA CLAIMS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply in any case asserting jurisdiction under subsection (a)(3) in which rights in property taken in violation of international law are in issue within the meaning of that subsection and—

“(i) the property at issue is the work described in paragraph (1);

“(ii) the action is based upon a claim that such work was taken in connection with the acts of a covered government during the covered period;

“(iii) the court determines that the activity associated with the exhibition or display

is commercial activity, as that term is defined in section 1603(d); and

“(iv) a determination under clause (iii) is necessary for the court to exercise jurisdiction over the foreign state under subsection (a)(3).

“(B) OTHER CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT WORKS.—In addition to cases exempted under subparagraph (A), paragraph (1) shall not apply in any case asserting jurisdiction under subsection (a)(3) in which rights in property taken in violation of international law are in issue within the meaning of that subsection and—

“(i) the property at issue is the work described in paragraph (1);

“(ii) the action is based upon a claim that such work was taken in connection with the acts of a foreign government as part of a systematic campaign of coercive confiscation or misappropriation of works from members of a targeted and vulnerable group;

“(iii) the taking occurred after 1900;

“(iv) the court determines that the activity associated with the exhibition or display is commercial activity, as that term is defined in section 1603(d); and

“(v) a determination under clause (iv) is necessary for the court to exercise jurisdiction over the foreign state under subsection (a)(3).

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘work’ means a work of art or other object of cultural significance;

“(B) the term ‘covered government’ means—

“(i) the Government of Germany during the covered period;

“(ii) any government in any area in Europe that was occupied by the military forces of the Government of Germany during the covered period;

“(iii) any government in Europe that was established with the assistance or cooperation of the Government of Germany during the covered period; and

“(iv) any government in Europe that was an ally of the Government of Germany during the covered period; and

“(C) the term ‘covered period’ means the period beginning on January 30, 1933, and ending on May 8, 1945.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any civil action commenced on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. NOTIFICATION.

The Secretary of State shall ensure that foreign states that apply for immunity under Public Law 89-259 (22 U.S.C. 2459) are appropriately notified of the text of this Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS COMES TO THE WASHINGTON BELTWAY

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, many people around the country like to say “what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas,” but I am here to tell you that is not accurate. What happens in Vegas comes to the Washington Beltway. In fact, tonight, MGM Resorts International, the largest employer in the

State of Nevada, will bring a little bit of Las Vegas right here to the banks of the Potomac.

The company's newest property, National Harbor, will officially open its doors tonight, creating a new standard for hospitality and tourism here on the East Coast. National Harbor is already contributing to the local economy. MGM has received over 40,000 applicants for positions at the \$1.4 billion, 308-room property, and they have hired over 400,000 people in jobs that cover 100 different categories.

So, in the new year, I want to invite Members to come out and enjoy all of the food, the entertainment, and the shopping that MGM has to offer here in the area. Maybe it will inspire Members to come to see me in District One in Las Vegas.

Mr. Speaker, happy holidays.

REMEMBERING THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we remembered 2,403 Americans who lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Naval Station Pearl Harbor came under attack by the Imperial Japanese Navy. In an effort to destroy the United States Pacific Fleet, Japan sent hundreds of planes and mobile submarines to attack Pearl Harbor's ships, planes, and facilities.

Although the attack lasted only 2 hours, the aftermath was devastating. Eight battleships were damaged, five of which were completely sunk, and another nine vessels were lost; 188 aircraft and numerous infrastructure assets were also destroyed.

Thousands of Americans gave their lives on this dreadful day, but they were not lost in vain. Their sacrifice prompted the U.S. involvement in World War II, leading to the defeat of Nazi Germany and the liberation of millions imprisoned in concentration camps.

On the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, we remember those who lost their lives on December 7, 1941. Their service and commitment have inspired generations of Americans and will continue to do so for years to come.

UNITED STEELWORKERS IN INDIANA

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing a lot in the last few days and weeks about what is happening in Indiana with the Carrier

plant. Last night, the President-elect of the United States took a swipe at the local union official of United Steelworkers in Indiana, a man who in the last several months has probably had the worst months of his life to where he has to tell members of his union that they are going to lose their job right before the holidays—families.

Many of us in this body have known union leaders who have had to deal with this exact situation. For the President-elect to take his position—the bully pulpit that the people of our country have given him—to try to smack down a steelworker in Indiana who is dealing with such a tough situation is shameful. And on the heels of that, appoint someone to the Secretary of Labor's position who is antilabor and wants to get rid of food workers, when he makes millions of dollars a year and the food worker makes \$18,000 in a good year.

This is not what my people signed up for, the people who may have even voted for Donald Trump.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President-elect.

FOSTERING MEDICAL INNOVATION, SUPPORTING MEDICAL RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPING NEW TREATMENTS

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the 21st Century Cures Act, a bill aimed at fostering medical innovation, supporting medical research, and developing new treatments to provide better individualized care. The 21st Century Cures Act ensures Americans suffering from some of the most common and devastating diseases receive quicker access to the latest cutting-edge medical treatments.

I am pleased that key elements of my REGROW Act, a bill aimed at addressing the lack of FDA standards and oversight approval of regenerative medicine, were incorporated into the final version of the 21st Century Cures Act. Regenerative medical treatments, developed from stem cells, show the potential to fully restore or establish normal functions in damaged human cells, tissues, or organs.

Thanks to the Gates Center for Regenerative Medicine in Colorado, one of the Nation's leading regenerative medicine research centers, I have had the opportunity to see up close the potential of these treatments and have long advocated for their increased use and availability.

The 21st Century Cures Act will bring a renewed hope to so many Americans across our country. I urge the Presi-

dent to sign this bill into law without delay.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and join with my colleagues from Maryland in congratulating and saluting Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI on her amazing and outstanding career.

They often say of people that, once they start their career, they never look back. Well, in Senator MIKULSKI's case, she always looked back. She always remembered where she came from, and she fought for the people of east Baltimore every step of the way.

I had the pleasure over the years, as I attended events with Senator MIKULSKI, of gathering of what I call Mikulski-isms, these golden nuggets of wisdom that you can live by. I wanted to mention a few.

She used to talk about the need to cooperate. She used to say: I am not into finger-pointing; I am into pin-pointing.

She said, when others are wringing their hands, we need to come with a helping hand.

She talked about the fact that, behind every me, is a "we."

She talked about how people have three shifts every day: they work at their job, they come home and they work for their family, and they serve in their community.

I remember her once referring to a particularly futile effort as "spitting off the Bay Bridge to raise the tide."

We love to remember Senator MIKULSKI's voice. We are going to miss her in this place, but we are going to remember that voice that fought for Baltimore, for Maryland, and for America.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY CAPTAIN ANDREW D. BYERS

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of United States Army Captain Andrew D. Byers, who died on November 3, 2016, in Kunduz province, Afghanistan.

Captain Byers was assigned to B Company, Second Battalion, Tenth Special Forces Group, based at Fort Carson, Colorado. He was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel as part of the mission to train, advise, and assist local forces.

Captain Byers was a graduate of the United States Military Academy, with a distinguished career of service to our

Nation, including prior deployments to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Italy.

I extend my thoughts and prayers to Captain Byers' family, friends, and teammates.

HONORING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

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

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, the longtime quarterback of Team Maryland, on the occasion of her well-deserved retirement after nearly four decades in Congress.

Senator MIKULSKI has truly made history, both by her extraordinary longevity and her tenacious leadership. She is the longest serving woman in the Senate, and the first Democratic woman elected to the Chamber in her own right.

BARBARA and I bonded over our shared passion for local government. We both know it is where the rubber meets the road, and we both believe that all politics is local. That is what has made her so popular and so effective.

We have both worked hand in hand as appropriators, Senator MIKULSKI as the ranking member of her respective committee. She has worked tirelessly for critical resources to improve our roads, schools, and police, to create jobs and create opportunities.

There are two things about Senator MIKULSKI that have always impressed me in her public service:

First, she always relates to her father's corner store on South Eden Street in Baltimore City. When he opened his doors each day, he would say, "How may I help you?" Senator MIKULSKI often quotes that mantra and, more importantly, lives by it every day of her life for the people of the State of Maryland.

The other thing that impresses me is a saying she always says, "It is not about the building." Senator MIKULSKI has never cared about the bricks and mortar. She cares about the people who work inside the building, what they can do, how they help the citizens, and how she can help them.

BARBARA, for all you have done for Baltimore, for Maryland, and for the country, the words "thank you" just don't seem enough. I am very proud to call you my friend and mentor, and I wish you all the best in the days ahead.

□ 1445

HONORING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to someone whom I have known and called a friend for many, many years—over three decades, perhaps four—BARBARA MIKULSKI—the tallest short person I have ever met. She fills a room. Everybody knows when BARBARA MIKULSKI is in the Chamber or in the room or in the auditorium.

BARBARA MIKULSKI, as you have heard, will retire at the end of this Congress after having served Maryland in the House and Senate since 1977. I had the opportunity to serve with her in this House for some 6 years.

For 40 years, she has been a voice for the people of our State, not just a voice for all people, but, in particular, for those people whose voices needed amplifying: the poor, the sick, the overworked, the underpaid, the Baltimore dockworkers worried for their jobs, the women earning less than their male colleagues for the same work, the children in foster care or in homeless shelters. All of them have come to see BARBARA MIKULSKI as their champion.

In many ways, she began her career as a social worker and brought that work to Congress. She returns as one of the most successful social workers in history. She has worked hard to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, to support America's first responders, and to broaden our exploration of space and science. What a giant she has been for NASA. She has helped seniors afford health care and keep America's promise to its veterans. She passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, introduced the Paycheck Fairness Act to end the wage gap once and for all, and has fought continuously to raise the minimum wage.

Senator MIKULSKI blazed the trail as the longest-serving woman in the history of Congress; was the first woman to be elected without a relative as a predecessor; and was the first woman and first Marylander to chair the Appropriations Committee. She has left an indelible mark on millions across Maryland and across America.

I have been proud to serve alongside her and I will miss her in the Capitol as I know so many others will as well. My colleagues and I rise. We will lament the loss of Senator MIKULSKI as our colleague in the Congress, but we will be so proud that we have been able to call her colleague and friend.

HONORING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to reflect, once again, on Senator MIKULSKI's vision for America and upon all that she has achieved in public life.

On a personal note, I am deeply grateful that God has given me the opportunity to know and work with a woman who all would agree is a remarkable human being and a person I am honored to call my friend.

BARBARA MIKULSKI's progressive values are solid, and they are clear, and we have always known that she would fight for all of us every single day. Less well-known, however, is BARBARA MIKULSKI's lifetime vision of bringing all of America's working families together in support of progressive change. Here is a dream that ties together her roots in Highlandtown, in Baltimore, with my own heritage from south Baltimore and west Baltimore.

She is, indeed, a very, very special woman. She has never forgotten from whence she has come. One of the things I also love about BARBARA MIKULSKI is that she consistently synchronizes her conduct with her conscience.

We will miss her, but we know that BARBARA will always be fighting for the people of our great city, for the great people of the State of Maryland, and for the people of these great United States.

HONORING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

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

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, long before the last "Star Wars" movie came out, I said: When Senator MIKULSKI is with you, the Force is with you.

Senator MIKULSKI has been a powerful force for good in Maryland and throughout the Nation. She has been a fierce fighter for American workers, for our veterans, for our seniors, and for people from all walks of life. Her leadership on the Appropriations Committee brought vital investments to the thriving Port of Baltimore and to the Social Security Administration. She has supported security missions in places like Fort Meade, investments in lifesaving research at the NIH, and discoveries at NASA. She authored the very first bill that was signed by President Obama, the Lilly Ledbetter law, to give women who faced pay discrimination their day in court.

BARBARA MIKULSKI started in politics by fighting a plan to build a highway through her beloved neighborhood of Fells Point. She won that fight, and, 40 years later, she is still waging and winning fights for working families.

A few years back, when NASA's scientists discovered a new supernova, they named it Supernova Mikulski, and I know her legacy will always burn bright for Maryland and for our country.

Thank you, Senator BARB.

HONORING SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as a Representative from Ohio and as the senior woman in the House, I join my remarks to those of former Congresswoman and now U.S. Senator from Maryland, BARBARA MIKULSKI, in tribute to her incredible service.

When I first arrived, she was a Member of this House, and I remember how gracious she was to me. Her background from working class, blue collar America—from a steel town like Baltimore, which has transformed since then—brought the concerns and the passion of someone from the working class. She continued on that road every single day whether she was here on the House side or went to the other body as the longest-serving woman in U.S. history. Imagine that.

Baltimore is famous for having little steps that people go into their bungalows from, and she took a giant leap. Even though she was probably still one of the shortest Members of Congress physically, she remains one of the tallest women in American history. I think of her when I look at the dome of the Capitol, and I see the woman facing east—the symbol of liberty. She held aloft high not just the flag, but the vision for an America inclusive of all.

We wish her Godspeed in the years ahead. I maintain my fond memories of her and of her incredible leadership on every subcommittee on which she served and of the honorable service that she provided not just to the citizens of Maryland, but to our entire country.

God bless you, Senator MIKULSKI, your family, your friends, and those who value your service beyond measure.

THE PENTAGON'S WASTEFUL SPENDING

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the Pentagon's \$125 billion of wasteful spending exposed this week by The Washington Post.

Just this week, Congress allocated hundreds of billions of dollars to fund a military that is larger than the next seven countries' militaries combined while we are providing a comparatively small sum of money to increase medical research, to educate our youth, and to support our first responders. To then discover that the Pentagon has identified \$125 billion in waste underscores our Nation's misguided priorities.

If just 10 percent of that waste were redirected to the National Institutes of Health, cures could be found and lives

could be saved. In this year's defense authorization, \$1.5 billion is spent to upgrade an aircraft carrier that the U.S. Navy recommended to retire. Until we press the Pentagon to undergo a rigorous audit, I cannot and will not support their bloated budget request.

I share President Eisenhower's concerns when he said:

We must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

A CHRISTMAS GREETING

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this week, I had the opportunity to participate in the American Red Cross Holiday Mail for Heroes program, where we sent Christmas cards to servicemembers who are serving far from home this Christmas season. Though it is a seemingly simple gesture of honoring these patriots, it really causes you to reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

As John 3:16 states: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

God sent his son to be born in Bethlehem that first Christmas, bringing great joy to the world—with the shepherds, the wise men, and angels all sharing in the joy and celebrations.

Christmas is a time to rejoice as children of God and to continue the tradition of giving, not out of necessity, but out of love.

We have so much to be grateful for this year. We are blessed to live in the greatest country in the world, and we owe it all to our brave and courageous men and women who sacrifice so much to safeguard our values.

So this Christmas season, in the spirit of giving, I encourage you to take a moment and show your appreciation to those who are serving our Nation both here and abroad, as well as their families here at home, and our law enforcement who have to work these times as well. May their service and sacrifice always be appreciated.

Merry Christmas.

SALUTING REVEREND T.R. WILLIAMS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a wonderful pastor, the Reverend Dr. T.R. Williams, who is celebrating and commemorating 50 years of preaching. His commitment and dedication to the special Word and the word of his faith is to be com-

mended, but he is also a trained businessman. He is also a person who believes in his flock and that they are number one.

I have enjoyed worshipping with Pastor T.R. Williams over the years. He is an orator, a pastor, a nurturer, a counselor, but, most of all, a friend—a friend to the members of his great church and a friend to many young pastors and others alike. He is admired by his fellow clergymen. They respect him for his love of God's Word.

I am so grateful to have known him. Just a few weeks ago, his congregation honored him with a gigantic celebration at the Stafford Centre because he is deserving of such.

Pastor Williams, it is my privilege and pleasure to be able to salute you and to say "thank you" for your service, because, when you serve in the Lord's Name, you serve this Nation.

Might I also thank all of those who have served in the United States military, wherever they may be this season. This is a season of blessings, and I wish for everyone in this great Nation blessings during this wonderful and very special season.

Happy holidays to all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

A TRIBUTE TO STAFF MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the members of my staff who have served me and the people of Delaware over the past 6 years. Many of them have gathered in the gallery above us, and I welcome them to hear these remarks.

I tell them all the time that we have the best jobs in the world, and they have done incredible work on behalf of the people of our State and our country. During my 6 years as Delaware's lone Member of Congress, I have been enormously privileged to work with such a great team. We have become like family. Whether they are cheering me on at the Congressional Baseball Game or they are working a weekend Coffee with Your Congressman, I know they have always got my back, and I could not have done my job for the people of my State without them.

I would like to thank each of them individually for their contributions to our team and to our State.

My chief of staff, Sheila Grant, has guided and counseled me all the 6 years

of my time here. Her honesty and candor have consistently steered me in the right direction, and I have appreciated greatly her sense of humor.

□ 1500

My State director, Molly Magarik, has not only an incredible ability to understand complex problems but, more importantly, she comes up with solutions to fix them. She is a huge asset to me and to the people of Delaware.

My deputy State director, Albert Shields, has stood by me since the beginning, going back to my days as Lieutenant Governor. His knowledge of Delaware and his work ethic are unmatched.

I am grateful for the work of our team in Delaware. Kristy Huxhold has kept the trains running on time and the office humming for both former Congressman Mike Castle and for me. Nicole Pender keeps our office plugged in to local issues and shepherds local nonprofits and governments through the maze of Federal grant applications. Joe Bryant helps our constituents navigate the challenging landscape of Federal benefits, all while serving as a member of the Delaware National Guard. Sarah Venables is the queen of constituent service, who is loved by all, and is a tenacious and effective champion for our veterans. Annie Gallagher, a long-time friend who formerly worked for Senator Roth, we had to bring her out of retirement twice to help us with Medicare and Social Security, which she gets better than anyone I know. Drew Slater has done a tremendous job as my eyes and ears in Kent and Sussex Counties and may love the State Fair even more than I do. Larry Morris, my long-time friend whose dedication to the city of Wilmington and its youth is unmatched. And Read Scott, who helps me stay in touch with my constituents and directs people through the confusing worlds of the IRS and health care.

Each one of these individuals has put in countless hours on behalf of Delaware. I have been lucky to have them on my team.

In my Washington office, Elizabeth Connolly has worked for me since before she even graduated from Smith College. I am extremely grateful for her loyalty and her dedication to our work on financial services and other issues. Francesca Amodeo overcame her roots as a non-Delawarean—and that is hard to do in my office—to become one of our State's biggest cheerleaders and to help me become an effective communicator. Connor Hamburg, a true Blue Hen, has an unbridled passion for southern Delaware and agricultural policy that can't help but make you smile. Gita Miller and Betsey Coulbourn have helped me share my view with Delawareans and respond to one of the largest constituencies in the

whole House of Representatives. Lastly, our staff assistant, Elena Kochnowicz, and her recent predecessor, Brannock Furey, have done everything under the sun. From Capitol tours to greeting visitors with a smiling face, both Elena and Brannock have been crucial to our operation.

In addition to our current staff, I would also like to thank the many dedicated folks who have worked for me in previous years. Doug Gramiak first served as chief of staff during my time as Lieutenant Governor and later as my State director. He has been a valued friend and confidant ever since. Doug got our office up and running 6 years ago and played a critical role during my first years in Congress.

I would also like to recognize my first chief of staff here in Washington, Elizabeth Hart. Elizabeth worked for me for 5 years and built a solid foundation from the start. She showed me the ropes here in D.C., and her knowledge and experience was invaluable to me and to our office.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our former staff in Delaware and here in the District: Cerron Cade, Bob Stickels, Gail Seitz, Sam Hodas, Justin German, Craig Radcliffe, Natasha Babiarz, Mary Williams, Katie Paisley, James Allen, Jenny Kane, Matt Pincus, and Steve Carfagno. I will always remember our time together and will never forget their hard work on behalf of the people of Delaware and myself.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to have served alongside this team, from making sure constituents receive the Federal benefits they deserve, to crafting legislative policy that addresses the needs of our State. Each of these individuals has worked tirelessly on behalf of Delawareans, and I want to publicly thank them today for their dedication to the people of our great State.

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

CELEBRATING INDIANA'S BICENTENNIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand before the Chamber today and talk about one of my favorite subjects and one of the favorite subjects of all the speakers who are going to appear before this floor in the next hour. And that is the State of Indiana and, in particular, the fact that, as a very proud State which has offered so much to this Nation, we are celebrating our 200th anniversary since admission to the Union.

It has been the highest honor of my life to serve Indiana in public office, and, I know for all the speakers today, it has been the same for them.

We have a lot to talk about in very few minutes, if you consider it. So I would like to get right to introducing some of my colleagues who are here to celebrate the bicentennial of the State of Indiana. The first being one of my good friends, Mr. TODD YOUNG from Indiana's Ninth Congressional District. He has represented that district since 2010. He is an amazing young leader. And last month, he was made our Senator-elect to serve in the next Chamber, and we look forward to working with him.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. I thank the gentleman for yielding. It has been a privilege serving with him in the House on behalf of the people of Indiana. I look forward to our continued work together. I am just so grateful for our delegation and the leadership it exhibited on behalf of the State.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Indiana's bicentennial celebration. Much of our State's great history emanated from a little town in Indiana's Ninth Congressional District, which I have had the honor and privilege of representing for the last 6 years. The town is Corydon. It is located in Harrison County, which is on the banks of the Ohio River.

In 1816, James Madison, our then-President, signed an enabling act to explore the possibility of statehood for Indiana. Soon after, in June of 1816, 43 delegates congregated across the territory. They came to descend on Corydon, and their purpose was to draft our State's first constitution. Much of the delegates' work was done under the shade of a large elm tree, known by all of those in our delegation, and known by so many Hoosiers and even people outside of the State today, as the Constitution Elm. That tree still stands, and Indiana is still going strong.

Our Constitution set the table for the State's first election in August of that year, where Jonathan Jennings was elected our Governor. In November, Governor Jennings and Indiana's newly elected representatives met in the new capitol building, which is a beautiful building. And the intention there was to commence the State's first general assembly session. Their work resulted in Indiana formally being admitted as the country's 19th State in December of 1816. Corydon would serve as the State's capital until 1825, when the State's government was then moved to Indianapolis, where it remains today, centrally in the State.

Now, Corydon also served as the site of Indiana's only battle during the Civil War. The attack was a part of Morgan's Raid, as confederate troops descended across the Ohio River under the leadership of confederate General John Hunt Morgan. He moved across

parts of Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee in 1863. It was a small militia of Hoosiers who met Morgan's confederates, and that skirmish is still celebrated today.

So Corydon's importance to our State's history can't be highlighted enough, but it is one area on the map, one very important area on the map of the State of Indiana. There are so many other important towns, cities, and Hoosiers that I know will be highlighted and accentuated in the course of this celebration here on the floor of the U.S. House.

I commend my colleague, TODD ROKITA, for shining a bright light on our celebration of 200 years. I look forward to continuing to celebrate Indiana's bicentennial with Hoosiers, celebrating the rich history which our State has followed, and celebrating all the good years we know will come.

Mr. ROKITA. I thank the gentleman for his service. I look forward to working with him in the future. I thank him for honoring our great State and for his service to our country.

Indiana has had a long and proud history, acting as a leader in many crucial fields and enriching the history of our Nation overall. Hoosiers have helped give us everything from airplanes to penicillin and insulin and even walked the first steps on the Moon. Both Wilbur Wright and Eli Lilly hailed from Indiana and permanently altered the course of human history for the better.

Neil Armstrong attended Purdue University, which I am proud to say is in Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. Purdue University is one of the top engineering schools in the country and has been a leader in fighting against rising tuition costs, one of the most important issues facing this Congress and the next and, actually, the next generation of students entirely.

Our State is lucky, however, in that Purdue is hardly the only outstanding higher education option available. I, myself, am a proud alumnus of two Indiana colleges and universities, Wabash College and the Indiana School of Law. We fight hard to be an education partner for all Hoosiers and all our institutions, and that includes the entire delegation, whether Republican or Democrat.

In that vein, Mr. Speaker, I will recognize another distinguished Hoosier and member of our delegation, Representative LARRY BUCSHON. He is a doctor by trade. He practiced, and practiced well, the profession his entire adult life, starting in the United States Navy, and now represents Indiana's Eighth Congressional District.

Indiana couldn't be prouder of Representative BUCSHON and what he brings not only to the Energy and Commerce Committee but to this very floor every day that we are in session.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON).

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ROKITA from the Fourth District for yielding and for putting together this Special Order on behalf of our State.

You know, Indiana boasts two of America's Presidents and now eight Vice Presidents. We are the home of Hoosier hysteria, a great basketball tradition, and the greatest spectacle in racing, the Indianapolis 500. We love our breaded pork tenderloins and our sugar cream pie.

We have the sixth largest National Guard in the Nation, made up of over 13,000 Hoosiers that has defended this country in wars, from the Battle of Tippecanoe to World War II to the global war on terror.

Most importantly, Indiana is home to the most humble, generous, compassionate, and hardworking citizens in our country. And our great State—all 6.5 million Hoosiers—is now celebrating 200 years.

I want to take a minute to briefly highlight a few of the things specific to the Eighth Congressional District in Indiana.

This year, my annual art competition for high school students focused on celebrating Indiana to commemorate the Hoosier State's bicentennial. We had a lot of creative submissions from talented students across southern Indiana and Wabash Valley. The winning art piece recognized the 100-year anniversary of Bosse Field in Evansville, a baseball field. Bosse Field is the third oldest ballpark in the country and is still in regular use for professional baseball. It was also featured in the popular film in 1991, "A League of Their Own." A lot of that was filmed at Bosse Field in Evansville, Indiana.

I am also proud to say that communities in Indiana's Eighth Congressional District were exceptionally involved in the Bicentennial Legacy Project. The Bicentennial Legacy Project showcases the best of Indiana to promote and support important community projects and programs across the State. It is really the best of the best for what the Hoosier State has to offer.

□ 1515

There are nearly 300 officially sanctioned bicentennial legacy projects undertaken in counties and communities in the Eighth Congressional District. The Eighth District is also home to premier places of historic, cultural, and natural significance.

Lyles Station in Gibson County is a small farming community that was an original settlement of freed slaves nearly 200 years ago. Lyles Station is highlighted nationally at the Smithsonian Institution's new National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Vincennes in Knox County was established in 1801 as Indiana's first city. It

served as our territorial capital and was a key player in the American Revolution. It is also home to George Rogers Clark National Historic Park and President William Henry Harrison's Grouseland, his home when he was Governor of the Indiana Territory.

New Harmony in Posey County was first established as a communal utopian society and later a center for knowledge and science.

Spencer County is the home of President Abraham Lincoln as a youth and a young man and is home to Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial.

We have a strong German Catholic heritage in southwest Indiana with Saint Meinrad Archabbey in Spencer County and Monastery Immaculate Conception in Dubois County.

Indiana's Eighth District is also home to Naval Support Activity Crane, the U.S. Navy's third largest installation in the entire world. Last week, the base celebrated its 75th anniversary.

In 1915, the Root Glass Company developed the very first Coca-Cola bottle in Terre Haute, Indiana. That is one for the trivia question book: Where was the first Coca-Cola bottle designed and made?

It was made in Terre Haute, Indiana. That bottle has now become an iconic, world-recognized brand.

Of course, we have Hoosier National Forest, which takes up a good portion of the southern area of my State, which is home to a lot of activities that Hoosiers enjoy with the great outdoors, along with Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge near Oakland City, Indiana, and it serves the same purpose.

Of course, we have the world-famous Santa Claus postmark. Santa Claus, Indiana, every year at Christmas has literally tens of thousands of boxes of Christmas cards sent to Santa Claus so they can have the unique postmark from Santa Claus, Indiana, that is usually designed by a local student in a competition. They pick that, and every year around Christmastime I get the pleasure to go over to Santa Claus to the post office and postmark some of those Christmas cards myself.

In manufacturing, everything from noodles to nuclear components are made in the Eighth District of Indiana. We are also a principal supplier of the world's agricultural products.

As you can see, Indiana's Eighth Congressional District has a rich history, and I am proud to represent this area. It is an honor and a privilege to serve with all of my Hoosier colleagues. Thank you again, Representative ROKITA, for putting this together.

Mr. ROKITA. I thank the gentleman. I quickly want to turn our attention and yield to the gentleman from Indianapolis, Mr. ANDRÉ CARSON. He represents Indiana's Seventh Congressional District. Like us all, he is a fierce advocate for the different com-

munities in his district. Additionally, André and I both serve on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I think that is an important position to have when the motto of your State is "Crossroads of America."

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, Congressman ROKITA, who has done a great job at representing his constituents, and we appreciate him for assembling a great body of Hoosiers from all across the great State of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a milestone in Indiana's history, the bicentennial of our great State. For the past 200 years, Indiana has stood as a beacon of opportunity for millions of Hoosiers who came to the State to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Indiana's history stems from our earliest Native American inhabitants. In fact, the State's name literally means "land of the Indians." Early settlers befriended Native Americans as they came from New York in the Northeast, Kentucky in the South, and Ohio in the Midwest. They settled across a geography as varied as Indiana's people, stretching from rolling hills in southern Brown County to flat and sandy in the north along the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

These influences created a melting pot of influences that remain today. Over the past 200 years, Mr. Speaker, Indiana has been home to countless colorful and transformative figures like the Jackson 5, Larry Bird, John Cougar Mellencamp, Dan Quayle, Babyface, Mike Epps, and countless others.

But more than any individual, Mr. Speaker, when folks think of Indiana, they think of racing, they think of basketball. In fact, the great Hoosier State is credited with the origin of high school basketball. Our college teams are some of the most consistently successful in the country, and the enthusiasm surrounding the sport is unmatched.

In my hometown of Indianapolis, we are proud to have hosted the Indianapolis 500 for 100 eventful years. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway has long been the world's gold standard for race tracks, hosting some of the most historic races and prompting countless innovations.

But what makes Indiana so special is not what most people think of first, Mr. Speaker. It is not a historical figure or a notable accomplishment. What makes Indiana great is the type of people who live there. Hoosiers have truly built America. Students at our world class universities have spawned creative businesses and grown our economy across the country. Our workers have built millions of automobiles, created lifesaving medicines, and advanced sports to new levels. Our farmers feed America and the entire world.

We joke about how friendly and welcoming Hoosiers are. Living in Indiana,

you don't always recognize it, but coming here to Washington, D.C., has made me realize how real Hoosier hospitality is, unlike a lot of D.C. I am talking about Capitol Hill. I am not talking about the rest of D.C.; they are great people. Staffers are great here, too. But Hoosiers care about people. We want to make them feel welcome, and we want to help them when we can.

The Hoosiers we see today who grew up in a State built by all of those before us are the reason that this bicentennial is so special. I can't imagine a better place to live, Mr. Speaker, and I am proud to call Indiana home. I am proud that I grew up there and that my daughter will, too; and representing this wonderful State in Congress continues to be a tremendous honor.

Happy birthday, Indiana. May our next 200 years be as full of history, innovation, and achievement as our past 200.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CARSON for his words. You will recall he mentioned the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Here is a great picture of it, circa about, I would say, late 1980s, just part of our heritage that we will be sharing here over the next hour.

When I was last commenting about the great Hoosier State here at this podium, I talked about Hoosier schools. Hoosier places of higher learning have also become major players in the sports world, winning national championships and creating some fierce, yet fun, rivalries.

For example, in Indiana's Fourth Congressional District there is both DePauw University and Wabash College. They face off every year in the iconic Monon Bell game. It has been going on for over 100 years. As Wabash men, I don't think there is any question whom Representative MESSER and myself root for, but that is just another example of the great Hoosier spirit in the Monon Bell game.

Focusing on Purdue University again for just a second, I want to yield some time to a great Member of this body who is also retiring this year. Mr. CURT CLAWSON of Florida is no longer a resident, of course, of Indiana, but he was at one time, helping lead Purdue's basketball team to untold heights.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CLAWSON).

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROKITA for those kind words and for his friendship and support and his flexibility in this House. There are very few people like him, and I will miss him.

The first thing I have to say today is Boiler Up, Mr. Speaker, Boiler Up. I am from Florida. I proudly represent southwest Florida that I love so much, but I went to high school and college in Indiana; so part of me will always be from Indiana and I will always love the State and its wonderful people.

In 1976, my dad moved the family of 7 kids to southeastern Indiana from the South, and we went to a small town in southeastern Indiana called Batesville, kind of a typical town of 4,000 or 5,000 people, typical hotbed of basketball and shooters, with well-known sports names in the area, like Paul Ehrman, the co-chairman, going into the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame next year, Ace Moorman, Dave Galle, among other basketball and sports greats in southern Indiana.

My parents immediately loved the Indiana culture that we were exposed to in Batesville, best summarized by words of my dad who would say something like this: Work hard; don't complain; put the group, the team, and the family first; go to church on Sunday; actually kneel down and pray; and show a little humility.

Right, Dad?

Eventually, trying to do as best I could to follow my father's counsel, I went to Purdue to play for the College Hall of Fame coach, Coach Gene Keady, and I have to tell you how much of an honor that was and a memorable experience in my life. Before continuing on a little bit about Coach Keady, I want to compliment our current president at Purdue, the former Governor of Indiana, Mitch Daniels, who moves our university into the future with a new business model of innovation and leadership. President Mitch is a leader who is not afraid of change, and I admire that because, without change, tomorrow you lose.

But back to Coach Keady. Our senior year, Mr. Vitale on TV picked our team last because we had lost our best player to the NBA draft. I went to Coach Keady's office before the season as one of his senior captains, and I asked him: Coach, how do you feel about this team? Do you believe we are going to be last?

He said: No, we are not going to be last.

I asked: How do you know, Coach? How do you know?

He said: Because I like my locker room.

I asked: What does that mean?

He said: I know you all are going to listen to me, and you will follow what I say. I know you will share the ball, and I know you will outwork the competition.

Well, of course, Coach was right. We went from being picked last to winning the Big 10. Coach Keady's first of six Big 10 championships in 25 years at Purdue, four consensus national coach of the year, six national coach of the year in one media, service, or another, and, importantly, in 25 years at Purdue, a winning record against the coach down in Bloomington.

I want to honor Coach Keady today, and I want to end by thanking our president at Purdue University, Mitch Daniels. I honor and admire Coach

Keady for what he has accomplished. Most of all, I want to thank Coach Keady for his loyalty to me. My last game was bad. I have to live with that forever, but for 30 years now, I have lived in his umbrella of love and loyalty. He has always been there for me, and I honor him for that. I appreciate his loyalty as the last important lesson of so many that he taught me.

Happy birthday to our wonderful State of Indiana and our wonderful people with our basic cultures of believing in God and treating one another with love and respect.

□ 1530

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for those excellent words. I can't believe the last game he played at Purdue University was all that bad, but we will go back to the tapes and look. Either way, it is now part of our wonderful Hoosier history.

There are, of course, quite a few other notable sporting events in Indiana. ANDRÉ CARSON spoke of one of them, and that is one that can't be rivaled. That is called the "greatest spectacle in racing." I just recently had a picture of the speedway up here on the floor.

The Indianapolis 500 celebrated its 100th running earlier this year and continues Indiana's storied history with automobiles, which began in the late 1800s when Elwood Haynes, the "father of the automobile" developed his horseless carriage in Kokomo, Indiana. Kokomo, Indiana is in Howard County. It as a county—and Kokomo as a city—has a great, wonderful, rich automotive history, and history in other respects as well.

It is an honor for me to be able to share that county with one of our great members from the Indiana delegation, an accomplished leader, an accomplished lady who has done wonderful things throughout her professional career and in this House continues to lead the way, most recently by being chosen as our next chairwoman of the House Ethics Committee. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), my friend from the Fifth Congressional District.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of our home State's bicentennial.

I want to thank the gentleman from Indiana's Fourth Congressional District for organizing this very meaningful celebration of our State's 200 years. I want to thank him for his leadership here in the House, representing not only the Fourth District, but all Hoosiers so very proudly, and in your time as secretary of state, where you served throughout our State. I really appreciate the fact that you and your staff put the time and effort in to making these last minutes on the House floor possible as we close out the 114th Congress.

I want to specifically highlight a little bit of the history of the Fifth District, which I represent, but more importantly, how that history informs, inspires, and ignites our future. Since we became a State in 1816, Indiana has transformed again and again, growing and evolving into the strong and thriving State it is today.

I want to talk with you about Conner Prairie in my district. Conner Prairie has grown up with the State. What started as a log cabin in the early 1800s by the White River has grown into a stately brick home that has served as the seat of early Hamilton County government. It is now an interactive history museum and park, and recently it has been recognized as the only Smithsonian affiliate in Indiana. It is a leading innovator in the history museum field, with more than 360,000 visitors each year.

In 1800, William Conner settled in Indiana to become a fur trader. He and his Lenape Indian spouse and their six children lived in that first log cabin on the property. In 1818, Conner played a pivotal role as interpreter and liaison for the Treaty of St. Mary's, in which the Delaware Tribe ceded lands in central Indiana for those west of the Mississippi River. The Lenape Tribe, including Conner's wife and children, left Indiana, but Conner decided to stay.

In 1823, he and his second wife, Elizabeth, built a beautiful brick home on a hill overlooking land that came to be known as Conner Prairie. This home served as the seat of Hamilton County government and the local post office in the early days of the county's founding.

In 1934, Colonel Eli Lilly, then the president of the pharmaceutical company that he founded, which remains today in Indianapolis, Indiana, purchased Conner Prairie and the old brick home in hopes of restoring it and opening it to the public.

Lilly believed that history and its preservation were cornerstones of American democracy. He wanted Conner Prairie to be a place where people could connect with their history and see their heritage brought to life. Little did he realize that his idea would be so vividly brought to life in modern-day Conner Prairie. Growing from the site of occasional historical reenactments, Conner Prairie blossomed into a living history museum that transports visitors back to the Hoosier frontier and invites them to see life in Indiana in 1836.

Prairietown, an immersive exhibit where people, animals, buildings, objects, and daily routines remain just as they were 180 years ago, was just the beginning. In addition to the Prairietown exhibit, Conner Prairie has expanded its historical experience to now include an 1859 Balloon Voyage—the gentleman from Indiana's Fourth District, who loves to fly, I

hope he has tried the balloon voyage; it is really remarkable—as well as an 1863 Civil War Journey and a Lenape Indian Camp.

In addition, visitors to Conner Prairie today can see how innovations in math, science, technology, and engineering have shaped our history, and how these vital and growing industries will shape our State's future and are shaping the State of Indiana. Students and children can build planes, create an electrical circuit or radio, construct a windmill, or invent their own products, which they then attempt to patent.

I agree with Colonel Lilly that history is a cornerstone of our democracy. I believe that Conner Prairie is an incredible realization of the idea that history plays a pivotal role in our future. In fact, Conner Prairie, William Conner, and the Conner family is one of the reasons that we named our son Conner and why we spell his name with an "e." In fact, he happens to be in the balcony of the Chamber today. I am very pleased that he is here with us to learn more about our State's incredible history and the history of his own name.

The brick house that Colonel Lilly purchased in the 1930s still stands, and its renovation was an Indiana Bicentennial Project. As Indiana celebrates its bicentennial and in the many years to come, the many places just like Conner Prairie will always help Hoosiers find their heritage, understand our history, and, most importantly, ignite the future.

Happy birthday to Indiana and all Hoosiers.

Mr. ROKITA. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate the gentlewoman's leadership in the Fifth District and throughout Indiana. It is just another example of, frankly, how we believe our State is great.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN), from the Third Congressional District, who not only served in this Chamber, but also in Indiana's statehouse, first as a State representative and later as a State senator. He is a farmer from the northeast part of our State. He brings with him to this House and to his future endeavors a robust knowledge and practice of our State's best traditions and history.

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Indiana.

It is great to be here on the floor with my colleagues from the Indiana delegation as we celebrate our bicentennial in Indiana. I also find it an honor that we get to be one of the last groups here on the floor discussing an issue here in this Congress, as we have wrapped up our business earlier today.

I just want to thank Mr. ROKITA, Mrs. BROOKS, Mr. MESSER, and others that I see here—Mr. BUCSHON was here earlier—whom I count it an honor and privilege to serve with.

This will be my last speech on the floor as I end my time here in Congress and look forward to going back home to Indiana again. So I come with some mixed emotions, frankly, but also very excited about what is in store for you all, what is in store for Indiana, what is in store for our country, as I have had the privilege to serve Indiana's Third Congressional District for these past 6 years. I know that, just as you all feel, we feel very privileged to be Hoosiers.

Indiana is oftentimes thought of to be that flyover State in from the East Coast to the West Coast or vice versa; but so many wonderful things are happening in Indiana that we are proud of and that we feel, especially at this time as our own Governor, the Vice President-elect, Mike Pence, who has been our Governor for the last 4 years in Indiana, is showing and exhibiting the good policies, the good nature, the humbleness, the character and integrity that so many Hoosiers display on a daily basis.

So I think that, as I leave, I am looking forward to watching you all continue to face some difficult challenges, but with a lot of opportunity in front of us. I know that Hoosiers all across our State and Americans are looking for leadership. I know that we have seen that in Indiana with our former Governor, Mitch Daniels. It was great to see our colleague, Mr. CLAWSON, here earlier, who is also going to be departing after this Congress.

We have such great history. Of course, our sports history is one that we love to talk about and brag about.

I also want to recognize my family: my wife Christy, and our sons, Payton and Preston. Payton, of course, was named after a football player in Indianapolis. He was one of those kids in Indiana that was named Peyton during a great streak by Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts.

We have got such great ownership, great leaders in Indianapolis and across the country with the teams that we are proud of in Indiana, the Colts and Pacers. We have got a great college tradition. You turn on ESPN and you see, of course, Indiana basketball, Purdue basketball, Notre Dame. Valparaiso always ends up in the tournament at the end of the year it seems like. Of course, there are other teams that continue to exhibit that tradition that we have in Indiana of great basketball. Of course, our high school basketball is like no other State has. There is something really remarkable about high school basketball in Indiana.

I also just want to quickly recognize a friend that happens to be here. Randy Lewandowski, who is the president of the Indianapolis Indians, our baseball team in Indiana. It is a AAA affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates. He just happens to be in town, and I am proud of the work that he does to bring great

baseball to our city and to our State. I am proud of the folks like Randy that work so hard to make Indiana a great place to live.

Of course, our racing is also such a proud sport for us in Indiana.

More importantly than all of that, look at the hardworking Hoosiers on a daily basis who go to work every day, whether it is in the factories, whether it is in the trucking industry. We are known as the crossroads of America. You have distribution centers all across the State. You think of the teachers that do such a remarkable job in teaching our children.

As you get to know people across the State of Indiana, I have become just more and more proud to be called a Hoosier, have the opportunity to represent them, and to know that we all love life. We love liberty. We want to continue to protect the ability to pursue happiness as Americans. We know that life is difficult, life has challenges, but working together and working hard, keeping our head down and facing those challenges together as communities, as a State, and as a country, we can be successful.

As we celebrate our bicentennial, I just know that Indiana has done so much for me and my family. I want to thank my parents, Albert and Sarah Stutzman; my brothers, Matt and Chris; and my sister, Lynette; and their families for the support that they have given to me in the time that I have had the opportunity to serve here. I know there are so many families across our State that support one another and are working to make life better not only for themselves, but for their families.

□ 1545

Indiana also has the fourth largest National Guard in the country. We have, of course, Texas, California, and New York, but Indiana is one of the largest national guards in the country. And I think that shows the level of commitment that Hoosiers have been willing to sacrifice, to commit to the defense and security of this country. I appreciate many of our leaders in our State that have led a National Guard to show that we are willing to do our part and to help lead the way.

As I think of traveling across the State, there are so many different parts of Indiana that we are so proud to have as part of our State. So I would just say to anyone listening and watching this, as we talk about our beloved Indiana, if you ever get a chance to visit, there is so much to do and see and enjoy, the nature, from top to bottom, from Lake Michigan in the northwest to the Ohio Valley in the southern part of the State, the beautiful farmland, and the rolling hills in the southern part of Indiana.

We just have such tremendous tradition and, of course, the values that we

all hold very dearly and know that we want to do our part to not only make Indiana great but to continue to make America great as well.

So with that, Mr. ROKITA, I really appreciate the opportunity, and I thank the gentleman for putting this time together as we reflect on our great State. I want to wish him the very best and the rest of our colleagues the very best as well in the future; and know that folks across this country can look to the gentleman for solid leadership, and appreciate all that he does.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, a lot has been talked about already from Indiana's manufacturing prowess to our agricultural richness, to our own rich history.

I want to focus just a little bit before yielding to my good friend, Mr. MESSER, to talk a little bit about Indiana's agricultural history. It is in the top 10 in the Nation in agricultural sales, with over \$11 billion in those sales.

The agricultural industry creates good Hoosier jobs and provides our Nation with an array of products, from corn to soybeans to hogs and poultry, and you just have to go a few miles in any direction on any one of our roads to know that, by looking out your window.

In fact, Indiana has so many agricultural products that there are six times as many chickens in the State than people. My district, in particular, has produced several major agricultural innovations.

The town of Kokomo, that I mentioned earlier, is known as the "City of Firsts," due to the many products invented there, including both the first canned tomato juice and the first mechanical corn picker, which revolutionized the farming of one of Indiana's most important crops.

Indiana is specifically one of the Nation's second largest producers of popcorn. And while that definitely helps us all enjoy trips to the movies, Indiana's contributions to the entertainment field have not stopped there.

Famous Hoosiers, as ANDRÉ CARSON mentioned, such as John Mellencamp, Axl Rose, James Dean, and the King of Pop himself, Michael Jackson, have all made their mark on our Nation, providing us with memorable songs and iconic movies, while never forgetting where they came from.

Another great Hoosier who hasn't forgotten where he has come from is my good friend representing the Sixth District of Indiana, which includes Columbus, Muncie, and Richmond, and that is Mr. LUKE MESSER. He and I both went to Wabash College together, and, as I mentioned earlier, we know who we rooted for at the Monon Bell game.

I yield to the gentleman from Indiana's Sixth Congressional District, Mr. LUKE MESSER.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for organizing today's

celebration of Indiana's 200th birthday. I thank him for his distinguished little giant career at Wabash College and all of his service to our great State.

It is an exciting time to be a Hoosier any year, but it is a pretty big birthday coming up this year when, on December 11, 2016, we will be celebrating our State's 200th birthday—200 years since Indiana became our Nation's 19th State.

I am holding this basketball because when you think about Indiana, you can't help but think about basketball. And my district, Indiana's Sixth Congressional District, has a couple of pretty important distinguishing factors in Indiana's great history as a basketball State.

First, the Milan Indians, the great Milan Indians team that were the 1954 State champions that showed that our single-class basketball, the small little engine that could, can win a State title, that is from Ripley County in the middle of my State.

And then the Knightstown gym, where the movie "Hoosiers" was filmed, is also in Indiana's Sixth Congressional District. I am going to throw a chest pass of this basketball over to my colleagues from Indiana, where we will show you can catch it. Here you go, Mr. BUCSHON.

Let the RECORD show he caught the ball, all right, showing he is a Hoosier. Bring the House to order, as MARLIN said.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLAWSON of Florida). The House will be in order.

Mr. MESSER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This Sunday, we celebrate two centuries of statehood, history, tradition, and accomplishment in Indiana. We Hoosiers have a great deal to be proud of in our State, and in the Sixth District that I represent.

The Sixth District is home to renowned architecture, historical landmarks, beautiful parks, and famous Americans. The Wright brothers spent part of their childhood in our corner of Indiana. Wilbur was born in Millville, and Orville first took up kite building in Richmond, Indiana.

Richmond was also the home to Gennett Records, where some of the earliest jazz recordings were ever produced in the late 1910s and early 1920s, earning Richmond the nickname of the "cradle of recorded jazz."

David Letterman attended school at Ball State University in Muncie, as did Jim Davis, who is famous for the "Garfield" cartoon.

Hancock County in the Sixth District is the home of the famed Hoosier poet, James Whitcomb Riley, who wrote, among other things, "Little Orphant Annie."

Columbus is known for beautiful architecture and for being the home of the oldest theater in the State, The

Crump Theater, built in 1889 by John Crump.

A centuries-old tree grows atop the Decatur County Courthouse Tower, giving Greensburg, my hometown where I grew up, the nickname “Tree City.”

Famous Hoosiers from the Sixth District include Vice President Thomas Hendricks, from my adopted hometown of Shelbyville, where my kids began our family’s life, together with my wife, Jennifer; three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Wilbur Shaw; racecar driver Tony Stewart, from Columbus; Shelbyville basketball player Bill Garrett; actresses Joyce DeWitt and Jamie Hyneman; cinema and television pioneer Francis Jenkins; and the list goes on.

We have also had two Governors hail from our part of the State, Oliver Morton, and current Governor, Mike Pence. Now the Sixth District will be lucky enough to claim another Vice President, Vice President-elect, and former Sixth District Congressman, Mike Pence, who we are all very proud of.

In fact, I am so proud of our State, and I don’t know that the gentleman would know this—I know at least one of our colleagues were surprised to learn—but my wife, Jennifer, and I actually wrote a book about this great State of Indiana called, “Hoosier Heart.” It is a book that celebrates the history and traditions of our State, the people, its places. I am just going to read the sort of closing passage of this book as I wrap up my comments today.

The book closes this way:

The word “Hoosier” is a mystery. No one knows where it comes from for sure. Some say it was a pioneer greeting. The gentleman here says, Whose year?

Others say someone once lost an ear, and this young guy asks, Whose ear?

But whatever a Hoosier used to be, we all know what a Hoosier is today. A Hoosier is someone with Indiana roots, someone who loves our State in every way.

Hoosiers come in all shapes and sizes, all races, and all creeds. Some Hoosiers don’t even live in our State. Over time, some Hoosiers do leave.

But wherever Hoosiers now live, they are never far apart because the key to being a Hoosier is having a big Hoosier heart.

Happy birthday, Indiana.

Mr. ROKITA. Reclaiming my time, it is a great book, as my family knows as well, and excellent words from the gentleman from Indiana’s Sixth Congressional District.

Throughout this all, Indiana’s Fourth Congressional District has more than done its part in adding to our State’s rich history. The Battle of Tippecanoe, for example, which put Indiana on the path to statehood, took place in modern-day Lafayette, and gained recognition for General William Henry Harrison, who would go on to become our ninth President.

The Fourth District is also home to the first Indiana State Flag, pictured

here. This is from about—this was 1916, when our flag design was—this flag design was awarded the honor of becoming our official flag. It was created by Paul Hadley, of Mooresville, in Indiana’s Fourth District, for a contest during our State’s first Centennial celebration.

Our district is also home to many important landmarks. Boone County Courthouse has the largest 1-piece limestone columns in the country. Newton County is home to 23 bison, our State animal. And Benton and White Counties have one of the largest windmill farms in the Nation.

This is just a small sample of the great parts of our State and district, and our bicentennial celebration has done a fantastic job of highlighting these and many others over the past 12 months.

I have even had the pleasure of participating in several of the events, like many of my colleagues have, including selecting a bicentennial-themed entry as the winner for our office’s Congressional Art Competition, and serving as torchbearer for the torch relay.

The relay saw the bicentennial torch, designed and made by Purdue students, travel through each of our 92 counties over the course of several weeks, and highlighted both the unique history and the places in each part of our State and the common bond that makes all of us Hoosiers.

I served as a torchbearer in Fountain County, and was very impressed by the high turnout and enthusiasm. At a time in this Nation’s life when it is hard to get members of a particular place to act like a community because of so many different distractions and diversions and how technology has entered our lives, it was humbling, sobering, but very prideful to see thousands of people in a relatively small county come together for such an event as to see a torch going by and being passed along by the county courthouse.

The Hoosiers, I saw, were well-prepared for the event and were not going to let a little bit of rain keep them from coming out and celebrating towns and their counties and, most of all, our wonderful State.

The event itself helped to remind me of the most important and unique part of our State, and that is the people. Hoosiers are kind and gracious people who take pride in their work and in their State. They have been the secret to our State’s 200 years of success.

Now, this Sunday’s final bicentennial event is entitled “Igniting the Future,” and it is my belief and hope that it will inspire our next generation of Hoosier leaders to continue this record of accomplishment, and never forget about what makes this State and our country so exceptional, exceptional with a capital E.

Myself, and my colleagues here from Indiana, look forward to working with

these future leaders and ensuring the success of our State for another 200 years.

Mr. Speaker, before yielding back, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Evansville, Mr. LARRY BUCSHON.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I want to use some of the last time that we have to honor a great Hoosier. I know others will have comments and, today, as we recognize Indiana’s 200th birthday, it is also important to acknowledge the contribution of one of those who has made an indelible mark on our shared history.

Without a doubt, one of those people is a man who delivered his final speech from the Senate floor this past week with a heartfelt message about preserving the freedoms that make this country so great.

Senator DAN COATS exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. He has dedicated his life to improving the lives of his fellow citizens.

He served his country in the United States Army; he has spent time in both the U.S. House and the United States Senate; he served as an Ambassador to Germany, assuming that role just 3 days prior to the tragic attacks on September 11, 2001.

After this distinguished career, Senator COATS answered the call to serve his fellow citizens once again in the United States Senate, where he has been a national leader on reducing Federal spending, fixing our economy, and keeping our Nation safe and secure.

And a little personal story. I was a cardiovascular surgeon prior to coming to Congress. And when I spend time at events with Senator COATS, he always likes to tell everyone he feels very comfortable because, if he has a heart problem, Congressman BUCSHON will pick up a butter knife or something and fix him up right there on the spot.

□ 1600

It is a really humorous story that I enjoy his telling every time we are together at an event. Senator COATS has a great sense of humor. While his time in the Senate has come to an end, I am also confident he will continue to be a voice and an advocate for the issues he cares about most. Our State and our country are lucky to have benefited from the service of a great man like Senator DAN COATS.

I wish DAN and Marsha all the best.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER), who represents the Sixth District.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, when given the opportunity to say something nice about DAN COATS, I didn’t want to pass it up. If I could give one word to describe U.S. Senator DAN COATS, it would be “Hoosier.” He is a person of grace and humility, hard work and humor. He never worried about who got credit, loved his country, and made the sacrifices through

his life and career to make our country better.

I am honored to call DAN a friend, and I appreciate his mentorship of our entire delegation in the time that I have had an opportunity to serve here. I suspect DAN's service for our country isn't quite over yet, and I look forward to whatever he does next.

One of the other great things about DAN COATS is he is a family man. I certainly wish DAN, Marsha, and their entire family a great future.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman is right. I don't know if DAN COATS will ever be able to retire. I know he wants to.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN), who is from the Third Congressional District in the northeast.

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I just want to stand here in front of this House and this body to honor our Senator, DAN COATS, who served Indiana in so many different capacities. I actually have the privilege of representing his district, the Third District in northeast Indiana.

We have such a long line of great leaders from northeast Indiana who have served here in Washington from our State, and DAN COATS, of course, exemplified a man of character, humbleness, and leadership. He followed former Vice President Dan Quayle.

I also would like to recognize him as well. He is another man who showed leadership for our State here in Washington, D.C.

Both of those gentlemen have been heroes and models for me growing up, watching both of them as they took time to come to Washington and show what Hoosier leadership is all about.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman again for honoring them today.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

In closing this out, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that Indiana has produced no shortage of great statesmen, as we reflected on this last half hour, and Senator DAN COATS has indisputably joined their ranks after decades of service to both our State and to our country. My own history with Senator COATS goes way back to when I was an intern in his Senate office. If he were on this floor today, Mr. Speaker, I am sure he would say that I was one of the worst interns he ever had. Nonetheless, he started my career in politics with that unpaid job that was one of the best experiences of my life. He has conservative leadership, and I know that he was anxious to get back to helping out the office and do whatever he could for the State of Indiana, however he could.

Since those many years ago, since those first observations that I have had of Senator COATS, he has gone from Senator, to U.S. Ambassador to Germany, and back to Senator again. It is

a long and distinguished career full of dedication to right ideals and the desire to fight for what is best for all Hoosier families and what is best for Americans.

I appreciate all of the work, as we all do, that Senator COATS has done and the causes he has advocated for and for his counsel. As I have said, I don't know if he is actually going to be able to retire at this time, but whatever his desire, he deserves it.

I have no doubt that he will continue to represent the best interests of our State and this country even after his time in the Senate has come to an end. I would like to issue a heartfelt thank-you for all of his work, and I wish him my best on all his future endeavors.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I hope you will please join us all in wishing Indiana a happy birthday on this wonderful occasion of our 200th anniversary.

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Senator DAN COATS, a U.S. Army veteran, former Member of the House of Representatives, United States Ambassador to Germany and a great Hoosier. I've had the pleasure of serving with Senator COATS as a fellow member of the Indiana delegation since my first term in 2013. In fact, the first legislation that I introduced and got passed into law was a bill that I worked on with Senator COATS and his team, the Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act.

During his time in the Senate, he has been a passionate advocate for Hoosiers, working on policies that are focused on getting more Americans back to work and getting our economy back on track. His leadership will be missed, but I know that he and his wife Marsha will continue to do great things that make a difference for Hoosiers as they begin this next chapter of their lives.

Thank you, Senator COATS, for all of your work to represent our great state of Indiana, and best wishes as you embark on your next adventure.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the conference report accompanying the bill (S. 2943) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Depart-

ment of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes."

ABROGATING OUR NATURAL RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this is supposed to be our last day in formal session, actual session, of the year. There may be something coming up. I always worry about unanimous consent requests when nobody is here.

I know the administration likes to brag that it has been a good year for enforcing the border, but this story from Brooke Singman says:

The number of unaccompanied children crossing into the U.S. from Mexico nearly doubled this year citing from Border Patrol figures.

Hopefully, we will get the Trump administration moving as quickly as they indicate they intend to.

It is worth noting that this story came out from The Hill. Mark Hensch said that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind behind 9/11, says that in his view, immigration into the United States is al Qaeda's deadliest weapon against the United States. That is what he has apparently indicated.

A witness said:

From his perspective, the long war for Islamic domination wasn't going to be won in the streets with bombs and bullets and bloodshed. No, it would be won in the minds of the American people.

This is Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's thinking. Thank God—literally, thank God—that President Obama has not released the mastermind as he has so many others who have contributed to the deaths of Americans.

But Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the 9/11 mastermind, said:

The terror attacks were good, but the "practical" way to defeat America was through immigration and by out-breeding non-Muslims.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed:

Jihadi-minded brothers would immigrate into the United States, taking advantage of the welfare system to support themselves while they spread their jihadi message.

They will wrap themselves in America's rights and laws for protection, ratchet up acceptance of sharia law, and then, only when they were strong enough, rise up and violently impose sharia from within. He said the brothers would relentlessly continue their attacks and the American people eventually would become so tired, so frightened and so weary of war they would just want it to end.

According to Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, that is when radical Islam—sharia law—would take over for the United States, and the Constitution of the United States would no longer have meaning here.

It is rather interesting. When we find out exactly what the enemies of freedom have in the way of plans to destroy our liberty and freedom, it really should catch the attention of some of our United States Federal Government.

We passed a bill today, and I love and respect the people that pushed for it, but I need to make further comment about it. This was H.R. 4919. It is a bill that was supposed to be just a reauthorization. Well, it has got a program, and people that start these kinds of things, knowing where they will end up, start with a small amount of money. If you start with just millions, then you can go later on from there. When you paint it as being simply to help families who have autistic or Alzheimer's patients, people with dementia, things that Americans like me understand because we have had family members who, because of organic problems, a very brilliant person can become confused, not know where they are and become lost. But life here in Congress would be so much easier if I simply would not read the bills.

This bill creates a Federal tracking program, and it starts with Alzheimer's patients and autism patients, people with those disabilities. It also includes, according to the bill, developmental disabilities, and that is broad enough that you can start including all kinds of things now that the law has been passed.

My understanding, it is told that in the Senate it was likewise breezed through. Somebody went on the Senate floor when other Senators weren't there, maybe two people or so, and said: I ask unanimous consent that this bill be passed; hearing no objection, so ordered.

It was not much of a vote. We didn't even have a hearing in subcommittee or committee where we bring witnesses, talk to experts, talk to people involved, see what the problem is and see if the cure is worse than the problem. We didn't have that. We didn't have constitutional experts talk about the indications for our future freedom.

Instead, we got this bill. I am grateful that proponents tried to fix things, but as I read through it, the fixes didn't really fix things. This program that is supposed to help people with mental health issues—confusion, getting lost, and dying. We know these things happen. There is nothing anywhere in the law that prevents a parent from having something that helps that parent track or keep track of their autistic child or child with, according to this bill, developmental disabilities—nothing. There is nothing that keeps a guardian from using some kind of tracking methodology to keep up with someone who has Alzheimer's.

Yes, I know it is a serious issue; but why wasn't this left, then, to the Department of Health and Human Services if it is really just a mental health

issue? The answer is it was left to the Attorney General and to the Department of Justice because the truth is, if it would need to expand, that is where they want it to expand.

We were assured that this is strictly voluntary; but once you have a program in place, it is very easy for someone to file a petition and ask a judge, such as I once was back in Texas: Here are the indications. We need an order for the good of this person and the safety of the public so that this person can be tracked.

It is not just a danger to themselves, the bill talks about, or an injury that could be caused by the patient. We know from the Department of Homeland Security that many in the Department of Homeland Security think the biggest threat for hate crimes, for destruction and death in America are from people who are veterans that may like the idea of the Second Amendment allowing them to keep guns.

□ 1615

They are people who believe the Constitution should be literally followed, and the words that the Constitution actually says should be followed. The Founders of this country would be, of course—if they were around today—at the top of this administration's no-fly list because they wanted liberty above all, they wanted freedom. They did not want a government that interceded into their own personal private decisions and lives.

Now we have this bill. The attorney general will tell us what the rules are because the bill says he or she will, and the attorney general will set up the best practices. I know that there is language added that says: Oh, no, the parent or guardian, they have to voluntarily use this program; it is not forceful.

Well, no, the grants are not for anyone except voluntary, but I can guarantee you the program will ultimately be used to involuntarily place tracking information on people.

Then, despite some of my friends in Congress saying, This is really not a danger, it is nothing to worry about, I get back to the office and my staff hands me an article regarding Japan. And, lo and behold, it is from Yahoo News. "Japan Tags Dementia Sufferers With Barcodes." And the article goes on to point out that in Japan, where, until after World War II and the surrender in 1945, Japan had a history of submitting to whatever the emperor, the totalitarian leader, dictated.

Well, now in Japan, they have come up with the best way of tracking people. It is by putting barcodes on fingers. All you need is a barcode on one finger, a barcode on one toe, and then the Japanese Government will be able to accurately and adequately track people they are concerned about.

So I don't think anybody needs to be worried about the government having

this Orwellian program unless, perhaps, they are Christian, because the Commission on Civil Rights thinks that people who talk about religious freedom, religious liberty, Christians that use words like "evangelical," that those are the biggest threat, perhaps, for hate in America because of the ignorance in this administration. It is nothing against them personally. It is just all of us are ignorant in some areas.

Apparently, in this administration, there is widespread ignorance over the fact that Christianity is the religion based on love; that God so loved the world, he would send his son, and that his son would so love the world, he would lay down his life for his friends, which he, Jesus, said was the greatest love. True Christians follow the teachings of Jesus just as most Muslims try to do; to follow the teachings of Jesus.

Anyway, if you are a Christian, or you believe the Constitution should be literally followed, or you believe that you should have a right to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment, or you believe the Tenth Amendment means what it says, that any power not specifically enumerated for the Federal Government, it is reserved to the States and people, anybody that believes those kind of things is really a threat, according to some in this administration and some in what has become more of a permanent government.

Administrations come and go, but we have got liberals that are so tolerant, they want to take away the rights of anybody with whom they disagree. The blacklist experts. They talk about blacklists of the fifties, and they go beyond anything that the fifties may have had in store for those who wanted to bring down the United States Government.

Anyway, there just was not enough attention paid to this bill. It breaks my heart—and I am not kidding, I am not being sarcastic—that there were some that were pushing for this bill that have some of the biggest hearts, that want to do more to help people—and I am afraid because of the bill's passage today, and I am sure the President will sign it into law, gee, we get to track people we are concerned about in America, maybe we will use a barcode.

If we can have the attorney general, in his opinion, find that a subcutaneous chip implant is noninvasive, then we can do that. But maybe the barcode would be better than a chip.

Anyway, we have passed the program. Someday, I am very afraid for my dear friends that push this bill that history will not so much remember the wonderful things they have fought for in this legislative body, the great moral issues they have stood for, but one day they will be remembered as the ones who quietly pushed this bill

through that allowed a Federal Government to begin tracking for the first-time students—not students, but young people, whether they are students or not, people with disabilities. I am sure we will be seeing the attorney general add definition, since it is up to her, or someday him, perhaps, to determine what really is developmental disability.

So those things are coming. People need to be aware of them. Perhaps someday we will have a Congress before it is too late that will back up and say: Wait a minute, we are not going to be funding with Federal taxpayer dollars a tracking system for American citizens.

I had some colleague say: Well, I could have voted for it if it was only people who were known terrorists, but we don't want to track known terrorists. This bill would be considered an abomination if we tried to put a barcode or a chip into a known terrorist in the United States. No, this needs to be reserved for people who get confused, and so it goes.

In the words of Billy Joel:

So it goes, and you are the only one who knows.

So also being as how this week included the 75th anniversary of the day of infamy when right at that level the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, said—actually, 75 years ago today, he said:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

He went on. It is about a page-and-a-half speech, double spaced. And he concludes by saying:

With confidence in our own forces—with the unbounded determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God.

It is interesting, Roosevelt so often referred to God. He is the only American President, which I am aware, who went on national radio, or TV, but he went on radio—that is what they had at the time—on D-day, when thousands of American troops were landing in France on the beaches, thousands were being killed, and he led the Nation in a Christian prayer on national radio.

Why?

Because he was a true leader of the United States. He knew our Nation was in great trouble. So the natural thing to do was lead the Nation in prayer.

If we go back to the man who is called the Father of the Constitution, as I understand it, the Federal Government mandates a test to be taught in order for people to get a little bit of the money that they send from their States to Washington, D.C., to the Department of Education. The Department of Education, if you do what they tell you, will send you a little bit back of your own money. So they don't re-

quire that the statements of our constitutional Founders be learned.

My understanding is the biggest thing the current folks want to be taught and learned about World War II is not that America was attacked. There was a day of infamy and that America was fighting and losing lives around the world, not as much for America, but for liberty, for freedom; that there would be places in the world where people could live and have opportunity and make their own decisions without the forces of radical Islam, which had joined forces with the Nazis and with the emperor in Japan.

But if you go back to James Madison, he said:

We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not on the power of government; far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government; upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.

That is rather important. That is why if you go through the writings, the pronouncements, the proclamations, the laws of the United States for the first 100, 150 years or so, we finally got the Constitution to a place where people understood you can't have slavery legally exist under a constitution that grants freedom. Thank God, they finally got past the ridiculous decision in Dred Scott, and we got past the Civil War.

In 1890, there was a case that the Supreme Court sat in on, 136 U.S. 1 (1890). The Supreme Court said this:

It is contrary to the spirit of Christianity and the civilization, which Christianity has produced in the western world.

Two years later, in the case of United States v. Church of the Holy Trinity, the Supreme Court went on for pages talking about the evidence of Christianity in America not so that Christianity would be forced or imposed on anyone, but as Madison understood, and as Adams understood, and as Washington understood, you could not maintain self-government, a democratic Republic where we will elect representatives as our servants. You can't maintain that if it is not a religious and a moral people. That cannot be a majority of religious and moral people who believe that the Constitution must totally be subjugated to a particular law, whether that be Sharia or others.

So in the Declaration of Independence—this is the Supreme Court citing this in their 1892 decision:

The Declaration of Independence recognizes the presence of the Divine in human affairs in these words:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights . . . appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions . . . And for the support of this Declaration, with firm reliance on Pro-

tection of Define Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

□ 1630

When I saw a copy of the original Treaty of Paris of 1783, in which we forced England to swear under something so important that they would not want to break the oath, what do you come up with to get Great Britain—the most powerful country in the world with the most powerful navy and army—to swear under that they would not willingly be wanting to break that oath? The big words—huge letters—starting the treaty that recognized our independence for the first time starts out:

In the Name of the most Holy and undivided Trinity, that is Father, Son, Holy Ghost.

The opinion goes on and cites so many examples of Christianity in America. They say:

We are a Christian people, and the morality of the country is deeply engrafted upon Christianity and not upon the doctrines of worship of those impostors.

It goes on and reads after many more recitations:

These and many other matters which might be noticed add a volume of unofficial declaration to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation. We find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth. The happiness of a people and the good order and preservation of civil government essentially depend upon piety, religion, and morality.

Not that we would ever force Christian beliefs on anyone, but as we find historically—and as even a Muslim leader and a descendant of Muhammad told General Jay Garner in Iraq when he was inquiring as to what kind of government we should have—he said it should be based on the teachings of Jesus because that descendant of Muhammad—that Muslim leader—understood that it is, really, only if you have a government that is under the teachings of Jesus where an atheist, a Buddhist, Hindu, Islam—any religion—can prosper without fear so long as they do not try to undo the Constitution of the United States.

Franklin Roosevelt, so endeared to liberals in this Nation, on December 24, 1933, said:

This year marks a greater national understanding of the significance in our modern lives of the teaching of Him whose birth we celebrate. To more and more of us, the words "thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" have taken on a meaning that is showing itself and proving itself in our purposes and in our daily lives. May the practice of that high ideal grow in us all in the year to come. I give you and send you, one and all, old and young, a Merry Christmas and a truly happy new year. And so, for now and for always, God bless us, everyone.

Another example is from Franklin Roosevelt on December 21, 2 short weeks after the bombing at Pearl Harbor. I won't read the whole thing, but

it is deeply moving, and he finishes by saying:

Our strongest weapon in this war is that conviction of the dignity and brotherhood of man, which Christmas Day signifies. Against enemies who preach the principles of hate and practice them, we set our faith in human love and in God's care for us and all men everywhere. Our strength, as the strength of all men everywhere, is of greater avail as God upholds us.

In 1942, on Christmas Eve, he finished by saying:

It is significant that tomorrow, Christmas Day, our plants and factories will be stilled. That is not true of the other holidays we have long been accustomed to celebrate. On all other holidays, work goes on—gladly for the winning of the war. So Christmas becomes the only holiday in all the year. I like to think this is so because Christmas is a holy day.

John F. Kennedy, on December 17, 1962, said these words—and I won't read the whole thing—in the conclusion:

This has been a year of peril where the peace has been sorely threatened, but it has been a year when peril was faced and when reason ruled. As a result, we may talk at this Christmas just a little bit more confidently of peace on Earth, goodwill to men; and, as a result, the hopes of the American people are, perhaps, a little higher. We have much yet to do. We still have to ask that God bless everyone.

Then last for today, before we adjourn for Christmas, Ronald Reagan, on December 19, 1988, concluded his Christmas address by saying:

Our compassion and concern this Christmas and all year long will mean much to the hospitalized, the homeless, the convalescent, the orphaned, and it will surely lead us on our way to the joy and peace of Bethlehem and the Christ Child who bids us come, for it is only in finding and living the eternal meaning of the Nativity that we can be truly happy, truly at peace, truly home.

I conclude, Mr. Speaker, as Ronald Reagan did: Merry Christmas, and God bless you.

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

AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-186)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith a social security totalization agreement with Brazil, titled "Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil," and a related agreement titled "Administrative Arrangement between the Competent Authorities of the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Implementation of the Agreement on Social Security" (collectively the "Agreements"). The Agreements were signed in Washington, D.C., on June 30, 2015.

The Agreements are similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with most European Union countries, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries.

The Agreements contain all provisions mandated by section 233 of the Social Security Act and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4) of the Social Security Act.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act on the estimated number of individuals who will be affected by the Agreements and the Agreements' estimated cost effect. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreements to me.

I commend the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Administrative Arrangement between the Competent Authorities of the United States of America and the Federative Republic of

Brazil for the Implementation of the Agreement on Social Security.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, December 8, 2016.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CLYBURN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 34. An act to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 817. An act to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.

S. 818. An act to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

S. 2873. An act to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

S. 3076. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish caskets and urns for burial in cemeteries of States and tribal organizations of veterans without next of kin or sufficient resources to provide for caskets or urns, and for other purposes.

S. 3492. An act to designate the Traverse City VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Traverse City, Michigan, as the "Colonel Demas T. Crow VA Clinic".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 12, 2016, at 3 p.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the second and third quarters of 2016, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Bob Goodlatte	6/25	7/3	England, Belgium, Netherlands, & Switzerland		1,107.00		2,729.16		2,336.00		6,172.16
Hon. Steve King	6/26	7/5	England, Belgium, Netherlands, & Switzerland		851.00		8,329.00		1,992.00		11,172.00
Vishal Amin	6/25	7/3	England, Belgium, Netherlands, & Switzerland		1,107.00		2,729.16		2,336.00		6,172.16
Christopher Grieco	6/25	7/3	England, Belgium, Netherlands, & Switzerland		1,107.00		2,729.16		2,336.00		6,172.16
Hon. Louie Gohmert	7/28	8/5	Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, & Slovakia		960.00		(³)		1,795.22		2,755.22
Hon. Bob Goodlatte	7/28	8/5	Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, & Slovakia		960.00		(³)		1,795.22		2,755.22
Hon. Doug Collins	7/28	8/5	Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, & Slovakia		960.00		(³)		1,795.22		2,755.22
Hon. Mike Bishop	7/28	8/5	Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, & Slovakia		960.00		(³)		1,795.22		2,755.22
Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee	8/1	8/5	Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, & Slovakia		494.00		(³)		897.00		1,391.00
Hon. Scott Peters	7/28	8/5	Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, & Slovakia		960.00		(³)		1,795.22		2,755.22
Shelley Husband	7/28	8/5	Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, & Slovakia		960.00		(³)		1,795.22		2,755.22
Branden Ritchie	7/28	8/5	Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, & Slovakia		960.00		(³)		1,795.22		2,755.22
Ryan Breitenbach	7/28	8/5	Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, & Slovakia		960.00		(³)		1,795.22		2,755.22
Joe Graupensperger	7/28	8/5	Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, & Slovakia		960.00		(³)		1,795.22		2,755.22
John Manning	7/28	8/5	Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, & Slovakia		960.00		(³)		1,795.22		2,755.22
Hon. Trent Franks	7/29	8/2	Haiti		555.00		697.00		620.00		1,872.00
Keenan Keller	7/29	8/2	Haiti		555.00		697.00		620.00		1,872.00
Committee total					15,376.00		17,910.48		29,089.00		62,375.68

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. BOB GOODLATTE, Chairman, Nov. 1, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Cordell Hull	7/2	7/4	Egypt		573.00		9,505.00				10,078.00
Valerie Shen	7/2	7/4	Egypt		573.00		9,505.00				10,078.00
Delegation expenses									1,240.00		1,240.00
Hon. Carolyn Maloney	8/6	8/7	Cape Verde		197.00						197.00
	8/7	8/10	Senegal		823.00						823.00
	8/10	8/12	Liberia		658.00						658.00
	8/12	8/14	Nigeria		1,042.00						1,042.00
	8/14	8/15	Spain		253.00						253.00
Hon. Jason Chaffetz	7/16	7/17	Portugal		295.00						295.00
Delegation expenses									4,941.00		4,941.00
Delegation expenses	7/17	7/18	Israel		498.00						498.00
Delegation expenses	7/18	7/20	Jordan		711.00				10,114.00		10,114.00
Delegation expenses	7/20	7/21	Georgia		305.00				6,640.00		6,640.00
Delegation expenses	7/20	7/21	Georgia		305.00						305.00
Hon. Jason Chaffetz	7/21	7/22	Romania		232.00				1,758.00		1,758.00
Delegation expenses									3,330.00		3,330.00
Delegation expenses	7/22	7/24	Lithuania		647.00						647.00
Delegation expenses									3,451.00		3,451.00
Hon. Cynthia Lummis	7/16	7/17	Portugal		278.00						278.00
	7/17	7/18	Israel		498.00						498.00
	7/18	7/20	Jordan		711.00						711.00
	7/20	7/21	Georgia		305.00						305.00
	7/21	7/22	Romania		221.00						221.00
	7/22	7/24	Lithuania		647.00						647.00
Hon. Gary Palmer	7/16	7/17	Portugal		295.00						295.00
	7/17	7/18	Israel		498.00						498.00
	7/18	7/20	Jordan		711.00						711.00
	7/20	7/21	Georgia		305.00						305.00
	7/21	7/22	Romania		232.00						232.00
	7/22	7/24	Lithuania		647.00						647.00
Hon. Mark Walker	7/16	7/17	Portugal		330.00						330.00
	7/17	7/18	Israel		498.00						498.00
	7/18	7/20	Jordan		711.00						711.00
	7/20	7/21	Georgia		305.00						305.00
	7/21	7/22	Romania		232.00						232.00
	7/22	7/24	Lithuania		647.00						647.00
Hon. Jody Hice	7/16	7/17	Portugal		308.00						308.00
	7/17	7/18	Israel		498.00						498.00
	7/18	7/20	Jordan		711.00						711.00
	7/20	7/21	Georgia		305.00						305.00
	7/21	7/22	Romania		221.00						221.00
	7/22	7/24	Lithuania		647.00						647.00
Jennifer Hemingway	7/16	7/17	Portugal		278.00						278.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Meghan Berroya	7/17	7/18	Israel		498.00						498.00
	7/18	7/20	Jordan		711.00						711.00
	7/20	7/21	Georgia		305.00						305.00
	7/21	7/22	Romania		221.00						221.00
	7/22	7/24	Lithuania		647.00						647.00
	7/16	7/17	Portugal		308.00						308.00
	7/17	7/18	Israel		498.00						498.00
	7/18	7/20	Jordan		711.00						711.00
	7/20	7/21	Georgia		305.00						305.00
	7/21	7/22	Romania		221.00						221.00
Hon. Mark DeSaulnier	7/22	7/24	Lithuania		647.00						647.00
	7/19	7/20	Jordan		570.00						570.00
	7/20	7/21	Georgia		305.00						305.00
	7/21	7/22	Romania		232.00						232.00
	7/22	7/24	Lithuania		647.00						647.00
Commercial airfare						1,449.00				1,449.00	
Committee total				24,672.00		20,459.00		29,474.00		74,605.00	

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ, Chairman, Nov. 23, 2016.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7816. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Head Start Program (RIN: 0970-AC63) received December 6, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7817. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Guanidinoacetic Acid [Docket No.: FDA-2015-F-2337] received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7818. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare and State Health Care Programs: Fraud and Abuse; Revisions to the Safe Harbors Under the Anti-Kickback Statute and Civil Monetary Penalty Rules Regarding Beneficiary Inducements (RIN: 0936-AA06) December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7819. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare and State Health Care Programs: Fraud and Abuse; Revisions to the Office of Inspector General's Civil Monetary Penalty Rules (RIN: 0936-AA04) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7820. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Arkansas River; Little Rock, AR [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0887] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to

5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 5253. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve visa security, visa applicant vetting, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-850, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3094. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to transfer to States the authority to manage red snapper fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico; with an amendment (Rept. 114-851). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. KLINE: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 5003. A bill to reauthorize child nutrition programs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-852, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 5033. A bill to improve the Governmentwide management of unnecessarily duplicative Government programs and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-853). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 1738. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to modernize and implement the national integrated public alert and warning system to disseminate homeland security information and other information, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-854, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4383. A bill to require the Sec-

retary of Homeland Security to enhance Department of Homeland Security coordination on how to identify and record information regarding individuals suspected or convicted of human trafficking, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-855, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3062. A bill to prohibit the use of eminent domain in carrying out certain projects (Rept. 114-856, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4579. A bill to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Utah from all forms of public appropriation, to provide for the shared management of the withdrawn land by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Air Force to facilitate enhanced weapons testing and pilot training, enhance public safety, and provide for continued public access to the withdrawn land, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and State land, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-857, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 5714. A bill to restore the financial solvency and improve the governance of the United States Postal Service in order to ensure the efficient and affordable nationwide delivery of mail, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-858, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 5707. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for certain index fund investments from the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-859, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 6008. A bill to provide transit benefits to Federal employees who use the services of transportation network companies within the national capital region, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 114-860, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 5204. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide an exclusion from income for student loan forgiveness for students who have died or become disabled, with an amendment (Rept. 114-861, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4220. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate water leasing and water transfers to promote conservation and efficiency; with an amendment (Rept. 114-862). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 5879. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the credit for production from advanced nuclear power facilities; with an amendment (Rept. 114-863). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1738 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3062 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4383 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Armed Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4579 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Budget discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5003 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Education and the Workforce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5204 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Budget discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5707 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5714 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 6008 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

REPORTED BILLS SEQUENTIALLY REFERRED

Under clause 2 of rule XII, bills and reports were delivered to the Clerk for printing, and bills referred as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3062. A bill to prohibit the use of eminent domain in carrying out certain projects; referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce for a period ending not later than December 8, 2016, for consideration of such provisions of the bill as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(f) of rule X (Rept. 114-856, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 5707. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for certain index fund investments from the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, and for other purposes; referred to the Committee on the Budget for a period ending not later than December 8, 2016, for consideration of such provisions of the bill as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(d) of rule X (Rept. 114-859, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 6476. A bill to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 and the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 to restrict the lobbying activities of former political appointees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 6477. A bill to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title; considered and passed.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 6478. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide criminal and civil remedies for publication of personally identifiable information with the intent to do harm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 6479. A bill to survey the gradient boundary along the Red River in the States of Oklahoma and Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NUNES (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 6480. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Intelligence Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select); considered and passed.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 6481. A bill to promote and enhance urban agricultural production and agricultural research in urban areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 6482. A bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 6483. A bill to encourage the development, certification, and adoption of environmentally sustainable swine waste disposal technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 6484. A bill to acknowledge the fundamental injustice and the subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against those African-Americans impacted by the "War on Drugs" and the subsequent disparate and discriminatory mass incarceration, to determine the role that private corporations played in the prison industrial complex, to determine the impact of these forces on their families, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. EDWARDS, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 6485. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to develop and test an expanded and advanced role for direct care workers who provide long-term services and supports to older individuals in efforts to coordinate care and improve the efficiency of service delivery; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 6486. A bill to require, as a condition on the receipt of Federal funds, that States require law enforcement agencies to have in effect a policy regarding the use of body-worn cameras and dashboard cameras; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Ms. MOORE):

H.R. 6487. A bill to require Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to engage in credit risk transfer transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 6488. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to remove the exemption from registration for certain private activity bonds, to authorize the Securities and Exchange Commission to require the preparation of periodic reports by issuers of municipal securities, to authorize the Securities and Exchange Commission to establish baseline

mandatory disclosure in primary offerings of such securities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 6489. A bill to preserve Social Security for generations to come, reward work, and improve retirement security; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 6490. A bill to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 6491. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 6492. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the mortgage interest deduction relating to acquisition indebtedness for certain taxpayers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6493. A bill to ensure that members of the uniformed services will have access to information to make informed choices regarding the retirement options to be made available to members; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6494. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to provide that any absentee ballot may be mailed free of postage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself and Mr. CASTRO of Texas):

H.R. 6495. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security, with respect to individuals who have timely filed a DACA renewal request, to provide a short-term, interim grant of deferred action and employment authorization when there is a delay in processing the renewal request because of a service disruption or other technical problem that causes adjudications to stop or stall; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 6496. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to establish a small claims system within the Copyright Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 6497. A bill to require screening transparency and accountability of the TSA, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BEYER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. NADLER, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 6498. A bill to require the disclosure of the Federal income tax returns of the President; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 6499. A bill to permit the expungement of records of certain non-violent criminal offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DELANEY (for himself, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 6500. A bill to establish a Mortgage Credit Risk Sharing Pilot Program at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. HONDA, Ms. MOORE, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 6501. A bill to establish within the Food and Drug Administration the Prescription Drug and Medical Device Price Review Board to regulate the prices of certain prescription drugs and medical devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 6502. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to require new schoolbuses to be equipped with three-point safety belts at each designated seating position; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FORTENBERY:

H.R. 6503. A bill to facilitate services and support to prevent the abandonment of women and children by alleviating the physical, financial, social, emotional, and other difficulties that may be encountered during pregnancy and childrearing; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GABBARD (for herself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. LEE, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Mr. MASSIE):

H.R. 6504. A bill to prohibit the use of United States Government funds to provide assistance to Al Qaeda, Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and to countries supporting those organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6505. A bill to require that jurisdictions receiving Byrne JAG funds have in place an independent civilian review board

for the purpose of reviewing allegations of brutality and civil rights violations made against law enforcement officers of the law enforcement agency of that jurisdiction; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6506. A bill to provide that the President shall be financially responsible for any additional security measures imposed on property in which the President holds an ownership interest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6507. A bill to amend section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Freedom of Information Act), to require an agency to release the Federal income tax returns of the President upon request, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 6508. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require that underground injection control programs prevent seismicity induced by underground injection activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 6509. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to improve the submission of proof of military service for purposes of interest rate limitations under such Act; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 6510. A bill to provide for the temporary resettlement of Syrian children in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 6511. A bill to amend section 953 of title 18, United States Code (commonly called the Logan Act) to clarify the application of that section to Presidents-elect; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6512. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make loans and loan guarantees for constructing or renovating, or planning construction or renovation of, qualified psychiatric and substance abuse treatment facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 6513. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LANCE:

H.R. 6514. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to redirect user fees assessed of health insurance issuers on Federal Exchanges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. STUTZMAN):

H.R. 6515. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to clarify the application of the rule for counting resident time in nonprovider settings; to the

Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 6516. A bill to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to expand eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish a minimum period of care or services under such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 6517. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to post at certain locations the average national wait times for veterans to receive an appointment for health care at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PITTS (for himself, Mr. FLORES, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 6518. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to improve the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 6519. A bill to protect any State or local authority that limits or restricts compliance with an immigration detainee request remains eligible for grants and appropriated funds; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Miss RICE of New York:

H.R. 6520. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize services to be provided to individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder with neurological and organic brain dysfunction who have not attained 60 years of age; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Miss RICE of New York:

H.R. 6521. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction allowed for student loan interest and to exclude from gross income discharges of income contingent or income-based student loan indebtedness; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 6522. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a certain study by the Defense Business Board regarding potential cost savings in the Department of Defense and to provide for expedited consideration of legislation to implement such cost savings; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently de-

termined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. LEE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Ms. MOORE):

H.R. 6523. A bill to amend the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 to require the notification of institutions of postsecondary education of public safety concerns; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 6524. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a nonregulatory program to support restoration and protection efforts in the Hudson-Mohawk River Basin region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 6525. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require students to undergo lead screenings; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H. Con. Res. 183. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill S. 612; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H. Res. 951. A resolution denouncing the wrongful and unjust seizure and confiscation of private property of Iranians both inside and outside of Iran, including United States citizens of Iranian descent, by the Government of Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LEE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SABLON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BERA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. POCAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. BEYER, Mr. WELCH, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. COSTA, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. MENG, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. COHEN, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. PETERS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ):

H. Res. 952. A resolution recognizing the immense contributions of Congressman Michael M. Honda throughout his tenure in Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. DINGELL,

Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. SPEIER):

H. Res. 953. A resolution recognizing the 68th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the celebration of "Human Rights Day"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DOLD, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. BOST):

H. Res. 954. A resolution congratulating the Chicago Cubs on winning the 2016 Major League Baseball World Series; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H. Res. 955. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the progress of peace and justice, accountability, and reconciliation in Sri Lanka after 26 years of a debilitating armed conflict, and support for inclusive development and a strong and enduring relationship between the United States and Sri Lanka; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 6476.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 6477.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this legislation is based is found in article I, section 8, clause 9; article III, section 1, clause 3; and article III, section 2, clause 2, of the Constitution, which grant Congress authority over federal courts.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 6478.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 6479.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 and Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 6480.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government,

including those under Title 50, are carried out to support the national security interests of the United States, to enable the armed forces of the United States, and to support the President in executing the foreign policy of the United States.

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States, in pertinent part, that "Congress shall have power . . . to . . . provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States"; ". . . to raise and support armies . . ."; to "make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water"; and "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vesting in the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 6481.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 6482.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 6483.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States, the general welfare clause.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 6484.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have power to . . . provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States . . ."; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers . . ."

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 6485.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8; Clause 1

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 6486.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have power to provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States . . ."; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers . . ."

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 6487.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States);

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 6488.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 3

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 6489.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to "lay and collect taxes . . . and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 6490.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 6491.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause)

Under this clause, Congress has the power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States. By virtue of this enumerated power, Congress has governing authority over the lands, territories, or other property of the United States—and with this authority Congress is vested with the power to all owners in fee, the ability to sell, lease, dispose, exchange, convey, or simply preserve land. The Supreme Court has described this enumerated grant as one "without limitation" *Kleppe v New Mexico*, 426 U.S. 529, 542-543 (1976) ("And while the furthest reaches of the power granted by the Property Clause have not been definitely resolved, we have repeatedly observed that the power over the public land thus entrusted to Congress is without limitation.")

Historically, the federal government transferred ownership of federal property to either private ownership or the states in order to pay off large Revolutionary War debts and to assist with the development of infrastructure. The transfers codified by this legislation are thus constitutional.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 6492.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 7, Clause 1 and Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6493.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6494.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Twenty-Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting the payment of poll tax in elections for federal officials.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6495.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California:

H.R. 6496.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 6497.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 6498.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 6499.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States

By Mr. DELANEY:

H.R. 6500.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The primary constitutional authority for this bill is Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 6501.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

H.R. 6502.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, United States Constitution

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 6503.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority for this bill is pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 6504.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6505.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6506.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6507.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 6508.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 6509.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

- H.R. 5738: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 5758: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 5779: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5894: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 5956: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 5999: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 6012: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 6020: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 6117: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 6147: Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. TONKO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 6157: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 6226: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 6234: Mr. GALLEGRO.
H.R. 6236: Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 6253: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 6307: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 6340: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 6342: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 6382: Mr. KEATING, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 6421: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. RENACCI, and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 6428: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 6433: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 6434: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 6443: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 6452: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 6453: Mr. DENT and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 6468: Mr. ABRAHAM.
H.J. Res. 47: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.J. Res. 102: Mr. SHERMAN.
H. Con. Res. 144: Mr. DUFFY.
H. Con. Res. 153: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H. Con. Res. 159: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Mr. JOYCE.
H. Con. Res. 171: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. BOST.
H. Con. Res. 178: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 28: Mr. YODER.
H. Res. 540: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Ms. KUSTER.
H. Res. 552: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H. Res. 590: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. VEASEY.
H. Res. 831: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. ZELDIN.
H. Res. 882: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H. Res. 899: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H. Res. 926: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California and Mr. VEASEY.
H. Res. 948: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

SENATE—Thursday, December 8, 2016

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in this season of peace on Earth, we acknowledge that You govern in the affairs of humanity. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without You noticing it, may our lawmakers never think that You are indifferent to what they think, say, and do. Lord, keep them ever mindful of the scarcity of their days and the importance of their work. May they seize life's second chances to fulfill Your purposes on Earth. Transform the days of our Senators into redemptive moments so that they will rise to the challenges of these momentous times. May they strive always to live worthy of Your great Name. Give them the wisdom to use Your precepts to avoid life's pitfalls, enabling You to guide them through life's seasons of darkness to a safe harbor.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3516

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3516) to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a best-practices peer review of each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs to evaluate the efficacy of health care delivered at each such medical center.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY REID

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it seems like any speech about the Democratic leader requires a mention of Searchlight, NV. There is a reason why that is. You cannot begin to understand the man until you understand where it all began, and here is where it began—a tiny mining town at the southern tip of Nevada. One teacher. Zero indoor plumbing. Miles of desert. That is Searchlight, at least the Searchlight HARRY REID knew when he was growing up. It is the kind of place where you might learn to drive at 13 or spend your summer roping cattle with a cowboy named “Sharky.” In fact, if your name is “Harry Reid,” that is exactly what you did.

HARRY grew up in a tiny wooden shack with a tin roof. He hitchhiked more than 40 miles to school and had a father who toiled in the hard rock mines. It goes without saying this was not an easy life. It taught some tough lessons, but HARRY had his escapes. He found one in the snap and crackle of his radio.

Searchlight didn't exactly have a radio station of its own, but every now and then, HARRY could pick up a faint signal from California. During the regular season, it carried his favorite baseball team, the Indians. He can still rattle off Cleveland's 1948 roster. Just ask him.

HARRY himself played some baseball. He was the catcher in high school, and during his sophomore year, HARRY's team was crowned Nevada State champions. Later, after a close game on the California coast, his team won the Nevada-Arizona-California tristate play-offs as well. HARRY still treasures the big white jackets each member of the team received, not because, understand, he was the best player on the team—HARRY says he wasn't—but because of what that jacket represented: his hard work, his contributions, his worth.

Like many young men, HARRY once dreamed of a life in the majors, of cheering crowds and Commissioner's Trophies. So did I. I wanted to throw fastballs for the Dodgers. HARRY wanted to play center field at Fenway. We wound up as managers of two unruly franchises instead.

As the leaders of our parties, we are charged with picking the batting order, controlling the pitch selection, and trying our best to manage 100 opening-

day starters. It isn't always easy. As HARRY has often pointed out, baseball represents a nice reprieve from the serious work of the Senate. So no matter how contentious the issue before us, we try to put politics aside—at least briefly—to trade our views on the Nats and Bryce Harper. HARRY is probably looking forward to having even more time to dedicate as a fan of the sport and never having to miss another game because of votes.

But if there is one thing HARRY loves more than baseball, it is his wife Landra and the family they built together. When HARRY first met Landra Gould, the two of them were in high school, and HARRY was hardly conflicted about his feelings for her. He recalled:

She looked like she belonged in the movies. She was smart [too]. And she'd been places. Out of my league, that's for sure.

But if there is one thing we know about HARRY, he doesn't give up easily. It wasn't long before the two of them were heading off on their first date. As many dates do, it started with a movie and ended—as no dates do—with Landra push-starting his car. HARRY worried, as many of us might, that this could well be their first date and their last date. But then he looked over at Landra. She smiled as she pushed along beside him. He said it was the kind of smile that said: Who cares about the car? I am with you. It was a smile that has stayed with him ever since. HARRY said: “There are moments that turn a life . . . that stay with you until the last breath, [and] this was one of those moments for me.”

The Reids have never been strangers to pushing through challenges. They have confronted a lot over nearly six decades in marriage. But hand in hand, sweat on the brow, they have always moved forward together. Through it all, Landra has never stopped smiling and HARRY has never stopped counting every lucky star for Landra. His idea of the perfect night out is still a quiet night in with her. Landra is his confidant, his high school sweetheart, and his best friend. She is his everything. For a guy who grew up with nothing, that is something.

HARRY REID didn't have an easy childhood. He faced tragedy from a young age. There were times when he just wanted to leave Searchlight and never look back, but these experiences helped shape him too. This is a guy who has seen it all. He has been on the wrong side of electoral nail-biters, and he has been on the other side of them too. He even won a primary against somebody named “God Almighty.”

HARRY will now retire as the longest serving U.S. Senator from his State with some three decades of Senate service behind him. It is clear that HARRY and I have two very different world views, two different ways of doing things, and two different sets of legislative priorities, but through the years we have come to understand some things about one another, and we have endeavored to keep our disagreements professional rather than personal. We have also found some common ground through baseball.

I hardly know what it is like to serve here without HARRY—he came into office just a couple short years after I did—but I do know this: Come next month, you will know where to find him. He will be right next to Landra, writing new chapters, making new memories, and continuing a love story that began with a smile more than 50 years ago.

Today the Senate recognizes the Democratic leader for his many years of service to Nevada, to the country, and to his party. We wish him and Landra the best as they set off on their next journey.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

THANKING MITCH MCCONNELL

Mr. REID. MITCH, thank you very much for those nice remarks.

Mr. President, I have heard for years—especially from the press and others—how do you get along with MITCH MCCONNELL? It is obvious it is not very good.

It is simple, everybody. He and I understand our relationship. We are both lawyers. I have been to court lots of times, over 100 jury trials, and when I would go to those trials, I would really fix on my opponent. How could he feel that way about an issue? He is wrong on the law, he is wrong on the facts, and we are going to take care of this in court.

Fortunately, I was fairly blessed with my trials; it turned out OK most of the time. But MITCH and I understand that is what we do here. When the trial was over—I have walked out of a courtroom with Neil Galatz or whoever it was—it was over with. It was gone. We were friends. We were there, each doing our thing to effect our cause, and that is what we do here.

MCCONNELL and REID don't need to be hugging out here every day. That is not what we do. We are advocates for our cause. I do the very best I can; he does the very best he can. And he laid that out just fine a few minutes ago.

So this is not a love session for REID and MCCONNELL, although I want everyone here to know that MITCH

MCCONNELL is my friend. He and his wonderful wife have been kind and thoughtful to us. I have said that before; let me repeat it. When Landra was in that very dreadful accident, they were there—letters, flowers. They took care of us. When Landra had the devastating breast cancer, they were there. When I hurt myself, MITCH called me.

So everybody go ahead and make up all the stories you want about how we hate each other. Go ahead. But we don't. If it makes a better story, go ahead and do it, but maybe somebody should write this.

Thank you very much, MITCH.

OK, everybody, now my final speech.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the history of Searchlight starts this way, the first paragraph of that book:

Searchlight is like many Nevada towns and cities: it would never have come to be had gold not been discovered. Situated on rocky, windy, and arid terrain without artisan wells or surface water of any kind, the place we call Searchlight was not a gathering spot for Indian or animal.

Searchlight. It is a long way from Searchlight in the U.S. Senate.

I grew up during World War II in Searchlight. As Senator MCCONNELL mentioned, my dad was a miner, a hard-rock miner, an underground miner, but work wasn't very good in Searchlight. The mines during World War II were especially gone—all over America but especially in Nevada. There were a few things that went on after the war, promotions. He would work, and sometimes they would pay him, sometimes there were bad checks that would bounce. Sometimes they wouldn't pay him, they would just leave.

My mom worked really hard. We had this old Maytag washer. There were lines outside. She worked really hard.

Searchlight had about 250 people then. It had seen its better days. Searchlight was discovered in 1898 when gold was discovered, and for 15 or 18 years, it was a booming, booming town. It was one of the most modern cities in all of Nevada. It had electricity—turn of the century, electricity. It had a telegraph. It had telephones. It had a fire station, firetrucks. It had roads with signs on them designating the name of the street. It had a railroad. When I grew up, that was all gone. Searchlight, as I said, had 250 people.

So people may ask: How did my mother work so hard in a town with 250 people? We had at that time no mines, but 13 brothels at one time in Searchlight—13, not over time but at one time. The biggest was the El Rey Club. So that tells everyone what wash my mom did, from the casinos and from the brothels. She worked really hard. She ironed. She washed.

As I look back on my growing up in Searchlight, I never felt, during the time I was a boy, that I was deprived of anything. I never went hungry. Sometimes we didn't have, I guess, what my mom wanted, but we were fine.

But as I look back, it wasn't that good, I guess. We had no inside toilet. We had a toilet outside. You had to walk about 50 yards to that because my dad didn't want it close to the house, and we had a good time, even with that. My poor mother, what a wonderful woman she was. Sometimes, my younger brother and I sometimes, just to be funny, when my mother would go to the toilet, which had tin walls—it was made out of tin—and we would throw rocks at that. "Let me out," she would say. It doesn't sound like much fun, but it was fun at the time.

When I started elementary school, there was one teacher for grades one through four and then another teacher for grades five through eight, but when I got to the fifth grade, there were not enough students for two teachers so one teacher taught all eight grades. I learned at that time in that little school that you can really learn. I have never ever forgotten a woman by the name of Mrs. Pickard. I can still see her with those glasses, just a stereotype spinster teacher—but she was a teacher. She taught me that education was good, to learn is good. When I graduated, we had a large graduating class: six kids. The Presiding Officer from Nevada should feel good about me. I graduated in the top third of my class.

My parents did the best they could. My dad never graduated from eighth grade. My mom didn't graduate from high school. In Searchlight—this is probably no surprise to anyone—there was never ever a church service in Searchlight that I can ever remember. There was no church, no preachers, no nothing regarding religion. That is how I was raised.

My brother and I were born in our house. There was no hospital. It had long since gone. I didn't go to a dentist until I was 14 years old, but I was fortunate. I was born with nice teeth, especially on the top. The bottoms aren't so good, but rarely have I had a cavity of any kind. I have just been fortunate in that regard.

We didn't go to doctors. It was a rare occasion. There was no one to go to. I can remember my father having such a bad toothache, I watched him pull a tooth with a pair of pliers.

My mother was hit in the face with a softball when she was a young woman in Searchlight and it ruined her teeth. As I was growing up, I saw her teeth disappear—a few, a few less, and finally no teeth. My mom had no teeth.

My brother was riding his bicycle, slid on the dirt, broke his leg, never went to the doctor. I can remember it as if it were 10 minutes ago, my brother Larry in bed. We couldn't touch the

bed, it hurt him so much, but it healed. The bottom part of one leg is bent, but it healed.

I can remember once a TB wagon came through Searchlight, the only time I remember. People had tuberculosis, or TB. I can remember Con Hudgens had TB. I don't remember who else. We had miners who were there who had silicosis, some of them, my dad included. My mom had one of those tests. She went into the big truck and had her chest x-rayed—I guess that is what they did. A few weeks later, she got a postcard that said her test was positive and she should go see a doctor. She never went to see a doctor. I worried about that so much. I can't imagine how my mother must have felt, but obviously it was a false positive. Think about that, never going to the doctor when you are told you have tuberculosis.

As I learned more about my dad, I know how important health care would have been for him, to be able to see somebody to try to explain more to my dad so he could understand himself a little better.

I am sure I haven't done all the good in life I could do, but I am here to tell everyone that there is one thing I did in my life that I am so proud of, and I will always be. I hope I am not boasting; if I am, I am sorry. I worked long hours at a service station. As MITCH indicated, there was no high school in Searchlight so I went to school in Henderson, NV. I worked in a Standard station. I worked really hard, long hours. I took all the hours they would give me. I saved up enough money—I had \$250—I was going to buy my mother some teeth. I went to a man—he was a big shot. They named a school after him, and he was on the school board in Las Vegas. He married this beautiful woman from Searchlight. I went to him. I had never met him before, but Dr. Smith knows who I am. His name was J.D. Smith.

I said: I want to buy my mother some teeth.

He said: I don't do credit here.

He insulted me. So I went to Dr. Marshall in Henderson and bought my mom some teeth. It changed my mother's life. My mother had teeth.

My parents lived in Searchlight until they both died. There are a number of people who know, at least my staff knows, that my dad killed himself. I can remember that day so plainly. I had been out and spent 2 hours with Muhammad Ali, he and I, one of his handlers and one of my staff. It was so—for me, as someone who has always wanted to be an athlete, an athlete want-to-be, that was great. Some of you know I fought, but he was in a different world than I, but he was nice. He was generous with his time and he was so much fun. He said: Pay no attention to me. I am fighting some White guy and I am going to cause some trouble

out here. He kicked the walls and yelled and screamed, and I was happy.

I walked to my car, got to my office, and my receptionist, Joanie, said to me, Mr. REID, your mom is on the phone. I talked to my mother all the time—many, many times a week. She said: Your pop shot himself. So she lived in Searchlight. It took me an hour, an hour and a half to get out there. I can still remember seeing my dad on that bed. I was so sad because my dad never had a chance. He was depressed always. He was reclusive. I did things; he never came to anything that I did. I never felt bad that he didn't because I knew my dad. My mom came to everything she could. But I felt bad about that. I will talk a little more about suicide in a little bit, but I think everyone can understand a little bit of why I have been such an avid supporter of ObamaCare, health care.

I was ashamed, embarrassed about Searchlight. When I went to college, when I was in high school, law school, I just didn't want to talk about Searchlight. I was kind of embarrassed about it. It was kind of a crummy place. I didn't show people pictures of my home.

Many years later, I was a young man, and I was in government. Alex Haley, a famous writer who wrote the book "Roots," was a speaker at the University of Nevada foundation dinner in Reno. He gave a speech that was stunning. It was so good. Basically, what he said to everyone there—he directed his remarks to me, I thought, and of course he didn't, but he said: Be proud of who you are. You can't escape who you are.

I walked out of that event that night a different person, a new man. From that day forward, I was from Searchlight. When I got out of law school, I bought little pieces of property so I had contacts there. My parents lived there, and I went there all the time, but I became HARRY REID, the guy from Searchlight.

So one thing people ask me all the time—they say: You have done OK. Tell me what you think are the important aspects—especially young people ask all the time—and "young" is a relative term—what would you recommend? What do you think is the way to success? I tell them all the same thing. I didn't make it in life because of my athletic prowess. I didn't make it because of my good looks. I didn't make it because I am a genius. I made it because I worked hard. I tell everyone, whatever you want to try to do, make sure you work as hard as you can to try to do what you want to do. I believe that is a lesson for everyone.

The little boy from Searchlight has been able to be part of the changing State of Nevada. I am grateful I have been part of that change.

When I graduated from law school, the population of Nevada was less than

300,000 people. The State of Nevada has now 3 million people. We grew from one Member of Congress in 1864 to 1882. One was all we had. Now we have four. During my 34 years in Congress, I have seen the country change. I have seen Nevada change. The change for the country and Nevada has been for the better.

Now I am going to spend a little bit of time talking about some of the things I have been able to do as a Member of the United States Senate. I know it is long and I know it is somewhat tedious, but I have been here a long time, so please be patient.

My legislation.

Reducing tax burdens. I am sorry he is not here—David Pryor from Arkansas. I don't want to hurt the feelings of any of my very capable friends, but the best legislator I have ever served with in State government, Federal Government, was David Pryor. He was good. He was not a big speaker, but he was good at getting things done.

The first speech I gave as a Member of the Senate was way back there where CORY BOOKER is right now. I gave a speech. I tried to do it in the House; it was called the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights. I couldn't get Jake Pickle, the chair of that subcommittee on Ways and Means, to even talk to me in the House. But I came over here and gave that speech, and David Pryor was presiding. He was subcommittee chair of the committee dealing with that in finance. CHUCK GRASSLEY was also listening to my speech. Pryor sent me a note when I finished and said: I want to help you with this. GRASSLEY did the same thing. So my first speech led to the passage of the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights, with the help of David Pryor and CHUCK GRASSLEY. It was landmark legislation. It put the taxpayer on more equal footing with the tax collector. Everybody liked it so much, we have done two more iterations of it since then to make it even stronger.

Source tax. I am sure it is just a boring thing to everybody, but it wasn't boring to people who came from California and tried to retire someplace else. The State of California was merciless in going after people. They had the law on their side, they thought. If you had worked in California, it didn't matter where you went, they would go after you—for your pension, is what it amounted to. I tried for 15 years to get that changed, and I got it changed. No longer can California—with all due respect to FEINSTEIN and BOXER—do that. They can't do that anymore. If you retire in California and move someplace else, they can't tax that money.

Mortgage tax relief. We all participated in that. I initiated it when the collapse of Wall Street took place. That was a big help.

Tax incentives for solar and geothermal—very important. I will talk a little bit more about that.

Payment in lieu of taxes. All my western Senators will appreciate that. It was just 4 or 5 years ago that we were able to fully fund PILT, payment in lieu of taxes. I worked very hard with Baucus and Wyden, and we did things to take care of some issues they had. That is the first time it had ever been fully funded.

Cancellation of indebtedness. Those are buzzwords for people who understand taxes a little better. But what happened is people—everything collapsed. They would try to get out of the debt they had. They couldn't because the IRS would tax them at the value of it when they bought it. It was unfair, and we got that changed. That was in the stimulus bill. We got that changed.

Let's talk about the economy a little bit. I know some of my Democratic colleagues will say: Why did you do that? Here is what I did. I worked with Republican Senator Don Nickles from Oklahoma. There was a Republican President. Don and I talked about this. We knew the administration would change and it would affect every President, Democratic and Republican. It was called the Congressional Review Act. What that said is the President promulgates a regulation and Congress has a chance to look it over to see if it is too burdensome, too costly, too unfair. And we have done that quite a few times. That was because of REID and Nickles. That was legislation that I did, and it was great when we had Republican Presidents, not so great when we had Democratic Presidents, but it was fair.

One person who has been so important to the State of Nevada is a man by the name of Kirk Kerkorian, an uneducated man. He flew over the North Atlantic during World War II for England at great personal sacrifice to himself. As I said, he had no education, but he became one of America's legendary entrepreneurs.

Many years ago, as a young new lawyer, I met him, and for many years I helped him and especially his brother with their legal issues. He is the man who helped create Las Vegas the way it is. He did something unique. He decided he was going to build something on the Las Vegas Strip called CityCenter. When you go to Nevada, look at that sometime. You could be in the middle of New York City—you would think you were there, basically. This is a magnificent operation. Well, it started before the Recession. They were desperate to get it finished. More than 10,000 people worked on that project. I would drive by there and count the cranes—25, 30 cranes at one time there at work. Well, I interceded in that. I did some things that probably a lot of people wouldn't do, but I did it because I thought it was very important that the operation didn't shut down. Kerkorian had already put billions of

dollars of his own money in it, and they had an investor from one of the Middle Eastern countries. I did a lot of things, I say, that a lot of you probably wouldn't do, but I did it and I saved that project. I won't go into detail, but I called people whom I doubt any of you would call. I called bank presidents, and I called leaders of countries. Anyway, it is completed now. I take some credit for that.

The stimulus, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We got that done. Yesterday, the Presiding Officer was the senior Senator from Maine. Oh, she was so helpful. I will probably get her in trouble by boasting about her here today, but she and her colleague from Maine, Olympia Snowe, and Arlen Specter—we only had 58 votes as Democrats, and they were the difference. We were able to get that passed only because of them, and it was so good for our country.

President Obama—the first 2 months after having been elected, the country lost 800,000 jobs. Can you imagine that? One month. But because of the stimulus bill, we were able to reverse that. We did a lot of wonderfully good things in that that were important for the country.

The Travel Promotion Act. AMY KLOBUCHAR is here; she worked so hard helping get that done. It promoted travel to get foreigners to come here, come to America, and it worked out so well. Seven different clotures I had to file on that to get it done, but we got it done finally, and it has been remarkably good for America. Other countries—you will see them on TV—are always advertising: Come visit Australia. Come visit the Bahamas. Come visit England. Come visit everywhere. But now there is advertising around the world: Come visit America. Now, everyone knows that Las Vegas gets more than its share, probably, of visitors, but it was good for Nevada and it was also good for the country.

Nevada test site workers. We were the Cold War veterans in Nevada. That was a big project. We had 11,000, 12,000 workers there at one time. An above-ground test—I could remember seeing them. We were a long ways away in Searchlight, but you could see that flash. You wouldn't always feel it. Sometimes it would bounce over Searchlight. But it was a very big deal. We didn't know it was making people sick, but they were good enough to make sure the tests didn't go off when the wind was blowing toward Las Vegas. It blew up toward Utah, and Utah suffered terribly because those were above-ground tests. So we worked to make sure the test site workers were a part of it because they were the reason we were winning the Cold War, because what they did was dangerous. We passed that. It took a number of different segments to get it done. So we have done a lot to protect people.

Nevada transportation. McCarran Airport. I have tried for years to get the name taken off—a Democratic Senator from Nevada who was an awful man. I tried to get his name off that, and it didn't work. I tried to get J. Edgar Hoover's name off the FBI Building; that didn't work. We had a vote here. I can still remember how mad ORRIN HATCH was when I did that, but, anyway, everybody had to vote on it. I think I made a mistake. I tried to name it after Bobby Kennedy. That was a mistake I made on that.

Anyway, McCarran Airport. It is I think the fifth busiest airport in America now. We have gotten money for a new air traffic control center. It is one of the largest structures in the Western United States. We have done a good job taking care of McCarran, with all kinds of construction funding for runways and rehabilitation of runways. In the stimulus bill, one of the last things we put in that was bonding capacity that allowed McCarran Field to build a big new terminal. More than \$1 billion we got in that legislation. It was really important during the recession to have all those workers. There were thousands and thousands of them on that new terminal, which is now completed.

Reno. I was also able to direct money toward getting a new traffic control center there, a new control tower. We have done all the construction funding. A lot of stuff, good stuff for the airport in Reno.

So I feel good about what we have done to help Nevada transportation, not the least of which, everybody, are the billions of dollars in directed spending for roads and highways in Nevada. It has made a change in Northern Nevada and in Southern Nevada.

It is important for us to be able to bring people to Las Vegas, so we made deals with the California State Department of Transportation, and we participated in big construction projects that took place in California, in Barstow and San Bernardino. We did that because it would make it easier for people to go to Las Vegas. So I wasn't just giving money to Las Vegas, NV; we also did it, of course, for California because it helped us.

Health care. The Affordable Care Act. I have talked about that a little bit. It would have been wonderful if we had something like that around to help my family when we were growing up. I worked hard to help a number of you on the Children's Health Insurance Program. ORRIN HATCH was certainly involved in that.

Just like I had trouble coming to grips with my home in Searchlight, I had trouble coming to grips with the fact that my dad killed himself. I was like most—we are called victims. We shouldn't be, but that is what we are called.

This year, about 32,000 people will kill themselves in America. That

doesn't count the hunting accidents that are really suicides or the car accidents that are really suicides. So I couldn't get my arms around the suicide. Republican Senator Cohen from Maine was chairman of the Aging Committee upon which I served, and we were doing a hearing on senior depression. Mike Wallace came—the famous journalist—and here is what he said: I have wanted to die for years. I would take the most dangerous assignments I could hoping I wouldn't come back. You know, I am OK now, though. I want to live forever.

He said: I take a pill once in a while, I see a doctor once in a while, and I am good. I am OK.

I said for the first time publicly: Mr. Chairman, my dad killed himself. That was a long time ago, but I think it would be extremely important for this committee to hold a hearing on senior suicide because we have learned—since my focusing on suicide, we have done some good things as Members of Congress. We have directed spending to study why people kill themselves because we don't know for sure.

Isn't it interesting that most suicides take place in the western part of the United States? You would think it would be in the dark places, like Maine and Vermont, where it is so dark and cold, but, no, it is in the bright sunshine of the West. We are learning a lot more. That has been so good to me as a person, and we have now funded projects around America where there are suicide prevention programs that are extremely important. There are suicide victims programs where people can get together after a loved one kills themselves. That is something I am glad I worked on.

Finally, health care. So 24 years ago, one of my friends from Las Vegas called me, Sandy Jolly, and she said: I would like you to look at this film I am going to send you. You are not going to want to watch it, but I want you to watch it. What it showed was a beautiful little girl in Africa in a white party dress. She looked so pretty. It was a party. Suddenly, two men grabbed her, spread her legs apart, and cut out her genitals—right there, with a razor blade.

I thought: Man, that is hard to comprehend. My staff said it is something you shouldn't deal with; it should be something for a woman. But I went ahead, and I did something about it. We haven't done as much as we should do, and I hope that we have people who will pick up this issue. I had a meeting last Friday—the biggest audience I have ever had. There was a conference on female genital mutilation. I say that word because that is what it is. Millions of little girls have been cut. That is what it is called—"cut." Last year, no one knows for sure, but probably 250,000 little girls were cut.

Last Friday, I had 200 people there. I said: This is wonderful. I said: I have

had 10 people a couple of times. Two or three of the people were lost and didn't really want to be there.

It is really important that we do something about it. We have some laws now. It is against the law in the United States. They can't go away for the purpose of being cut. There is a lot more that needs to be done. Our government has done almost nothing.

I am going to spend a little bit on the environment. I have been chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee twice—not for very long. I gave it up once because I had to, because of the control of Congress, and one time I gave it away. Remember? I gave it away. I gave my chairmanship and my committee spot to Jim Jeffords. I love that committee.

I have been involved in environment and energy issues since I came here. The State of Nevada is 87-percent owned by the Federal Government; 87 percent of the State of Nevada is Federal land. The rest, 13 percent, is private land. Of course, I should be concerned about it. As to Yucca Mountain, I am not going to get into a long dissertation about that. We spent about \$8 billion there so far, maybe more. It is gone.

Someone asked me the other day: Well, you know, Republicans are in power now. They are going to come back to Yucca Mountain now. I said: Well, they better bring a checkbook with them because there is nothing there. They would have to start all over again. With the big auger, they spent well over \$1 billion digging that tunnel. That is scrap metal. There is nothing there. You can probably get it going again now for \$10 billion, \$12 billion. If you have a way to pay for it, good luck. If you were smart, what you would do is leave it where it is in dry cast storage containers, which is proven to be extremely safe and effective. That is what should be done.

Renewable energy transmission. Part of the stimulus bill said one of the problems we have with energy is that we don't have a way of transmitting electricity to where it should go. We talk about all this renewable energy, which is produced in places where there aren't a lot of people, but you can't get it anyplace where there are a lot of people. That has been changed with the stimulus bill.

For example, in Nevada we have Line One, and for the first time in the history of the State of Nevada, we can move power from the north to the south of Nevada. That is underway now. That line will go up into the north-northwest. That was good legislation.

I have had clean energy summits for many, many years. We bring in national leaders. Democrats and Republicans have focused attention on the problems America has with energy. The Clintons have come. Obama has

been there. We have had Republicans. Here is one who came and did a great job—Tom Donohue. Everybody knows him. We Democrats know him, for sure. He is head of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

I have no problem with coal. I have helped fund clean coal technology. The Tracy powerplant, outside of Reno, was a clean coal plant. It didn't work. So they had to go to another type of fuel. I have nothing against coal. However, I was upset about this. Nevada is very pristine. I have told a couple of people this.

People don't understand Nevada. Everybody thinks it is the deserts of Las Vegas, but it is not. Nevada is the most mountainous State in the Union, except for Alaska. We have 314 separate mountain ranges. We have a mountain that is 14,000 feet high. We have 32 mountains over 11,000 feet high. It is a very mountainous State.

When I learned from reading the papers that we were going to have power companies come to Nevada in the most pristine areas and they were going to build three or four new powerplants fueled by coal, I said no.

My staff said: You can't do that. You are up for reelection, and they will destroy you.

They tried. They left leaflets on all the cars in the parking lots and said I was running up the power bills. I won; they lost. There are no coal-fired powerplants in Nevada. There are two left. One of them is going out of business in 2 weeks; the other is on its way out, probably within a year. We are not going to have coal-fired plants in Nevada, but we do have a lot of renewable energy.

I have done work, especially with John Ensign, when he was here, on major land bills—Clark County, Lincoln County, White Pine County, Carson County—and we were able to do a lot of good things to save land. He was a real conservative guy, and because of him, I had to make deals to make some of the 87-percent land private. I was able to do that. He was able to work with me to create more wilderness, and we worked together to get that done.

I created the first national park in Nevada, Great Basin National Park. It is wonderful. Everything within the Great Basin is in that park. It is hard to believe, but in Nevada we now have a glacier. We have the oldest living trees in the world on that mountain. Those old pine trees are there. They are 6,000 or 7,000 years old—bristlecone pine. It is a beautiful, beautiful park.

As to Basin and Range National Monument, I worked with President Clinton on this. There are more than 700,000 acres in a remote place of Nevada. It is a place where John Muir came as a young man, camping there, and talked in his diary about how beautiful this was. Now everyone can see that. In part of that wonderful

place is a man who is a world famous artist. His name is Michael Heizer. He worked for 40 years building this monument in the middle of nowhere. It is in the middle of nowhere, and it is done. It is called the City. It is magnificent. We don't have roads coming there yet, but we will pretty soon. That is done.

Tule Springs. People came to me and said: We have this place in Nevada where we have the oldest and most abundant source of fossils anywhere in America. To make a long story short, that is now a national monument. You can come to Las Vegas if you are an archaeologist, or if you are interested in old fossils, you can come there. I don't mean old people. You can come there. There are all these studies going on with Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument.

When I came to Congress, we had about 70,000 acres of wilderness in Nevada. Now we have about 4 million. Those are legislative initiatives of mine. We have approximately 4 million acres of wilderness. We have a million, 1.5 million acres of additional conservation of land, and I mentioned some of it here.

Water has been difficult for Nevada, in the north and the south. I knew I had been elected to the Senate, and I was leaving Reno, NV, on an airplane and someone asked me: What is the most difficult problem facing Nevada? I said: Water.

Having said that—we have all done it—I thought: What am I going to do now? I had to do something. We did something. Now it is all done. We settled a 100-year water war between the States of California and Nevada. We settled all the litigation on the Truckee and Carson Rivers. It took 20 years to finally implement that. There were many water systems—the Lake Tahoe region—and they are gone. We had large wetlands that had gone dry, and that is now getting fresh water in it. It involved an irrigation district for Indian tribes and endangered species, and we were able to get all that done. It made a stable water supply for Northern Nevada, the Reno area.

Southern Nevada is really a desert. It has 4 inches of rain a year in Las Vegas. We have worked hard with Pat Mulroy. She has done wonderful things.

I see the junior Senator from Arizona here. When he was elected, the States of Arizona and California wouldn't speak to each other. They were fighting over water. Now we work together on water. It has been remarkable what we have been able to do as partners to get things done. We bank water for Arizona, and when they need the water and it is in our ground, we can give it back to them. It has been good for Nevada because we can use that water in the meantime.

We have done good work with California. California got most of the water out of the Colorado River. They took a

lot more than they should have, and we were able to work on that. We worked with California in a very positive way. We help pay for port reservoirs. We help line canals. We have done a lot of good things to help water in that whole area. I am happy about that.

We share Lake Tahoe with California. Lake Tahoe is a stunningly beautiful place. There are only two alpine lakes in the world. One of them is in Siberia, and the other is there. I have had 20 summits there. We have gotten over \$1 billion there with the cooperation of the California delegation and many others. We have done well in stabilizing and helping the clarity of that beautiful lake.

Walker Lake is another lake that was originally controlled by the Indians. It has been stolen from them by us. We now have gotten hundreds of millions of dollars directed toward that, and we have bought up water rights, and we have saved Walker Lake. There are 21 desert terminus lakes in the world. There are two in America. They are both in Nevada, and we saved those two lakes—Walker and Pyramid Lakes.

There was a great big gravel pit. It was 10, 15 times bigger than this Chamber—huge. There were spots of black that appeared on it. The State of Nevada didn't have the resources to take on the oil companies and airlines. So they didn't know what was wrong. I got Bill Bradley, who was chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy, to hold a hearing. It was so important we did that because we determined that oil was coming from broken oil lines, fuel lines, going to the Reno airport. Had we not done something, it would have been awful. It was declared an emergency superfund site, and people immediately moved in and took care of that.

I am giving a quick look at it. That gravel pit is now a beautiful lake. It is called the Sparks Marina. There are condos, apartments, and businesses all around there. People boat on it. It is wonderful. It all started out as a gravel pit. I appreciate Bill Bradley's good work on that.

I want to talk about national security. There are people in this Chamber much better than I am on national security, and I know that, but I have worked hard. I worked hard. We have been a dumping ground for all things in the military. We have Nellis Air Force Base. It was named after Bill Nellis, who was from Searchlight. He was a war hero in World War II. It is the finest fighter training facility in the world. If you want to fly jet airplanes, then you must train at Nellis. They have a large gunnery range. The Navy does the same thing in Northern Nevada with the naval air training center. Frankly, I was able to get tens of millions of dollars for both of those operations because they have been important.

We hear a lot about drones. Every drone attack that takes place in the world takes place 30 miles outside Las Vegas at Creech Air Force Base. We have all of these great servicemembers, mostly airmen, who take care of that. They protect us around the world.

BARBARA MIKULSKI is here. She was in a position to help me on appropriations. She said: This facility in Reno is awful, and I—BARBARA MIKULSKI—am going to do something about it, and she did, very quickly. We renovated that place. It was so bad. It was a little VA hospital with hallways so narrow they couldn't bring in new hospital equipment because they couldn't get it down the hall. I appreciate what Senator MIKULSKI did for that hospital.

I requested money for two VA hospitals, and they were built in Southern Nevada. We had one that was an experiment. It was a joint venture between the Veterans' Administration and the Air Force. It worked great except we had a Middle East war and the veterans had to go someplace else so we don't have that hospital anymore, but we have a huge new one. It is the newest and best in the entire VA system. They don't have all of the equipment they need, but it has been functioning very well for the last couple of years. I feel very proud of that.

The Nevada Test Site is part of our national security, and I have done everything I can to make sure that facility is taken care of, and it is. There are a lot of experiments going on there all the time. We have fuel spills and different tests that take place there.

Finally, this is one of the best things I ever did. Yesterday I heard BARBARA MIKULSKI say listen to what your constituents say. A group of veterans came—just a few feet from here—to talk to me a number of years ago. One of them said: Senator, this is somewhat strange. I am disabled from the military, and I am also retired from the military. I can't draw both benefits. I said: What are you talking about? He said: I can't. If you retire from the Forest Service and have a military disability, you can get your pension from the BLM, the Forest Service or whatever it is, and also get your disability, but not if it is both military. We changed that. Now, if you have a disability and you have retired from the military, you can draw both. It is called concurrent receipt. That took a long time, but we got it done. It is not perfect, but it is 80 percent complete.

I talked earlier this morning about being a lawyer. I am proud of the fact that I was a trial lawyer. I hear Senators talk all the time about these judicial selection committees. They have to help pick whom they will have on the Federal bench. I am glad they do that because I also have a judicial selection committee. You know who is on that committee? Me. No one else is on it. I select all of my judges. I am the

committee, and I am very happy with what I have been able to do.

One of the things I did when I was in the House was name a Federal building in Las Vegas after a very famous family of lawyers, the Foley family. They had two Federal judges, a district attorney, and a State court judge. They were a wonderful family called the Foley family. I attended the 10th anniversary of that, and when I looked up there, I saw nothing but White males. I thought to myself, "Gee, I hope someday I can change that," and as fortune would have it, Lloyd George decided to take senior staff and I had a chance to do something about that. I have sent names to the President and selected far more judges myself in the entire history of the State of Nevada. So what I did with the first one, I said, well, I want to get a woman judge, but we didn't have a Black judge on the court either. I wanted to nominate a Black judge and a woman judge, and that is what I did. Boy, was I criticized. They said: She doesn't have enough experience. You could have found somebody better. She was a dynamo. People loved this woman. She was so good that she is now on the Ninth Circuit, and she quickly went there. To make a long story short, she has been part of the talk about who could get appointed to the Supreme Court. She is a wonderful woman named Johnnie Rawlinson.

I put Roger Hunt, great trial lawyer; Kent Dawson, one of my predecessors as city attorney; David Hagan, a wonderful trial lawyer, and I put him on the bench. I selected Brian Sandoval as a Federal judge, and he was a good Federal judge. Things were going great until he ran against my son for Governor, and I wish he hadn't because my son would now be Governor. He is my friend, and our family has accepted that. He was the first Hispanic on the bench. I appointed another Hispanic, Gloria Navarro. Her parents were born in Cuba, and she is now the chief judge. Miranda Du, how about that, a woman who was born in Vietnam is now on the bench in Nevada. How about that, Miranda Du. She was born in Vietnam and came over when she was 11 years old to Alabama. Jennifer Dorsey, a woman; Andrew Gordon, a Harvard law graduate; Richard Boulware, African American. I changed that Nevada Federal bench significantly. I had the pleasure of voting for and against all eight members of the Supreme Court who now sit there. I have had a chance to vote for every one of them during my career.

Education. I worked hard for education in Nevada, and I have done OK. The Desert Research Institute is a unique organization. It is not helped by the University in Nevada at all. They all have Ph.D.s and they have been in existence for 50 years. Some of the most significant research in the world is done there. They have two supercom-

puters. Our earthquake center is the best in the world. They have more shake tables than anyplace in America. People come from all over the world to study what happens to earthquakes.

Biodiversity study. For many years, I directed funding to the biodiversity study. It was the best science going on at the time on the environment and studying the Great Basin.

Native Americans in Nevada. We have 26 different tribal organizations. I am really happy with what I have been able to do to help Native Americans, and, believe me, they haven't been treated well in Nevada or anyplace else. I have led the legislative efforts to make sure they have their water rights taken care of, settled longstanding claims against the United States. We have the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, and the Duck Valley Reservation have all been able to develop their water rights and economies. For example, Pyramid Lake will receive almost \$100 million and Fallon will receive \$60 million. I worked to get two new high schools built, and they were so long overdue. It took decades to get the Shoshone Claims Distribution Act done, and we finally got it done. Thanks to President Clinton, we were able to get the Indians who belonged up there, the Washoe Tribe, right on the lake.

Working with the Obama administration for the last 8 years has been a dream job of mine, being the President's point man here in the Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have an extended speech on President Obama that I gave yesterday printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[Dec. 7, 2016]

STATEMENT OF SENATOR HARRY REID PAYING TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

It's hard to imagine today, but it wasn't that long ago that Barack Obama was a little-known Illinois legislator with a very unusual name.

I still remember the first time I heard that name. I was in the House gym, where ex-members congregated. And one of the people I shared the room with was Abner Mikva, long-time Illinois Congressman, appellate court judge, President Clinton's chief legal officer.

I had known that Republican Senator Peter Fitzgerald of Illinois decided not to run for re-election after one term. And Judge Mikva turned to me and said he knew the perfect person to fill that open seat. "Who could that be," I said?

He said, "Barack Obama."

I said, "What?"

He said, "Barack Obama."

I said, "Who? What kind of name is that?"

He said: "He is one of the most talented people I've ever met in all my years." That said a lot to me. Even though, at that time, I smiled and left the room. But it didn't take long before I understood what Mikva told me.

Barack Obama won that election to the Senate. Came from nowhere, the man with

the unusual name. And once he was here, it was obvious he was the real deal.

His ability to communicate was—and is—stunning. I can remember one of his first floor speeches he gave here in the Senate. It was on George Bush's policy regarding the Middle East war. It was eloquent, thoughtful. Powerful.

I was so impressed that following his speech, there had been a quorum call. His seat was way back there. I walked up to him and he was sitting, I was standing, looking over him. I said, "Senator, that was really terrific. That was really good." I will never forget his response.

He looked at me without hesitation, without any braggadocio, no conceit, just humility. He looked up at me and said, "I have a gift."

This wasn't a boast. This was a fact. I have never met anyone with an ability to communicate like Barack Obama. Whether it is writing, speaking to 30,000 people, a small crowd or someone individually, he is without equal when it comes to communicating.

His reputation was well known, even before he came to the Senate. He had written his first book, "Dreams from My Father," a decade before arriving here. Like his 2006 book, "The Audacity of Hope," this book was full of lyrical, insightful writing.

In "Dreams from My Father," he outlined the remarkable life story we've all come to know: born to a father from Kenya in far-away Africa. His mother was from Kansas. He was raised by his grandparents in Hawaii. His mother and grandparents set positive examples for him. They pushed him to do better—to be the man he was born to be. That upbringing would serve him well.

Barack Obama went to some of the most elite schools in the world. Undergrad at Columbia. Of course he was an honor student. Harvard Law School. He graduated with distinction. He made history as the first African American to be elected president of the Harvard Law Review. Just to be a member of the Harvard Law Review, having gone to law school myself, it is significant. But he was the number-one guy in that very, very prestigious law school. Even then, his reputation for bringing people together and his gift for communication was renowned.

He became a professor of constitutional law at one of America's great law schools. He became a community organizer, as he has talked about a lot. He became an Illinois state senator before giving one of the most dramatic convention speeches in American history, in 2004 at the Democratic National Convention in Boston.

Throughout it all, his ability to communicate and connect with people fueled his ascendancy. Those skills made Barack Obama a terrific senator. And they have greatly benefited our country over the last 8 years.

In a few weeks, Barack Obama will finish his term as the 44th President of the United States. I don't know if I'm leaving with him or he's leaving with me. I guess I leave a few days before he does, but we're leaving together. I cannot think of a better person with whom to leave public service. For 8 years I was his point man and it has been an honor and an effort of pleasure.

What this man accomplished—despite unprecedented obstruction from Republicans—is remarkable. History will remember President Barack Obama's many accomplishments.

President Obama saved the country from economic collapse, ushering in a new era of growth.

Since 2010, the economy has added more 2.6 million private-sector jobs.

Median household incomes have risen significantly.

The unemployment rate is now at 4.6 percent. In some states, like Nevada, it was as high as 14 percent.

President Obama brought the American auto and manufacturing industries back from the brink of collapse with unique programs such as Cash for Clunkers.

More than 800,000 new manufacturing jobs since 2010.

The auto industry added more than 646,000 jobs since 2009.

Domestic production of autos doubled from below 6 million units per year to 12 million per year in 2015.

President Obama brought health care to tens millions of Americans through the Affordable Care Act. And every day we learn how important this bill has been. We heard from a very conservative American Hospital Association today that doing away with Obamacare would bankrupt the hospital industry. They would lose over the next few years—almost \$200 billion.

21 million more Americans now have affordable health care.

The uninsured rate is at an all-time low—92 percent of Americans have coverage.

Insurance companies cannot deny coverage or charge more to cover people with pre-existing conditions. And how many of us have gone out to our home states and had people with tears in their eyes say, you know, Debbie has been sick since she was a little girl with diabetes? Now for the first time in her life she can have health insurance.

Insurance companies cannot discriminate against anyone because of their gender.

Every American with insurance has access to preventive care without cost sharing. That means no co-pays for immunizations, cancer screenings, contraceptive coverage for women, diabetes screenings, or blood pressure and cholesterol tests.

President Obama held Wall Street accountable.

He signed into law the most comprehensive Wall Street and financial reform legislation since the—Great Depression—Dodd-Frank.

His Administration established a new watchdog to help protect consumers from unfair financial practices.

He signed legislation into law that protected homeowners from mortgage fraud.

President Obama took more action to protect our planet from a changing climate, including the historic Paris Climate agreement.

I met yesterday with some Native Alaskans. It was scary to talk to this woman, a Native Alaskan, her town of 800 having trouble getting in and out of the town. She told me the animals are confused because the seasons are changing. The caribou have traveled for 20,000 years, we believe, 3,000 miles, migrate every year. They walk in single file, not in large herds jammed together. She said they're having such difficulty. They used to be able to walk over.

President Obama made the largest investment ever in renewable energy. He tripled wind power and increased solar power by 30 times—creating more than 200,000 jobs in solar alone, with hundreds of thousands more jobs in the next few years.

President Obama protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters. That includes more than 700,000 acres in Nevada with one order that he signed. It's called the Basin and Range National Monument, a place where John Muir came looking around for special places in America.

He camped in the Basin Range. And hopefully someday every Senator can go to this

magnificent thing in the desert. It has taken 40 years to build. One man has done it, a famous artist by the name of Michael Heizer. It's called City. When I talk about 40 years, I mean days, weekends, overtime, and large contingencies of people he directed to this magnificent thing in the middle of the desert.

President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama made our nation's children a top priority. In 2010, President Obama signed a bill into law to fight child hunger and improve school meals to ensure children receive the nutrition they need to have healthy, successful futures.

President Obama made strides on education.

Our nation's high school graduate rate is the highest in history.

He reformed the federal student loan program, increased the Pell Grant, made student loan repayment more affordable, and expanded loan forgiveness for graduates that enter public service professions.

President Obama granted deferred action to immigrant youth who would have qualified under the DREAM Act, bringing nearly 800,000 young people out of the shadows.

President Obama made our country more inclusive.

He signed the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

He signed executive orders protecting LGBT workers.

Americans are now free to marry the person they love, regardless of gender.

And as Commander-in-Chief, President Obama brought Bin Laden to justice.

These are just a few aspects of President Obama's storied legacy that is still growing. What a record. It is a legacy of which he should be satisfied. America is better because of this good man spending eight years in the White House.

But I am even more impressed by who he is as a person than who he is as a president. He is a man of integrity, of honesty. I have learned much from him.

I have never heard Barack Obama denigrate anybody, ever. There have been times where he could have. Perhaps I thought a negative word should be said and I suggested that to him. But he would never take it. No, he would never do that. That's Barack Obama.

And, above all, I admire the attention he has given his family. He may be President of the United States, but nothing gets in the way of his family. He is a terrific husband to Michelle and outstanding father to Sasha and Malia. He arrives home for dinner with his family virtually every night he is in Washington. He goes to their plays. He goes to their games. President or not, he is a husband and a father.

His devotion extends to his staff, as well. And he has had a terrific staff working for him. I can't mention all of them, but I'll mention his present chief of staff, Denis McDonough. He and I have a very close relationship. Close relationships come with a lot of difficulty, sometimes, because it's been tough, what we've tried to work through together.

Pete Rouse, one of the nicest people I've ever known. He also worked for the president very closely. He was his chief of staff as senator and of course chief advisor when he was in the White House.

Rahm Emmanuel, now the mayor of Chicago, Illinois. Former chief of staff, current mayor of Chicago. A man known for his bluntness and his productivity as a member of Congress and as chief of staff.

Alyssa Mastromonaco, former deputy chief of staff. I hope that I had something to do with the romance that wound up with Alyssa marrying my chief of staff, David Krone.

These are a few people I had the pleasure of working with. And then there's President Obama's cabinet—a cabinet of quality.

That includes my friend, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar—a wonderful man and terrific public servant. A man of substance, like no other I have ever known.

After eight years leading our country, President Obama is leaving office on a high point. When he first took office, our country was in an economic freefall. It was hemorrhaging jobs. Now the economy is experiencing the longest streak of private-sector job growth ever. We have the lowest unemployment rate in nearly a decade.

After eight years of President Obama, we are now on a sustainable path to fight climate change and grow renewable energy. We are more respected around the world. We reached international agreements to curb climate change, stop Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and are on the path to normalizing relations with our neighbor Cuba.

Our country has made significant strides in nearly every way. There is no doubt that the United States is better now than we were eight years ago. And we have Barack Obama to thank for that.

Thank you, President Barack Obama, for being the person you are.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that lots and lots of stuff I have done be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REDUCING TAX BURDENS FOR NEVADA RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES

Taxpayers' Bill of Rights—The "Taxpayers' Bill of Rights" was the first bill Senator Reid introduced upon entering the Senate. Several of the ideas in his bill were later incorporated into the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998. The "Taxpayers' Bill of Rights" laid out the rights of taxpayers during an audit, procedures for appealing a decision or filing complaints, the procedures the IRS may use to enforce laws and placed the burden of proof on all issues upon the IRS.

Ended the Source Tax—Senator Reid and the Nevada delegation were successful in protecting Nevada retirees from taxes imposed by other states. This legislation ended taxation without representation by prohibiting states from taxing the retirement benefits of nonresidents.

Sales Tax Deduction—Senator Reid reinstated the deduction for sales taxes to level the playing field for residents of states with no income taxes and he has been successful in extending it.

Mortgage Tax Relief/Debt Cancellation for Homeowners—Eliminates the income tax penalty for homeowners who are successful in negotiating a lower mortgage with their lender.

Tip Tax Agreements—These are agreements between the IRS, the employer, and tipped employees that make it easier for employees to report and pay the tax due on tipped income. Senator Reid was instrumental in making sure that these agreements are fair for Nevada's tipped employees.

Tax Incentives for Solar and Geothermal Energy—Senator Reid was instrumental in

securing the long-term extension of tax incentives to promote the development of electricity generated by solar and geothermal sources in Nevada.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) & Secure Rural Schools—Senator Reid led a bipartisan coalition of Western senators to fully fund PILT and reauthorize Secure Rural Schools the first time since 1994 and provides \$130 million over five years to rural counties in Nevada.

Cancellation of Indebtedness—Businesses needing to restructure their debts in order to survive the economic downturn found themselves facing a significant tax penalty as a result of that process. As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Senator Reid was instrumental in pushing through relief from this tax penalty, helping Nevada companies to improve their balance sheets and save thousands of jobs.

Homebuyer Tax Credit Extension—Instrumental in securing an extension of the \$8000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers and offering a reduced credit of up to \$6500 for repeat buyers who have owned their current home for at least five years.

NEVADA JOBS, ECONOMY AND LABOR

Congressional Review Act—Worked with Senator Don Nickles to lead passage of the Congressional Review Act, making it easier for Congress to overturn burdensome regulations imposed by executive branch agencies.

CityCenter—Worked with stakeholders of CityCenter to ensure construction of project continued and advanced to opening in 2009, saving almost 10,000 jobs.

Housing Loan-to-Value Ratio—Requested the Administration raise the loan-to-value requirement for its mortgage modification program, and the Administration responded by raising it 125 percent.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)—Shepherded the stimulus legislation through the Senate and conference, which will provide Nevada with \$3 billion in economic recovery funding, which is expected to create or save 34,000 jobs, 90% of which are in the private sector. Each worker is eligible for up to \$400 in tax relief and families could receive up to \$800. A tax credit of \$8,000 for first-time homebuyers will help Nevadans invest in a home and move the excess supply of houses off the market. The ARRA provides a temporary deduction for non-itemizers for sales tax paid on the purchase of a car or truck. The HOPE education credit for higher education is increased to \$2,500 dollars. Every SSI recipient, Social Security beneficiary, Railroad Retirement beneficiary and disabled veteran receiving VA benefits will receive a one-time economic recovery payment of \$250. Federal and state pensioners who are not participants in Social Security will be eligible for a \$250 tax credit.

Travel Promotion Act—Using the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority's model for Las Vegas, the bill will create a Corporation for Travel Promotion which will be responsible for marketing the United States around the world as a tourist destination. Senators Reid and his colleagues from both sides of the aisle believe that efforts through this bill to make the U.S. more attractive abroad and easy to visit will directly increase the number of visitors to Nevada and create tens of thousands of sorely needed jobs. A study by Oxford Economics estimates that this plan would attract 1.6 million new international visitors annually and projects TPA could create \$4 billion a year in new economic activity.

Minimum Wage Increase—In 2007, Senator Reid worked with a bipartisan coalition of

Senators to increase the minimum wage for the first time in ten years. Signed into law by President Bush, this legislation helped some of the hardest-working Nevadans make ends meet.

Nevada Test Site Workers EEOICPA—Senator Reid was instrumental in the passage of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) of 2000, which provides monetary compensation and medical coverage to NTS workers with radiation-induced cancer, beryllium disease, or silicosis.

Nevada Test Site Workers 1951-1962—Senator Reid was instrumental in establishing the Atmospheric Testing years at NTS in an expedited eligibility category.

Nevada Test Site Workers 1963-1992—Senator Reid was instrumental in the writing and submission of a regulatory petition to include more Nevada Test Site workers in an expedited eligibility category. According to a recent position paper by the agency responsible for establishing membership in the expedited eligibility category, it appears the Underground Testing years are on their way to being granted the expedited status.

Nevada Test Site Workers Area 51—In 2008, Senator Reid successfully fought for the federal agencies to allow Dept. of Energy workers at Area 51 to be eligible for the EEOICPA, thereby reversing a Republican Bush Administration policy.

Unemployment Insurance Extension—Instrumental in passage of an extension of Unemployment Insurance benefits in 2009 and 2010 for states that have been hit the hardest, like Nevada, and out-of-work Americans across the country.

NEVADA TRANSPORTATION

McCarran Airport Funding—Senator Reid has secured tens of millions for McCarran Airport. Among the projects this money has funded include: new air traffic control tower; increased Customs and Border Control protections; wind hazard detection equipment; fiber optic telecommunications systems; and apron rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Reducing Flight Delays Act—Led passage of legislation that provided the Secretary of Transportation with flexibility to transfer funds to reduced FAA traffic control operations, which had been reduced as a result of sequestration.

Reno Airports Funding—Senator Reid obtained more than \$55.8 million for the needed improvements to the Reno-Tahoe International and Reno-Stead airports. These funds have paid for new approach lighting systems, new control towers, runway/taxiway reconstruction and lighting to name but a few projects.

McCarran Airport: Tax Relief for Growth and Construction—Senator Reid was able to save the Clark County Department of Aviation tens of millions of dollars by passing relief for the department's Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) for bonds which refinanced the Terminal 3 project at McCarran Airport. This provision will lower financing costs for this important project by at least \$72.4 million.

Last Highway Reauthorization (SAFETEA-LU)—Increased Nevada's highway funding by 30% and Transit funding by 152%. Senator Reid was instrumental in getting over \$1.3 billion for Nevada transportation projects included in the 2005 National Highway Bill.

Some Additional Major Transportation Projects:

NORTH

Interstate 580 Extension Between Reno and Carson City—\$29 million

Reno Transportation Rail Access Corridor Cover (ReTRAC)—\$15.25 million

Virginia and Truckee Railway from Virginia City to Carson City—\$10 million

Reno Bus Rapid Transit—\$12 million

Lake Tahoe Passenger Ferry Service—\$8 million

Carson City Bypass Enhancement—\$2 million

Meadowood Interchange—\$3.75 million

SOUTH

Hoover Dam Bypass Bridge—\$50 million

Boulder City Bypass—\$28.6 million

Interstate 15 Widening Project from Primm to Apex—\$27 million

Boulder Highway Bus Rapid Transit System—\$12 million

UNLV Transportation Research Center—\$2.5 million

Lake Mead Parkway, Henderson—\$2 million

AFFORDABLE & QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR ALL NEVADANS

Affordable Care Act—Led passage of the Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as the health reform law, which is helping thousands of Nevadans and millions of Americans gain access to the affordable health care that they need and deserve. The law has resulted in 21 million more Americans being covered by health insurance, and an all-time high insured rate of 92%.

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Creation and Reauthorization—This long overdue reauthorization ensures health care for thousands of children across Nevada whose parents earn too much for Medicaid, but not enough to afford private insurance. Thanks to the recent expansion, an additional 4.1 million low-income children across the country will now have access to quality health coverage.

Strengthening Medicare—Seniors and people with disabilities know the value of the Medicare program. In the last Congress, Senator Reid led the way to overriding a Presidential veto of improvements to the program. This legislation ensured that physicians did not experience severe cuts to reimbursement that could have jeopardized access to care for Nevada's seniors.

Suicide Prevention—Senator Reid is responsible for the creation of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and has helped enact a number of laws that will help reduce the rate of suicide, including the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act targeting youth suicide, legislation that will lower the Medicare coinsurance for outpatient mental health and the mental health parity act.

Mental Health Parity—The bipartisan legislation which Senator Reid helped pass ensures that plans covering mental health services cannot provide different financial requirements or treatment limitations than they would for medical or surgical benefits.

Drug Quality and Security Act—Provided the FDA with more authority to regulate and monitor the manufacturing of compounded pharmaceutical drugs.

Interstitial Cystitis Research—Senator Reid earmarked millions of dollars for the National Institutes for Health (NIH) to research IC, a disease which affects women, and has funded programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support public and health provider education and outreach about the illness.

Nevada Cancer Institute—Senator Reid has secured tens of millions of dollars to support the infrastructure costs to create a cancer institute in Nevada. This has helped to attract world class cancer researchers to Nevada and will help to ensure that Nevadans

will have access to clinic trials. In 2009, Senator Reid worked on a bipartisan basis with the Nevada Congressional delegation to secure 80 acres of federal land for the Institute to construct a new facility devoted to developing new treatments for Nevadans afflicted with cancer.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Research—Senator Reid has a long history of supporting efforts related to Chronic Fatigue Syndrome since he first became aware of this devastating disease in 1987 when the first known outbreak of CFS cases was documented in Incline Village, Nevada. In 1999, he uncovered a scandal at the CDC and forced CDC officials to acknowledge that they had misappropriated the majority of the \$22.7 million he had earmarked for CFS research at the CDC in 1995.

Contraceptive Equity—Passed legislation ensuring that federal employees have access to prescription contraception.

Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act—Sponsored by Senator Reid, this law will help to establish a national strategy to study the potential links between the environment and breast cancer and would authorize funding for such research. The resulting discoveries could be critical to improving our knowledge of this complex illness, which could lead to new treatments and perhaps, one day, a cure.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry Act—Sponsored by Senator Reid, this law will create an ALS registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and will aid in the search for a cure for this devastating disease.

Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act—Senator Reid was instrumental in passing legislation that establishes strong protections against discrimination on the basis of genetic information by health insurance companies and employers.

Affordable Birth Control—Senator Reid was instrumental in passing a provision that would restore the practice of allowing safety net providers to have access to nominally priced drugs. Historically pharmaceutical companies have been permitted offer low, or “nominally priced,” drugs to safety net providers to help ensure that low-income populations have access to affordable medication. In 2005, Congress passed legislation which tightened regulations about who was eligible for nominally priced drugs. In doing so, Congress inadvertently cut off every safety-net provider from obtaining birth control at a low cost, and passing on those savings to their patients. Women who once paid five to ten dollars each month had to pay \$50 or more for basic birth control.

Pandemic Flu Funding—Senator Reid has worked to secure billions of dollars to ensure we are prepared to minimize the impact of the H1N1 flu or any potential flu pandemic.

Medical Research Funding—Senator Reid has a long history of directing funding to the National Institutes of Health for funding biomedical research in areas such as cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease, diabetes and stem cells. Last year alone, he supported directing over \$40 billion to the National Institutes of Health through ARRA and the Omnibus. These investments could lead to new cures and treatments, and will address debilitating health conditions that prevent our workforce from reaching optimal productivity.

FDA Reauthorization Including Drug Safety Requirements—In September 2007, Senator Reid worked to enact the Food and Drug Administration Revitalization Act (Public Law 110-85), which extends the legal authority for the Food and Drug Administration

(FDA) programs for approving prescription drugs and medical devices. While this new law will improve prescription drug and food safety for all Americans, it also will improve programs focused just on our children. These improvements represent a victory for consumers and patients who depend on our nation's system for ensuring that life-saving drugs and devices come to market in a timely and safe way.

Federal Medical Assistance Program (FMAP) Increase—Senator Reid worked very hard to increase temporarily the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) as included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5). The goal was to enable states to maintain their Medicaid services, while also targeting additional funds to the states most in need like ours. Nevada will receive more than \$450 million in additional funding as a result, which is the largest percentage increase of any state in the Federal Medical Assistance Program.

Cobra Expansion—The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA) requires most employers with group health plans to offer employees the opportunity to continue their coverage under their employer's plan if their coverage is cut off or suspended due to a layoff, or other qualifying change in their employment status. Many Nevadans who have recently become unemployed are troubled by the steeply rising premiums for their COBRA insurance coverage. Senator Reid was instrumental in obtaining a premium subsidy for COBRA recipients in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This provision created a 65% subsidy for health insurance premiums under COBRA for up to nine months for workers and their families who have been involuntarily terminated between September 1st, 2009 and December 31st, 2009.

NEVADA'S ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & LANDS

Yucca Mountain—Slashed funding for Yucca to record lows during the pro-Yucca Republican Bush Administration, and worked with President Obama to terminate the project and launch a Blue Ribbon Commission to develop alternatives.

Renewable Energy and Efficiency tax incentives—Since 2000, Senator Reid has secured over \$100 million for Nevada-based projects to research and advance our nation's renewable energy and energy efficiency capabilities. Additionally, the Recovery Act provided over \$500 million for energy efficiency, renewable energy and weatherization projects in Nevada. Nevada's institutions of higher education, schools, counties and others are working to make Nevada the nation's renewable energy leader

Renewable Energy Transmission—Delivered \$3.25 billion in financing for developing transmission for renewable energy in the West (Recovery Act), as well \$4.4 billion to build a national smart grid to accelerate renewable energy development in Nevada and across the country.

Solar Energy—Worked with Department of Interior to designate seven Solar Energy Study Areas in Nevada and to institute fast track environmental reviews for key renewable energy projects (3 solar and 2 wind energy projects).

Hosted Eight National Clean Energy Summits Established the Blue Ribbon Panel on Energy in Nevada—Senator Reid, has hosted the National Clean Energy Summit in Nevada since 2008. These events have helped build a dialogue among the nation's most distinguished leaders in clean energy policy on how to build the infrastructure and create

jobs to achieve energy security using renewables, other forms of clean energy, and efficiency. Speakers have included President Barack Obama, President Bill Clinton, Secretary Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Tesla CEO Elon Musk, along with many other leaders from government, business, labor, and the non-profit communities from Nevada and beyond.

Geothermal Energy—Prevented the Republican Bush Administration from closing down the geothermal energy R&D program.

Mormon Crickets—Was successful in getting over \$20 million appropriated for Nevada.

BLM California Trail Center in Elko—Passed authorizing legislation and secured more than \$10 million to build the Center.

Clark County Heliport—Conveyed 230 acres to create a new, dedicated facility. 100,000 people are safer as a result.

Ivanpah Airport—Authored and passed legislation that designates 6,500 acres for a new long-haul airport.

Clark County Land Bill—In 2002, led Nevada delegation to pass a comprehensive public lands management plan for Clark County. This strong bipartisan legislation released wilderness study areas to enhance economic opportunities in Clark County while also adding 440,000 acres to the national wilderness system.

Lincoln County Land Bill—Led Nevada delegation to pass the largest wilderness bill in the history of Nevada. This legislation designated over 768,000 acres in new wilderness areas, including over 150,000 acres of the Mormon Mountains. This legislation also provided new authority for land sales to increase Lincoln County's tax base.

White Pine County Land Bill—Senator Reid led the Nevada delegation to pass legislation protecting 559,000 acres of incredible wilderness lands and provided a timely economic boost to White Pine County. The bill also added important protections to the land surrounding Great Basin National Park, enlarged two state parks and a state wildlife management area, and provided lands for the future growth of the Ely Shoshone Tribe.

Carson City Land Bill—This legislation increases open space opportunities and helps the city pursue its smart growth plans. The bill includes a land exchange between the city and the Forest Service, giving each entity land that is more suited to its mission and management abilities. The legislation also conveys the Silver Saddle Ranch and Prison Hill to Carson City for continued public use, with a conservation easement retained by the Bureau of Land Management.

Ely Native Seed Warehouse—Currently under construction, the Ely Native Seed Warehouse will hold one million pounds of native seed used to will help reseed habitat after fires.

Fallon Plant Materials Center—Secured funding for the Center which will help develop resilient crops for the Great Basin.

Nevada Hunting Bill—Restored each state's ability to differentiate between in-state and out-of-state hunters when selling game tags.

Drop 2 Reservoir—Passed legislation allowing construction of a major water-saving reservoir east of San Diego, which will allow southern Nevada to take significant additional water from the Colorado River.

REBUILT/RECONSTRUCTED SEVEN BRIDGES IN JARBIDGE

Sloan Canyon—In the Clark County Land Bill, created the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area to preserve the beautiful areas that bless southern Nevada.

Clark County Shooting Park—Conveyed 3,000 acres and provided \$60 million to develop the world's finest shooting range.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area—Protected southern Nevada's most notable and beloved outdoor and scenic area.

Great Basin National Park—Championed legislation that created Nevada's first National park in 1986; secured funding for and dedicated a new visitor's center in 2005; and stopped two coal plants that would have wrecked the park's incredible clean air.

Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument—In 2012, Senator Reid authored and introduced legislation to establish Nevada's only current National Monument in the north Las Vegas Valley. The legislation was passed in 2014 and created a 22,600 acre National Monument that protects the best collection of Ice Age mammal fossils in the United States. The legislation also provided economic development, educational and recreation opportunities throughout Clark County.

Basin and Range National Monument—President Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act on July 10, 2015, to permanently protect more than 700,000 acres of land in eastern Nevada as the Basin and Range National Monument. Senator Reid advocated for years to protect this truly special area where the Mojave Desert meets the Great Basin, and Joshua trees and cactus give way to a sea of sagebrush. It is home to desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope. It is an area that provided food and shelter for Native Americans, and one can see their history today in incredible rock art panels there. The Basin and Range Monument will also protect the cultural integrity of world-renowned artist Michael Heizer's expansive sculpture, 'City'.

Lake Tahoe—Hosted the first Tahoe Summit to help preserve the lake's clarity; passed the original Lake Tahoe Restoration Act; sent over \$300 million in federal funds to help the Lake.

Fallon Water Treatment Plant—Senator Reid secured funding for the construction of the Fallon Water Treatment Plant which opened in April of 2004. The residents of Fallon and the neighboring Naval Air Station had been subjected to high levels of arsenic in their drinking water that were ten times greater than the national standard set by the EPA.

Walker Lake—In line with Senator Reid's commitment to protecting the environment and Nevada's natural resources, saving Walker Lake is one of his top priorities. In response, Senator Reid has secured more than \$375 million in federal funds for efforts to preserve the lake.

Truckee River Operating Agreement—Senator Reid helped negotiate the settlement for Truckee and Carson Rivers.

Sparks Marina—Senator Reid worked with the residents and community leaders of Sparks and used his position in the Senate to clean up the once-contaminated gravel pit into the Sparks Marina. Now the Sparks Marina is a popular recreational area used by thousands each year for boating, fishing and other outdoor activities.

2 Million Acres of Wilderness Land—Beginning with the Nevada Wilderness Act of 1989, which designated 740,000 acres of land as protected wilderness, Senator Reid has been devoted to protecting Nevada's wilderness. To this date, he has continued working hard to turn more than 2 million acres into protected wilderness. One of the highlights of the Senator's efforts includes the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant

Trails Act of 2000 which provided 750,000 acres of wilderness in Nevada.

Rural Water—Secured more than \$100 million to rural water systems across Nevada to improve drinking water quality and treatment systems.

Water Security—Enhanced Nevada's water security by directly authorizing development of the All American Canal, a critical piece in implementing the lower Colorado River Basin multi-state shortage agreement.

NATIONAL SECURITY AND VETERANS

Secured Vital Funding for All of Nevada's Military Installations. Over the course of his tenure, Senator Reid has secured millions for Nevada's troops, veterans, military families and installations. In fiscal year 2017, Senator Reid worked to obtain over \$204 million in federal funding for projects at the Nellis Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Fallon, and Reno VA Medical Center. In addition, \$90 million was allocated nationwide for construction of state veteran extended care facilities, including one to eventually be built in Reno.

Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC)—Successfully fought to keep Hawthorne Army Depot open through the BRAC process and prevented the Nevada Air National Guard from losing their C-130 aircraft. Senator Reid's leadership position in the Senate was pivotal in allowing him to appoint a Nevadan to the Commission.

Nellis Air Force Base—Secured more than \$350 million in funding for Base Infrastructure.

Creech Air Force Base (Indian Springs)—Secured \$128.8 million in funding for Base Infrastructure and for a new Center of Excellence for the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

Hawthorne Army Depot—Secured over \$59 million in funding for Base Infrastructure and modernized demilitarization facilities. Senator Reid also helped protect the Depot from closure during the BRAC process saving hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in impact for the community.

Nevada National Guard (Army and Air)—Secured over \$195 million in funding for Base Infrastructure and equipment.

Cold War Heroes—As part of the Omnibus Lairds Bill of 2009 (PL111-11), Senator Reid secured passage of the Cold War Historical Sites Study Act which requires the Department of the Interior to evaluate sites and resources for commemorating and interpreting the Cold War, including the Mount Charleston Plane Crash Memorial.

Concurrent Receipt for Nevada's Veterans—Senator Reid was instrumental in getting concurrent receipt legislation passed in 2004 that enabled our veterans with 100 percent service-related disability to collect both disability and military pay. The following year, Senator Reid won passage of his amendment that expanded concurrent receipt to cover America's disabled veterans rated as unemployable. This issue has been a top priority of Nevada's 250,000 veterans, as well as veterans across the country.

New Las Vegas Veteran's Hospital—Senator Reid has secured more than \$600 million for the construction of the Veterans Administration's new Las Vegas Hospital and Community Living Center on Pecos Road in North Las Vegas. Additionally, the \$75 million Mike O'Callaghan Federal Hospital at Nellis Air Force Base opened its doors in 1994 due to Senator Reid's leadership.

New VA clinic in Laughlin, Nevada—In January 2015, Senator Reid announced the opening of a VA Outreach Clinic in Laughlin, which will allow Veterans in the Southeast

area to more easily access high quality care. The Laughlin Clinic will provide primary care for eligible Veterans who are appropriate for care at an outreach clinic as well as some mental health and social work care.

Nevada Test Site—Maintained the Nevada Test Site as part of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium, and provided appropriations of over \$20 million annually.

Urban Area Area Security Initiative—Reinstated Las Vegas onto the UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) city list, thereby securing millions in funding to help prepare and protect the city from attack.

Implement the 9/11 Commission Recommendations—As Majority Leader, Senator Reid pushed to have the recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission written into law. This law made Nevadans and all Americans more secure by: giving first responders the tools they need to keep us safe; making it more difficult for potential terrorists to travel into our country; advancing efforts to secure our rail, air, and mass transit systems; and improving intelligence and information sharing between state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies.

NEVADA'S JUDICIARY

Nevada Federal Courthouses and Buildings—Senator Reid secured more than \$83 million in funding for construction of a new federal building for Southern Nevada, the Lloyd D. George Courthouse and Federal Building in Las Vegas. Senator Reid was also instrumental in securing funding for the Bruce R. Thompson Courthouse and Federal Building in Reno.

Mills B. Lane Justice Complex Security Upgrades—Secured nearly \$1 million for the Reno Municipal Court and the Washoe County District Attorney's security following the 2006 sniper shooting.

ETHICS & LOBBYING REFORM

Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act (STOCK Act)—Senator Reid led the way in creating new reporting requirement for Members of Congress and staff regarding stock and commodity transactions.

Honest Leadership and Open Government Act—Senator Reid authored the "Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007," which passed on a bipartisan basis and was signed into law by President George W. Bush. Sen. Reid's measure was recognized as one of the toughest and most sweeping ethics reforms in a generation. Among the many accomplishments of this law include:

Closing the "revolving door" between government & lobbyists by former Senators & staff

Reforming and increasing transparency for earmarks and conference reports

Prohibiting pensions for Members of Congress convicted of certain crimes

Expanding the lobbying disclosure requirements

Toughening limits on gifts and travel

NEVADA EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act—Changed the federal student loan program from fixed interest rates to rates based on the Treasury note plus a percentage for undergraduate, graduate or parent loans.

GI Bill of Rights—Under Senator Reid's leadership, the Post 9/11 GI Bill of Rights—the largest expansion of educational benefits since the original GI Bill of Rights—was passed.

Teach for America—Reid worked to bring Teach for America to Nevada, which has resulted in the hiring of several hundred highly qualified teachers in the Clark County School District.

America COMPETES Act—Reid led passage of the America COMPETES Act, bipartisan legislation to improve math and science education and increase the federal commitment to research.

UNR Fire Science Academy—The Fire Science Academy located in Carlin opened its doors in 1999. In cooperation with the University of Nevada, Reno, Senator Reid succeeded in getting the Department of Energy to award the facility with an \$8 million in grant and appropriations support.

Nevada State College Campus—In 2002, Senator Reid successfully pushed through a land transfer in Southern Nevada that provided campus land for the newly created Nevada State College.

Desert Research Institute (DRI)—Secured more than \$70 million in appropriations for projects.

UNLV Super Computers—Secured \$2.7 million.

UNR Earthquake Center & Biodiversity Study—Secured \$2.5 & \$7.5 million respectively.

UNLV Research Park—Conveyed 122 acres of federal land to UNLV Research Foundation for construction of a research center and provided special authority to allow the Foundation to keep and reinvest 100% of any lease revenues from the land.

Dandini Research Park Conveyance Act—Passed legislation signed into law by President Bush transferring 476 of the 467-acre parcel north of downtown Reno from the Bureau of Land Management to the Board of Regents of the University and Community College System of Nevada for use by Truckee Meadows Community College and the Desert Research Institute.

NATIVE AMERICANS

Indian Water Settlements—Senator Reid has led the legislative effort to quantify Indian water rights and settle long-standing claims against the United States. The Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe (1990), the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (1990), and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation (2009) have been able to develop their water rights and their economies because of these settlements.

Western Shoshone Claims Distribution Act—Senator Reid led efforts to enact a law ordering the United States to distribute settlement funds resulting in the resolution of the Western Shoshone land and accounting claims against the United States. The settlement funds, now totaling nearly \$160 million, will be distributed to an estimated 6,000 eligible Shoshones. They and their descendants will be eligible for benefits from a \$1.5 million educational trust fund.

Washoe Tribe: Additional Land for Residential and Commercial Development. As part of the Omnibus Public Land Act of 2009, Senator Reid passed a measure to address the Washoe Tribe's need for more land for residential and commercial development. Under the bill, about 300 acres of Forest Service and BLM land near the Carson and Stewart Colonies will be conveyed to the Washoe Tribe, with nearly half of those acres available for development.

Ely Shoshone Tribe Land Transfer—Senator Reid, working with his Nevada colleagues in Congress passed the White Pine County Lands Bill as part of a braided tax package in 2006. The bill transferred 3,526 acres to the Ely Shoshone Tribe for traditional, ceremonial, commercial and residential purposes.

Las Vegas Paiute Tribe Land—In 1983, Senator Reid (then in the US House of Representatives) passed a measure—which was

signed into law by President Reagan—to declare 3,850 acres of land held in trust by the federal government would thereby be “declared to be part of the Las Vegas Paiute Reservation.”

ENSURING EQUALITY FOR NEVADANS

‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’—As Majority leader, Senator Reid led passage of the repeal of ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.’

Mr. REID. I am winding down, everybody. I know you are glad, but it has been 34 years. I served with 281 different Senators during the time I have been here. I have such fond memories of so many. There was the hilarious and confident Fritz Hollings. I have never known a better joke teller than Frank Lautenberg. I asked him to tell the same story so many times, I could have told it. He had one about two wrestlers, but I am not going to repeat it. He was very, very funny. I am not going to go through the whole Ted Kennedy list and all of that, but I have had wonderful experiences with my Senate friends.

When I came here as a Democratic Senator, there was only one woman, BARBARA MIKULSKI, and that was it. I am very happy now that we have 17 Democratic women, and we have four Republican women. I want to make the record very clear that the Senate is a better place because of women being here. There is no question about that, for many different reasons, but they have added so much to the Senate. The only problem we have now is that there aren't enough of them, but we did our best this go-round. We have four new Democratic Senators.

Leaders. I have already talked about Senator MCCONNELL. It has been my good fortune to have served with such good leaders like Robert Byrd. I don't know if it is true. I accept it because that is what I want to believe, but a number of people told me I was his pet. As I said, I don't know if I was or not, but he sure was good to me.

George Mitchell, what a wonderful extemporaneous speaker. He was the best. He was a Federal judge, U.S. attorney, and a good man.

I was a junior Senator and didn't have a lot of interchange with Bob Dole when he was the leader, but I have had a lot lately. He calls me to talk about some issues he is working on now. One of the most moving times of my life was when Dan Inouye was lying in State in the Rotunda. Bob Dole called me and asked if I would go over there with him, and I said of course I would. He was in a wheelchair and somebody pushed him over there, and he said stop. There was a little alcove there, and Bob Dole, as hard as it was for him, walked over to the crypt where Danny was and he climbed up on the bier and said, “Danny, I love you.” If that doesn't bring a tear to your eye, nothing will. I will always remember that.

Trent Lott was a really good leader. He was extremely conservative but ex-

tremely pragmatic. We got lots of stuff done. I was Senator Daschle's point person to get legislation out of this body, and we did some really good things.

Tom Daschle always gave me lots of room to do things. I can remember one occasion when I was the whip, I thought he had been too generous with one of the other Senators and I complained. He said: Look, you are going to make this whip job whatever you want it to be. I took him at his word, and I did. I never left the floor. When the Senate opened, I was here, and when it was closed, I was here.

Bill Frist is a fine human being. I really cared for him a lot. He wasn't an experienced legislator, but that is OK. He is an experienced human being, and I liked him a lot. I already talked about MITCH.

Diversity. We don't have enough diversity in the Senate, but I do take credit for creating a diversity office here with Democrats. Senator SCHUMER has indicated he will continue that, and I am very happy he will do that. I repeat, we don't have enough diversity.

I want to tell everyone here I am grateful to all of my Democratic Senators. They have been so good to me during my time as leader, but I have to mention DICK DURBIN. He and I came here together 34 years ago. He has been so supportive of me. He has been my “Cousin Jeff.” Can I tell the story? Here I go.

My brother still lives in Searchlight, and he is an interesting man. He had a girlfriend there who was married and brought her home one night.

Her husband or boyfriend, whatever it was, jumped out of the tree on my brother's back, and they had a fight. My brother won. So a couple of weeks later, he is at the 49er Club, a bar, a little place in Searchlight. He is having a beer, whatever he drinks.

He looks around, and he sees the guy he beat up, but the guy has a couple of people with him. He knew why they were there. They were there to work him over. He said: What am I going to do? Just about then a miracle happened. Our cousin Jeff walked in. He hadn't been to Searchlight for a couple of years. But Cousin Jeff was known as being a really tough guy.

So Larry said: Here's the deal.

Cousin Jeff looked them over and went over to the biggest one, grabbed his nose, twisted it as hard as he could. He said: Do you guys want any part of me or my cousin Larry?

They said no. They left.

The reason I mention that—the reason I say DURBIN is my Cousin Jeff—I was in my office watching the floor, and MCCONNELL was up there. I was so damn mad. He was talking about stuff. I was mad. I called my office: Why don't we have somebody out there saying something?

They said: Senator, that was recorded earlier today. We are out of session.

So DURBIN has been my man, my Cousin Jeff. Whenever I have a problem, I call DICK DURBIN, and he can come. DICK DURBIN can talk about anything, and it sounds good. OK.

CHUCK SCHUMER. My kids said: Make sure you tell everybody about how smart you think he is. OK. I am going to do it. One day I said to SCHUMER—we have known each other for a long time. But I said: How the hell did you ever get into Harvard?

He said: It helped that I got a perfect SAT and a perfect LSAT.

That is true. He did. He is a brilliant man. He has a big heart. He works extremely hard. He has been so good to me. We have worked together. He took a job he did not want, the chair of the DSCC twice, but it worked out great. We were able to get the majority. So I will always have great affection for him, and I wish him well in being my replacement. I am confident he will do a good job. He will not be me, but he will go a good job.

My staff. We checked yesterday—my staff did. It is hard to comprehend how many people I have had work for me over 34 years—almost 3,000, everybody. I feel so strongly about my staff. They are my family. I really, really do believe that. I feel they are my family. Chiefs of staff—I haven't had that many, surprisingly, over 34 years. Claude Zobell, Ray Martinez, Susan McCue, Gary Myrick, David Krone, Drew Willison, and, of course, Dave McCallum, who has done so much to make sure I did not overspin things, and my utility man, Bill Dauster. He can catch, pitch, play any position on the field. He has been great for me. I appreciate Bill's work very much.

Thank you, Adelle, because I would be so embarrassed if I did not say something about PATTY MURRAY. She has been part of this little leadership team I have had. We have never had anything like this before in the Senate. The leaders prior to me did it all on their own. But I have had these three wonderful human beings helping me for all these years.

We meet every Monday night and get set up for the caucus on Tuesday, leadership meetings on Tuesday. So, PATTY, you and Rob, I just care so much about. I want you to know how I appreciate your loyalty, your hard work. You have taken some jobs that you did not want to take: a budget job, that super—whatever the hell it was called. That was awful. I don't know how long she is going to live, but that took a few years off her life. You and Rob have been great. Loretta is my friend. Iris I love. So thank you very much, you guys.

I have told everyone on my staff, with rare exception: You represent me. If you are on the phone, when you answer that phone, you are representing me. You are as if you are HARRY REID on the phone. I say the same to those

who speak, write, and advocate for me. They represent me. They have done so well. They have helped me in good times and bad times.

What is the future of the Senate? I hope that everyone will do everything they can to protect the Senate as an institution. As part of our Constitution, it should be given the dignity it deserves. I love the Senate. I don't need to dwell on that. I love the Senate. I care about it so very, very much. I have enjoyed Congress for 34 years. As the leader of the Senate, I have had such joy and times of awe. Wow. What are we going to do now?

That is what these jobs are like. They are so exhilarating, until, oh, man, something happens, and I think all of you have done as I have just said: Wow. What are we going to do now?

The Senate has changed, some for the good, some for the bad. I want to say this, though. It is not the same as when I first came here. There is change in everything. The biggest change has been the use of the filibuster. I do hope my colleagues are able to temper their use of the filibuster; otherwise it will be gone. It will be gone first on nominations, then it will be gone on legislation. This is something that you have to work on together because if you continue to use it the way it has been used recently, it is really going to affect this institution a lot.

Something has to be done about the outrageous amount of money from sources that are dark, unknown, and now involved in our Federal elections. The Citizens United case in January 2010—if this does not change and if we don't do something about this vast money coming into our elections, in a couple of more election cycles, we are going to be just like Russia. We are going to have a plutocracy—a few rich guys telling our leader what to do.

Leonard Cohen, who recently died, was one of America's great music geniuses. He recently died, as I said. In one of his songs called "Anthem," he says it all:

There is a crack in everything (there is a crack in everything)

That's how the light gets in

That is what he said. I believe there are cracks in what is happening with the huge amount of money currently in Federal elections and excessive partisanship. The cracks are that the American people don't like it. They don't like this money. They don't like the partisanship. So there are cracks—cracks, I repeat—because the American people are complaining big time about excessive use of money and objecting to the partisanship. That is the crack. That is how the light is going to get in. That is how America has an opportunity to become a better place, where money will not control our political system over partisanship.

So just a little bit of advice to my colleagues: It has worked OK for me. It

does not matter if I am in Elko, really a conservative place in Nevada, 400 miles from Las Vegas. If a question is asked of me in Elko, I give the same answer there as I give in Las Vegas. We should all do that.

People in Nevada have never had to weigh how I stand on an issue. I tell them how I feel. That is why I have never had any big-bang elections. People at least know how I stand. People don't necessarily like how I vote, what I talk about, but at least they know how I feel. I think that is good advice for everybody. At least that has worked well for me.

What is your formula for success? What do you recommend? I tell them the same thing about working hard. Of course that is important. Of course it is important, but also stay true to who you are—your roots.

Now my social life. My time in Washington has been different than that of many. I am not saying it is better, but it has been different. Every year there are galas: White House Correspondents' Dinner, the Gridiron Club Dinner, Radio and Correspondents' Dinner, Alfalfa Club. So during my 34 years in Congress, I had approximately 135 to 136 of these. I have attended one of them. For me, that was enough.

I have attended one Congressional picnic in 34 years. That was because my son Key had a girlfriend named Maile and he wanted to impress her. I guess he did because they are married. But one was enough for me.

I have attended one State dinner. That is because I had a son who spent 2 years in Argentina. I wanted him to meet the President of Argentina. I did that for my son Rory. But one was enough. I have not been to another one. I have never been to a White House Congressional Ball. That is going to be held tonight. I guess I am inquisitive of how it would be, but I don't want to go.

I have seen one World Series. That was enough. I have been to one Super Bowl. That was plenty. I have flown once in an F-18. That was enough. Over the years, I have gone to hundreds of fundraisers for my friends and colleagues, but everyone has to acknowledge, I can get in and out of those pretty quick.

Let me talk about the press a little bit and their responsibility, as I see it. We are entering a new gilded age, and it has never been more important to be able to distinguish between what is real and what is fake. We have lawmakers pushing for tax cuts for billionaires and calling it populism. We have media outlets pushing conspiracy theories disguised as news.

Separating real from fake has never been more important. I have met him, but I wish I could sit down and talk to him sometime because I so admire Pope Francis. Here is what he said yesterday: The media that focuses on scandals and spreads fake news to

smear politicians risks becoming like people who have a morbid fascination with excrement.

That is what Pope Francis said. He added that using communications for this rather than to educate the public amounted to a sin.

Well, he can categorize sin; I can't. But I agree with him on what he said. I acknowledge the importance of the press. I admire what you do and understand the challenges ahead of you. But be vigilant, because you have as much to do with our democracy as any branch of government. This is best understood by listening to what George Orwell had to say a long time ago: "Freedom of the press, if it means anything at all, means the freedom to criticize and oppose."

So, press, criticize and oppose. Please do that.

This really is the end of my speech. I have five children: Lana, Rory, Leif, Josh, and Key. They have been role models for me and for Landra. They were role models. We learned from them when we were young, and we are still learning from them. We appreciate the exemplary lives they have lived. I am confident, hopeful, and determined to make sure that they understand how much affection and admiration I have for each of them, for their wonderful spouses, and our 19 grandchildren.

OK. Here goes. Whatever success I had in my educational life, my life as a lawyer, and my life as a politician, including my time in Congress, is directly attributable to my Landra, my wife. We met when Landra was a sophomore in high school and I was a junior. That was more than six decades ago. We married at the age of 19. As I have said, we have five children, and we have 19 wonderful grandchildren.

She has been the being of my existence in my personal life and my public life. Disraeli, the great prime minister said in 1837—listen to what he said: "The magic of first love is that it never ends." I believe that. She is my first love. It will never end. Landra and I have talked. We understand we are going to have a different life. We have said and we believe that we are not going to dwell on the past. We will be involved in the past any way we need to be, but we are going to look to the future.

I wish everyone the best. I am sorry I have talked so long. I usually don't do that. I thank everyone for listening to my speech. I appreciate my wonderful family being here, my friends, my staff, and each of you. Thank you for your friendships over the years.

(Applause. Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I will yield for a couple more minutes for sentiments, and then I wish to say a few words.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 2943, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany S. 2943, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

TRIBUTES TO HARRY REID

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I stand in front of you to commemorate the long life and service of a fellow Nevadan who has given his all to serve our State and this country.

It has been said it is better to be feared than loved if you cannot be both. My colleagues in the Senate and those in the Gallery probably agree with me, no individual in politics embodies that sentiment today more than my colleague from Nevada, HARRY MASON REID.

Today I am on the floor to pay respect to Senate Minority Leader HARRY REID, after 30 years of service in this Chamber, in addition to the years of public service before entering into the Senate.

I know HARRY is notorious for his short conversations—minus today—for hanging up the phone before our conversations end, and sometimes even midsentence, so I will try to keep my comments respectfully short.

Before I truly get into the speech, I must first recognize HARRY's family. As a public official, very often it is time with your family that is most often sacrificed the most, and it is very true, as stated by a leader in our shared faith when he said, "Nothing compensates for failure in the home."

HARRY has been keenly aware of this fact and he shows his adoration. He has shown it for his wife Landra and his five children: Lana, Rory, Leif, Josh, and Key. He has made sure to keep a very close bond with his wife, his children, and grandchildren. That is something we all respect and something I wish to emulate.

So what can I say? It is an end of an era for my home State of Nevada. HARRY has devoted his entire adult life to one cause, the State of Nevada and serving it.

Trust me, though we have had our differences when it came to our State,

I can attest to one thing; that is, there is no stronger partner to serve the people of Nevada than HARRY REID.

It has been said victorious leaders feel the alternative to winning is totally unacceptable so they figure out what must be done to achieve victory, and then they go after it with everything at their disposal. I believe that describes HARRY REID in a nutshell.

Another measure of success, something HARRY and I have found amusing in the past, is being blamed for all things—all that is good, all that is bad, and all that is ugly. Let me assure you, HARRY has been blamed for a lot, some fairly and some unfairly.

Senator REID has served in every level of government, from city attorney, the State assembly, Lieutenant Governor, U.S. Congressman, and Senator. As a Senator, he is one of only three to serve at least 8 years as majority leader. Even in retirement, due to his far-reaching influence in just about every facet of State, local, and Federal Government, I totally expect he will operate as Nevada's third Senator.

After 26 elections, HARRY knows a thing or two about representing his constituency. He is one of the sharpest tactical minds ever to enter the political arena. Having worked together over the years, my hope is that we have sent a message, not only to all Nevadans but to everyone across this country, that two people who you can tell differ on many opinions can work well together, get things done for their constituents when both are willing.

That is why it is fitting this week that the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act will pass the Senate and will be sent to the President's desk to be signed into law. After fighting for years to refocus Federal policy on the 21st century threats to the lake, we teamed up to ensure important work that preserves the "Jewel of the Sierra" for future generations and that it will advance.

One of HARRY's lasting legacies will be that he and I worked to improve water clarity, reduce wildfire threats, jump-start transportation and infrastructure projects, and combat invasive species at Lake Tahoe. Because of this work, Lake Tahoe has once again been made a national priority.

Another policy initiative that we worked together on was the fight against Yucca Mountain. HARRY, rest assured, I will continue to fight Yucca. My mantra is borrowed from one of your late friends, the late Senator Ted Kennedy, when he said: "The work goes on, the cause endures. . . ."

We will not allow Nevada to turn into America's nuclear dump against the will of its own people.

HARRY, you share the Nevada values such as faith in God, hard work, and commitment to family. I know, because you displayed these values at home, at work, and at church. In fact,

actually, that is how we first met HARRY. It was during his tenure as Lieutenant Governor when he spent time in Carson City. Our families were able to meet each other and become friends. Eventually, I became very good friends with his son Leif. HARRY, your dedication to family is extraordinary and it serves as a model to all of us.

I would be remiss if I didn't share a couple of my favorite HARRY REID stories. There are a lot of them. There are a few I cannot share, there are a few I can so I will share with you the ones I can.

Before serving in the Senate, I was elected to the House of Representatives in 2007, until my appointment to the Senate in 2011. Late one evening, I was sitting in my office with my chief of staff, Mac Abrams, discussing a few last-minute details before leaving for the day. It must have been near the end of the week because staffers in the House offices were milling around the hall celebrating a birthday party, enjoying each other's company, playing loud music, and taking a few moments to relax. I was having a hard time keeping the noise from the halls out of my office because of the thin walls. All of a sudden, it was if it all stopped immediately. A quiet hush came over the crowd. It became so quiet, to the point I could hear a small echoing—tap, tap, tap. The taps were magnified. The hallway, which was previously full of life, just immediately died. I began to walk toward the hall to see what it was. I could tell the tapping noise was the sound of footsteps. As they grew louder and closer, I barely heard a peep in that hallway. Sure enough, the next sound I heard was the doorknob to my office turning, and in walks HARRY: "Hi, Dean. Do you have a few minutes?" To me, that story illustrates how much presence HARRY has and the respect he commands no matter where he is. He quieted an entire hallway full of lively staffers by just passing through and walking down that hallway.

The second story occurred more recently. We were in HARRY's office on a January morning soon after I was elected to my first full term. During that campaign, HARRY and his special friends gave me 12 million reasons why I shouldn't be standing there in his office that day, but, hey, this is the Senate and collegiality reigns supreme so I was at that breakfast because our constituents were there.

HARRY and I have known each other for many years, and he made it a point to tell those in attendance how close we were. We were having a good breakfast. He gets up to tell everyone how long he had known me, some of my background—but he kept highlighting how close we were.

So after his short speech—a little shorter than today—HARRY looks at me, offers for me to say a few of my

own words. So I just got up in the front of the room and made sure that everybody knew I could attest that at least one Reid voted for me—HARRY's son Leif. The look on HARRY's face was priceless. Seeing HARRY process the fact that there was a Reid who voted for me is a memory seared in my brain forever.

For me, this speech is not a goodbye because I know we will be seeing you back home in our great State. HARRY, people, like me, may disagree with you at times, but we will always respect you for three things: your devotion to your family, your service to our State and Nation, and your commitment to fighting for what you believe in.

This Chamber has been blessed with some of the greatest men and women who have ever served our Republic. Today I recognize and rise to recognize your place among these figures and hope your career will give inspiration to a young child from Carson City or Searchlight or anywhere else in Nevada to follow in your footsteps.

Again, congratulations on your career. We, the people of Nevada, thank you for your service. Lynne and I wish you and Landra all the best in the years ahead—and as your new senior Senator, I hope I can count on your vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about HARRY REID, our departing, retiring, Democratic leader. It is appropriate he is not on the floor because it is painful for him to sit and hear anybody say anything nice about him. I am sure he is going to be happy not hearing these words, but I want the rest of the folks following the proceedings in the Senate to hear them.

I was first elected to the House of Representatives the same year as HARRY, 1982. A friend of mine, who is an attorney in Chicago named Ed Joyce, said: Be sure and look up this HARRY REID from Nevada because he is a great fellow and a great lawyer. So I did. We came in with a large class of over 50 Members. I went up to HARRY and said: Hi. I am DICK DURBIN from Illinois. We have a mutual friend in Chicago.

He said: Well, great. I am looking forward to working with you.

I said: So are you headed up to Harvard for the orientation? I will see you up there.

He said: No, I am headed to Kansas City. We have settlement conference in a personal injury lawsuit that I couldn't miss.

And I thought to myself, this is some lawyer. Up to the bitter end of his legal career, he was still devoted to the cause of representing clients and representing them effectively. When HARRY makes a commitment, he keeps

it. I knew at that moment and I have known it ever since.

Four years later, he was in the Senate, I was still in the House, but the day came when I finally got elected to the Senate and joined HARRY REID.

I know we had a good friendship to start because we came to the House together, but I remember the day and I remember the moment when that friendship became something special. It was right there in the well of the Senate.

The most important bill in HARRY's political career was up for a vote. It was on Yucca Mountain.

He came before the rollcall was being announced and he said: How are you going to vote?

I said: Well, HARRY, I have kind of mixed feelings on this.

He said: Stop. I need you. I think I have enough votes, but I may need you. So can you promise that if I need your vote you will be there?

I said: Well, all right.

But he said: But I don't think I will need your vote.

You know what happened next. They called the roll, and at the very end, one of the Democratic Senators he counted on voted the other way. He turned to me and said: Well?

I said: I am giving you my word.

And I voted with HARRY REID on Yucca Mountain.

That was the moment when our friendship became solid. In this business, your word is your bond. When you promise somebody you are going to stick with them come heck or high water, that is when it is tested.

Our friendship grew from that point. I didn't know the time would come, but it did, amazingly, when Tom Daschle lost in the Senate race in South Dakota. The next day, I got a call from HARRY REID. He said: I hope you will consider running for whip. You ought to call every Member of the caucus, and I did.

I quickly learned that many of them had called him and said: Whom do you want to be your whip? And he said: Well, I think DURBIN would be a good choice.

That is why I am sitting here today.

Twelve years later, I am still serving as HARRY REID's whip and still counting the votes on key issues, and during those 12 years, I probably spent more time talking to HARRY REID, my colleague in the Senate, than to any other Member of this body. It is a close, personal friendship and relationship, and we have gone through a lot together.

I listened to his stories. He told some of them today. He returns to his youth, growing up in Searchlight, which we heard about today in just wonderful detail, but he also returns to all of those friendships that were made during those years with people he grew up with in Searchlight and in Henderson, where he went to school. I have come

to know these people as if they were my own classmates because I have heard these stories so many times. It is part of who he is, and it is part of his value system. It explains some important decisions in his life.

When he talks about the Affordable Care Act, we understand that he still remembers that his mother needed dentures, and he saved up money to buy his mother a set of teeth. He thought about the fact that there was no medical care for his family when they needed it the most. He thought about the depression that took his father's life and how that might have been averted with the right medical care. That is what has inspired him to public life.

The one thing that has inspired him the most is Landra. Over and over, I have heard these stories about this courtship. Now, by most standards, getting married when you are 19 is not recommended but, clearly, in this case, it worked out beautifully. When he tells the story of how he finally got Landra to marry him, it appears there was a little bit of tension between Landra's family and this young HARRY REID, to the point where Landra's dad basically said to him: Stay away; I don't want you dating my daughter. Well, they had words and other things, and HARRY insisted. He dated Landra, and they were married. The interesting thing about that is that despite that tension with her father in those early years, HARRY wears a ring that her father used to wear, and he carries it around with pride in memory of her father and her family. He manages to keep those memories as part of his life and his inspiration.

Another thing my colleagues may or may not know is that HARRY is a voracious reader. He reads books constantly. Even after he lost the sight in his right eye, he has continued to read. I love to read as well. It has been one of my real joys in life, exchanging books with HARRY. He reads everything under the sun. One time he told me he was reading the Koran cover to cover. I thought: Man, that is something I am not sure I could even do. He has this curiosity, this interest in learning. Even at this point in his life, as he nears the end of his public career, he wants to continue to learn about people and history and important things.

I look back on experiences we have had together. It was 9/11 when HARRY and I were in a room just a few feet away from here when there was an attack in New York, and in Virginia, and we thought the Capitol would be the next target. We had to race out of this building and stand outside, not knowing which way to turn as we were afraid that we were the next target here at the U.S. Capitol. Those were moments we spent together that I won't forget.

I remember as well that he was one of the first to say to my junior Senator

from Illinois, Barack Obama, that he should seriously consider running for President. President Obama the other night said that was one of the most important pieces of advice he received in making his decision to be a candidate for President of the United States. It is an indication of HARRY's credibility—how much people trust him, and how when he gives his word, you know he is going to be there.

When President Obama was elected, he needed a person—more than one, but he certainly needed a leader in the Senate whom he could count on. He couldn't have had a better ally than HARRY REID. When I look back on the battles over the last 8 years that were waged on behalf of America and HARRY's leadership role with the President, there wasn't another person in this Chamber who could really take as much credit. He would be the last person in the world to do so.

When it came to the stimulus package to turn this economy around, it was HARRY REID counting the votes. It was HARRY REID working every single day the holding hands of those Members of the Senate who weren't quite sure they could be there when he needed them.

It was HARRY REID who was counting up to 60 votes to pass the Affordable Care Act. It took every single Democrat. Not a single Republican would join us in that effort. And HARRY REID had to do it. What was he up against? He was up against Ted Kennedy, who sadly was giving his life up to cancer at that moment and fighting to stay alive until he could vote for that important bill. It was HARRY REID working with other Members of the Senate who would get cold feet on the issue and had to be brought back in. He did it time and again, day after day after day. In the end, 20 million Americans have health insurance because of HARRY REID's determination that what he went through as a kid growing up in Searchlight would not be repeated for families across the United States.

When it came to Wall Street reform and the Frank and Dodd bill that passed through the Senate, HARRY stuck with it and made sure we passed it, hoping to avoid the kind of recession we have been through and the damage that was done to businesses and families and individuals all across the United States.

I knew he was a fighter because I knew his record when it came to being a lawyer. There are so many stories about his clients that I have heard over and over. I feel like they were my clients because I have heard those stories so often.

One of the things I remember and read about in his book I want to share with you. There was a woman named Joyce Martinez who was working in Las Vegas, and the police came in to the casino where she was working and

arrested her for writing bad checks at the local grocery store. Joyce tried going to several lawyers and kept insisting they were wrong. She had never done anything like that, but none of these lawyers would take the case. Then she met HARRY REID. HARRY believed her. HARRY said she reminded him of the people he had grown up with—real people who had nothing but hard work as their life. Like many of the cases HARRY decided to take, his colleagues said: What are you doing wasting your time on this case? Spend your time on worthwhile cases. But every step of the way, despite the ridicule, HARRY decided to stand up for this cocktail waitress. HARRY was determined to keep at it and to make sure that she had a strong voice in court. Ultimately, Joyce won her case, and HARRY REID ended up with a victory that he still counted many years later as one of his great successes as a lawyer.

He also made sure the store that brought the charges against her had to follow the law in the future. So he didn't just help Joyce, he helped a lot of other people as well.

For HARRY, this is what the law was all about as a lawyer and what it was all about as a Senator—making life better for people and families across the United States.

He has fought for so many important causes, and there is one that I want to give special thanks for. It was his commitment to the DREAM Act. I introduced this legislation 16 years ago when I discovered a young woman in Chicago, undocumented, who sadly couldn't go on with her life and go to college because of her legal status. I introduced the DREAM Act to say those young people brought to the United States as kids deserve a second chance. HARRY REID heard my speeches and then met his own DREAMer in Nevada: Astrid Silva, a DREAMer who would often write to HARRY with updates on her life. On December 8, 2010, HARRY REID kept his promise to me and a promise to Astrid and to other DREAMers by allowing the DREAM Act to be brought to the floor for a vote. The Senate Gallery was filled with DREAMers wearing their graduation gowns and caps to remind people they were students who wanted to use their education and talents for the future of America. Fifty-five Senators voted for the DREAM Act that day. HARRY had given us our chance. But it wasn't enough to pass because we needed 60 votes under the Senate rules.

HARRY REID joined me and 22 other Senators in sending a letter to the President of the United States asking that he do everything he can to protect these DREAMers, and he did, with an Executive order known as DACA. To date, 744,000 of these young people have been protected with President Obama's Executive order, because HARRY REID

believed, as I believe, that these young people deserve the chance.

Let me tell my colleagues one last story that I think really defines HARRY—his courage, as well as Landra's courage. It goes back to his days as chairman of the Nevada Gaming Commission. Being a Mormon, not gambling, not drinking, he was the perfect choice for gaming commissioner. It was hard to consider bribing him. In the 1970s, HARRY wore a wire for the FBI to catch a bribery attempt. The tape that was transcribed from that wire ends with HARRY jumping out of his seat and shouting: You SOB, you tried to bribe me. HARRY couldn't tolerate that somebody thought he could be bought.

In an effort to retaliate, the mob was mad at HARRY, and they planted a bomb in his family car. Thank goodness, a watchful Landra spotted it and told HARRY: Don't start the car. They are alive today because of Landra's vigilance, but they suffered that indignity because of their courage in standing up for ethics and integrity. Today, when we hear people talking about how rough politics can be, it certainly doesn't lead to a bomb, in most circumstances. In this case, HARRY proved then and today that he is up to that kind of a challenge.

Let me conclude with this. In HARRY's childhood home in Searchlight, there were words embroidered on a pillowcase that his mom hung on the wall. As we have heard, it was a simple and barren little shack that they lived in, but this pillowcase had the following words: "We can, we will, we must," Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

HARRY never forgot those words. They are engrained in his spirit. I want to thank him for what he has done for the Senate, for the State of Nevada, for me, and for his decades of service to the United States. I want to thank Landra and their five kids and their wonderful family for sharing her husband and their father with us for all of these years.

HARRY is leaving the Senate, but I am sure he is not going to quit. He is going to be fighting for Nevada to the end, and he will be fighting for the causes he believes in. He will continue to be a fearless advocate. I wish him and his family all the best.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, Senator HARRY REID and I were both elected to the House in 1982, and over the last 34 years, HARRY has become more than a colleague to me. He is like family.

I call him the "brother I never had," and he calls me the "sister he never had."

Only a brother can hang up on you like HARRY does.

And because a sister's job is to embarrass her brother, I want to talk today about HARRY's incredible, extraordinary career and how much he means to me.

HARRY, his wife, Landra, my husband, Stewart, and I have all grown to be dear friends and enjoy quiet dinners together. Stew and I even invited them to stay with us in our California desert home once—where I cooked, much to HARRY's disbelief.

Theirs is a truly beautiful love story. They met in high school and have been together ever since.

There was one incident early on that could have derailed them. When HARRY went to pick Landra up for a date, her father, a Jewish immigrant, was opposed to his daughter dating a man with no religion.

But that wasn't going to stop HARRY. He actually got into a fistfight with his future father-in-law and punched him in the face.

As HARRY simply said, "It wasn't the greatest beginning."

But love always prevails. HARRY and Landra eloped during college, and Landra's parents eventually came around to supporting them.

And throughout HARRY's career—throughout every campaign, every election, every bump in the road—Landra has been by HARRY's side, and he by hers.

Though he has risen to the highest levels of success, HARRY has never forgotten where he came from and has always fought like hell for his State. He was born in what he calls a "flyspeck on the map"—Searchlight, NV in 1939, a year before me.

To say he grew up poor is an understatement. His childhood home had no toilet or running water, and in order to attend high school, he had to move in with relatives 40 miles away.

Nothing came easy for HARRY, but he never let that deter him. In high school, he wanted to buy a car, so he took a job at a bakery that required him to wake up at 4 a.m. during the week—3 a.m. on weekends. In his spare time, he took up boxing, which earned him a college scholarship.

His very humble beginnings taught him the value of hard work. We have all heard HARRY tell the story of working six days a week as a U.S. Capitol Police Officer while putting himself through law school full-time at George Washington University. For years, he proudly displayed his badge here in his D.C. office. Upon graduation from law school, he returned to Nevada as an attorney specializing in what he called, "the cases nobody would take" before starting his career in elected office: First, as the Henderson city attorney, then as an assemblyman, Lieutenant Governor, and chairman of the Nevada Gaming Commission, before winning election to the House of Representatives.

After two terms in the House, HARRY won a seat in the Senate, where he gained a reputation for integrity and fairness. He was elected as our leader in 2004, and I believe he will go down in history as one of the best.

HARRY is a workhorse, not a show horse.

He is soft-spoken and a wonderful listener, but is not afraid to speak up.

He doesn't seek the spotlight—in fact, he often avoids it at all costs—but he also knows how to use it to fight for those without a voice.

And, he takes the time to know every member of his caucus—what makes us tick, what our core issues are, and where we each draw the line.

I want to relate one particular story that truly exemplifies the leader HARRY is.

One December night in 2009, I got a call from HARRY and Senator CHUCK SCHUMER. They were trying to negotiate the final issue on the Affordable Care Act, and this was our last chance to get the bill passed.

We needed every single Democrat in order to end the Republican filibuster, but we had reached a stumbling block: Senator Ben Nelson believed the Federal subsidy in the ACA should not go towards abortion.

If he voted against the bill, Obamacare would be gone. So HARRY trusted Senator PATTY MURRAY and me with the crucial responsibility of finding a solution.

For 13 grueling hours, my team and I would come up with an idea, Senator SCHUMER would run it over to Senator Nelson, and we would volley back and forth until we finally landed on a compromise.

The bill was saved, and today, more than 20 million Americans have health care—many for the first time ever—thanks, in large part, to HARRY REID. He never gave up, and he trusted members of his caucus to help get this bill—one of the most important health care bills in a generation—across the finish line.

HARRY has perfected the art of strategy and negotiation. He knows when to compromise and when to stand up and fight—especially when it comes to his beloved Nevada.

He has accomplished far too many things to mention, but I want to quickly talk about a few issues.

No one fought harder against the plan to dump nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, which would have threatened the health and safety of Nevadans. Since he was first elected to Congress 34 years ago, HARRY fought proposal after proposal until the plan was finally scrapped—almost entirely because of him.

He has been instrumental in the fight to protect and restore Lake Tahoe—which is shared between our two States. HARRY created the Lake Tahoe Summit and worked across party lines to help keep Tahoe blue.

He has protected more than three million acres of wilderness, established Great Basin National Park, and has fought to protect our landmark environmental laws.

And when we were in the throes of the worst economic crisis in a generation, HARRY fought tooth and nail to stop the hemorrhaging of jobs and help Americans keep their homes—especially in Nevada, which was one of the hardest hit States.

HARRY worked tirelessly to shepherd the Recovery Act through Congress—a monumental task in our political environment. At every turn, the right wing threw everything they had at us, but HARRY took it all on the chin with his strength, stamina, and fortitude.

He stepped up and helped us avoid Armageddon, and I give a great deal of credit to Senator REID and President Obama for that.

At his core, that is who HARRY REID is: When he believes something to be right, he doesn't think twice about putting the gloves on, hopping in the ring and fighting for what he believes in. He just does it.

For this, and for so many other reasons, HARRY has made the Democratic Party better. He has made Nevada better. He has made our country better. And on a personal level, HARRY has made me better. I will forever be grateful for his leadership, his mentorship, and most of all, his friendship.

In closing, I would like to read the words I wrote about him.

Harry . . . thank you for the strength you give to us.

Harry . . . thank you for the way you make them cuss.

So you're not a TV star,
We just take you as you are.

Harry, blue and true,
No one like you.

Harry . . . working from the day until the night.

Harry . . . never turns away when there's a fight.

Good thing there are no Senate duels!
Harry, blue and true,

No one like you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUDIT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to alert the new Trump administration to a problem in the Defense Department. There is a festering sore needing high-level attention. I am talking about what turns out to be a formidable barrier. It stands in the way of an important goal: auditing the books of the Department of Defense. At times, this barrier makes the goal seem unattainable.

The need for annual financial audits was originally established by the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990. By March of 1992, each agency was to present a financial statement to an inspector general for audit. Today, all have earned unqualified or clean opinions, except one, and guess what. The Department of Defense is that one. It has the dubious distinction, out of all of the Federal Government, of earning an unblemished string of failing opinions known as disclaimers.

In the face of endless stumbling, Congress drew a new line in the sand. It is in section 1003 of the fiscal year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. The Pentagon was given an extra 7 years to clean up the books and get ready. Guess what. The slipping and sliding never stopped. The revised September 2017 deadline is staring us in the face, and all the evidence tells us the Department will never make it.

The 25-year effort to audit the books is stuck in the mud.

Billions of dollars have been spent trying to solve the root cause of the problem, and that root cause is a broken accounting system. But the fix is nowhere in sight. Until control at the transaction level is achieved, auditing the books is nothing more than a pipe-dream.

Under the fiscal year 2010 law, the Financial Improvement and Auditing Readiness Plan, called FIAR, is supposed to tell us whether the financial statements of the Defense Department “are validated as ready for audit by not later than September 30, 2017.”

The latest FIAR report hit the street last month, but it does not answer the key question: Is the Department of Defense ready for audit? I read it, and I don't know for sure. It is a study in fuzzy thinking. It is kind of like a riddle, and here is why.

True, the Department boldly declares that it is audit-ready. But in the very same breath, the Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Mike McCord, takes a step backward. He warns that earning a clean opinion is “many years” away. Being audit-ready should offer a reasonable prospect for success, but something is really out of whack here.

So the ultimate objective of section 1003 is a successful audit or clean opinion. Mr. McCord's words seem to turn that objective upside down. How can the Department be audit-ready and meet the deadline if it is still years away from a clean opinion?

Mr. McCord's message appears to be downright confusing, contradictory, and possibly misleading. If he knows the Department of Defense is years away from a clean opinion, then he must also know that it is not audit-ready or even close to it. He has to know that the accounting system is incapable of producing reliable information that meets prescribed standards. That tells me the Department of Defense is not audit-ready yet, and he knows it—like everyone else.

Before he steps down, Mr. McCord owes us an explanation for the confusing statements. And once the new Pentagon leadership is up to speed, I look forward to further clarification.

I also hope this new team will address the wisdom of doing full financial statement audits when there is limited control at the transaction level. By proceeding with full-scale audits with-

out it, Mr. McCord has put the cart in front of the horse. Spending hundreds of millions of dollars a year for audits with a zero probability of success is wasteful.

I would like to remind my colleagues why a successful audit is so important. First and foremost, it would conform with constitutional requirements. It would strengthen internal controls and facilitate the detection of fraud and theft. But it is also important for more practical reasons: It would help bring about better, more informed decision-making. Management can't make good decisions with bad information. If accounting information is inaccurate and incomplete—as it is today at the Department of Defense—then management doesn't know what anything costs or how the money is being spent, and if they don't have that information at their fingertips, how could they possibly make good decisions?

January 2015 was when the report I was referring to was first put out, but it was just now made public. Recent revelations about the \$125 billion in “administrative waste,” which was allegedly suppressed by senior defense officials, is living proof of bad decisions. If the time ever comes when the Department of Defense's accounting system can generate reliable information, then such mistakes could be avoided.

So I keep coming back to the same old questions: Why has faulty accounting information been tolerated at the Pentagon for all these years? How is it that the Pentagon is able to develop the most advanced weapons the world has ever known with relative ease and yet, for some strange reason, it seems unable to acquire the tools it needs to keep track of the money it spends? Why is this national disgrace being tolerated at the Pentagon?

There are never-ending bureaucratic explanations, but there don't seem to be any solutions.

With good leadership, this problem can be solved. The man nominated to be the next Secretary of Defense, Mr. James Mattis, strikes me as the kind of person who will tackle this problem head-on and run it to the ground until fixed. His record suggests he will not tolerate this kind of endless foot-dragging and inexcusable failure. Twenty-five years of lameduck excuses probably won't sit too well with this marine general. Either he will whip the accounting system into shape or heads will roll. According to press reports, “failure” is not a word that he knows or uses.

With a new sheriff in town, maybe the endless, helpless “woe is me” hand-wringing at the Pentagon is about to come to a screeching halt. A modern, fully integrated finance and accounting system might be more than just the dream it has been.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to have a prop with me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I rise here in the Chamber to give my last speech in the Senate. I want to describe some experiences I have had that are at the heart of my service in the Congress.

As a staffer, I worked for the House International Relations Committee and for Chairman Benjamin Gilman. He had been asked by Cardinal John O'Connor of New York to investigate the plight of Catholics in northern Bosnia. From that assignment, I went to northern Bosnia to meet with Bishop Komanic, who started out the meeting in a very difficult fashion.

He started by saying: Am I a human? Am I a human? Am I?

I said: Yes, you are.

He said: You foreign delegations always don't do anything for me.

I said to Bishop Komanic: Please give me one task that I can take on for you.

He said: If there is one thing I need, it is to get my human rights office head, Father Tomislava Matanovic—who was recently captured by a very notorious criminal, the police chief of Prijedor, Bosnia, who was infamous for starting the first concentration camp in Europe after 1945. It was called the Omarska Camp. The man who ran this place was named Simo Drljaca. He pushed 700 bodies down the shaft of this mine. In this work, he had probably captured the priest I wanted, Tomislava Matanovic.

When I went back to the States, as a reservist, I ransacked the DOD databases. We found from intelligence reports that we suspected this police chief of Prijedor had been the kidnapper of Tomislava Matanovic. I went to the CIA and asked to meet with this man so I could urge him to give this priest back to me. When Simo Drljaca met with me, he gave me this memento of Serbia. It has the markings of St. George slaying a dragon, with a date of 1994, and various Serbian markings.

After I learned so much about Simo Drljaca, I asked the Clinton administration to make sure they could indict him for war crimes, crimes against humanity, to make sure we could eventually bring him down.

When the Bosnian secret police brought him to me, he gave me this memento, which I have kept under my desk. He gave that to me hoping maybe he would not get picked up. Luckily, the Clinton administration had decided to pick him up. They had a typically obscure DOD acronym to cover the status of this kind of person. They called them PIFWC, persons indicted for war crimes.

Eventually we got an operation together to arrest Simo Drljaca, and the British Special Air Service carried it

out. When they waited for Simo, they waited by a riverbank for him to do his Sunday fishing with his son.

An officer had painstakingly memorized the Serbian's arrest record and indictment so he could read it to Drljaca in his British accent. When he started reading the indictment, Drljaca reached down into his fishing tackle box and shot the British arresting officer. Luckily, the British officer did survive, was wearing body armor. When that shot rang out, the security team across from the river put several rounds into Drljaca's chest. He dropped dead right there at the beach.

After I heard about this, I was so proud to be part of this congressional team and to still be an officer in the U.S. Navy.

I will say that this institution, and the U.S. military that has given rise from the appropriations we have given, is the greatest force for human dignity that has ever been put forward. I was so proud we brought this monster to justice. The guy who put together the first concentration camp in Europe had been stopped, and he could no longer hurt anyone. And this memento has been underneath my desk here in the Senate ever since to remind me of the basic human values that we share so dear—that we have here. I would say the United States is now the greatest force for human dignity that we have ever seen. To make sure those values continue has been at the heart of my service here in the Senate and in the Congress.

Let me conclude by thanking some critical people.

I thank Congressman John Porter for hiring me back in 1984, when I started my service here in the Congress; Chairman Ben Gilman of New York for putting me on that international committee; the people of the 10th Congressional District of Illinois who first sent me to the House and the people of Illinois who also sent me to represent their State here; all the family and friends who put me here: Karen Garber and Michael Morgan, especially Dodie McCracken, who was always at my side—people who wanted to make sure we had a person of thoughtful, independent values who could serve here in the Congress.

To conclude, I want to give a message to the people of Illinois. For the people of Illinois, I would say: Take heart, Illinois, that you come from one of the most industrious States in the Union, the fifth largest industrial State.

Especially after the problems we had with Governor Blagojevich, we have been a little down in the dumps.

A lot of times, I will pull out my iPhone and ask people in the State the same question: Who invented the iPhone, the cell phone? And the answer is, Martin Cooper from Winnetka, IL. On the top of the iPhone is a trans-

mitter, and I remind us that the first cell phone call in the world was made from the 50 yard line of Soldier Field in Chicago. That trillion-dollar industry started right in the middle of our State. That, we should always remember.

Lots of times when I am giving this speech, I will say: If it weren't for the people of Illinois, a lot of the people you know would be missing teeth, because we invented modern dentistry with GV Black in Jacksonville, and our houses would not be so clean, because we invented the vacuum cleaner.

People on the southwest side of Chicago say: KIRK, tell them that we invented the zipper—which they did.

People in Peoria will say: Hey, remind them that we invented the electric blanket. And they did.

From the electric blanket to the vacuum cleaner and the cell phone, the people of Illinois have been so innovative.

Now we have a unique time in history. I can safely say without contradiction here in the Senate that the Chicago Cubs are now the World Series champions. As I have said so many times, any professional baseball team can have a bad century, but we have finally killed the curse of the goat and all the curses that befell our professional baseball team.

I would say take heart, Illinois. You are so inventive that you produce most of the pumpkins in the country. When we sit down to Thanksgiving pumpkin pie, that is 80 percent Illinois.

Mr. President, with that, I yield the remainder of my time to the victor of the Illinois Senate race, Senator-Elect TAMMY DUCKWORTH.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is becoming too common a theme that the U.S. Senate, in the closing days of session, rushes to consider a conferenced defense authorization bill. Earlier this year, we considered one of the largest defense authorization bills in history, and the Senate considered few amendments and was afforded a truncated debate period. Worse, the authorization threatened to bust a carefully balanced budget agreement, by misusing overseas contingency operations, OCO, funds for base spending. I opposed that bill. Now, in the closing hours of the Congress, we are faced with a vote on a conferenced version of that bill. It is far from perfect.

However, like open government groups across the spectrum, I am pleased to see that a dangerous provision concerning the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA, that Senator GRASSLEY and I strongly opposed has been removed from the final bill. This overbroad provision, which was part of the reason I opposed the Senate bill, could have categorically exempted a vast amount of Department of Defense information from public disclosure, including potentially the Pentagon's

handling of sexual assault complaints, reports about defective equipment issued to soldiers in combat zones, and documented health hazards faced by military families living on bases abroad. Hiding such information from public scrutiny would directly undermine the transparency required to address threats to the safety and security of our troops. As the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, the committee with jurisdiction over FOIA matters, Senator GRASSLEY and I are glad that our concerns were taken seriously and addressed. Now that this provision has been struck, our Nation's premier transparency law can continue its critical mission of watching over the safety of those who risk it all to keep us safe.

I am also grateful for the vital support this bill provides to our military personnel and their families and the augmentation of our preparedness to deter, or meet, future threats through a wise investment in technology and people. As the world becomes less stable, this bill includes a number of measures to reaffirm our long-standing commitments to our partners abroad who work with us to make the world safer.

Nonetheless, I still have concerns with a number of ill-considered provisions in this bill. I am not yet satisfied that sufficient consideration has been given to how the caps on general officers affect the National Guard, where leadership often alternates between Army and Air Force officers. No one has accounted for why the vice chief of the National Guard Bureau is the only Vice Chief to not have a grade established by statute. And I remain concerned that this bill removes the requirement that the deputy commander of the U.S. Northern Command be drawn from the ranks of the National Guard. It is our National Guard leaders who are most capable of responding to domestic disasters.

Regrettably, this year's defense authorization bill also misses an opportunity to provide the Obama administration with the flexibility it needs to finally close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. Rather than putting an end to this shameful chapter in our Nation's history, the bill maintains the status quo by extending the unnecessary prohibition on constructing facilities within the United States to house Guantanamo detainees and continues the counterproductive ban on transferring detainees to the United States for detention and trial. Closing the detention facility at Guantanamo is in our national security interest. It is the right thing to do. I strongly oppose the needless barriers to doing that in this bill.

In the end, I do believe this authorization bill more appropriately provides for the common defense. None-

theless, Members of Congress, on either side of the aisle, should not tolerate this perennially constrained debate over the authorization of over half of our Nation's budget. Similarly, if Congress considers legislation next year about the important question of civilian control of the military, it should not do so under the abbreviated, restricted debate by which we will finally approve the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017.

It was my highest honor when Vermonters voted to send me back to the Senate this past November. In a time of uncertainty, they are looking for leaders. I am, too. I hope Senate leaders next year will insist on regular order and the deliberative process that has long been the hallmark of this body.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss the passage of my legislation, the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, which was included in the fiscal year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, conference report. I especially want to thank Senator MCCAIN who partnered with me on this legislation and who has been a true champion in the Senate for human rights and the fight against corruption. I also thank Senator BOB CORKER, Senator JACK REED, Congressman ED ROYCE, and Congressman ELIOT ENGEL for their help getting this important bill over the finish line.

Before I discuss the specifics of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, I want to discuss how we got here. In the 112th Congress, we passed the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act. That act placed sanctions on Russian officials responsible for the death of Sergei Magnitsky, a Russian lawyer who was arrested after he uncovered massive corruption in Russia. In 2009, Sergei Magnitsky died after suffering torturous conditions in pretrial detention. Those responsible for his torture and death were not brought to justice in Russia and some were even decorated and promoted.

With enactment of the Magnitsky legislation in 2012, the United States sent an unambiguous warning to gross violators of human rights in Russia that we will not allow them to travel to our shores and to use our financial system. The Magnitsky Act resulted in dozens of Russians implicated in his death from receiving travel visas and from benefiting from our financial system—and represented an extraordinary victory for human rights defenders in Russia.

As we know all too well, however, human rights violations against dissidents, journalists, whistleblowers, and rights advocates aren't unique to Russia. That is why Senator MCCAIN and I introduced the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act,

which gives the President the authority to deny human rights abusers and those engaged in significant acts of corruption entry into the United States and access to our financial institutions.

Including significant acts of corruption as a sanctionable offense is an important addition to this legislation. The correlation between corruption, human rights abuses, and repressive governments is clear. Corruption destabilizes democracies, weakens a country's rule of law and can stall a nation's development. And those who call out these abuses are often threatened, physically or psychologically abused, or worse.

As many of my colleagues know, the United States has long struggled with the best way to address human rights violations and corruption around the globe. With passage of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, I believe we now have the tools to hold accountable gross violators of human rights and those who engage in serious acts of corruption in a way that bolsters both our national security and foreign policy goals. Bad actors from South Sudan to Venezuela and Azerbaijan to Cambodia are on notice that they can no longer escape the consequences of their actions, even when their home country fails to act. But in my view, the most important message this legislation sends is that the United States stands in solidarity with all those who stand up against corruption and human rights violations—and we do so through both words and actions.

I, again, thank my Senate colleagues for their support for this important bill and for joining me in standing up for all those who seek a more just world, even though doing so often puts their own lives in jeopardy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I want to take an opportunity to salute and thank and commend my colleagues who are departing.

MARK KIRK

Mr. President, Senator KIRK, my colleague from Illinois, just finished his remarks.

MARK and I had the opportunity and the privilege to work on many things together. He is a Navy commander. He never lets me forget that. He always called me Major; I always called him Commander. He served the State of Illinois with great integrity, great energy, and great spirit, and we thank him for that very much.

Thank you for your service to the Nation in the uniform of the United States Navy.

We also have other colleagues departing: Senator AYOTTE from New Hampshire; Senator BOXER of California,

Senator COATS of Indiana; as I mentioned, Senator KIRK of Illinois; Senator MIKULSKI of Maryland; Senator REID of Nevada; and Senator VITTER of Louisiana. Each has brought passion in their work to best serve their constituents, and the institution of the Senate and the Nation are better for this service. I am better for knowing them, working with them, and having the opportunity to share with them, and I want to thank them for their service. Let me mention a few words with respect to all of these distinguished Senators.

KELLY AYOTTE

Mr. President, KELLY AYOTTE and I worked together for many years on the Armed Services Committee. What she brought was an unparalleled commitment to and passion for the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States. She wanted them to have a quality of life that reflects their service and their sacrifice. She wanted them to have the training and the equipment that would protect them as they engage our foes, and she wanted to make sure they knew that we were always conscious of their sacrifice and service. She did this in so many different ways, and she did it so well.

She was particularly committed to making sure that the A-10 aircraft remained in our inventory. As someone who as a younger person was an infantry officer, I appreciated having seen in training how effective that system is to protect our forces on the ground, and her efforts were unstinting to make sure that our forces were fully protected. Again, that is just one example of her commitment.

BARBARA BOXER

Mr. President, BARBARA BOXER and I had the privilege to serve both in the House and the Senate together. My first term in the House of Representatives was BARBARA's last term in the House before she was elected to the Senate. She is an extraordinary, tenacious fighter—remarkably so. She has fought for women's rights. She has fought for the rights of families, for people who needed economic assistance, and for people who needed a chance because she realized that the essence of America is opportunity—opportunity for all, not just for those who are privileged or who have the benefit of wealth or power but for all. She has done this extraordinarily well.

A great deal of her energy was directed to environmental protection because that is something that benefits all of us and that is something that is really the biggest legacy we will give to the next generation and the generations that follow. No one has more fiercely defended the environment—not just for a narrow interest, not just for a temporary expedient but for the long-term health and wealth of the American people.

DAN COATS

Mr. President, DAN COATS and I served together. This goes back to both his tenures in the Senate. DAN and I served in the Armed Services and HELP Committees. He was a remarkable Member. He continues to be a remarkable Member. He left us for a while to serve as Ambassador to Germany. Once again—no surprise—he distinguished himself with his thoughtful support of American policy, with his international approach to issues of concern, and with the ability to bring people together, not just colleagues in the Senate but, also, international colleagues.

When he returned, I was very, very grateful for his help. Senator DEAN HELLER and I were working very hard together on a bipartisan basis to help unemployment insurance extension. DAN joined us in that effort, and I thank him for that. It reflects the huge range of talent and interests that he has and, also, his commitment to the men and women of Indiana, particularly the working men and women of Indiana.

MARK KIRK

Mr. President, MARK KIRK I have mentioned. I had the privilege, the opportunity, and the pleasure of being able to salute him as he was here. Again, we always greet each other as Major Reed and Commander Kirk, and I see deep symbolism and deep affection in regard to that exchange. I wish him well as he goes forth.

DAVID VITTER

Mr. President, DAVID VITTER and I served together on the Armed Services Committee, and we continue to serve together on the Banking Committee. As a senior member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, he has been very critical in ensuring that we continue our commitment to infrastructure. Infrastructure is a word now that is getting a lot of attention. Years ago, DAVID was interested in that, not only interested but instrumental in making sure we did our best to keep up with infrastructure so that we could have a productive America, so that people could enjoy the benefits, and so that we could be competitive in a global economy.

He has done a great deal. One area where we also shared an interest is his Home Owner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, which became law in 2014. This was critical not just to Louisiana but to every coastal State, including Rhode Island. His energy, his commitment, and his dedication made it a success. I want to thank him for that, and I wish him well as he goes forward.

BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. President, BARBARA MIKULSKI—what an extraordinary individual. She is a pioneer. She was the first Democratic woman Senator elected in her own right. She is the longest serving

woman in the history of the Congress. BARBARA MIKULSKI and history are one in the same. She has made it. She came from very modest roots in Baltimore. She talked yesterday on the floor about her father and mother running a small grocery store in her neighborhood. She took that sense of community, that sense of dedication, and that sense of selfless service to others. As she said, she was inspired by the nuns that taught her, and that inspiration was extraordinary and fully realized in her life. There are a lot of Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of Notre Dame who are sitting back today thinking: I knew that young lady had it in her.

She certainly did. She led us on the Appropriations Committee, the first woman to chair the committee. She has done so much to assist me on issues that are so important to Rhode Island. I must say that she and Kit Bond, one of her colleagues, were extraordinary in recognizing the problems of lead exposure in children and providing needed resources. I thank her for that.

She has assisted the fishermen in communities in Rhode Island with real assistance and real aid. She has done it over and over. She has given me profound advice, counsel, and kindness.

She said yesterday on the floor: The best ship in the world is friendship. I agree, but ultimately the measure of our service and of our days is kindness. I must say that by that measure, she is a very towering figure in the Senate, in the history of the United States, and I thank her.

HARRY REID

Mr. President, finally, there is our leader, HARRY REID. Much has been said about HARRY today. I will not go over the extraordinary tale of a young man from Searchlight, NV. He was a boxer and a Capitol Police officer while he was working his way through law school. He has always been a fighter—and a fighter for those who need help, not for the powerful but for the people without power. For those without a voice, he has given a voice.

I have always appreciated his counsel, his guidance, and his support, which were important to my constituents and important to all Americans. We have worked on numerous pieces of legislation together to address the housing crisis, to extend unemployment insurance, to make college more affordable, and to improve mental health services, to name just a few.

As he said today in his remarks, one of his achievements is to be able to give health care protection to millions of Americans who didn't have it and if it is taken away will not have it. He did that because it was the right thing to do, because he understood from his own personal experience how traumatizing and how debilitating and, ultimately, how destructive the lack of access to good health care—both physical

health care and mental health care—is to America, and, also, how it does make us productive. Simply having health care is not just a good thing to do, it is a smart economic thing to do. He led that fight for us.

It has been an honor to serve alongside HARRY REID and to see this extraordinary legislator work his way quietly sometimes—many times—but persistently. There is no one more persistent than HARRY. His steady, unselfish leadership will continue to guide us and his example will continue to guide us.

I have been very fortunate. I have had the privilege to serve with these ladies and gentlemen, and I want to thank them for their service.

TRIBUTE TO VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Mr. President, I was also very privileged to serve with the Vice President of the United States, JOE BIDEN. The Vice President was here yesterday. I was here listening to the comments. I must add, if I could, some words of my own.

JOE BIDEN is a true statesman. I had the privilege of serving with him for over a decade. We traveled together to places such as Afghanistan and Iraq. I am honored to have gotten to know him and his wonderful family. Even though he is Vice President of the United States of America—the second highest office of the land—I know the titles he is proudest to hold are father, grandfather, husband, brother, and, after that, Senator.

A tribute to JOE BIDEN really has to extend to some others, and one person I want to single out is his sister, Valerie Biden Owens. Val is not only his closest adviser but the architect of his first campaign and every one thereafter. At a time when very few women were running U.S. Senate campaigns, Val was responsible for electing a 29-year-old newcomer. When tragedy struck, she was the one who helped bring him back, who enabled him to serve the people of Delaware and, ultimately, the people of the United States and of the world. She is a brilliant strategist who has gone on to advise many officeholders. We thank her for her lasting contributions, and I wanted to make sure she got some credit.

Both the Vice President and Val are quick to note the real credit goes to their parents—Catherine Jean Finnegan Biden, his mom, and his late, great father, Joe Sr. The Vice President and I would often joke—and it is not a joke; it is actually a truth: Always aspire to be half as good as mom and dad. That is an Irish aspiration. Joe has made it. I am still working on it, but he is at least half as good as these extraordinary people.

If you have spent any time with the Vice President, you know that he is famous for quoting his father and his mother and the wisdom they imparted to all the children—Joe, Val, Jimmy,

and Frank. I think you have heard Senator BIDEN, Chairman BIDEN, and Vice President BIDEN say: “I give you my word as a Biden.” You know you can take that to the bank. He meant it.

Once you heard that, without hesitation, you know he was there with you and would not equivocate, would not deviate, and would be with you.

I had the privilege of not only working with Senator BIDEN, but I also had the privilege of working with a young captain in the U.S. Army, at least briefly, as we visited him, and that was CPT Beau Biden of the Delaware National Guard. Beau Biden didn't have to join the National Guard. He didn't have to volunteer for Iraq, but he felt it was his duty and his obligation. When we were together with him in Iraq, you saw someone who personified the very best of this Nation—a soldier, someone conscientious, someone who would give his all, give his life for others and, particularly, give every ounce of energy and service to this great Nation.

Anyone who met Beau knew he was a Biden. He didn't have to say it. He looked like his dad but, more importantly, he acted like his dad—strong, tough, proud, dedicated, committed to helping others, particularly those who needed a chance, who needed a hand up. He had a passion for social justice, compassion, and that element of kindness. In the sum of his days—of Beau's days—he certainly surpassed that test of kindness, decency, and compassion.

The Biden family has known a great deal of tragedy—more than most families—but they have stuck together, and they have shared both moments of triumph and moments of profound sadness. Together, they have shaped history and made this a better nation and a better world. All of us who have had the privilege of knowing JOE, Jill, and their family are better people.

Mr. President, let me thank you. Mr. Vice President, Senator, JOE, thank you.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, the Constitution gives the Congress the power and responsibility to provide for the common defense, raise and support armies, provide and maintain a Navy, make rules for the government and regulation of the land naval forces. For 54 consecutive years, Congress has fulfilled these more important constitutional duties by passing the National

Defense Authorization Act. Today the Senate has a chance to make it 55 years.

It is precisely because of this legislation's critical importance to our national security that it is still one of the few bills in Congress that enjoys bipartisan support year after year. Indeed, this year's NDAA has been supported by Senators on both sides of the aisle. The Senate Armed Services Committee overwhelmingly approved the NDAA in a 23-to-3 vote back in May. The full committee followed by passing the NDAA with a bipartisan vote of 85 to 13. After a collaborative and productive conference process, the House passed the NDAA conference report with an overwhelming vote of 375 to 34. I hope the Senate will deliver another resounding vote today.

I thank the committee's ranking member, the Senator from Rhode Island, JACK REED. Despite his lack of education at West Point and the impending doom of the Army football team this weekend, I appreciate the thoughtfulness and bipartisan spirit with which he approaches our national security. This is a much better bill thanks to the Senator from Rhode Island. I appreciate his friendship, and more than that, I appreciate the commitment he and I share to the defense of this Nation and the men and women who serve it.

I also thank the majority leader, the Senator from Kentucky, for his commitment to bringing the NDAA to the floor and for his support throughout the year to make sure this legislation received full consideration and debate.

Our Nation faces the most diverse and complex array of crises since the end of World War II—great power competition with Russia and China, rogue states like Iran and North Korea, and the enduring threat of radical Islamist terrorism. Rising to the challenges of a more dangerous world requires bold reform to our national defense, and that is exactly what the NDAA delivers.

The last major reorganization of the Department of Defense was the Goldwater-Nichols Act, which marks its 30th anniversary this year. Last fall, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a series of 13 hearings on defense reform with 52 of our Nation's foremost defense experts and leaders. We followed up these hearings with a comprehensive review of the roles, missions, and organization of the major actors in the Department of Defense.

This review was borne out of concern that the organization of the department too often inhibits, rather than enables, the talented people serving there to fulfill their duties at a time of major strategic and technological change. Building on this work, the NDAA seeks to improve strategic integration across functional components of the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

At a time when the Department of Defense faces numerous threats that all span different regions, functions, and military domains, the Secretary of Defense needs better tools to more effectively develop integrated solutions and strategies for critical department objectives. To this end, the NDAA would allow the next Secretary of Defense to create and delegate decision-making authority to a series of cross-functional teams to achieve core objectives of the Department. These cross-functional teams would support the Secretary and Deputy Secretary in performing strategic integration more effectively in efficiency.

Improving the effectiveness of our defense enterprise also requires targeting excess bureaucracy. Over the past 30 years, the end strength of the joint forces has decreased by 38 percent. I want to emphasize that. The end strength of the uniformed military has decreased by 38 percent, but the ratio of four-star officers to the overall force has increased by 65 percent. Especially at a time of constrained defense budgets, the military services must right-size their officer corps and shift as many personnel as possible from staff functions to operational and other vital roles. That is why the NDAA directs a reduction of 110 general and flag officers on Active Duty, and it requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study that will identify a further 10-percent reduction. Likewise, the NDAA includes a reduction to the number of senior executive service civilian employees in the Department of Defense commensurate with a reduction to general and flag officers.

The legislation also imposes a limitation on funds used for staff augmentation contracts in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the military department, a practice which has gotten completely out of control.

The NDAA also caps the size of the National Security Council staff at 200 professional staff and detailees. The past 25 years has brought a consistent and steady growth of the NSC staff from 40 during the George Herbert Walker Bush administration to more than 100 in the Clinton administration, to more than 200 during the George W. Bush administration, to reports of nearly 400 under the current administration.

In addition to the growth and size, and largely enabled by it, we have seen an expansion of the NSC's staff role into tactical and operational issues. NDAA will push the staff toward prioritizing the strategic mission that led Congress to create it in the first place. I will repeat that. The National Security Council was created to give advice and counsel to the President of the United States, not to give rules of engagement and specific instructions to officers, generals, and admirals in the field.

Former Secretary Gates quite often tells the story of when he was visiting Kabul, Afghanistan, and walked by an office where there was a red phone, and Secretary Gates said: What is that? They said: That is our line to the NSC.

My friends, we have 30-something staffers at the NSC who are giving directions as to how to carry out operations in the field. It is simply outrageous. By the way, it not only has an effect on morale but also on the ability to address the challenges on the battle-grounds.

For years after the end of the Cold War, the United States enjoyed a near monopoly on advanced military technology, such as stealth, precision-guided munitions, unmanned systems, and the advanced communications that enable network-centric warfare. That is changing rapidly. From China and Russia to Iran and North Korea, we see militaries that are developing, fielding, and employing long-range, precision-guided weapons, advanced fighter aircraft, anti-access and aerial denial systems, and growing space in cyber capabilities. The result is that we are at real and increasing risk of losing the military technological dominance that we have taken for granted for 30 years. That is why innovation cannot be an auxiliary office at the Department of Defense. It must be the central mission of its acquisition system. Unfortunately, that is not the case with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, known as AT&L. It has grown too big, tries to do too much, and is too focused on compliance at the expense of innovation. That is why the NDAA disestablishes AT&L and divides its duties between two new offices, a new Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, and an Under Secretary for Acquisition and Sustainment.

The job of research and engineering will be developing defense technologies that can ensure a new era of U.S. qualitative military dominance. The job of acquisition and sustainment will focus on the execution of acquisition functions, ensuring compliance, and lowering risks to taxpayers. God knows we need to lower risks to taxpayers. These organizational changes complement the additional acquisition reforms in the NDAA. The legislation creates new pathways for the Department of Defense to do business with nontraditional defense firms. It streamlines regulations to procure goods and services. It provides new authorities for the rapid prototyping, acquisition, and fielding of new capabilities, and, critically, the NDAA establishes a preference for fixed-price contracts. The overuse of cost-type contracts and the complicated and expensive government bureaucracy that goes with them serves as a barrier to entry for commercial, nontraditional, and small

businesses that are driving the innovation our military needs.

Continuing down the path of reform, the NDAA initiates a comprehensive modernization of the military health care system to provide beneficiaries with higher quality care, better access to care, and a better experience of care. The NDAA includes provisions that expand DOD telehealth capabilities, reform TRICARE health care plans, modernize TRICARE medical support contracts, streamline the administration of the Defense Health Agency and military medical treatment facilities, and establish high-performance military-civilian integrated health delivery systems.

The NDAA ensures we maintain battlefield medicine as a pocket of excellence in the military health system by taking steps to improve trauma care in military hospitals and develop enduring partnerships with civilian military centers and hospitals. These reforms constitute an important first step in the evolution of the military health system from an underperforming, disjointed health system into a high-performing, integrated health system that gives beneficiaries what they need and deserve—the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

In a world of multiplying threats and increasing danger, we count on young Americans to enlist or commit to serve in the All-Volunteer Force that protects us and our families. The NDAA sustains the quality of life for the men and women and the total force and their families and addresses the needs of our wounded, ill, and injured servicemembers.

The NDAA authorizes a 2.2-percent across-the-board pay raise for members of the uniformed services, the largest military pay raise for our troops since 2010. The legislation authorizes over 30 special pays and bonuses to support recruitment and retention and ensures fair treatment for our Reserve members under their survivor benefit plan.

The NDAA also addresses a disturbing situation affecting members of the California National Guard who have been caught up in a scandal involving the improper issuance of bonuses. The legislation holds the Department of Defense responsible for expediting the review process, reaching out to each impacted servicemember, and notifying credit reporting agencies when debts have been forgiven.

The NDAA also implements the recommendations of the Department of Defense Military Justice Review Group by incorporating the Military Justice Act of 2016. The legislation modernizes the military court-martial trial and appellate practice, incorporates best practices from Federal criminal practice and procedures, and increases transparency and independent review in the military justice system.

Taken together, the provisions contained in the NDAA constitute the

most significant reforms to the Uniform Code of Military Justice in a generation. As we implement these important defense reforms, we have to rebuild a modern and ready Armed Forces prepared to meet current and future threats. The NDAA authorizes a total of \$619 billion for defense discretionary spending, which is \$3.2 billion above President Obama's budget request. That includes the \$5.8 billion in supplemental funding requested by President Obama for operations in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan. The NDAA prioritizes modernization to provide critical military capabilities to our warfighters, fifth-generation fighter aircraft, stealth attack submarines, vital munitions, more lethal and survivable armored vehicles and helicopters.

The legislation also fully supports the modernization of our nuclear triad and makes timely investments in research and development efforts to produce cutting-edge military technologies. Through a combination of added funds and redirected savings, the NDAA directs \$4.6 billion to address the military readiness crisis by reducing training shortfalls, supporting weapons maintenance, and sustaining facilities.

Critically, the NDAA stems the drawdown of military end strength that has exacerbated the readiness crisis, especially in the Army and Marine Corps. As we meet our commitments to our warfighters, we must also uphold our commitment to American taxpayers. The NDAA imposes strict oversight measures on programs such as the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, B-21 Long Range Strike Bomber, the Ford-class aircraft carrier, the littoral combat ship.

These provisions will ensure accountability for results, promote transparency, protect taxpayers, and drive the Department to deliver our warfighters the capabilities they need on time, as promised, and at a reasonable cost. The NDAA upholds America's commitments to its allies and partners. It authorizes \$3.4 billion to support our Afghan partners as they take the fight to our common terrorist enemies.

The legislation authorizes \$3.4 billion for the European initiative to deter Russian aggression. This is a very critical item, as we see more and more aggressive behavior, both in cyber, propaganda, and actual on-the-ground activities by Vladimir Putin—a fourfold increase from last year in the European deterrence initiative.

It provides \$1.2 billion for counter-ISIL operations. It authorizes up to \$350 million in security assistance to Ukraine, including lethal assistance. One of the things that has disappointed me as much as anything else, in some ways more, is that this President has refused to give defensive weaponry to the Ukrainians who are watching their

country be dismembered by Vladimir Putin, the same Vladimir Putin whose anti-air system shot down an airline, the same one who is slaughtering and killing brave Ukrainians as we speak.

This President has refused to give them weapons to defend themselves. This will be, again, the third year in a row where we have authorized it. This is another shameful chapter in the history of Obama's feckless administration as far as national defense is concerned.

Finally, the legislation includes \$600 million to modernize Israel's layered missile defense system. As we continue to support allies and partners against common threats, the NDAA makes major reforms to the Pentagon's complex and unwieldy Security Cooperation Enterprise, which has complicated the ability of the Department of Defense to effectively prioritize, plan, execute, and oversee these activities.

The NDAA consolidates security cooperation authorities from Title 10 and elsewhere in public law into a single chapter of U.S. Code. For the first time, this legislation requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a consolidated security cooperation budget, and the legislation modernizes the security cooperation workforce. Together, these steps will improve operational outcomes, program management, congressional oversight, and public transparency.

This legislation takes several steps to bolster border security and homeland defense. It authorizes \$933 million for Department of Defense counterdrug programs. The legislation codifies the authority of the Secretary of Defense to provide support to Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement for counterdrug and countering transnational organized crime operations. It enhances information sharing and operational coordination between the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security.

Finally, this legislation takes important steps to strengthen cyber security. The legislation elevates U.S. Cyber Command to a unified command. As our senior military leadership has testified, this step is critical to providing the Commander of U.S. Cyber Command with the necessary unity of command and streamlined decision-making.

The NDAA also prevents the premature termination of the dual hat arrangement under which the Commander of U.S. Cyber Command also serves as the Director of the National Security Agency.

Let me close by saying that we ask a lot of our men and women in uniform. They a never let us down. We must not let them down. So let's be bold on their behalf. This NDAA is an ambitious piece of legislation, but in the times we live in, we can't afford business as usual in the Department of Defense. We

can't afford these terrible cost overruns. We just had a hearing on the littoral combat ship. It was supposed to cost \$200 million each. Now it costs \$460 million each, and it has a 30-millimeter gun and a helicopter pad on it.

We cannot do this to the American taxpayers. There was a front page story in the Washington Post just a couple of days ago about some \$125 billion that, in the view of an outside study, had been wasted. We cannot continue to do that to the taxpayers of America, and we certainly cannot afford to continue to do it given the challenges we face all over the world, which are unprecedented in the last 70 years.

Yesterday, I was honored to be asked to speak at the World War II Memorial commemorating the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was an uplifting experience because, thank God, there were so many of our brave warriors who fought and were present in the war that was fought by our greatest generation. There were even a couple who had been on board the USS *Arizona*, which was sunk with 1,117 brave officers and men on board.

You know, one of the lessons at Pearl Harbor was that we were not ready. We were not prepared. The Japanese airplanes that came in and bombed those ships and killed so many brave Americans—we had nothing that could combat them. At that time, the Japanese Zero was so far superior to anything that we had that it was a relatively easy mission for those Japanese Zeros to attack and destroy a good portion of America's Pacific Fleet at that time.

What I fear is not another Pearl Harbor, but what I fear is that with sequestration and with the continuing resolution—which apparently we are going to do, although I will fight as hard as I can against it—we are reducing the ability of our men and women to serve this Nation with effectiveness.

All of the four service chiefs—every one of them—when asked about sequestration and this kind of continuing resolution, have said one thing: We are putting the lives of the men and women who are serving our Armed Forces in uniform in greater jeopardy. Are we going to take the responsibility here with another continuing resolution to place the lives of the men and women serving this Nation at greater risk?

That is a terrible burden—a terrible burden I say to my colleagues, who, maybe because they want to get out of here for Christmas, will be voting for a continuing resolution that again cuts defense spending—cuts it—reduces it. That is not acceptable in light of the fact, by the way, that the President-elect has said he wants to spend more on defense. The President-elect has said: We are not spending enough. We are not doing enough.

By the way, we have to do it right. We need to spend more. We need to do

it right. But when we see a front page story on the Washington Post that shows—I think it showed \$125 billion was wasted, then we also have an obligation to spend those taxpayer dollars correctly. This legislation, which I urge my colleagues to vote for as followup to last year's, has significant reforms in the way the Pentagon does business.

I would like to tell you that now we have reformed the Pentagon and everything is fine. My friends, we have a long way to go. We have a long way to go. I am proud of the bipartisanship that exists on our committee. I am proud of the seriousness with which most—not all, but most—of the members of the committee take their duties as members of the committee. I am proud that my friend and colleague from Rhode Island and I work so closely together, not only we but our staffs, in the spirit that is demanded if we are going to carry out our higher responsibilities to the men who serve.

I am not proud—I am not proud—to see sequestration continue, the mindless, across-the-board cuts that have characterized the last few years. It is supported by both sides of the aisle, not just Democrats. I love to blame the Democrats for it, but both Democrats and Republicans have refused to address sequestration, which is destroying the readiness, which is—not destroying—it is harming the readiness of our men and women to serve and fight.

Operations are being canceled, parts are not available, the training is not available. It goes on and on and on. Why don't we listen? I am not asking you to listen to the civilians. Ask the leaders that we have asked to be the chiefs of their services. Ask the leaders who are component commands. They will all tell you the same thing: We are going to have to spend more money, but we are also going to have to spend it more wisely.

By the way, the Pentagon bureaucracy does not like many of these changes, just as last year we forced these changes on them, and now they all take credit for them. Fine, but now, there is another year of reforms. Next year, we are going to have to do more reforms, but unless we have the funding that is necessary to make these men and women who are serving in our military fully prepared to counter the new challenges, we are going to relive, in some form, December 7, 1941, in the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "A day that will live in infamy."

So I ask my colleagues to vote for this NDAA. We have had the input from literally every Member of this body, I am happy to say. I hope they will vote for this legislation. But I also—when they do—recognize that unless we fund these programs, unless we fund these reforms, unless we provide sufficient funding, then they are not

going to be able to carry out their mission in the most effective fashion.

I say to my colleagues: Vote for this. Vote for this, but do not vote for another continuing resolution that will harm the ability of us and the men and women who are serving, and their leaders, to defend this Nation. It is a heavy responsibility you take on when you vote for the continuing resolution because that does not allow the Pentagon to move money around. It is an overall cut of many billions of dollars at a time that any observer will tell you is more challenging to our national security than any time since December 7, 1941.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the NDAA.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All postcloture time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to the conference report.

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 159 Leg.]

YEAS—92

Alexander	Collins	Heitkamp
Ayotte	Coons	Heller
Baldwin	Corker	Hirono
Barrasso	Cornyn	Hoeven
Bennet	Crapo	Inhofe
Blumenthal	Cruz	Isakson
Blunt	Daines	Johnson
Booker	Donnelly	Kaine
Boozman	Durbin	King
Boxer	Enzi	Kirk
Brown	Ernst	Klobuchar
Burr	Feinstein	Lankford
Cantwell	Fischer	Leahy
Capito	Flake	Manchin
Cardin	Franken	McCain
Carper	Gardner	McCaskill
Casey	Graham	McConnell
Cassidy	Grassley	Menendez
Coats	Hatch	Mikulski
Cochran	Heinrich	Moran

Murkowski	Rounds	Tester
Murphy	Rubio	Thune
Murray	Sasse	Tillis
Nelson	Schatz	Toomey
Perdue	Schumer	Udall
Peters	Scott	Vitter
Portman	Sessions	Warner
Reed	Shaheen	Warren
Reid	Shelby	Whitehouse
Risch	Stabenow	Wicker
Roberts	Sullivan	

NAYS—7

Gillibrand	Merkley	Wyden
Lee	Paul	
Markey	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—1

Cotton

The conference report was agreed to
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, for debate only, until 2:30 p.m. this afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

WRDA

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about drought legislation that is critical to the State of Arizona.

As everyone knows, water is a controversial issue in the West. Arizona and California have long been at odds on a number of water-related issues, particularly the Colorado River.

Since the beginning of this Congress, I have worked to advance Arizona's water priorities. That included working with our neighbors across the Colorado River to get a Flake-Feinstein amendment included in the Energy bill. This amendment, which was adopted on the floor, would allow dams to be more efficient and enhance water storage.

In addition to this amendment, I have introduced the Western Water Supply and Planning Enhancement Act in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I have worked with many of my colleagues on the committee to move this western drought bill through regular order, work that included attempting to find a way to reconcile this bill with the California drought bill in order to advance all of our priorities.

I am disappointed that instead of continuing with the committee process, a California-only deal was airdropped into an unrelated WRDA conference report. This was done at the last minute, circumventing regular order, and leaving Arizona and other western State priorities out to dry.

Not only does the WRDA conference report disregard the good work the Energy and Natural Resources Committee

has carried out over these past 2 years, but it also fails to address western water matters in a holistic way. Let me be clear, important Arizona water issues still need to be addressed by Congress, and I will continue to fight for these priorities.

For example, the Colorado River Basin States are very close to reaching a groundbreaking agreement to deal with the prolonged drought on the river. We will seek legislation to implement this deal early in the next Congress.

Our watersheds are also under great threat from catastrophic wildfires. I will continue to push Congress and the Forest Service to move ahead to reduce fire risks in Arizona.

I look forward to continuing my work on these issues and to fighting for other water needs in Arizona.

ADA DRIVEBY LAWSUITS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, in a driveby lawsuit, an attorney will drive by a place of business and look for technical ADA violations. These are usually minor violations that are easily correctable, like the width of a parking space or the height of a van accessible sign.

Oftentimes, if a technical violation exists, the attorney will either send a demand letter or threaten the business with a lawsuit. Oftentimes, the demand letter will request a settlement that is just under what it would cost the business to litigate, so the business owner picks the lesser of the two evils and pays the settlement.

The scope of the problem is only growing. From the first 6 months of 2015 to the first 6 months of 2016, there was a 63-percent increase in the number of suits filed under title III of the ADA. This year is on pace to see almost 7,000 of these cases brought forward—7,000. Compare 7,000 to the 4,800 lawsuits filed in 2015 and 2,700 in 2013, and we can see what a boon this has been for trial lawyers. In fact, this past Sunday, “60 Minutes” did a special report on driveby lawsuits and the toll they are taking on small businesses throughout the country. I would encourage anyone to watch that piece. It explains the problem very well.

While California, Florida, and New York have the highest incidents of these driveby lawsuits, my home State of Arizona has seen a dramatic increase in these suits over the last 3 years. In 2013, there were three ADA title III suits brought in Arizona—three. By 2015, that number was up to 207. As of September of this year, Arizona has already seen 284.

It is clear that the problem is only getting worse. My legislation would go a long way to solve it. If enacted, property owners must first be given notice of their alleged ADA violation, at which point they would have 120 days

to cure the violation before a lawsuit could be brought. If the property owner fails to address the violation in a timely manner, then they can be sued. The bill also instructs the Department of Justice to promote further ADA compliance through education so small business owners know what is expected of them. I think these reforms will help business owners and persons with disabilities achieve their mutual goal of ADA compliance.

The ADA has been a great success in its 25-year history. It is essential that business owners continue to see it as a tool to ensure fairness for people with disabilities and not as a weapon to line the pockets of unscrupulous lawyers.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for 10 minutes.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY REID

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, earlier today we heard a moving speech by the Democratic leader and my longtime friend, HARRY REID. He spoke of his life and his time here.

An amateur boxer turned police officer, turned lawyer, turned majority leader, that is the supercondensed outline of the life of HARRY REID. When the book closes on this 114th Congress, so too will it close on the congressional career of Senator REID. He is a fighter and a champion. That is an understatement.

He is a fellow country boy, but he had a much tougher upbringing in the isolated hamlet of Searchlight, NV. You can read about that in his book. That upbringing has bred traits that I have admired since he arrived in the Senate in 1987. His humble upbringing, raised in a shack with no indoor bathroom or hot water, sowed the seeds of a life in public service and of the perspective that has infused and driven his public service. He first came to Capitol Hill as a police officer, working nights to pay his way through George Washington University Law School. Little did he know he would end up being one of the longest serving majority leaders in the history of the U.S. Senate.

He can point to so many of the things he has done, including steering the Affordable Care Act to Senate passage. But I want to thank Senator REID for his strong support of justice bills that I have championed. An original cospon-

sor of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization that I introduced in recent years—to strengthen and renew the transformative and lifesaving work that is made possible under VAWA—he has always worked to combat the scourge of domestic violence, helping to shepherd the reauthorization of this vital legislation across the finish line. He has also supported vital grant programs to put more cops on the street in communities small and large and to keep them safe. His commitment to advancing our comprehensive immigration reform bill, we got it through the Senate by a large bipartisan majority. When the history books are written, one of the huge mistakes made was when that the House of Representatives did not take up that bill, even though they had the votes to pass it. These are all examples of how true leadership takes action—not merely talking points—no matter how difficult, to make a difference.

HARRY REID was at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 2015, commemorating the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. I looked at him there with Congressman JOHN LEWIS and President Barack Obama—the first African American elected as President—as one of the towering figures in America. But the true measure of a man is revealed not when he pauses to remember past injustices, he works to prevent them from happening. From pay equity to restoring the Voting Rights Act, from the repeal of don’t ask, don’t tell, to the enactment of the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act, there can be no doubt that Senator REID fights for every American, every day.

And yet, no matter how large a national leader Senator REID has become, he has never forgotten the people of Nevada. In him they have a tireless and effective champion of the highest caliber. Senator REID’s work on behalf of Nevada has been relentless.

He has been our fighter. He has been our champion. And he has been a friend. He has faced and risen above personal adversity. He is a truly American story. And his presence here in the Senate will be missed next year. When Marcelle and I leave Washington for the last time, we will think of the special friends we have had. HARRY REID, Landra Reid—we will think of them. We wish them all the best as they begin their next chapter together.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, mountains, rivers, cities, and plains separate Vermont and California, two States as different as any in the country. But here in the U.S. Senate, we are on equal footing. It is one of the hallmarks of our Constitution and representative government. For over three decades, BARBARA BOXER worked to advance the priorities of Californians.

Thankfully, in many ways, those priorities, despite the diversity of our States, have mirrored those of Vermonters.

A trailblazer in her own right, Senator BOXER rose to become the first woman to chair the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, where she fought to protect and preserve our environment, promote clean and safe drinking water, update our antiquated infrastructure, and improve public safety.

Senator BOXER was an early and vocal supporter of our efforts to reauthorize and expand the important Violence Against Women Act. Her passionate pleas to Senators and Members of the House to approve this critical—and lifesaving—bill was essential to the Senate's debate.

Of course, most important in Senator BOXER's life is her family. Like many, I was touched when she announced her retirement in an interview with her grandson. She has been a tireless advocate for her home State and for the country. And now, in retirement, I hope she enjoys even more time with Stewart and her wonderful family. Far from finished fighting, I know BARBARA's voice will not be one soon forgotten in the U.S. Senate.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID VITTER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to briefly recognize the service of retiring Senator DAVID VITTER. Senator VITTER has served the people of Louisiana in Congress since 1999, through the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, across three different administrations, and through countless debates. As he retires from the Congress after nearly two decades of service to Louisiana, I wish him, his wife, Wendy, their four children and his entire family all the best in the next chapter.

TRIBUTE TO MARK KIRK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for nearly 16 years, Senator MARK KIRK has given voice to his Illinois constituents here in Washington. His long record of service includes work as a congressional staffer, a 24-year career as a naval intelligence officer, a U.S. Congressman, and a U.S. Senator.

Dedicated to several matters of national and international importance, Senator KIRK has supported a range of legislative efforts during his Senate tenure and has not shied from opposing his party's position. From supporting the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and efforts to repeal don't ask, don't tell, from his opposition to defunding Planned Parenthood and the blockade of President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Senator KIRK has emerged as a conservative voice in support of some of the most critical civil rights protections debated today.

When Senator KIRK returned to the Senate following his traumatic stroke in 2012, he showed his commitment to Illinois' voters. As Senator KIRK begins this new chapter, I wish him the very best.

TRIBUTE TO DAN COATS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is an honor for anyone to serve in the U.S. Senate. Giving voice to your constituents' views is a humbling responsibility. It is one thing to be called to serve; it is another to come back for a second tour of duty. Senator DAN COATS' life is one of public service, beginning with military service and culminating for now in his retirement this year from the Senate—his second tenure representing the people of Indiana.

Senator COATS has championed a number of efforts during his terms in the Senate. I am particularly grateful for his support of the National Guard and his support for our efforts to empower the National Guard within the Pentagon. Senator COATS has been a watchdog of government spending, a supporter of critical home assistance programs for low-income families such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and was a supporter of our most recent efforts to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

Senator COATS has come a long way since his early days as a State staffer for then-Representative and future Vice President Dan Quayle. I am sure Hoosiers have not seen the last this public servant will offer. I wish him, his wife, Marsha, and their entire family the best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY AYOTTE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, New England is in itself a small community. We Senators who represent these States band together to fight for our urban and rural communities, to protect our borders, and to preserve the rich heritage on which our country was founded. For the last 6 years, one of those partners has been New Hampshire Senator KELLY AYOTTE. She has diligently sought to represent the Granite State.

Senator AYOTTE and I share a background in law enforcement; as New Hampshire's attorney general, she prosecuted many important cases. After her election to the U.S. Senate in 2011, Senator AYOTTE was recognized as one of the most influential women in her party. She has taken a practical, New England-style approach in the Senate. Like many of us from New England, she has been persistent in her efforts to call national attention to the opioid epidemic ravaging our communities and particularly hitting hard rural communities in Vermont and New Hampshire. She was a partner as we sought to advance and ultimately pass the Comprehensive Addiction and

Recovery Act, which should provide much needed support for those facing this crippling addiction. Her attention to this public health crisis will surely be a cornerstone of her Senate legacy.

I wish Senator AYOTTE, her husband, Joseph, and their children well in their future endeavors.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FINANCIAL REFORM

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, we all remember the very severe financial crisis of 2008, which precipitated a very severe recession from which we have had a very, very weak recovery. In many ways, we are still trying to recover from that. I want to talk a little about that, and I want to talk about the opportunity that is before us to make some very constructive changes to help us have a more robust recovery, the recovery we have been waiting for.

Let's first review, very briefly, the causes of this financial crisis because the misguided response to it has contributed to our lack of a robust recovery. The causes of the financial crisis were of course principally government causes. It was principally the failure of government policy that created the financial crisis that led to this recession.

What specific government policies? I would say several. Briefly, first of all, it was failed monetary policy. The policy in which the monetary authorities kept interest rates too low for too long actually had negative real interest rates, and that policy, quite predictably, created a bubble, a bubble in residential real estate, the explosion of which led to this crisis. This was compounded by the failed legislative policy, which actually required mortgage lenders, especially the government-sponsored enterprises of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, to lend money to people who were very unlikely to be able to pay it back. It is generally a very bad idea to lend money to people who are not able to pay it back, and it was a bad idea in this case as well.

Thirdly, I would suggest that there was a failure of government regulators. There were many thousands of regulators crawling through all of the financial institutions of America, but somehow this gigantic bubble escaped their notice, and the interconnected nature of the firms and the exposures that firms had to financial risk seemed to escape their attention. The combination of a failed monetary policy, failed legislative policy, and failed regulatory policy was the government's enormous contribution to this crisis.

I think everybody would agree that one of the things we learned from the financial crisis was just how inadequate the resolution mechanism was that we had for the failure of a large, complex financial institution. We didn't have an adequate one at all. The failure of Lehman Brothers was a good case in point, and the worry at the time was that if large financial institutions were simply allowed to fail, they would have a knockdown effect that would bring down the entire global financial network and beyond so that was the concern. I think it is valid that the resolution mechanism at the time was insufficient.

In the wake of this crisis, Congress stepped in and decided we have to do something about it, and of course what they did was give us Dodd-Frank, which is a law that is very badly flawed in many ways and failed, in part, because the authors failed to fully comprehend the cause of this crisis and because they took the wrong fundamental approach to dealing with it. Most fundamentally was a conceptual flaw which is that future financial crisis would be avoided by having the government impose enormous and very extensive control and not by freeing up market discipline to prevent the crisis from occurring. I think that is very much at the heart of the fundamental conceptual flaw of Dodd-Frank.

Some of the specifics, broadly speaking, were to severely restrict what financial institutions could do, essentially turn medium- and large-sized banks into public utilities, give regulators, the same folks who missed the last crisis, virtually unlimited powers to micromanage these institutions with the thought that somehow in the future they will catch the next one. Then, as a failsafe in Dodd-Frank, the sort of final backstop, was to actually codify a category of financial institutions as too-big-to-fail. The terminology they use in Dodd-Frank is a little different. They call them systematically important financial institutions, but that is what it is. It is carving into law a category that we will deem too big to fail and the creation of an explicit bailout mechanism, whereby taxpayers will have to once again bail out these financial institutions if they fail.

There are many problems with this whole approach, not the least of which is—there should be no institution in America that is too big to fail. A private for-profit organization, if it fails, it must be allowed to fail. There is no justification for forcing taxpayers to bail out any kind of firm, including banks. That is a bad and fundamental flaw, but there are many adverse consequences that have come along. We have seen a huge concentration in banking assets directly in response to Dodd-Frank that arguably concentrates risks. We have seen costs to

consumers rise, and costs for financial services that consumers need has gone up. Liquidity and securities have gone down, and that just means pension funds and savers have to pay more to invest their savings in the stocks and bonds they are relying on for their retirement security. Innovation has dried up because bureaucrats have to approve everything and anything a financial institution can do.

By the way, it actually destroyed a whole industry. This is not reported on nearly as much as I think it should be, but Dodd-Frank, together with the abnormally low interest rates we have had once again, has completely ended the entire industry of startup community banking. It is worth noting that in the United States of America, prior to the passage of Dodd-Frank, Americans launched new banks for decades. It is something business folks would routinely do. A handful of businesspeople would pull their resources together, start up a bank, contribute the capital, do their own banking business there, and then what would they do? They would provide lending services to consumers and small businesses in their towns and communities. They would be there for the local pizza shop that needs to add a walk-in cooler in the back or the local HVAC repair shop that needs to buy another pickup truck. It is community banks that provide the lending for these kinds of small business opportunities that allow families and individuals to live their dream and create jobs all across America. That is what community banks did for years.

For decades, prior to Dodd-Frank, we launched, on average, about 125 new community banks per year—many more in really good times, fewer in bad times but about 125 per year. From the day they signed Dodd-Frank into law in July of 2010 through this afternoon, we have launched two new community banks in America—two in over 6 years. This industry is done. It is dead. It doesn't happen anymore because when business folks sit around the table and say, gee, wouldn't it be a good idea to launch a bank because we need one in our community, we don't have a small community bank willing to provide these loans, what they have discovered very quickly is, they can't possibly make a go at it because the regulatory expense and costs are so staggering that they can't see their way to a surviving business model. As a result, we don't have these community banks anymore. They aren't being launched and haven't been for years. Who knows how many small businesses haven't been launched and haven't been able to grow because people could never get the funding. Let me just promise you, Citigroup is not in the business of doing the kind of lending that new community banks do every single day. This is just one of the many problems,

and one of the most fundamental ones is that taxpayers have this big contingent liability hanging over their head in the form of that bailout mechanism I alluded to earlier—this requirement that they will be forced to bail out big financial institutions all over again. Dodd-Frank codifies it. Dodd-Frank spells out exactly how it should happen.

It is my strongly held view that we need to reform Dodd-Frank. It is overdue. It needs substantial reforms, and those reforms should include making sure taxpayers never have to bail out another giant institution. That is just wrong. That should not be on the table. In fact, it should be precluded.

A second issue is, taxpayers should not be forced, through the mechanisms of this bill, to make banking products more expensive for consumers—less available, more expensive, fewer products and services. We can do this while we maintain our ability to deter, detect, prevent, and prosecute fraud when it occurs. That is absolutely a fundamental responsibility we have, and we can do that.

Most importantly, we have to enable a vigorous, competitive market for financial services to respond to consumers with new services and new products at ever-lower costs and to have a market discipline that forces those institutions to behave prudently because their future depends on it.

We are coming into a new Congress soon, and I am hoping our Democratic colleagues will work with us to correct the fundamental flaws in Dodd-Frank, repeal the things that don't work, and roll back the problems with this legislation, but the incoming Senate minority leader is on record in interviews already declaring they will not do so. They will not help us in this endeavor. They are not interested and can deny us the 60 votes we will need to make substantive reforms to Dodd-Frank.

Let me suggest to my colleagues that—first of all, I hope there is a change of heart on the other side. I hope, first and foremost, as we go through this process, that some of our Democratic colleagues will work with us and will agree that there are changes that need to be made and that we can make them, hopefully, with a very broad consensus. If that is not possible, I suggest there is an alternative. The alternative is that we use a budget resolution that would contain reconciliation instructions to the Banking Committee. For that matter, this could apply to other authorizing committees, but I am specifically referring to the Banking Committee. The reason that is important is because that will allow us to pass subsequent legislation in compliance with the reconciliation instructions that can pass the Senate with a simple majority vote. That is not my preferred way to do it, but we have to do this. We have

to get this done. This change in Dodd-Frank will have a very profound impact on our economy. It will encourage and enable us to have growth that we have been waiting for, for too long. This device might be what we need to get there.

Let me point out that there are precedents for this. The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 used a budget resolution to create reconciliation instructions, which in turn switched some of the FHA funding streams from mandatory spending to discretionary spending, from spending that is on autopilot to spending that is at the annual discretion of Congress. That was done through exactly this mechanism.

The FDIC and NCUA are deposit insurance funds. They were restructured and reformed, and it was done under the same device using the same procedural mechanism. Those changes were possible because they had a very significant budgetary impact, and that is one of the criteria for using the reconciliation device, which in these cases was something on the order of a couple of billion dollars of taxpayer savings over 10 years.

Reforming Dodd-Frank can save taxpayers a lot of money. The CFPB alone, over 10 years, is expected to consume—on its current path—over \$6 billion. That is a lot of money. Some real sensible, thorough reforms there could save taxpayers.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the Orderly Liquidation Fund will cost taxpayers \$20 billion over the next 10 years. By the way, that \$20 billion is bailout money. We can fix that. The office of financial research costs over \$1 billion.

There are many cases in which we can save serious taxpayer money, in the process reduce our deficits, thereby achieve the goal of the reconciliation instructions given to the Banking Committee, and along the way help encourage stronger economic growth by modifying some of these misguided policies in Dodd-Frank.

I suggest that the election we just went through was about several things, but one of them was certainly shaking up the status quo and getting some things done and not just continuing what we have always been doing. Well, for too long now we have been putting up with the Dodd-Frank bill that is costing us a lot of economic growth and opportunity. I am hoping our Democratic colleagues will work with us so we can begin to make the constructive changes we need, but, if not, I think we should use all tools available to get this job done.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DACA

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to share the story of an incredible DREAMer from my home State of New Mexico, but first I would like to commend my colleague, Senator DICK DURBIN of Illinois, for his tremendous leadership in standing up for DREAMers—young undocumented immigrants who are brought to the United States as children. I am proud to join him in this effort.

Four years ago, the President announced that DREAMers would have the opportunity to apply for temporary protection from deportation through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known as DACA. Today, more than half a million young people across the country have benefited from DACA, including more than 6,500 in my home State of New Mexico.

Across this country, there are DREAMers working to become doctors, scientists, lawyers, and engineers. They want to start businesses and teach in our classrooms and serve in our military. DREAMers want to earn an education and contribute to our economy, to pay taxes and give back to their communities and their country. I would argue that most DREAMers don't know how to be anything but Americans.

Over the last month, I have heard from many New Mexicans who are fearful and uncertain about just how the new Trump administration could impact their community, their neighbors, their friends. This is particularly true for the thousands of young people who applied for temporary status under the DACA Program.

Over the last few years, I have come down to the floor to tell stories of DREAMers from my home. I told the story of twin sisters who graduated from college and are now both seeking advanced degrees, one in law, one in medicine. I told the story of a young man who applied for DACA and wanted to pursue graduate school for biology. I am happy to report that he is currently studying to earn a joint Ph.D. and M.D., with the hope of working on disease prevention. I will continue to tell the inspiring stories of DREAMers who demonstrate why we should protect them from deportation.

Today, I would like to tell you about one of those New Mexicans, someone I heard from last week when I held a listening session with community and faith leaders, immigrant rights advocates, and DREAMers from across New Mexico. She and her family live in the Mesilla Valley in southern New Mexico.

The Mesilla Valley is a rich agricultural region. It is home to dairy farms, pecan orchards, and many of New Mexi-

co's famed green chile fields. Generations of farmers and families in the Mesilla Valley have shaped the rich history and, fundamentally, the culture of my home State.

Today, families like the family of the DREAMer I heard from are working hard each and every day to improve their community, many of which lack adequate transportation and water infrastructure. They are working to create a better future for the next generation.

This young woman's strength is rooted in her family and in her faith. She is the oldest child in her family and is the first person in her family to seek higher education. She told me that through her education and her work ethic, she wants to set an example to her five younger brothers and sisters. She teaches catechism classes for children at her church, where she also helps with fundraisers, cooks meals, and assists with church events.

Since graduating from high school, she has started working toward her associate's degree in nursing. In a State like New Mexico, where we badly need more nurses and medical professionals in our rural and underserved communities, her professional dreams and aspirations are truly critical.

DACA allowed her to get a work permit to hold a job that assists her in paying for her education, for her textbooks, but now, with the President-elect pledging to rescind DACA, this young woman fears that everything she has worked so hard to achieve could be lost. She fears that her family will be separated and that she might be deported from the only community she knows and the community she calls home. She told me, "If [DACA] were to be removed, then my dream would be destroyed."

This young woman's dream and her drive to give back to her community in southern New Mexico are incredible, but her story is far from unique. Her story is similar to thousands of other DREAMers in my home State and hundreds of thousands across our country, some of whom have escaped unthinkable hardships. They are working to contribute to their communities and to create a brighter future. These DREAMers should be met with compassion.

During my listening session, I also heard from a Catholic priest who serves many immigrant families in his parish. He said he was deeply impacted by hearing this young woman's story during our listening session. He told me that her story "reflects exactly what [he's] seen and heard from many families not only from [his] parish but also from neighboring parishes." He said, "There is a lot of fear and people are so concerned and worried—especially families—[about] what can happen after the election."

I want to make it very clear that in the coming years, I will not waiver in

standing up for all New Mexicans in my role in the Senate. We should never be a country that kicks out some of our best and brightest students, and we should not be a nation that tears families apart. I will not stand for policies that are contrary to our fundamental American ideas and values.

I would like to thank the young woman who shared her story with me for having the courage to speak out, particularly with the uncertainty of her situation and in the wake of the recent election. The idea that young men and women like this hard-working nursing student in southern New Mexico will have to retreat back into the shadows or fear being removed from their homes as a consequence of congressional inaction on immigration reform is simply unconscionable.

I am calling for the Obama administration to take every possible legal action to protect DREAMers—individuals who are American in every way but for their immigration status—so that they are not targeted for removal by the incoming administration. Last week, I sent a letter to the White House urging President Obama to use his pardon authority to protect DREAMers from deportation.

I also plan to continue pushing for comprehensive immigration reform in the new Congress, which I still strongly believe has bipartisan support among my colleagues—those colleagues who want real solutions rather than rancorous rhetoric. We need to modernize our immigration system to meet the needs of our economy and provide an accountable pathway to earn citizenship for the undocumented workers living here in the shadows, including making the DREAM Act law.

As southwest border security is discussed in the context of immigration reform, I will continue to be focused on pragmatic and accountable policy decisions that include the many concerns of our border communities. As the son of an immigrant myself, I am familiar with the unique promise that America represents for so many families. I am grateful that when my father and my grandparents fled Germany in the years leading up to World War II, our country chose to see them for what they were—enthusiastic American immigrants.

Our Nation's remarkable spirit is rooted in our diversity, our history, and our culture, which has always been enriched by our immigrant communities and their family members. I encourage my colleagues and our incoming President-elect to look at the human faces of our broken immigration system and to work toward real solutions.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEDICARE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, every year I hear from hundreds of constituents about the transformative impact Medicare has on their lives. For many of them, Medicare is literally the difference between life and death, between living with dignity or in abject poverty. It is as dramatic as that.

Before we passed Medicare 51 years ago, slightly more than half of our seniors—in Hawaii we call our seniors kupuna—had health insurance. Only half. The insurance they had was very expensive and did not cover much. Millions could barely afford routine medical care, let alone treatment for a catastrophic illness. For the past 50 years, our seniors have approached retirement with the peace of mind of knowing that Medicare will be there for them. It is part of a commitment we have made to care for and honor our kupuna.

To understand what life would be like for our seniors without Medicare, we don't need to look to the distant past before we had Medicare; we can learn from what happened, for example, 3 years ago to a family in Maui, to Phyllis and Tommy Duarte of Maui.

Phyllis and Tommy contacted my office after they received a notice that the Social Security Administration had canceled Phyllis's Social Security payments. Like millions of kupuna across the country, Phyllis and Tommy live on a fixed income and depend on Social Security to pay their bills. After several months without receiving her Social Security check, Phyllis could no longer pay the premiums for her Medicare Part B plan. They threatened to terminate her coverage, which is when she contacted my office. Fortunately, we were able to resolve the situation within a few weeks. Phyllis started receiving a check and continues to pay her premiums. Only a short time later, Phyllis fell and broke her arm. It required surgery and years of ongoing physical therapy. The final bill: \$200,000. Phyllis and Tommy were only weeks away from understanding just how devastating it would be to live without Medicare coverage.

It is because of people like Phyllis and Tommy that I fought tooth and nail to make sure Medicare will always be there for our kupuna. It is why I have been on the frontlines to beat back every attempt to privatize and voucherize Medicare since I have been in Congress.

That is why I will do everything in my power to stop our new President and his allies in Congress from shredding this crucial safety net program.

Over the past month, Speaker RYAN has made it clear that he intends to resurrect his plan to turn Medicare into a voucher program for private insurance. Under his system, private insurers could deny or delay coverage because seniors would no longer have Medicare's consumer protections. His plan caps the value of these vouchers to the point where they will not keep up with the rising costs of health care. The Congressional Budget Office calculated that the Ryan plan would increase out-of-pocket expenses by \$6,000 per year for millions of seniors—millions who are already on fixed incomes. My colleagues know that I am not given to hyperbole, but this attempt to privatize Medicare is a clear and present danger to millions of seniors.

I know from talking with kupuna in Hawaii that one of the things they worry about most is their health and whether their needs will be met. Anyone who talks to seniors and understands what they are going through would recognize that privatizing Medicare means seniors will have to go out and find medical insurance on the private market. How can you think they will be able to accomplish that? Are insurance companies going to step up to take care of some of the most vulnerable members of our population even though it is not profitable for them to do so? I don't think so.

During the campaign, President-Elect Trump said the right thing about protecting Medicare, but choosing TOM PRICE to head the Department of Health and Human Services sends the opposite message. For years, Congressman TOM PRICE has been PAUL RYAN's closest ally in his crusade to privatize and voucherize Medicare. The Ryan-Price plan would hurt more than 217,000 seniors in Hawaii and millions across the country, including those who live in Janesville, WI, and Roswell, GA. I wonder how Speaker RYAN and Congressman PRICE would explain to seniors in their districts, their States, how voucherizing Medicare will not hurt them.

Saving Medicare is going to be a daunting fight, but I am not going to shy away from it. I am going to do whatever I can, whenever I can, to protect Medicare for our seniors.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY REID

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment to express my appreciation to the Democratic leader, Senator HARRY REID, who spoke earlier on the floor.

I was here with many of my colleagues and listened to his incredible story about his background from Searchlight, NV, to his ascension to the Senate and becoming the Democratic leader.

When I first came to the Senate, Senator REID asked to meet with me. I

thought he was going to talk about my philosophy on different issues or what my interests would be or how I was going to try to move forward on particular bills, but what he really wanted to talk about was my family, what I thought was important in life. He was very interested in my family traditions and how that would be impacted by my life in the Senate.

I must tell you, it was very personal. I think many of us have seen many sides of HARRY REID, but one side of him is clear. He treats the Senate as his family, and he treats each one of us as his family.

I wish to express my appreciation for his service in the U.S. Senate and for his public service over so many years.

Myrna and I are friends of Landra and HARRY. We wish them only the best as he moves forward from his career in the Senate.

It has really been a pleasure to serve with him in the Senate. This is an incredible place to serve. Senator REID has certainly made this Senator's life in the Senate much more enjoyable and productive.

Mr. President, part of American culture is to celebrate our small towns. There are few American towns smaller than Searchlight in Clark County, NV. That is the hometown of our beloved Democratic Leader, Senator HARRY REID.

Senator REID epitomizes the American Dream. He grew up without indoor plumbing, in a small cabin built out of scavenged railroad ties, and attended a two-room elementary school. His father was a hard-rock miner. As a young boy, Senator REID would go deep into the mines with his father. Searchlight didn't have its own high school so Senator REID had to hitchhike each week to Henderson, 40 miles away, where he attended Basic High School and boarded with relatives and other families.

Local businessmen saw his potential and helped him attend Utah State University, a debt he repaid. He earned his law degree from George Washington University and supported his young family by working as a U.S. Capitol Police Officer.

Senator REID started his career in public service as Henderson's city attorney. He revised the city charter and extended the city's boundaries by acquiring Federal land. In 1968, when he was just 28, he was elected to the Nevada State Assembly. As an assemblyman, he introduced the first air pollution legislation in Nevada's history. Two years later, Senator REID became the youngest lieutenant governor in Nevada history, winning election as Governor Mike O'Callaghan's running mate. Mike O'Callaghan had been Senator REID's mentor in high school as a teacher, boxing coach, and friend.

In 1977, Senator REID was appointed chairman of the Nevada Gaming Com-

mission. For 5 years, he was engaged in an unrelenting fight with organized crime syndicates to clean up Nevada's gaming industry. In 1981, his wife—high school sweetheart Landra—found a bomb attached to the family station wagon.

In 1982, Senator REID won the first of two elections to serve in the House of Representatives and then he was elected to the Senate in 1986. In 2005 he became the Democratic Leader, two years later, he became the majority leader, a post he held until the Republicans gained control of the Senate last year. As the Las Vegas Sun put it, he went from being the underdog to the top dog.

I have talked about Senator REID's hardscrabble upbringing because it has made him one of the toughest people I have ever known. Yet he is also one of the kindest, and most compassionate.

Senator REID may be the top dog, but he has always fought for the underdog. I think that quality is best exemplified by his advocacy on behalf of Native Americans, which includes helping to build the Nation's first utility-scale solar project on tribal land in Nevada. I know how much he is respected in Indian country.

Senator REID was instrumental in passing the Affordable Care Act, ACA, which—along with the Medicaid expansion—has provided health care to more than 20 million Americans.

Senator REID's efforts to choose qualified Federal jurists for the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada will be felt for decades after he leaves office. Senator REID has recommended and helped confirm five of the six judges currently serving on the court. As a result of Senator REID's commitment to diversity, there have been numerous "firsts" for the court.

In 1998, Senator REID recommended Johnnie Rawlinson to be the first woman to serve as a judge on the Nevada District Court. At his request, she was elevated to the Ninth Circuit in 2000.

In 2010, Gloria Navarro became the first Hispanic woman to serve as a judge on the Nevada District Court.

In 2012, Miranda Du became the first Asian-Pacific American to serve as a judge on the Nevada District Court.

In 2014, Richard Boulware became the first African-American man to serve as a judge on the Nevada District Court.

The Senate still has the opportunity to confirm Anne Traum, who would be the first Jewish person to serve on the Nevada District Court.

Senator REID has fought hard on behalf of his fellow Nevadans. He has prevented the Federal Government from building a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain. He authored and passed legislation establishing Nevada's first national park, Great Basin National Park. He has led the fight to protect and restore Lake Tahoe. He

prevented the removal of the Nevada Air National Guard's C-130 aircraft and the closure of the Hawthorne Army Depot, and he secured over \$600 million for the Southern Nevada Veterans Administration Medical Complex.

When it comes to combatting climate change and promoting the development and adoption of clean, sustainable, renewable energy, Senator REID has been a visionary. He has incentivized \$5.5 billion in investments in Nevada's clean energy resources through tax credits, grants, and loan guarantees. He helped to create a new fast-track permitting process for clean energy development on public lands. He facilitated the public-private partnership needed for the One Nevada Transmission Line, which connects northern and southern Nevada's electricity grids for the first time, helping to unlock the State's vast clean energy potential. While his interest in promoting clean energy—especially solar—may have a local origin, the benefits will accrue to all humanity for generations to come as we transition from our reliance on fossil fuels.

Serving as the Leader, whether in the majority or the minority, is a tough job. The leader has to fight the most intense partisan battles. The Leader has to say "no" on many occasions. The leader has to stand up for other members of the party. Senator REID has been tough enough to be an extraordinary leader. If I were in a foxhole, I would want HARRY REID by my side. I know every other Democratic Senator feels the same way—and surely most Republicans. We are going to miss HARRY REID. I wish him, his wife Landra, their five children, and 19 grandchildren all the best.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORK BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, earlier today we moved the Defense authorization bill across the finish line. This legislation authorizes funding for things such as training our troops to counter the ever-evolving threats emanating from around the world. The Defense authorization bill will also give our men and women in uniform the most up-to-date weaponry and the other equipment they need, including advanced aircraft, ships, and ground vehicles.

Fortunately, the bill also authorizes needed improvements in military facilities such as those in Fort Hood, TX, Joint Base San Antonio, Red River Army Depot, and Ellington Field.

Finally, it provides a much needed pay raise for our troops. I am pleased we were able to finish our work on that to better serve our men and women in uniform.

I hope the President reconsiders his stated intention to veto this legislation. It makes absolutely no sense to me, and I think it would be an insult to the troops—whom we all claim to support—to deny them the resources and the pay raise that this bill provides for.

We still have more work ahead of us, including the continuing resolution. I know there are Members of this body who say: Well, we want to change that appropriations bill to add some other provisions. But I just came back from meeting with some of the Members of the Texas House delegation. They tell me the House is leaving. So even if changes are made, the House is not going to be here and in session to make changes to the continuing resolution.

Our friends across the aisle need to face up to the reality that if they somehow prevent us from passing this continuing resolution, it will be on their hands. I hope they will reconsider because they are not going to be able to achieve the goal they are seeking.

We are close to wrapping up the Water Resources Development Act as well. This bill has also experienced a little bit of a hiccup. It has been held up over questions about how to best address the drought in California, but the bottom line is that California needs this legislation to help deliver water to its people and to keep producing billions of dollars' worth of crops each year.

I know the folks in California consider themselves to be the breadbasket for America and literally the world because of all the food we export, but that is one reason why this legislation is so important and why the senior Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Majority Leader MCCARTHY negotiated this package.

I know Senator BOXER is not pleased with it, but the fact is, under the current procedures, we are going to finish this legislation one way or another—perhaps as late as Monday, but we need to get it done.

This legislative package will make sure that California and the rest of the country get the resources we need while complying with all environmental laws. Of course, with some cooperation we can get all of these moving parts done for the American people soon.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I know it is always difficult to come to the floor and talk about the departure of our good friends and valued colleagues. The word I have heard mentioned the most this week is "bittersweet"—peo-

ple looking forward to the next chapter of their lives but regretting the fact that good friends and valued colleagues are moving on to the next chapter of their lives. But every other December, we find ourselves bidding farewell to some of our most admired and respected Members. Today I wish to speak briefly about four of them, starting with our good friend from New Hampshire, Senator AYOTTE.

KELLY AYOTTE

Mr. President, Senator AYOTTE and I have more in common than may meet the eye, so let me explain. Our hometowns are 2,000 miles away, so it doesn't seem obvious. She served as attorney general of the State of New Hampshire and holds the distinction of being New Hampshire's first and only female attorney general. She was first appointed to that position by a Republican Governor, and she did such an outstanding job serving the people that she was reappointed to that position by a Democratic Governor.

Everybody who knows KELLY AYOTTE knows that she epitomizes the spirit of bipartisanship and comradery that makes a good public servant a great one. That has been evident in her work she has done here in the U.S. Senate. From the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act to multiple national security issues, Senator AYOTTE has been eager to work with Members on both sides of the aisle when it comes down to doing what is best for the people of her State and for the United States.

Senator AYOTTE and I both come from military families. My dad flew in the Army Air Corps in World War II, with the 303rd Bomb Group of the Air Force. Her grandfather also served in World War II. And, as many of us know, Joe, her husband, served in the Air Force and the Air National Guard, and he flew combat missions in Bosnia and Iraq. Senator AYOTTE's firsthand knowledge of the military has been a great help to us, particularly in her role on the Armed Services Committee.

KELLY will tell us that she does her best to listen first, to take in the concerns and priorities of her fellow Granite Staters, discuss the merits of each side's policy position, and only then carefully and methodically reach a well-considered decision. That patience and willingness to listen and consider all views has served her well during her tenure in the U.S. Senate. It is a lesson we all should take to heart and learn from by her good example.

I want to add my thanks to our friend, Senator KELLY AYOTTE, for her years of service on behalf of the people of New Hampshire. I also thank her husband Joe Daley and their two children, Katherine and Jacob, for their steadfast support of Joe's wife and their children's mom over these past years.

I don't know in what capacity Kelly will continue to serve her community

and her State and her Nation, but I know we will be hearing and seeing her more in some capacity of service, and I look forward to seeing where and in what capacity she finally decides to serve next.

DAN COATS

Mr. President, next I wish to recognize our friend, Senator DAN COATS. Senator COATS is a well-known commodity not just in Hoosier country but across the United States. He has earned the reputation of a distinguished statesman who genuinely doesn't need an introduction because his sterling reputation precedes him.

We know his impressive resume. After serving the country as a soldier in the Army, he decided he wanted to continue in public service, so he worked as a congressional staffer for then-Congressman Dan Quayle. When his boss decided to run for the Senate and won, Senator COATS took his boss's congressional seat to serve in the House of Representatives. And when Senator Quayle became Vice President Quayle, Representative Coats became Senator COATS, following on in his example.

He broke that pattern of following in the footsteps of the former Vice President when he was appointed Ambassador to Germany. In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, he was an instrumental diplomat, working with our allies in Europe as we responded and as the world responded to the worst terror attack on our country in our history.

I know I speak for every Member here when I say that we are grateful Senator COATS came out of retirement and came back to the Senate in 2010. We have come to know that he is a warrior when it comes to wasteful Washington spending, and every week he comes to the floor to talk about his waste of the week. It is a service to all of us, really, to remind us that we have a lot of work to do in that area but also to point out how we can save taxpayers' dollars and use them more efficiently.

Many folks wouldn't know that he regularly attends the weekly Prayer Breakfast we have here in the Senate as well, which is a great time for Senators to come together and to support one another. It reflects Dan's commitment to faithfully encourage his colleagues day in and day out.

My colleagues know that Senator COATS is also a big fan of getting things done during votes, and he knows how to work a room. He has been on the deputy whip team and helped consult with and helped inform our colleagues in a way that has helped us to actually get legislation passed by unifying us.

Suffice it to say Senator COATS is a true diplomat wherever he goes, and this Chamber has been a better, more civil place with him in it.

I know DAN would be the first to tell us that his decades of public service

were made possible because of the equal partner he has in his wife Marsha. They met in college. They have been married more than 50 years, and they are a great example to all of us. So thanks to Marsha and their children and grandchildren for sharing DAN all these years.

I have a suspicion that Senator COATS doesn't have it in him to step totally away from public service, and there has been some news and discussion as to whether he might be in the running for another important position, perhaps in the next administration. I know we all look forward to seeing where he goes next to serve our country, which we know is so important to him.

DAVID VITTER

Mr. President, I would also like to say a few words about the senior Senator from Louisiana, DAVID VITTER. Back in the 113th Congress, in 2013, I began my tenure as the Republican whip, and at the same time I invited Senator VITTER to serve the conference as a deputy whip. One thing we always know about DAVID VITTER, whether you are a colleague, a staffer, or a constituent, is that no matter what, he is going to have thought carefully about the issue in ways that perhaps surprise many of us, and when he has something to say about an issue, it is always something worth listening to. I can't say that about all of us, but certainly Senator VITTER adds to the value of our deliberations every time he speaks.

But, of course, nothing is closer to his heart than the people of Louisiana, and what he has done diligently and faithfully here is serve the people of his State. I have had the pleasure of working with him on issues we share in common, like coastal protection issues that affect both of our States with our gulf coast.

Senator VITTER was sworn into office the same year Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans. As a matter of fact, for a time, he and his family literally lived outside the Houston area because of the devastation wrought by that terrible hurricane—a storm that FEMA called the “single most catastrophic natural disaster in U.S. history.” Katrina did billions of dollars' worth of damage, killed almost 2,000 people, left thousands without a roof over their heads, and cut the population of New Orleans in half. About 100,000 of those, I am told, made permanent residence in Texas, having had their homes destroyed.

I know Senator VITTER took this devastation as a personal challenge. He hit the ground running. When the people of Louisiana needed him most, he worked at every level of government to bring them together and get the help they needed. Of course, just a few years after Katrina, Hurricane Ike pummeled its way through the Gulf Coast of Mexico before making landfall on the

Texas coast. So I have had a number of opportunities to work with Senator VITTER not only on recovery efforts for our States but to make sure our communities along the coast stand ready to help each other and particularly as we prepare for future storms.

I wish him and his wife Wendy and their entire family well as they look to more adventures and more opportunities to serve. I have no doubt he will continue to take his passion for helping the people of Louisiana with him wherever the future may lead.

MARK KIRK

Finally, Mr. President, I wish to recognize the senior Senator from Illinois, MARK KIRK. If my colleagues have noticed Senator KIRK's interests on the floor, they will notice a trend. In addition to supporting measures that help the people of Illinois, he is laser-focused on keeping America safe. He provides us a declassified situation map that shows us where the U.S. military is engaged in fighting the War on Terror in the Middle East and in Africa.

He is a former member of the U.S. Navy, and so he has worked long and hard to strengthen our military at every turn. He has been a thoughtful and vocal critic of some of our Nation's biggest adversaries, like North Korea and Iran. MARK has never been one to shy away from more sanctions or steeper penalties for those countries if it means the United States will be safer as a result. To put it simply, MARK KIRK is a great patriot.

We all know his personal story of overcoming a stroke and his great perseverance and fortitude. It really has been an inspiration to watch MARK as he has recovered from that devastating stroke and continued to be an enormously productive Senator on behalf of the State of Illinois.

It has been a joy to see him turn that difficult circumstance into a rallying cry to help others get the best care and rehabilitation available today.

So I am personally grateful to Senator KIRK for many things, but in particular I want to mention his strong support of anti-human trafficking legislation. I joined him in Chicago a few years ago to speak with law enforcement about the connections between organized crime and sex trafficking. MARK has never wavered from his support for important legislation that we passed here this last year called the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. He understood right from the beginning that human trafficking was essentially modern-day slavery, targeting, as it did, vulnerable children—typically a child of 12 to 14 years old who has run away from home, only to find themselves unable to leave because they have become a victim of slavery. So I am thankful to Senator KIRK for standing up for the victims of human trafficking and taking care of and prioritizing our veterans and service men and women.

Let me close by saying thank you again to our friends Senator KIRK, Senator VITTER, Senator COATS, and Senator AYOTTE for the indelible mark and contributions they made to the Senate and my sincere appreciation for how they have faithfully served our country. I am grateful for their friendship and wish them and their families well as they tackle new ventures ahead.

I will just close by saying we have another colleague who has been nominated to serve as Attorney General, who still has to go through the process of confirmation and advice and consent by the Senate. That, of course, would be the senior Senator from Alabama, Mr. SESSIONS—not to jinx him; I will wait until that process is concluded, but I will be back here speaking about him at the appropriate time.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, for debate only, until 3 p.m. this afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would like to have a colloquy with my colleague.

It is my understanding that Senator CARPER was interested in 5 minutes, Senator MERKLEY was interested in 5 minutes, I was interested in 5 minutes, and I think Senator ENZI was interested in 5 minutes.

Could I ask my colleague if he would amend his UC so that each of those four Senators would have 5 minutes? I think that would take us to about 3:10, as opposed to 3 o'clock.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I would like to accommodate my friend from Washington, but the House message containing the continuing resolution is due here at 3 o'clock. There are a number of procedural matters that need to be attended to, so we will have Senators coming to the floor for that purpose. I am told that after that process occurs, which shouldn't take very long, the floor will be wide open for Senators to speak as long as they like.

I object to the modification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the original request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

FORESTRY POLICY

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am speaking in morning business with my colleague and friend Senator MERKLEY to talk about forestry policy and to give the Senate a little bit of an update on where we are because we have so many resource-dependent communities that have been devastated as a result of a variety of policies. I want to touch briefly, and then yield to Senator MERKLEY, on what some of those elements are.

No. 1 is that our softwood lumber producers are now in a titanic battle with the Canadians, fighting the Canadian system of heavily subsidizing their industry, thereby cutting ours. A group of 25 Senators—a quarter of the Senate—have joined me in an effort so that our trade representative pushes back and continues to fight this unjust, inequitable system until we no longer see Oregon and American jobs destroyed as a result of the Canadians' unfairly subsidizing their industry.

No. 2, we feel very strongly about getting the harvest up in a sustainable fashion. We know there is an awful lot of work to do in the woods. We can do it with an environmental ethic, with an ethic of forest health, and I strongly support that. I have introduced legislation to do that in my home State and have been supportive of colleagues' efforts to do it in their parts of the country.

The reality is—and the Forest Service has said this—you would have to increase logging on our public lands by 400 percent in order to no longer need a third leg of the forestry stool, which is the Secure Rural Schools program.

I want it understood that we are going to push back against inequitable trade practices that are hurting jobs in rural Oregon and rural America. We are going to support increasing the harvest in a sustainable fashion, but there is no realistic increase that might possibly win passage here in Washington and be upheld legally that involves taking the harvest up to 400 percent. You are going to need a safety net.

Senator MERKLEY and I, Senator CRAPO, Senator RISCH, and many colleagues on both sides of the aisle have fought to get this program, which has now expired, extended for one more year. This program began in 2000 as a result of a bipartisan piece of legislation, which Senator Craig and I authored, called the Secure Rural Schools bill. It now benefits more than 700 counties, and we see it benefiting communities all over the country. This program is depended on for education. It is depended on for roads. It is de-

pendent on in many areas for law enforcement. Unfortunately, our colleagues have not been willing to extend it. Senator MERKLEY and I, and Senator CRAPO and Senator RISCH, in a bipartisan way, have wanted to work in the Senate to get this extended, but to put these vital county payments on the back burner would be an enormous mistake.

I want to yield the remainder of our time to my friend and colleague, but there are really three legs to this stool: fight unfair trade practices, get the harvest up in a sustainable kind of fashion, and understand that you are not going to be able to meet the needs of hard-hit rural communities without the safety net program—the Secure Rural Schools program.

Senator CRAPO, Senator RISCH, Senator MERKLEY, and I are going to keep coming back here again and again until we get it reauthorized.

I yield the remainder of our time to Senator MERKLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of my colleague from Oregon, who, back in the year 2000, fought so hard to right a wrong. The wrong was that a variety of measures related to these timbered acres reduced the ability to pull as much harvest off as in the past. Part of that was the fact that there was simply a lot of second growth that wasn't ready to be cut yet. Another was a variety of rules related to environmental protections, to forest fire prevention. There were a whole series of things.

The bottom line is that these counties, which originally had these lands before they transferred them to Federal Government for safekeeping, are dependent upon revenue from the timber sales on these lands. My colleague pointed out that those timber sales simply can't operate at the same level to provide the resources those counties operated on. Much as with Payments in Lieu of Taxes, or the PILT program, we stepped in—my colleague stepped in and led the effort to honor the promise made to those counties. We have been doing so now for 16 years.

One of the challenges that has emerged is that we reauthorize it only for a short period of time. We say we will still honor the promise but only for a year or only for 2 years, which means the counties never know what is going to be coming. They are really caught in limbo. Because they are rural counties—they don't have a great amount of manufacturing; a lot of the counties don't have a lot of farmland—they are really dependent upon the forest industry as the heart of their economy. This is very important to them.

We need to honor the promise to these counties, just as we have through the PILT program. It is a situation we

can debate at whatever level that should be, but it needs to be a long-term commitment to this promise to these counties. Remember, these were county lands that were transferred back to the Federal Government to essentially hold in trust for them.

I share with my colleague the desire that we address this in a fashion that provides a strong foundation, a strong commitment to the promise made to rural America, to rural forested counties. As mentioned, 720 counties in 41 States—that is a pretty significant deal across the country. We need to act, and we need to act now.

I turn this back over to my colleague.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am going to wrap this up simply by saying a program like this has generated a tremendous amount of community involvement. There are advisory committees that bring the industry and environmental folks together. That is what we are going to need to get this job done right. It is called collaborative forestry. The Secure Rural Schools program is something that Senator MERKLEY and I want to reauthorize. It is a textbook case for what you want to do for collaborative forestry.

We didn't even really get into forest health because we all know our forests, particularly in the West, are burning up, so Senator RISCH, Senator CRAPO, and I went into something called fire borrowing, which is an extraordinarily inefficient policy that discourages prevention with respect to fire.

We are going to be back to talk about the nuts and bolts of sensible forest policy. We need to build on this collaborative effort, as we have sought to do in our O&C bill—the bill that Senator MERKLEY and I have been involved with—which will double the harvest, on average, for the next 50 years, according to the experts. We want it to be understood that we are going to be fighting on a number of fronts. We will fight with respect to the trade policy, which is long overdue, as it relates to getting a fair shake for our softwood lumber producers and value-added forestry. We are going to focus on collaborative approaches and get the harvest up in a sustainable way.

Senator MERKLEY has talked about the promise of Secure Rural Schools, and I feel it is very regrettable that when Senator CRAPO and Senator RISCH tried to convince the other side of the aisle to accept Secure Rural Schools now, we couldn't get it done.

I think anybody who knows us knows we are persistent, and you don't get anything important done without bipartisan support. That is the way we will approach our forestry policy in the days ahead.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION AND WRDA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to call everybody's attention to the House vote that just occurred on the continuing resolution and on the WRDA bill. The continuing resolution passed 326 to 96; 208 Republicans voted for it and 33 voted against it. On the Democratic side, 118 Democrats voted for it and only 63 voted against it.

The WRDA bill passed 360 to 61. Republicans voted for it 222 to 17; Democrats voted for it 138 to 44. The House has clearly—with two overwhelming votes—sent us the last two measures that we need to deal with here before we wrap up this Congress and head home for the holidays.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the body the message to accompany H.R. 2028.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2028) entitled "An Act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.", with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment on H.R. 2028.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk on the motion to concur.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Roger F. Wicker, Orrin G. Hatch, Johnny Isakson, John Cor-

nyn, Thad Cochran, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Bill Cassidy, John Hoeven, John Barrasso, Thom Tillis, John Boozman, John Thune, Daniel Coats, Marco Rubio, Roy Blunt.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 5139

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2028, with a further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2028 with an amendment numbered 5139.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following:

"This act shall be effective 1 day after enactment."

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion to concur with the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 5140 TO AMENDMENT NO. 5139

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 5140 to amendment No. 5139.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 5141

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to refer the House message on H.R. 2028 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 5141.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to refer the House message to accompany H.R. 2028 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 5141.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following:

"This act shall be effective 3 days after enactment."

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 5142

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 5142 to the instructions of the motion to refer the House message to accompany H.R. 2028.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "3 days" and insert "4 days".

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 5143 TO AMENDMENT NO. 5142

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 5143 to amendment No. 5142.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "4" and insert "5".

GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the body the message to accompany Calendar No. 65, S. 612.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 612) entitled "An Act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the 'George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse'", do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to S. 612.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk on the motion to concur.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to Calendar No. 65, S. 612, an act to designate the Federal building and the United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

James M. Inhofe, Roger F. Wicker, Orrin G. Hatch, Johnny Isakson, John Cornyn, Thad Cochran, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Bill Cassidy, John Hoeven, John Barrasso, Thom Tillis, John Boozman, John Thune, Daniel Coats, Marco Rubio, Mitch McConnell.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 5144

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to S. 612, with a further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to concur in the House amendment to S. 612 with an amendment numbered 5144.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following:

"This act shall be effective 1 day after enactment."

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion to concur with the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 5145 TO AMENDMENT NO. 5144

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 5145 to amendment No. 5144.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 5146

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to refer the House message on S. 612 to the Committee on Environment and Public Works with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 5146.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to refer the House message on S. 612 to the Committee on Environment and Public Works with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 5146.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following:

"This act shall be effective 3 days after enactment."

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 5147

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 5147 to the instructions of the motion to refer the House message to accompany S. 612.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "3 days" and insert "4 days".

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 5148 TO AMENDMENT NO. 5147

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 5148 to amendment No. 5147.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "4" and insert "5".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

TRIBUTE TO DAN COATS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, as this session of Congress draws to a close, it provides us with an opportunity to acknowledge and express our appreciation to those Members of the Senate who will be retiring in a few weeks. One of those who will be retiring and will be greatly missed is DAN COATS of Indiana. DAN has had an interesting career and through his more than 15 years in the Senate has made a difference.

He has been a reliable vote for the best interests of his home State and the future of the Nation, and he leaves behind a legacy of which he should be

very proud. DAN's first years of service in the Congress began in 1981, when he served in the House of Representatives. He was then appointed to the United States Senate when Dan Quayle was elected Vice President.

He served in the Senate from 1989 to 1999, when his self-imposed term-limit pledge brought to an end his first years in the Senate. It was not long thereafter that DAN was again asked to serve, this time as Ambassador to Germany.

He arrived in Germany and took up his service there just before our Nation experienced the tragic event of September 11. Our relationship with our allies took on prime importance after that, and we were fortunate to have DAN abroad to maintain our strong friendship with the German Government and people.

Several years later, the Indiana Senate seat was open again, and DAN took up the challenge to run again to serve the people of his home State in the Senate. The people of Indiana and our Nation, conservatives and people of faith, have been fortunate to have DAN to rely on. He has been a steady and dependable force for taking better care of our Nation's finances and keeping a close watch on our security.

Last year, after a great deal of prayer and thought and consideration, DAN did announce that he would not be running for another term in the Senate. It was a decision he made once again with the people of his home State in mind. He has always been determined to have the best representatives in place to serve the people of Indiana and address those issues that most concerned him.

With that in mind, DAN announced that he believed "the time has come to pass this demanding job to the next generation of leaders." We will miss DAN. We will miss his background and experience. We will miss his reasonable, appropriate, and well-timed comments and his ability to get results. I look forward to his next challenge or adventure and know he will continue to look out for what is best for our Nation and our people.

DAN has been a great source of strength and support for our party and he will be missed. To you, DAN, Diana and I join in sending our best wishes and our appreciation to you and Marsha. Together, you have been great examples of the importance of public service. The organization you founded, the Foundation for American Renewal, and the Project for American Renewal that you created have helped you to focus on and work toward solutions to many of our problems.

That is also a part of our legacy and why you will continue to receive the recognition you deserve. You have also been a part of a number of community and volunteer organizations. For these and so many more reasons, we thank you and Marsha for devoting so much

of your life to making our Nation a better place to live. You certainly achieved that goal and we wish you both the best.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. President, I also want to take some time today to speak about the senior Senator from Maryland, BARBARA MIKULSKI. In the years to come, Senator MIKULSKI will be known for a lot of things that made her years of service to the people of Maryland quite remarkable. It will always be mentioned that she has been the longest serving woman in the history of the United States Congress.

Although that is important, Senator MIKULSKI did not come to Washington to see how long she could stay. She came here to see how much of a difference she could make. In the end, she served for so many years because of what she was able to do with her time in the House and then in the Senate. The people of Maryland have such a strong affection for Senator MIKULSKI because they always felt like she was one of them. She never lost touch with the people back home.

Her family name was well known to the people in her neighborhood because her parents ran a grocery store. Every morning they opened their store early so people could stop by to pick up something before they headed off to work.

In that, and so many other ways, her family played an important role in the day-to-day life of their neighborhood and her neighbors never forgot that. When the opportunity came for Senator MIKULSKI to run for a seat in the House representing Baltimore, she didn't hesitate. She took her case to the people and they liked what they heard. She won what was to be the first of a long series of elections, each of which she won easily and impressively.

Senator MIKULSKI has a number of interests, and one of the things I am sure she enjoyed about Congress has been her ability to take up a number of those issues to make a difference in people's lives. In everything she has done, she has always found a way to help the people back home. A key example of that is her fight over "the road." The battle dates back to 1966 when BARBARA was a social worker in Baltimore. The city council proposed building a highway to connect downtown Baltimore to its suburbs, a plan that BARBARA worried would cause Polish Americans, African Americans, and lower income residents to lose their homes. As is her way, BARBARA sprung to action by forming a community group of opposition. The road was blocked. BARBARA wound up on the city council, and the area where the road was supposed to be built is now one of Baltimore's biggest draws.

As far as her work in the Senate goes, one of her many legislative victories that I will long remember is

work she did on something that came to be known as Rosa's Law. Rosa was a 9-year-old young lady who was diagnosed with Down syndrome. Her mother was well aware of what a hurtful label things like "mental retardation" and "mentally retarded" were to those who saw them in the Federal laws that were written to help them. BARBARA knew there was only one solution to this problem and that was to eliminate those terms from Federal law.

I was pleased to be able to help in the effort to pass that bill, seeing how much it meant not only to Rosa and her family but to Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI. Our work on that bill will stay with me and will be a reminder of the reason we work so hard to pass legislation and answer the needs of the people back home.

In the end, it is all about making lives better. That is something BARBARA has done every day of her service in Congress. As the longest serving woman in Congress, she has continued to earn the title of "Dean of Senate Women." She has been a mentor and source of good advice to her colleagues who appreciated being able to ask for her opinion and her guidance on their work on the Senate.

She certainly helped me when I was a new Senator and was advocating for low-income housing in Jackson, one of the rich areas of our State. With her support, we got that done and made sure there was a mix in the community of different occupations and people.

Her reputation has been to not only help the Members of the Senate with whom she has served, it also helped serve to encourage the women of Maryland to get active and involved in the work that must be done to make her home State and our Nation better places to live. In a very real sense, her leadership skills have inspired the next generation of Maryland's leaders.

Now Senator MIKULSKI is leaving the Senate after having made a difference and leaving her mark on the history of Congress. One of the key things she will be remembered for is her tireless support of NIH. I know they will miss her and her commitment to the principles and values that guided her through her career, from her service on the Baltimore City Council to her work in the House of Representatives and then the Senate. She made a difference everywhere she served. For that reason and for many more, she will never be forgotten.

My wife Diana and I join in sending our best wishes to Senator MIKULSKI for her years of service. Now that her Senate adventure has come to an end, she will undoubtedly come up with more challenges to pursue in the years to come. I am hoping these plans might include a followup to her mystery novel that was set in the Senate. We are looking forward to seeing what the next chapter of her life may include.

Good luck to these fellow Senators.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY REID

Mr. President, at the end of each Congress, the Senate tradition is to pause for a moment to share our thoughts about those Senators who will be retiring when the final gavel brings the session to a close. One of those senators who will be leaving the Senate is HARRY REID. Senator REID is quite a remarkable individual, and his story should be read and considered by students of government and history—of all ages.

Over the years, I have spent some time with HARRY at prayer breakfasts and listened to his reflections on his life—personally and politically. He has lived a life that few would ever believe to be possible.

HARRY makes for a great example of how to take your life and make the most of it. He was born in a small cabin that offered few of life's comforts, but he didn't complain about it. He took what he was given in life and worked to make things better.

As a young man, he served as the student body president of his high school and drew the notice of his teachers and his boxing coach. He attended Utah State University, and his next stop was George Washington University—my alma mater—where he worked to earn a law degree. To make that possible, HARRY needed a job, and so he worked as a U.S. Capitol Police officer. HARRY then returned home to Nevada and took up what would be his lifelong ambition, serving the people of his home State.

It wasn't long before HARRY had served in Nevada's State legislature and on the Nevada Gaming Commission. When the opportunity presented itself, he served in the House and then moved on to the Senate.

He didn't win every election, but each disappointment only served to make him more determined to make a difference for the people of his State. His statistics are impressive—more than 30 years in Congress, serving under five Presidents, and being a part of both the minority and majority. And all the time, HARRY has found ways to pursue and support agendas to benefit the people of Nevada.

One of my favorite memories will always be the work HARRY, and I did to enable the LDS Church to purchase a site that has a great deal of historic significance to them. The legislation had already passed the House, but was stuck in the Senate as some concerns were raised. HARRY knew what he needed to do to make it possible for the bill to clear the Senate, and together, we figured out a way to make it happen. Today Martin's Cove is a popular site that draws large crowds every year.

This is one of those moments most of us thought would never happen. It seemed like HARRY REID would always be in the Senate. He has not only left

a remarkable record, he also seems to be the last of an era. I have no doubt those who will take up his position in the years to come will do a good job and get results, but they will never do it “like HARRY did.” He will forever stand as a unique mix of personality, character, history, and background.

Diana joins in sending our best wishes to HARRY and his wife, Landra. Together they have been quite a team and have accomplished a great deal. We didn’t always agree on the issues, but one thing can be said: If you had a tough battle before you and you needed someone by your side who wouldn’t give up until the battle was won, HARRY was the kind of guy you would want in the fight. If you were on the other side of an issue, you would always prefer someone like HARRY would not be opposing you.

Thank you for your service, HARRY. You have left an example that will inspire and encourage others in the years to come. Whenever faced with an impossible task, people will remember you and realize that with some creativity, determination and an understanding of the rules of the Senate, much can be done.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Mr. President, at the end of each Congress, the Senate takes a moment to express our appreciation and acknowledge the efforts of those Members who will be retiring in just a few weeks. This year one of our colleagues who will be returning home is Senator BARBARA BOXER.

BARBARA will be leaving us after a career of over 30 years in the House and Senate. During her service, she has impressed all those with whom she has worked with the strength of her views, her courage, and her determination to fight for the things in which she truly believes. Regardless of the circumstances that drew her into each legislative battle, she has always held true to the principles that have guided her in her life.

For BARBARA, her early career work as a stockbroker soon found her heading to California with her husband after he had completed his work in law school. She then got interested in politics and became a strong voice for the political views of the people who resided in the area she now called home. Her constituents liked what they heard from BARBARA—and the way she expressed her views on the issues and proposals she wanted to work on.

Her style of speaking soon became her trademark in Congress. She has a convincing way of presenting her case, and that is one reason why it was always good to be on her side. She calls it speaking “extremely candid and straight from the shoulders, and not to be mealy-mouthed or waffle.” Anyone who has had a chance to come to know her—or to tackle an issue either with her or opposed to her—knows how accurate that description is.

Right after the tragedy of 9/11, I joined BARBARA as ranking member of the subcommittee she chaired regarding terrorism financing. I was proud to join her in that work, and I have appreciated the significant role she has played on a number of highway bills, which are important to both of our home states.

Over the years, there have been some other issues that we could discuss and work on with an eye towards compromise. For each of us, however, there were other issues that were of such importance to our constituents it would have been hard for either of us to move too far from the path that we had been following from our early days in politics.

BARBARA and I both have a strong touch of the West in our hearts that we express every day in everything we do. That is why I was not surprised when she mentioned as she spoke about her retirement that she felt that it was time for her to return home—as she said so well—“to the state I love so much, California.”

BARBARA, Diana joins me in sending our congratulations for your hard work and your dedication to your home State. You have left your mark here in Congress, and I think it is safe to say you will not be forgotten. Thanks again for your willingness to serve and work so hard for what you believe in. You have helped to encourage and inspire the next generation of leaders from your State. In that way and so many others, you have made a difference.

TRIBUTE TO MARK KIRK

Mr. President, when the current Congress is brought to a close with the banging of the gavel, several Members will be departing our Senate community. Whatever they will be doing after closing this chapter of their lives, we wish them well and share with them our great appreciation for their willingness to serve and make a difference over the years.

MARK KIRK, one of our current senators from Illinois, has left a mark on the Congress that will not soon be forgotten. He has served with great distinction, and he has made a difference in the Senate.

MARK’s time in Washington began when the people of Illinois voted to send him to the House of Representatives. He represented their interests in that Chamber from 2001–2010. In 2010, MARK ran for and won an open Senate seat. When he was sworn in, he brought with him what had earned him the trust and support of the people back home throughout his years in the House—an independent streak and an open mind to everything that drew his interest and captured his attention.

The statistics of the past 6 years bear that out. Whatever came before the Senate gave MARK reason to review each issue considering the best inter-

ests of the people of his state. He wasn’t always found exclusively on one side of the aisle or the other when it came time to vote.

During his years of service in the Senate, two issues that particularly drew his attention were Iran and the treatment of our Nation’s veterans. MARK has been focused on Iran and what our Nation should be doing to ensure that Iran’s threat to the Middle East and other nations is minimized. He has been tireless in keeping watch over their potential nuclear program. As chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, MARK has focused on ensuring that those veterans who retired from duty with medical issues have received the care they needed to recover and live better, more healthful lives. This was an interest that stemmed from his service in the Navy Reserve from 1989–2013 and is yet another way for MARK to make a difference in the lives of those who had served our nation.

Before I close, I must recognize the challenge MARK overcame by recovering from a stroke during his Senate service. It was a long and difficult road back to the Senate so he could again represent the people of his home State, but MARK persevered. All told, it took him a year before he was strong enough to return to Washington on a permanent basis.

One moment I will always remember is the day he came back to the Senate, walking the steps with Vice President JOE BIDEN and West Virginia Senator JOE MANCHIN. The courage, determination and step by step success MARK made in achieving another difficult goal could not have been more clear to those of us who watched him climb the stairs.

The stroke that affected him physically also had an impact on his personal outlook on life. When he was able, he wrote of his experience, “I was once a pessimist. I’m not that man anymore. And that change, brought about by misfortune, is the best thing that ever happened to me.”

I have enjoyed the opportunity to come to know MARK over his Washington years, and I wish he were going to stay with us so we could continue to follow his life as he works on his goals, dreams, ambitions, and efforts to keep us safe.

MARK, Diana joins me in sending our best wishes and our appreciation for your willingness to serve. You have a record of which you should be very proud—just as proud as we are of you. You leave having made a difference far beyond your years of service.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY AYOTTE

Mr. President, at the end of each Congress, it is a tradition for the Senate to pause for a moment to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the service of each Senator who will

not be returning for the next session. One of those we will miss next year will be KELLY AYOTTE of New Hampshire.

During the past 6 years, those of us who had a chance to come to know and work with KELLY have been impressed with her dedication to the people of her home State, her involvement with the issues of concern to them, and her willingness to work with members on both sides of the aisle to find solutions to the problems and concerns of the people of New Hampshire and America.

There were at least three key steps that brought KELLY to the Senate after she earned her law degree from Villanova. First, she spent a year clerking for the New Hampshire Supreme Court. Then she spent the next part of her career in private practice. The third step brought her into the State attorney general's office and then on to serve as New Hampshire's attorney general. When Senator Judd Gregg announced his retirement, KELLY knew the time was right for her to pursue another goal. She decided to run for the Senate.

It wasn't easy, but those who doubted her underestimated KELLY's innate political sense and her ability to reach the people of New Hampshire. In the end she brought about a closely fought but well-earned victory in the primary and a big win in the general election.

KELLY came to Washington in 2010 and started working right away on a number of issues that she knew were a concern to the people back home. She made it clear that she would fight for what was best for the people of her home State and worked hard on national security, veterans issues, health care, and substance abuse. She has also been a tireless advocate and an outstanding partner for me on the Budget Committee.

I am sad to see KELLY leave the Senate at the end of this year, but if her past is any indication of her future, I think she will make good use of her talents, abilities, background, knowledge, and experience in her future endeavors. I hope it is in some part of our government. There is no doubt that we need good people like KELLY to make this a better country for us all.

I have a prediction to make about her future—we haven't seen the last of KELLY AYOTTE. She has a lot more to give, and I think we are all looking forward to seeing it.

KELLY, Diana joins me in sending our best wishes to you and your family, and our appreciation for your willingness to serve New Hampshire and the Nation. There are countless sayings about how politics isn't for anyone but the brave and the resilient. I think your experience, especially this past year, has shown that you are more than tough enough for any career challenge. Good luck in whatever you choose to do next. Clearly, you spe-

cialize in making the world a better place and that is a win/win for us all—especially our children and grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID VITTER

Mr. President, each year at the end of the Congress, it has been a tradition for the Senate to pause for a moment to express our appreciation for the service of those Members who will be retiring. One of those who will be leaving this year is DAVID VITTER.

DAVID will be a loss for my party's membership in the next Congress because he was a hard worker and we could always count on him for his support of our conservative positions. Simply put, he made the most of the terms he served and made an important difference on a number of issues.

Over the years, DAVID would study each bill in Committee and on the floor carefully to determine how those who would fall under its provisions would be affected. He had a good sense of what needed to be strengthened or tweaked to make legislation more effective and less costly. The people of Louisiana and the Nation have had a friend in him, and they greatly appreciated how well he looked out for them.

One issue that drew DAVID's and my attention was Obamacare. We both had a lot of concerns about how it would work and whether or not it would provide the kind of care its supporters promised. That is one of the reasons why I hate to see him leave. We have a lot of work to do on health care, and DAVID would have been someone who could help with the heavy lifting.

DAVID also chaired the Small Business Committee in this Congress and was able to put forward some ideas to preserve jobs and businesses. I have been proud to work with him in that effort.

In short, Senator VITTER has had a remarkable career and has done his best to serve the people of his State and champion the issues that were of importance to them.

Now DAVID has decided to end his Senate career and take on some new challenges. I have no doubt that his skills and his background will lead him down a new path to help the people of Louisiana. I wish him well and look forward to seeing what he will do.

DAVID, Diana joins me in sending our best wishes and our appreciation for your service, as well as that of your family. Together with Wendy, you were able to make a difference that will last for a long time in the Senate and in Louisiana. It is good to know you won't be far away and we can get in touch with you whenever we need your advice.

TRIBUTE TO VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the service of a former colleague and our current Vice President, JOE BIDEN.

JOE was born in Pennsylvania, but moved with his family to Delaware

when he was 13. He left Delaware for brief stints at St. Helena School and Syracuse University Law School, but he has always returned to Delaware, including the daily trips he made home during his Senate career and the regular trips he makes home to this day.

Because of his devotion to Delaware, JOE quickly got his start in politics, first on the New Castle County Council and then in the U.S. Senate, where he became the fifth-youngest U.S. Senator in history in 1972. He also has the distinction of being Delaware's longest serving Senator.

I worked with JOE on many different issues during his time in the Senate and served on the Foreign Relations Committee when he was our Chairman. JOE is known as a foreign affairs expert, and he has many reasons to be proud of the work he's done in that area. One of those things that we worked on together was the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

I remember being at the 2003 State of the Union speech when President Bush said, "We're going to put \$15 billion into an AIDS effort." That shocked all of us who were there. It was a lot of money. But we worked together to develop a bill that passed the House and Senate unanimously.

JOE managed the floor when we reauthorized that program in 2008, and we worked with Senators Coburn, BURR, and Lugar to develop that reauthorization. At the time, JOE suggested historians will regard PEPFAR as President Bush's "single finest hour," and I tend to agree. A few years ago, I visited the Kasisi Orphanage in Zambia. We were told that before PEPFAR, they had to bury 18 kids a month that died of AIDS, but because of PEPFAR, they got that down to one a month. I know JOE shares my pride in the difference that program is making.

We were all a little sad to see JOE move to the White House in 2009, when he became our 47th Vice President. Lucky for us, he has been able to keep his ties to the Senate in his role as President of this body, and I think he has been one of our best partners in the administration.

All of us were glad to be able to honor JOE and his son, Beau Biden, by naming the cancer section of 21st Century Cures Act after Beau. I expect JOE will continue to be a voice for ending cancer, and I hope to work with him towards that cause.

JOE, Diana and I send our best to you, Jill and your family. You have served the people of Delaware and the people of the United States with distinction.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine

SENIORS&SAFE ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, at the end of a Congress, we all know how easy it is for just one Senator to block

a bill. I rise today to express my great disappointment that we have been unable to overcome objections from just one Senator from the other side of the aisle who is blocking the passage of legislation called the SeniorSafe Act that is designed to help protect our seniors from financial fraud and exploitation. This is a bill I introduced with my colleague, Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL, as a result of extensive hearings and investigations that we have conducted in the Senate Aging Committee. A companion bill passed the House on a voice vote.

Nationally, as many as 5 million seniors may be victims of financial abuse annually. Stopping this tsunami of fraud has been one of the top priorities of the Senate Aging Committee.

In the many hearings we have held on this issue, what we found is that scammers seek to gain the trust and active cooperation of their victims, who are usually older Americans. Without that trust and cooperation, their schemes would fail. Unfortunately, seniors often do not see the red flags that signal that fraud is likely involved in these sophisticated schemes. Sometimes seniors are simply too nice, too trusting. In other sad cases, they may suffer from diminished capacity. But just as often, they miss these flags because the swindlers who prey upon them are extremely crafty and they know how to sound convincing. Any of us who have received these calls at home know how persuasive and persistent these con artists can be.

Whatever the reason, a warning sign that can slip by a victim might trigger a second look by a financial services representative who is trained to spot common scams and who knows enough about a senior's habits to question a transaction that just doesn't look right. In our work on the Senate Aging Committee, we have heard of so many cases where an alert bank teller or credit union employee on the frontlines has stopped a financial fraud in its tracks, saving seniors untold thousands of dollars. In fact, the Government Accountability Office estimates that our seniors lose an astonishing \$2.9 billion a year to this kind of fraud, and that is probably the tip of the iceberg because many times this fraud is never reported.

I will give an example. Earlier this year, an attorney in the small coastal city of Belfast, ME, was sentenced to 30 months in prison for bilking two older female clients out of nearly half a million dollars over the course of several years. The lawyer's brazen theft was uncovered when a local bank teller noticed that he was writing large checks to himself from his clients' accounts. When confronted by authorities, he offered excuses that the prosecutor later described as "breathhtaking." For example, he put one of his clients into a nursing home to recover from a tem-

porary medical condition and then managed to keep her there for 4 years until the theft of her funds came to light. In the meantime, he submitted bills for services, sometimes totaling \$20,000 a month, including charging her \$250 per hour for 6 to 7 hours to check on her house, which was a 1-minute drive from his office.

Financial institutions are in a critical position to check these fraudsters. If properly trained, employees can be the first line of defense. Regrettably, certain laws can inadvertently impede efforts to protect seniors because financial institutions that report suspected fraud can be exposed to lawsuits. Our bill, the SeniorSafe Act, encourages financial institutions to train their employees and shields them from lawsuits for making good-faith, reasonable reports of potential fraud to the proper authorities.

As Jaye Martin, the head of Maine Legal Services for the Elderly, put it in a letter describing her support for the Collins-McCaskill bill, "In a landscape that includes family members who often wish to keep exploitation from coming to light because they are perpetrating the exploitation, the risk of facing potential nuisance or false complaints over privacy violations is all too real."

This is a barrier that must be removed so that financial institutions will act immediately to make a report to the proper authorities upon forming a reasonable belief that exploitation is occurring. These professionals are on the frontlines in the fight against elder financial exploitation and are often the only ones in a position to stop the exploitation before it is too late.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the full letter from Ms. Martin immediately following my remarks.

Our bipartisan bill is based on the State of Maine's innovative SeniorSafe Program. It has been a collaborative effort by my State's regulators, financial institutions, and legal organizations to educate bank and credit union employees on how to identify and help stop the exploitation of older Mainers. It was pioneered by Maine's securities administrator, Judith Shaw, and it has led to a significant increase in reports of suspected senior financial exploitation and fraud.

The Maine program also serves as a template for model legislation developed for adoption by the North American Securities Administrators Administration, which is known as NASAA. The SeniorSafe Act and this model State legislation are complementary efforts, and I am very pleased that the association of securities administrators has endorsed our bill.

As I mentioned, the House Financial Services Committee approved our companion bill by a vote of 59 to 0 in June, and it passed the House by a voice vote

in July. The Senate bill is sponsored by a quarter of the Members of this body, balanced nearly evenly on both sides of the aisle, and has the support of a wide range of stakeholders looking out for the interests of consumers, including the securities administrators whom I have already mentioned, the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. These are all regulators who are looking out for our consumers.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD these letters of endorsement immediately following my remarks.

Under our bill, liability protections are only provided for good-faith, reasonable reports of suspected fraud.

The legal obstacles facing financial institutions that report this kind of suspected fraud and abuse are not limited to just privacy laws because these institutions have also been threatened with claims such as breach of contract, bad faith, slander, unfair practices, and even harassment. As one compliance officer for one of my community banks put it, without this kind of immunity for good-faith reporting, small community banks will face the "freeze effect" and won't make reports that could help to protect our seniors; thus, "the effectiveness of SeniorSafe will be undercut."

I just cannot believe we cannot clear this commonsense bill for the President's signature when it would help so many seniors avoid becoming the victims of financial fraud and abuse, when it is supported by groups like Maine Legal Services for the Elderly, when it has won the support of national organizations of State securities administrators, State insurance commissioners, State bank regulators, when it would make such a difference.

Sadly, because of the objections of just one Senator on the other side of the aisle, we are stymied. That means we will have to start all over again next year. Much needed help for our seniors—that could help them avoid being swindled out of what GAO estimates is almost \$3 billion a year—will have to wait for another day. I just don't understand it.

I have made many good-faith efforts in this regard, but regretfully, because we are at the end of the session, we don't have the time to go through all of the procedural steps that would be needed to pass this bill, which I am sure, given its broad bipartisan support, would pass overwhelmingly. I hope the Senator in question will reconsider and allow us to send this important bill to the President for his signature.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY,
FREE LEGAL HELP FOR MAINE'S
SENIORS,

December 5, 2016.

Re SeniorSafe (S. 2216).

Senator SUSAN COLLINS,
Chair, Senate Special Committee on Aging,
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: I want to thank you for inviting me to speak with the Senate Special Committee on Aging about the serious problem of financial exploitation of seniors by guardians and others in a position of power. I also want to thank you for your leadership in working to ensure there is training of financial institution employees in reporting elder abuse and an improvement in the timely reporting of financial exploitation when it is suspected through passage of the SeniorSafe Act. I strongly support this legislation that is based upon work done here in Maine.

I served for over two years on the working group that developed Maine's SeniorSafe training program for financial institution managers and employees. It is a voluntary training program. Through that work I came to fully appreciate the very real concerns of the financial industry regarding the consequences of violating, or being perceived as violating, the broad range of state and federal privacy laws that apply to their industry. I also came to appreciate that absent broad immunity for reporting of suspected financial exploitation, privacy regulations would continue to be a barrier to good faith reporting of suspected financial exploitation. In a landscape that includes family members who often wish to keep exploitation from coming to light because they are perpetrating the exploitation, the risk of facing potential nuisance or false complaints over privacy violations is all too real.

This is a barrier that must be removed so that financial institution employees will act immediately to make a report to the proper authorities upon forming a reasonable belief that exploitation is occurring. These professionals are on the front lines in the light against elder financial exploitation and are often the only ones in a position to stop exploitation before it is too late.

I want to add that tying the grant of immunity to required training for not just supervisors, compliance officers, and legal advisors, but to all who come in contact with seniors as a part of their regular duties, will have the direct result of bringing more cases of exploitation to the timely attention of the proper authorities because it will significantly increase the knowledge and awareness in the industry of the red flags for elder abuse. In Maine, where our training program is entirely voluntary and carries no legal status or benefit, we have already seen what a difference training can make.

SeniorSafe is a much needed step in the fight against financial exploitation of seniors and there is no doubt it will make our nation's seniors safer. I thank you again for your leadership in this important area.

Sincerely,

JAYE L. MARTIN,
Executive Director.

NORTH AMERICAN SECURITIES
ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION, INC.,
Washington, DC, October 27, 2015.

Re the SeniorSafe Act of 2015.

Senator SUSAN COLLINS,
Chairman, Senate Special Committee on Aging,
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL,
Ranking Member, Senate Special Committee on
Aging, Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COLLINS AND RANKING MEMBER MCCASKILL: On behalf of the North American Securities Administrators Association ("NASAA"), I'm writing to express strong support for your work to better protect vulnerable adults from financial exploitation through the introduction of the SeniorSafe Act of 2015. Your legislation will better protect seniors by increasing the likelihood that financial exploitation targeting the elderly will be identified by financial services professionals, and by removing barriers that might otherwise frustrate the reporting of such exploitation to state securities regulators and other appropriate governmental authorities.

Senior financial exploitation is a difficult but critical policy challenge. Many in our elderly population are vulnerable due to social isolation and distance from family, caregiver, and other support networks. Indeed, evidence suggests that as many as one out of every five citizens over the age of 65 has been victimized by a financial fraud. To be successful in combating senior financial exploitation, state and federal policymakers must come together to weave a new safety net for our elderly, breaking down barriers to identify those who are best positioned to identify red flags early on and to encourage reporting and referrals to appropriate local, county, state, and federal agencies, including law enforcement.

As you know, state securities regulators, working within the framework of NASAA, are in the late-stages of our own concerted effort to bolster protections for elderly investors at risk of exploitation, including through the development of model legislation to be enacted by states to promote reporting of suspected exploitation. While the approaches contemplated by the recently announced NASAA model legislation and the SeniorSafe Act differ in some respects, they are complementary efforts, both undertaken with the shared goal of protecting seniors by increasing the detection and reporting of elderly financial exploitation.

The SeniorSafe Act consists of several essential features. First, to promote and encourage reporting of suspected elderly financial exploitation by financial services professionals, who are positioned to identify and report "red flags" of potential exploitation, the bill would incentivize financial services employees to report any suspected exploitation by making them immune from any civil or administrative liability arising from such a report, provided that they exercised due care, and that they make these reports in good faith. Second, in order to better assure that financial services employees have the knowledge and training they require to identify "red flags" associated with financial exploitation, the bill would require that, as a condition of receiving immunity, financial institutions undertake to train certain personnel regarding the identification and reporting of senior financial exploitation as soon as practicable, or within one year. Under the bill, employees who would be required to receive such training as a condi-

tion of immunity include supervisory personnel; employees who come into contact with a senior citizen as a regular part of their duties; and employees who review or approve the financial documents, records, or transactions of senior citizens as a part of their regular duties.

The benefits of the types of reporting that the SeniorSafe Act aims to facilitate and encourage are far-reaching. Elderly Americans stand to benefit directly from such reporting, because early detection and reporting can minimize their financial losses from exploitation, and because improved protection of their finances ultimately helps preserve their financial independence and their personal autonomy. Financial institutions stand to benefit, as well, through preservation of their reputation, increased community recognition, increased employee satisfaction, and decreased uninsured losses.

In conclusion, state securities regulators congratulate you for introducing the SeniorSafe Act of 2015. We share and support the goals of this legislation, and look forward to working closely with you as the legislation is considered by the Senate.

Sincerely,

JUDITH M. SHAW,
NASAA President and Maine
Securities Administrator.

NAIC & THE CENTER FOR
INSURANCE POLICY AND RESEARCH,
September 14, 2016.

Re Senior Safe Act.

Chairman SUSAN M. COLLINS,
U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, Dir-
ksen Senate Office Building, Washington,
DC.

Ranking Member CLAIRE MCCASKILL,
U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, Hart
Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COLLINS AND RANKING MEMBER MCCASKILL: On behalf of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), which represents the chief insurance regulators from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories, we write to express our support for the Senior Safe Act and applaud you for your leadership to increase identification and reporting of suspected senior financial exploitation.

It is estimated that older adults in our country lose \$2.9 billion annually from financial exploitation, and these losses can result in a diminished quality of life for those who fall victim to such exploitation. State insurance regulators share your commitment to protecting seniors from financial exploitation. State and federal officials entrusted with the responsibility of protecting consumers must remain vigilant in their oversight. That is why a key component of the NAIC's Retirement Security Initiative is ensuring consumers have clarity and transparency into the insurance products they are being offered, that the products are suitable for their needs, and that bad actors do not undermine efforts to address lifetime income and retirement security challenges. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your committee on these important issues.

Thank you again for your efforts to combat financial exploitation of seniors.

Sincerely,

JOHN M. HUFF,
NAIC President, Direc-
tor, Missouri De-
partment of Insur-
ance, Financial In-
stitutions and Pro-
fessional Registra-
tion.

THEODORE K. NICKEL,
NAIC President-Elect,
Commissioner, Wisconsin
Department of Insurance.

JULIE MIX MCPPEAK,
NAIC Vice President,
Commissioner, Tennessee
Department of Commerce and
Insurance.

ERIC A. CIOPPA,
NAIC Secretary-Treasurer,
Superintendent, Maine
Department of Professional and
Financial Regulation, Bureau
of Insurance.

CONFERENCE OF STATE
BANK SUPERVISORS,
April 29, 2016.

Senator SUSAN COLLINS,
Chairwoman, Senate Special Committee on
Aging, Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL,
Ranking Member, Senate Special Committee on
Aging, Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN COLLINS AND RANKING
MEMBER MCCASKILL: On behalf of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS), I write to express strong support for S. 2216, the SeniorSafe Act of 2015. State regulators are committed to combatting financial abuse of elderly residents and believe that S. 2216 recognizes the contribution of states while empowering institutions to reduce financial exploitation of the elderly.

State regulators supervise a diverse credit ecosystem, are locally-focused, and have a unique insight on the consequences of abusive practices in their communities. State banking regulators supervise approximately 4,850 state-chartered depository institutions, representing over 75% of our nation's banks. Additionally, most state banking departments regulate a variety of non-bank financial services providers, including mortgage lenders.

Since the 1980s, several states have enacted laws to address the abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of their elderly residents. These state laws provide immunity for financial service professionals to report abuse in good faith, contain penalties for failing to report or making false reports of elder abuse, and combat power of attorney abuse. S. 2216 recognizes the important work of states and creates a consumer protection floor upon which states can build.

Financial services professionals are in a position of trust and have a unique window into the financial condition of seniors. Their expertise and vantage point should be leveraged to forcefully combat the growing epidemic of elder abuse.

The SeniorSafe Act incentivizes financial services employees to report any suspected exploitation by making them immune from any civil or administrative liability arising from such a report, provided they exercised due care and reported in good faith. Additionally, to ensure financial services personnel have the requisite expertise, the bill requires, as a condition of receiving immunity, that financial institutions train key personnel regarding the identification and reporting of senior financial exploitation as soon as practicable.

Early detection is key to combatting elder financial abuse. Not only can it minimize

losses, but it may be able to prevent abuses from occurring in the first place. Moreover, this bill can deepen the involvement of financial institutions in their community, enhance the training of financial services personnel, and reduce insured losses.

In sum, CSBS strongly supports S. 2216 and looks forward to working with you as the Senate considers this legislation.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. RYAN,
President and CEO.

Ms. COLLINS. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Senator LEAHY and I are on the floor for the same issue. I defer to Senator LEAHY if he prefers to go first.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

EB-5 REGIONAL CENTER PROGRAM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have been here on the floor before, joined by Senator GRASSLEY, to share my frustration with the EB-5 Regional Center Program. Senator GRASSLEY and I have been working for years to improve this flawed program that is set to expire tomorrow, but, once again, unfortunately, the congressional leadership on the other side has rejected our bipartisan reforms and the program will be extended in the continuing resolution.

We have done this in a way, as has been pointed out, as a Republican and as a Democrat—two of the most senior Members of this body—who have introduced real reforms, but time and again leadership has caved behind closed doors to narrow corporate interests. I believe that is a serious mistake.

The EB-5 Program I once championed seems like a distant memory. The program was designed to bring jobs to underserved rural and distressed urban communities. For some time, it did just that. Communities in Vermont, like Warren and Vergennes, once used EB-5 to create and save jobs during difficult economic times, but that is EB-5 of yesterday.

Today EB-5 is mired in fraud and abuse. It suffers from obvious and outrageous flaws. It is a magnet for fraud, security violations are rampant, and the incentives Congress created to promote investment and create jobs in rural and high unemployment areas—the sole reason I championed the program—have been rendered obsolete through economic gerrymandering.

Only 3 percent of EB-5 investors now invest in rural areas—3 percent. The distinguished senior Senator from Iowa and I understand what a rural area is, and they are not being served. Less than 10 percent invest in true high unemployment areas. Almost every other EB-5 project uses gerrymandering to qualify as distressed, despite many being located in the most affluent areas of the country. The fact that a luxury hotel in Beverly Hills can use gerrymandering to claim it is located in a distressed community is troubling.

Beverly Hills is not rural Iowa or rural Vermont, but the fact that this type of abuse now represents almost 90 percent of the entire EB-5 Program is appalling.

Anyone who maintains that today's EB-5 Program is about creating jobs is either a lobbyist for the real estate industry or is simply not paying attention. An untold number of the luxury developments that now dominate EB-5 would be pursued even if you did not have EB-5 financing. Financing provided through EB-5 represents a small portion of the capital stack. To claim that EB-5 is responsible for all of these jobs is a farce. EB-5 merely allows developers to replace their conventional financing with dirt cheap capital subsidized by the sale of U.S. visas.

It is not just exploited by wealthy American developers. Chinese developers, and even the Chinese Government itself, are now exploiting the EB-5 subsidy. That is beyond troubling when a foreign government is permitted to earn tens of millions of dollars through the sale of U.S. visas.

The proposal I developed with Senator GRASSLEY would address this. It would require background checks. It would require third-party oversight of funds. It would create protections for defrauded investors. It would ban foreign government ownership of an EB-5 company. It would end gerrymandering and provide modest incentives to direct a small portion of investment to underserved areas—just 15 percent to both rural and urban poor communities—but even this was too much for some developers and some lobbyists.

Gluttonous, shortsighted corporate greed blocked these critical reforms, greed that was given a voice by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Unfortunately, the leadership has allowed a couple of powerful developers to exploit this program's flaws to derail critical reforms. I find it shameful that the worst abusers of this program have been given, by some in Congress, veto power over its reform.

I commend Secretary Johnson and his efforts to improve EB-5. I commend his efforts to change the rules to address fraud, inadequate investment levels, and the abuse of development incentives.

I will work with the chairmen of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees and the next Secretary of Homeland Security to get these reforms implemented and enforced, but the EB-5 regional Senate program no longer serves the American people's interests. It certainly does not serve the rural and urban poor communities as Congress intended.

Next year, I will be the vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and I will continue to press for broad bipartisan reform. I know Senator GRASSLEY and Senator FEINSTEIN, the

incoming ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, will not sit idly by either.

If EB-5 cannot be reformed due to the paralysis of leadership, it is very simple. If it cannot be reformed, then let us end EB-5.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I heard my friend and colleague Senator LEAHY express his opposition, and opposition that I share, to the EB-5 Regional Center Program. I am here for the same purpose, to express the same opposition to the EB-5 Regional Center Program that was extended without reforms. One year ago, we made similar statements. I could easily read the same statement I gave at that time and it would be just as relevant today. We are very disappointed that reforms were not included in the continuing resolution, which simply extended this very flawed immigration program.

The EB-5 Regional Center Program has been plagued by fraud and abuse. It poses significant national security risks. There are serious allegations that the program may be facilitating terrorist travel, economic espionage, money laundering, and investment fraud. Yet considering all of those things, the continuing resolution before us fails to include much needed reforms.

So after a year, we have yet another missed opportunity. The chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees have agreed on a package of reforms. We have worked in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion. We have agreed—all four of us—on every aspect. We instituted compliance measures, we instituted background checks, and we instituted transparency provisions. We made sure rural and distressed urban areas benefited from the program, as Congress already intended and as Senator LEAHY very clearly laid out the problems.

Despite the bipartisan support, not a single one of our recommendations will be implemented. Instead of reforming the program, we will have the status quo. The status quo means the following:

Investments can be spent before business plans are approved.

Regional Center operators can charge excessive fees of foreign nationals in addition to their required investments.

None of the jobs created have to be “direct” or verifiable jobs, but rather they are “indirect” and based on estimates, not knowing for sure if there are jobs created or based upon economic modeling—again, not knowing for sure if jobs are created.

Investment funds are not adequately vetted.

Gifts and loans from anyone are acceptable sources of funds from foreign nationals.

There is no prohibition against foreign governments owning and operating regional centers or projects.

Regional centers can be rented or sold without government oversight or approval.

Regional centers don't have to certify that they comply with securities laws. There is no set of sanctions for any violations—in other words, no recourse for the bad actors.

There are no required background checks on anyone associated with these regional centers. The investment level is lower than Congress ever intended.

Gerrymandering continues, and rural and urban distressed areas then lose out.

Site visits or even audits are not required.

There is no transparency on how funds are spent, who is paid, and what investors are told about the projects they are investing in.

The preferential treatment we have seen in the past is enabled without a strict code of conduct rules.

Those are just some of the things that are wrong.

The four of us on the two committees, in a bicameral and bipartisan way, tried to address awareness and have a process for dialogue leading to reform. My committee held two hearings this year. The House held one. Staff met with very interested stakeholders who asked for and we offered more concessions than we did last year. To top it off, we were ready to provide a 6-year reauthorization. This would have provided long-term stability for investors and regional centers.

But let's talk about why this package was not acceptable to some, most notably, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which was the most rigid in not compromising. Here is a list of issues raised by this leading voice of business in opposition to our package.

They want, in effect, one investment level. They don't want any meaningful discount for rural or urban distressed areas. Don't forget that this law was passed 20 years ago to help rural and high-unemployment areas. That is the purpose of it.

They don't want visas set aside for areas that Congress selected as targeted employment areas for fear that investors in affluent areas would have to wait slightly longer for a visa.

They didn't want to incentivize foreign investors to fund manufacturing projects that create long-term, sustainable, and real jobs that this country desperately needs.

They wanted to make it harder for rural areas to qualify at a discount investment level, even though it is common knowledge that small and rural communities have a harder time attracting capital.

They wanted certifications and compliance measures to be delegated to the agency. They did not want Congress to

dictate transparencies and reporting requirements.

We must remember that our job is to legislate, not to delegate. Delegating authority to the executive branch on this program would result in more of the same, because even by the departments in charge, there is very little oversight and monitoring now, even if it might be required by law. But not enough of it is required by law. That is why they get away with all this stuff.

The Chamber of Commerce didn't like a provision saying a foreign national had to be 18 years old to invest and obtain a green card through the program. They would like children as young as 14 to be able to make these major financial decisions and invest up to \$1 million—a 14-year-old, to do that.

They wanted restrictions on where investor funds came from lifted. Our package limited a foreign national from taking out a questionable loan or taking gifts from unknown sources. One way to find out what is wrong is to follow the money. We wanted to be sure that those investing were doing so because they obtained funds lawfully. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce wanted no such restrictions.

They wanted foreign governments and even sovereign wealth funds to own EB-5 projects. They wanted to delay rules saying foreign governments could not own or administer regional centers by requiring bureaucratic rulemaking. Despite the changes we made this year on this very strict provision, they continued to want to water it down in every negotiating session we had.

They didn't want regional centers to have to consult with local officials about EB-5 projects to ensure that economic development efforts were coordinated.

They wanted to do away with a requirement that a foreign investor would have to create at least one direct job before obtaining a green card. Now, here we have a situation where a program was instituted 25 years ago to create jobs—particularly in rural America and high unemployment areas—and they don't even want the investors to show that they are going to create at least one job right now.

Then they used economic modeling to show indirect jobs. Neither the existence of those jobs nor the location of those jobs can truly be verified. When you have the Federal Government setting up a program like this that is supposed to create jobs in rural areas and high unemployment areas, wouldn't you think there ought to be a way of showing that those jobs are actually created?

They raise new concerns about provisions that have been discussed way back since last June, such as requiring regional centers to pay a fee to an enforcement and monitoring fund.

They wanted a 3-day notification of a site visit by the agency to determine if

the regional center truly exists. Sure, tell the inspectors you are coming so you can get everything in order before the inspectors get there.

They fought efforts to require transparency of how investor funds were used. Now, this is a major problem of the existing program. Nearly every story of fraud relates to how regional center operators use EB-5 funds for their own personal gain and luxury.

This program is meant to create jobs, not to help individuals in charge of the program have personal gain and, more importantly, even the luxury that might go with that.

But the kicker in all of this is that these business interests insist on more visas and to make those visas even cheaper. They want Congress to increase immigration numbers through controversial recapture mechanisms or by exempting certain people from the annual cap. The pro-EB-5 groups want more visas for an already faulty program, which makes more money and puts more money in their pockets.

On top of that, they asked us to make the visas cheaper than it is even under current law. I, of course, refused to do that. I refuse to go below the \$1 million level that has been in law since 1990. The demand for visas is there. There is no justification to further cheapen this program and the green cards that come with that program.

We will have 5 months until we are faced with another reauthorization because that is how far this continuing resolution goes. In those 5 months, I expect that proposed rules changing the investment level and stopping gerrymandering will be published by the end of the year by the Obama administration, and I will support those proposed rules. I will be asking the new Trump administration to keep those new regulations and build off them.

In regard to the new administration coming in, they took a very strong position on various immigration issues. In taking that position, I would expect them to consider very closely the fraud and misuse of the EB-5 Program. When this administration sees things wrong with it and they correct those things that are wrong with it through regulation, those are regulations that should be backed up very solidly by the new administration coming in.

Next year, we will have to start over again. So as we heard Senator LEAHY speak about this—and we know his feelings and mine are very similar; I have already referred to the House Judiciary Committee—we will continue to work in a bipartisan and bicameral way to ensure this program.

Now, I want to speak about the new ranking member, Senator FEINSTEIN. I intend to continue this work as closely with her as I did with Ranking Member LEAHY, and Ranking Member LEAHY will still be involved in this process. I want to point out that she is not a fan

of this program at all, and she has been very vocal about closing this program down because of all the fault we find with it, whether it is fraud, whether it is misuse of the program, whether it is possible terrorist activity taking advantage of it, or whatever it is for national security reasons—all of those. Some of these have been pointed out by law enforcement agencies at the Federal level.

So I want everybody to know that change is coming. I have always wanted to reform the program, but I am not sure that the industry will ever come around. The leadership of this body and the other body could help by ending this program in a continuing resolution. Let it sunset, and let all these people come to the table with a more compromising point of view to correct everything that is wrong here. But the industry loves the status quo and, of course, they love the billions of dollars that pour into affluent areas. Consequently, the money is not directed where it was intended to in 1990, when this legislation was passed, which was to rural areas and high unemployment areas.

I am not sure, with the attitude of the industry, that reforms are possible. So just leaning on Senator FEINSTEIN a little bit and considering her point of view, it may be time to do away with the program completely.

I said that same thing a year ago, and I repeat: Maybe we should spend our time, our resources, and our efforts in other programs that benefit the American people as opposed to benefiting the well-healed and the well-connected. Maybe it is time this program goes away.

I yield the floor and thank Senator LEAHY for his speaking on it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

REMEMBERING JOHN GLENN

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, it is my sad duty to announce the passing of John Glenn.

John Glenn was one of the original seven astronauts of this country. All of them were characterized as having the right stuff, and if you knew any of them, that was certainly true.

John Glenn was not only a pioneering astronaut and a great Senator, he was a first-class gentleman as well as a devoted husband and father.

He leaves behind Annie, his beloved, who always stood with him as he ventured into the unknown cosmos, and it was unknown because John was the first to go into orbit as an American. He paved the way for all the rest of us.

At his passing, America is in the planning and the developing of the rockets that will take us, a human species, all the way to Mars. John Glenn was the pioneer. He was the one who paved the way.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I was a little bit delayed getting to the floor this afternoon because I was in tears, literally, when I heard the news about John. I think of my last long conversation with him just a few weeks ago. I will speak more on the floor about him later.

I came to the Senate with John Glenn. I enjoyed traveling with him, with the anonymity it gave me when people said: there is Colonel Glenn. It was not Senator Glenn, it was Colonel Glenn, even after having been sworn in. We traveled, he and Annie, Marcelle and I, all over the world, but the time I remember the most was the weekend we spent at our old farmhouse in Vermont because they wanted to see the foliage.

We used a seaplane and went flying around, landing in little ponds; taking off, then landing in another one. We went to a trappers convention where everybody was saying, "It is Colonel Glenn and some bald guy with him," and that was me, of course. We went there and then flew back to Montpelier where Marcelle and Annie had been traveling around. John landed the plane in a stiff crosswind. Of course, the pontoons did not help. He had to bring it in sideways. I did not worry. It was John Glenn. Then he turned to me with a big wink and said: I have never been so frightened flying anything in my life. I do not think John ever was frightened at anything, but my heart did stop.

I will speak more about him on the floor, and I appreciate my friend from Iowa yielding so I could speak.

John was one of the best people I ever served with. When I speak of what it was like coming here as a brand new Senator, every time I am asked about that, I talk about the fact that I came here and was sworn in with John Glenn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, it is my understanding that I was going to go next. But my distinguished colleague from West Virginia has important visitors—miners, who help fuel our country. So I ask unanimous consent that after he is recognized, I be recognized immediately thereafter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from West Virginia.

MINERS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, let me say to my dear friend from New Jersey, I appreciate his support so much. He has been right with me from day one, basically for the working men and women of this country but, most importantly, for the miners who have given us the country we have had today.

I have been doing this for quite some time now. It is nothing new. This is not new to anybody. This has not been sprung on somebody at the last minute, what we are fighting for and what we are trying to do.

As of October, we had over 16,000 of our retired miners and a lot of elderly women—widows whose husbands have passed away—who were notified they would be losing their health care benefits December 31 of this year. We have been working for a permanent fix called the Miners Protection Act, and if that bill were brought to the floor today, it would pass. We have all of the Democratic caucus—all 46 of us—and we have at least 15 who have committed to voting for it from our Republican colleagues, but that is not to be. That is not going to happen.

We have been working everything we can. We have gone through regular order. That means it has been to the Finance Committee. It has gone through and been debated and vetted, and it came out of there with an 18-to-8 vote—very strong in a bipartisan way.

Now what do we do? We are not going to get a vote on the floor. We thought, well, let's attach it. The Cures Act came over, and it is a health care act. It was germane to that bill, and it should fit in perfectly. They said, no, we can't put it in there.

The only thing we have left is what we are doing now, a CR. This is something I have never done. I have been here 6 years and have never used this procedure to say: Wait a minute. If we don't stand for the people who have fought, worked, and died for us and basically given us the country we have—we have won two wars with the domestic energy that has been mined right here in America, an awful lot of it in West Virginia, I might add. We have the strongest country in the world. We are a superpower. That would never have happened. We would never have the military might we have today. We would never have the middle class we have. We just wouldn't have the quality of life we have in America if had not been for the domestic energy our miners have given us.

What we are asking for and all they are saying is this is a promise that was made in 1946 that President Truman said: Listen, we are going to commit to you that every ton of coal mined from this day forward and the coal companies you work for, we are putting money aside to make sure you have lifetime benefits for health care and for your pension.

These are not big, elaborate pension plans. They are very small. They are subsidies, if you will. The health care has been so very important to many people. This has been going on for quite some time, and we have been involved many times. Yes, the Federal Government has been involved to make sure

the companies put that money aside so they would have their health care and their pensions.

Then, lo and behold, Congress basically passed bankruptcy laws that let people walk away from their obligations through bankruptcy. Now the promises were made and the promises that were kept by Congress were done away with through the bankruptcy laws that were so lenient that people could declare bankruptcy and say: Listen, I am sorry, but we are just not going to fulfill that commitment. That legacy goes away. That is somebody else's problem.

To fast forward to where we are today and why we have the problems we have, let me bring you up to speed with what we are dealing with. We have asked for the Miners Protection Act, which was the permanent health care fix and a permanent pension fix. These are for the retirees. We have another group of retirees here who have gone through bankruptcy and there was money set aside, about \$47 million. That was supposed to run out in June. We were going to bring all of them together so we took care of everybody.

Now, the bill they put in front of us that the House of Representatives has given us is horrendous and it is inhumane. They gave us a bill and said: Take it or leave it on the CR.

Nobody wants to close this great institution, this government down—not a person. You have to stand for something or surely to God, you will stand for nothing. That is where we find ourselves. They gave us a 4-month extension.

If your aunt or your mother were getting a notice in October that she would lose it in December—they want us now to say: OK. We are going to be so sympathetic, we will give you 4 more months, through April. That same person is now going to get another notification in January that she is going to lose it in April. On top of that, she will not even be able to meet her deductibles. So there is no insurance. There is nothing.

You remember the money I said they set aside, \$47 million, for the miners who basically have gone through a bankruptcy and lost their jobs and retired, they were going through June. Those same miners now are going to lose May and June—2 months. They are going to lose 2 months. There is going to be a \$2 million surplus that goes back to Treasury.

I had one woman call me. She said: Senator MANCHIN, I don't know, but back home where I come from, they call that thievery. She is absolutely correct. This is why we are so committed, and we are so dug in on this issue. It is a fairness. It is the right thing to do. All we have asked for is to take care of our miners' health care. We will come back and fight another day for pensions, but give us the health

care that has been promised and committed time after time again.

I have never seen anything this callous in my life, that we weren't willing to fulfill a promise we have made and the Federal Government put its stamp of approval on.

For those who are saying it is inconvenient and the procedures I have been using and my other colleagues with me—I have had everybody, and I appreciate them so much. And for them to say: Hey, you have held up a lot of goods bills—yes, a lot of bills that I have worked on for a year or more I have held up, but if we can't pass forward on this and walk out of here basically knowing we did the right thing, what is our purpose for being here? Why do we come?

We all talk. I have seen everybody's elections. All of our election advertisements, whether they be Democratic or Republican, are we are all for the middle class. We are all for the working class. We are going to make sure the working men and women really get a fair shake. They have been screwed and left behind so let's do it. OK. We are all for that. All of our advertising, our campaigns say that. We are committed to it. The only thing I am saying is now fulfill it. It is either put up or shut up. That is all.

You have already told them, you have asked them to vote for you because of this reason. Now you have a chance to show them that is why you are here. I came here to do exactly what I told you I was going to do—fight for you, make sure you are treated fairly. We have pay-fors. This is not coming out of taxpayers' money. This is AML—abandoned mine lands. The abandoned mine land money comes from every ton of coal. There is a certain percentage of money from that coal that goes into a fund and that is put aside to do reclamation.

Now, I have some of my Western States that don't have quite the reclamation we have had. In the Eastern part of the country, in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Southwestern Virginia, there is an awful lot of work to be done, and we do that work. We have done this for quite some time. We are saying: Listen, we are not denying you getting your money, but you shouldn't get first dibs on it and then hinder us from taking care of the responsibility we have to the miners who have been giving you the opportunity to live in this great country.

That is really what it comes down to. I have been asking all of my colleagues—this is not a fight that is going to be damaging to anybody. This is the only time-sensitive issue we have before us. There is nothing else we have before us. All of the bills are on hold right now. Not one bill has time sensitivity. We can come back and do it again. We have no problems doing them over and over. We have been here a long time.

This is the only one where the miners lose their health care—16,500 lose it December 31. You show me anything else we have in here where someone is going to be that harmed at a time specific when we walk out of here. That is what this is about. To tell me they are going to give us 4 months and they are doing us a favor for 4 months, that is inhumane. How they did it and paid for it is a crime. It is awful. That is why we are standing here fighting, and that is why I am going to continue to fight.

I think we have a purpose in life. If you have a purpose in life in public service, then serve the public. Don't come here to serve yourself. That is all people have asked for—do your job. You wonder why we have a low rating from the public, why they think so little of Congress. This is common sense. It is so easy for us to do. It is so easy for us to do. It is so easy for us to be able to say: Fine, we are going to fulfill this, and then we have a lot of other things we want to take care of.

That is all we have asked for, and that is all we are asking for now. We can do the right thing between today and tomorrow. We truly can.

Someone said the House has left. I am so sorry they were inconvenienced and had to leave so early to go home for Christmas. You go home and tell the people I live with, the people I was raised with, the people who have taken care of me: I am so sorry. We had to go home for Christmas. I am sorry you are losing your health care December 31. I didn't mean for that to happen, but you know I had to get home for Christmas.

That doesn't play well where I come from. That is not a commitment, and that is not public service. I am so sorry. I hope I have haven't inconvenienced anybody. I hope I haven't made you feel uncomfortable. I hope I haven't held up a bill that you have been working on because I have held up all my bills. No one was left unscathed in this. All we are saying is, for Pete's sake, do the right thing; stand up for this. Stand up for the people who gave us what we have today.

History said if you don't know where you come from, you sure don't know where you are going. If we are not going to stand up for the people who have given us the life we have, I am not sure where we are going. I know one thing. I go home and look them in the eye. I can say I am doing everything I can, and I am going to fight for you. I am willing to take whatever it takes, whatever medicine it takes here, however upset people get with me, however uncomfortable they may be. I am asking: Please, take care of the miners' health care. That is all right now. We will talk about the rest later.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I came to the floor for a different pur-

pose, but I do want to say to my friend and colleague from West Virginia and to those he is fighting for, Senator MANCHIN has been at this in the most constructive way possible, trying to prick the conscience of the Senate to do what is fundamentally right, to help those who help make the country great, help them at their greatest time of need—to simply be able to go to sleep at night not worried that you are one illness or one black lung away from dying.

He has ceded time and time again, asking for regular order. I was very pleased to support Senator MANCHIN as a member of the Senate Finance Committee, where there was a markup and there was a strong vote, and members who were running for reelection got to go home and say we passed it in the Finance Committee. We will take care of it when we come back after the elections.

Well, here we are, and now it is time to put your votes and insist on having the miners' health care taken care of. If I were a miner, I couldn't have anybody better fighting for me. I want those you have been fighting for to know you have been doing it for some time and tenaciously and graciously as well but, nonetheless, with conviction. I strongly support my colleague.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. President, I rise, as I have many times before, to discuss the urgent need for the United States to have an immigration system that reflects our values as a nation of immigrants.

Today, in my first floor speech on the subject since Donald Trump won the election, I am deeply troubled by the fear and panic I hear from our immigrant community, from our young immigrants known as DREAMers and their families to the workers in the field, to those in our restaurant kitchens and our homes.

Their panic is justified and palpable because of the inflammatory remarks made by the President-elect on the campaign trail about immigrants. His campaign promises made it seem as if no immigrant was safe from deportation, even otherwise law-abiding, decent people who came to this country searching for the American dream for themselves and their children. The threat of deportation was heard loud and clear by over 744,000 young, law-abiding immigrants who are American in every way, except for a piece of paper.

These DREAMers were brought to the United States, many as infants or toddlers, for reasons beyond their control or their knowledge. They grew up in America going to school. The only flag they have ever pledged allegiance to is that of the United States. The only national anthem they know is the "Star-Spangled Banner."

The effects of deporting them or their families would be incomprehen-

sible and destructive. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, or DACA, has been a tremendously successful program. It is something I fought for, to allow young men and women to come out of the shadows and step forward to register themselves with our government and make them right. DACA has allowed nearly 800,000 undocumented youth who came to the United States as children to obtain temporary protection from deportation and a 2-year work permit that is renewable. First, they would have to register with the government by handing over their personal information and the information of their immediate families, pass a criminal background check, and pay nearly \$500 in fees, and we said the information would be confidential and not used against them. Now their fears of deportation are justified.

The DACA Program now has the potential of becoming a registry of millions of undocumented immigrants who are now exposed for seeking a better life for themselves and their kids. Let's think about this for a second. These kids came into this country without any notion that they were doing anything wrong. Many of them didn't even know they were undocumented until they tried, for example, to go to college or get a loan for school. We asked them to come out of the shadows, voluntarily turn over their information and the information of their immediate relatives in exchange for protection from deportation, a work permit, and a chance for a better life. As early as next year, once again through no fault of their own, these young immigrants and their families are at risk of losing it all. The human cost is too high to pay. It is a cost measured in the thousands of parents separated from their children who are deported, husbands and wives separated from their spouses, millions of families who are torn apart because of our broken immigration system.

Among his many campaign promises, President-Elect Trump pledged to end the DACA Program. This means that DACA recipients, a group of individuals the U.S. Government has deemed as otherwise model citizens who pose absolutely no threat to our national security, would be at risk for deportation and could no longer continue working legally.

We are here talking about children who have grown up in the United States and attended our schools. Many of them were the valedictorians, salutatorians, and in the top tier of their graduating classes. These are children who serve our communities and were given a chance to be fully integrated into the only country many of them have ever known.

I have listened many times to my colleagues talk about the core of family values, and the essence of that core

is a family unit. I have heard that you don't subscribe the sins of the parents to the children, and yet those who are advocates of ending DACA would undo all of those things they have spoken to.

If the DACA Program is dismantled, young immigrants will be stripped of the jobs, education, and forced back into the shadows of our society. In fact, the Center for American Progress finds that ending DACA would cost the United States \$433 billion in gross domestic product over the next 10 years.

Having said that, I am hoping that when President-Elect Trump said on election night, "Now is the time for America to bind the wounds of division"—he later said in an interview that millions of undocumented immigrants are "terrific people." I hope the next administration thinks long and hard about binding the wounds of division. A good start would be a clear and unequivocal message that there will be no mass deportation task force and that the DACA Program will continue, something the President-elect already alluded to this week in an interview with *Time* magazine, saying that "we're going to work something out that's going to make people happy and proud . . . [DREAMers] got brought here at a very young age, they've worked here, they've gone to school here. Some were good students. Some have wonderful jobs. And they're in never-never land because they don't know what's going to happen."

It appears to me that hopefully we are getting to a place where there is universal respect and admiration for DREAMers. This acknowledgement offers a glimmer of hope for a productive way forward, and I hope that is the case.

Let me close by saying the following: I do not intend to sacrifice one set of immigrants for another. Let me be clear about our Nation's immigrants. It is not just enough to say DREAMers are terrific people. Protecting a temporary program is not enough, although the panic and sense of urgency to protect these young immigrants is justified. It is not enough because the reality is that DREAMers do not exist in a vacuum. They have parents. They have loved ones who have instilled values and work ethic and supported them to pursue an education and reach their full potential to benefit our country. Their parents are also terrific people and so are so many other hard-working immigrants who have lived in this country for years, have obeyed the law, are not criminals, and have integrated themselves into the tapestry of American society. We know them. You have to be blind not to know them. They are sitting next to us in the pew in church. They attend parent-teacher conferences. They are our neighbors. They pick our crops. There isn't a person in this country who isn't beholden to an immigrant worker. They watch our

kids. They open businesses. They perform back-breaking work—work we can't get many Americans to do—to keep the gears of this economy turning.

Immigration is not an easy problem to fix, but I think we came close in 2013, when the Senate came together to pass comprehensive immigration reform. I was part of that bipartisan Gang of 8 that produced a bill which passed with strong bipartisan support of nearly three-quarters of this Chamber. That bill is a strong model for reforming our immigration system as we look ahead to the Congress.

The bill, S. 744, addressed the key pillars necessary for a functioning, legal immigration system. It addressed the 11 million undocumented so we can know who is here to pursue the American dream versus who is here to do it harm. It reformed the legal immigration for high- and low-skilled workers. It had strong family reunification provisions, it put DREAMers on a path to citizenship, and it included tough border security measures. The bill, S. 744, wasn't perfect, but it was a significant milestone in our Nation's efforts to truly reform our immigration system.

We must remember what our economy and America needs. Our Nation will be stronger when there is an accountable path to citizenship for the undocumented living in the United States, our borders are secure, employers are held accountable for whom they hire, jobs are filled with qualified and documented workers who contribute to the economy, families are kept together, and we don't have downward pressures by an underground economy against the wages of all other Americans.

With an immigration system as flawed as ours and with so many things still to fix, DACA has been a beacon of hope—one shining light leading the way toward fairness, justice, and a better life for so many young immigrants looking for a chance to succeed in America as Americans.

Yes, abolishing it would be a tragic mistake for an administration seeking to unite what they helped divide. Let me be clear, as I have said all along, we cannot lose sight of our ultimate objective. The only real solution in the end is a permanent legislative solution that doesn't pick winners and losers amongst the most vulnerable in our society. That is why I am pleased to once again see a bipartisan coalition of voices begin to resurface so we can work toward a bipartisan moment to fix our immigration system once and for all because beyond stopping those who wish to turn the clock back on any progress we have made, we still need to implement a functioning legal immigration system for all. We need to make sure we don't take a giant step back and focus our Nation's resources against the most vulnerable, talented, and hardworking.

I have always been and remain committed to solving this problem in a fair, comprehensive manner that reforms our immigration system, and I will continue to work with a bipartisan coalition of voices toward this goal. Our DREAMers, their parents, immigrant families, and our Nation deserve nothing less. Irrelevant of who occupies the White House, I will never stop fighting for those who, like my mother, came to this country in the last century to give their families a chance to contribute to America's exceptionalism in this century.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

INDIANA'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I am pleased to speak with Senator DONNELLY about a momentous occasion for our beloved home State of Indiana—a celebration of our bicentennial.

On December 11, 1816, President James Madison signed the Indiana Enabling Act, which allowed Indiana to be the 19th State to join the Union and require that Indiana's leaders draft the State constitution. In the two centuries since Indiana's admission to the Union, Indiana residents—we call ourselves Hoosiers—have accomplished extraordinary things.

In 1840, William Henry Harrison became the first Hoosier to be elected President. In 1888, Benjamin Harrison, his grandson and fellow Hoosier, followed in his footsteps to the Presidency. Five Hoosiers have served our Nation as Vice President: Schuyler Colfax, Thomas Hendricks, Charles Fairbanks, Thomas Marshall, and Dan Quayle. Just a few short weeks ago, Americans elected Gov. Mike Pence to serve as our next Vice President. He will become the sixth Hoosier to serve in this role. We have a well-deserved reputation as the mother of Vice Presidents.

As many of you know, when Dan Quayle was elected, George Herbert Walker Bush's Vice President, I was appointed to fill his vacant Senate seat. Vice President Quayle has been a close friend and source of advice to me throughout the years.

When President Trump named Mike Pence to be his running mate, I knew Hoosiers would continue to have a strong impact on our country, providing guidance and leadership in one of the top elected offices in our land.

I am honored to call both Dan Quayle and Mike Pence close friends and commemorate the great work they have done for the State of Indiana and have and will do for our Nation.

We have had excellent Governors, Representatives, Senators, and others who have contributed significantly to this body, the Congress, and the Nation, and we are proud of that as Hoosiers.

I keep using the name Hoosiers because we were misnamed Indianians,

which is hard to pronounce and awful hard to spell. We are Hoosiers. I could go into a long discourse on what Hoosiers means, but I will not take the Senate time to do that right now. Please contact my office and we will send you a full description of what a Hoosier is, but you will see two of them on the floor here today.

Loyal public servants is not the only contribution our great State has made to the Nation. During the Civil War, over 200,000 Hoosiers answered the call to serve; although only one Civil War battle was fought in Indiana, more than 41,000 Hoosiers lost their lives and an estimated 50,000 were wounded.

During World War II, nearly 10 percent of Indiana's population joined our Nation's Armed Forces. Those who stayed behind contributed greatly to the manufacturing boom required for the war effort, manufacturing nearly 5 percent of all weapons and equipment required for the war.

Our State has continued that call to service to the military. We have for years and decades been one of the leading States providing per capita support to our Armed Forces.

In addition to these accomplished Hoosiers whom I have named, the places and events that make Indiana unique are numerous. I just want to mention a few, and I apologize to those that we don't have to time to put in place here. But as Senator DONNELLY and I know, a few months ago we commemorated the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500 on this Senate floor.

Known as the "World's Greatest Spectacle in Racing," the Indianapolis 500 is a great source of pride to Hoosiers throughout the State and throughout the country. Every year our race is an epic event as drivers jockey for position at speeds regularly surpassing 200 miles per hour. In addition to the "Indy 500," the automotive industry has deep ties to Indiana.

In 1896, the Haynes-Apperson Company opened its doors in Kokomo, IN, producing one of the very first automobile manufacturing sites in the entire United States. It operated until 1905. Its 1904 model seated two passengers and sold for \$1,550 at the time.

Now, you don't have to go too much farther than Kokomo, IN, to arrive in the city of Auburn, where the Cord Dusenbergs and other popular cars were manufactured. Every year, the Cord Dusenbergs festival, parade, and museum are open to people from around the world to see a magnificent parade of cars in that era in absolutely perfect shape.

If you find yourself in Southern Indiana, take a minute to stop by the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in Spencer County. Abraham Lincoln may have been born in Kentucky, and he may have ended up in Illinois, but he was raised and shaped in Indiana.

In addition to our landmarks, some of America's most famous buildings

have been constructed using Indiana limestone. The Pentagon, the National Cathedral, the Lincoln Memorial, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Empire State Building in New York, and many more, all feature Indiana limestone quarried in south-central Indiana.

Our State has been blessed with a climate of soil fit for all kinds of agricultural activities. God has blessed us with a climate and a soil fit for all kinds of agriculture activities.

While corn and soybeans are our top commodities by value, Indiana produced \$11.2 billion worth of agricultural products in 2012. This includes 41.5 million broiler chickens, 10.5 million hogs and pigs, numerous dairy products, and 37,000 acres of vegetables harvested for sale. The next time you head to the movie theatre, think of Indiana. Indiana produces more than 20 percent of the United States' popcorn supply, and a great deal is exported around the world.

We are also a world leader in pharmaceuticals, biologics, and medical devices. Our medical device industry is the fifth largest in the United States, generating more than \$10 billion in annual economic output. Hoosiers are truly working hard to provide healthier, longer, and more rewarding lives for all Americans. Not only does Indiana seek to enrich the quality of life of Hoosiers through its contributions to the medical manufacturing field, we also do this through our institutions of higher education.

Hoosiers don't need to travel far to receive a high-quality education. We boast a rich variety of world-class colleges and universities, such as Indiana University, Purdue University, Butler University, Notre Dame University, Indiana State, Rose-Hulman, Trine, Grace, Manchester, Earlham, Evansville, Indiana Wesleyan, Valparaiso, and on and on we could go.

I would be remiss if I were to neglect mentioning my own graduate school, the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law.

This quality of education bleeds into the quality of coaching found in Hoosier schools. There is nothing quite like being in the stands during a Hoosier high school basketball game. The coaching quality that we have has produced all-stars in every facet of basketball, whether it be professional, college, high school, or elementary.

There is nothing quite like being in the stands during Taylor University's Silent Night, where the fans pack the basketball stadium and stay completely silent until the home team scores their tenth point. Then the noise really starts and the game finishes with the fans signing singing "Silent Night."

Through the years, so many Hoosier teams have proved to be formidable foes on the court and the field. We are

the home of the Colts, the Pacers, the birthplace of Larry Bird, James Dean, and David Letterman. On and on I could go with that.

But in addition to recognizing all that Indiana has contributed to our Nation over the past 200 years, I would like to add that one of our greatest contributions has been and will be always Hoosier hospitality. While at times our country is a more divided and complicated place, Hoosiers continue to demonstrate that kindness and a good meal can make the world a little better.

It is an honor for me to commemorate this bicentennial for this great State of Indiana. I am honored to be able to do this with my fellow Senator JOE DONNELLY from Indiana.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleague, DAN COATS, our senior Senator from Indiana, who is wrapping up his time in the Senate as of the next few weeks. What an extraordinary service he has provided to our Nation, to our State. We are incredibly grateful to Senator COATS for what he has done. I also want to celebrate Indiana's bicentennial. I want to reflect on the past two centuries of our State's rich history and the important contributions Hoosiers have made to our State and our Nation. For nearly a year now, in every corner and in every community of Indiana, from the biggest to the tiniest, we have been commemorating the storied history of our beloved Hoosier State.

Together, we will culminate the celebration on Sunday, December 11, when Indiana turns 200 years old. Admitted to the Union in 1816, Indiana has developed and grown into the crossroads of America, a welcoming place, where businesses and families can grow and succeed.

As Hoosiers, we take pride in putting in an honest day's work. We don't want a free lunch. We don't want a handout. We want the chance to work, to work a good job, to educate our children in good schools, to ensure that our kids have the tools to make a better life than we did—the American dream, the Hoosier dream—and, eventually, after a life of hard work, to retire with dignity, to have a chance to go fishing in one of our lakes, to have a chance to be with our family in one of our extraordinary parks or a national forest.

Indiana has a proud tradition of serving our country, and working to protect our Nation's security. Nearly 500,000 veterans and many servicemembers and military families call Indiana home. Our National Guard dates back to 1801, when we were still a Territory. Today, our National Guard is the fourth largest in all of the United States. Hoosiers have proudly served our country in all of our wars, in all of

our efforts to protect our Nation over the years.

It is also home to Naval Support Activity Crane, the third largest naval installation in the world. I think we can take particular pride that in the middle of the country, about as far away as you can get from the Atlantic and the Pacific, we have the third largest naval base in the entire world. Our State is also home to Grissom Air Reserve Base in Kokomo, where the 434th Air Refueling Wing is based. The 122nd Fighter Wing is in Fort Wayne, and A-10s are training daily. As well, there is Camp Atterbury and the 181st Intelligence Wing based at Terre Haute Air National Guard Base.

Throughout our 200-year history, Indiana's success has helped drive America's success. The backbone of our State has been built from our manufacturing and steel plants, our small businesses, and our farms. Hoosier farmers and those involved in agriculture know what it means to work hard and do their part. Our corn and soybean farmers, our pork producers, and our beef producers have helped to feed not just Indiana but our country and the world.

Our dairy farmers have produced incredible products. On a hot summer night, some of the best ice cream in the world comes right between the Illinois border and the Ohio border, and the Michigan border and the Ohio River—that beautiful place we call home. In the cities and towns across Indiana, small businesses are the cornerstones of our communities.

Indiana is home to nearly half a million small businesses, employing almost 1.2 million Hoosier workers. So many of those small businesses are in agriculture as well. We don't want to leave anybody out. There are the ag producers—so many—and the turkey producers, the chicken producers. If it grows, we make it. We feed the world every single day.

Throughout our State's history, steel has been not just a major employer but also a source of pride for Hoosier communities. Hoosier steel serves as the foundation of buildings and bridges all across the United States. What Indiana makes the United States and the world takes. Still today, Indiana is the largest producer of steel in the United States.

Speaking of construction, the limestone from Southern Indiana has traveled all over the world, from places like Yankee Stadium to buildings in other parts of the world, to buildings all across the Nation's Capital. Some of the most beautiful buildings you have ever seen are built from Indiana limestone and from Indiana products.

Manufacturing is central to our economy. It contributes to roughly 30 percent of Indiana's economic activity and economic growth. Manufacturing plays a larger role in our economy than it does in any other State in the Nation,

and we are really, really good at it. Manufacturing employs 17 percent of our workforce, some of the most skilled workers in the world.

Hoosier manufacturers and their workers build some of the most advanced, highest quality products in the world, from engines to RVs.

Just down the road from my home in Granger, is Elkhart, the RV capital of the world. I know that the Presiding Officer has traveled a few miles in RVs as well, from one end of our State to the other. More than 80 percent of global RV production is based in Elkhart, and throughout the northeast region and the north-central region. So if you see an RV on the road, there is a really good chance it was built by hard-working Hoosier manufacturers. There is a real good chance your family is going to have an awesome time.

We boast some of the best educational institutions in the world—as my colleague Senator COATS mentioned as he listed them off—attracting students, professors, and researchers from across Indiana, across our country, and across the world. Our colleges and universities provide an exceptional education to our students and lead the way in innovation and cutting-edge research.

Not surprisingly, many know our State because of our sports heritage, particularly in auto racing and basketball. This year marked the 100th running of the "Greatest Spectacle in Racing," the Indy 500. It is a special event unlike any other.

We don't just showcase the best Indiana has to offer on the racetrack but also on the hardwood. Basketball has been part of Indiana's identity since the late 1890s. It remains king today. Our State has achieved great basketball success, including with history-making teams like the Flying Tigers of Crispus Attucks High School, who, in 1955, became the first all African-American high school athletic team in the country to win a State basketball title. Few things have defined our State's culture and fabric as much as basketball.

As Senator COATS, the Presiding Officer, knows, John Wooden may be considered the father of all coaches in this country. He came from Indiana. As we reflect on our 200 years, we have so much to be proud of. As we look to the next 200 years, we know that through hard work and by working together, we can make our State's future even more prosperous because that is the American promise—that we work nonstop, that we work together, so that when we look at our kids and our grandkids, we can tell them and tell all of you: We are going to build a stronger, better Indiana. We are going to build a stronger, better America because that is the promise that we pass on from one generation to the other.

To my friend, the senior Senator from Indiana, I wish to tell you what a

pleasure it has been to serve with you, what a good friend you have been, and how lucky I am to have been your junior partner in this endeavor where we try to stand for America every single day.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, as my two colleagues from Indiana leave—again, congratulations on their bicentennial.

There are many great Hoosiers who have made their way to the State of Washington. One was a most beloved Mariner broadcaster named Dave Niehaus, who was from Evansville, IN. He was a great, great part of our sports history. Certainly, I should mention Dave Calabro, who was a Hoosier and another great announcer for our basketball team. We also have the great Bill Ruckelshaus, former EPA Director under President Nixon. He works on salmon issues and does other great things.

Congratulations to those Hoosier Senators today.

ENERGY LEGISLATION

Mr. President, I come to the floor with my colleague Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska to talk about all the great work that was put into developing the Energy Policy Modernization Act. The Presiding Officer knows well how much work we put into that legislation.

We are here today after many mark-ups, many amendments, and what was an unbelievable Senate vote of 85 to 12, to urge our House colleagues to consider the conference report on this legislation before adjourning for the year. There are so many important provisions in this legislation that should be enacted.

We reached an agreement to mark the National Park Service's 100th birthday by making an investment in our national parks. In response to requests from 47 Senators, the bill protects hundreds of thousands of acres of land.

We were also able to reach agreements on important issues such as water resources, providing and securing funding for fighting forest fires, and making sure that communities that are at risk of wildfires get the attention they so deserve. Having lost seven individuals fighting wildfires over the last decade and a half, I can say, from the State of Washington's perspective, it is essential that we provide the communities the resources

they need to fight fires. We also included a sportsmen's bill that will help hunters and fishers.

We were also able to reach agreement on numerous energy provisions. For instance, the legislation bolsters our energy security against cyber attacks. We improve the Department of Energy's capabilities to protect the grid. We are not just talking about hardening some of our physical infrastructure such as hydro power projects, but actually the work that it takes to make the grid more resilient from hacking. We also reached agreement on provisions to develop the workforce that will be needed to fill the 1.5 million new energy workers that the Quadrennial Energy Review estimates will be needed by 2030. We were also able to reach agreement encouraging investments in hydro power projects, geothermal energy, nuclear power and other emissions-free resources. Finally, this conference agreement also would promote innovation in many areas of science that are so important to us.

What is so frustrating is that we followed regular order in putting together an Energy bill. We held numerous hearings followed by a 3-day committee markup. On the Senate floor, we considered in excess of 300 amendments. We then worked all summer long and all fall with our House colleagues to reach a conference agreement.

It is so disappointing to now have our House colleagues refuse to consider these important provisions. There were many hard-fought issues upon which we eventually agreed. We all had to come to the table and take into consideration all interests. Whether you are talking sportsmen and open access to hunting, which my colleague from Alaska so championed, or whether you are talking about how to get water agreements that involve fishermen, tribes, farmers, and a variety of river interests—we were able to accomplish that. Or whether you are talking about fixing the fire funding budget issue that has been debated back and forth among our House and Senate colleagues for almost 7 or 8 years now, we were able to reach agreement on all of these things. It is very irresponsible for our House colleagues to drop the ball by failing to consider these solutions and taking yes for an answer.

What is even more outrageous is that now the House wants to take a provision subject to the Energy and Natural Resource's jurisdiction—the California water issue—and airdrop it into the WRDA bill, which is subject to the jurisdiction of the Environment and Public Works Committee.

As much as our House colleagues like to boast about their mythical no-earmark rule, the California water deal that is now being decried in newspapers in California as the "midnight rider," was airdropped in as an earmark in the WRDA bill and sent over to the Senate.

This is an issue that should be considered by the Energy Committee.

I say to my colleagues that, if you want energy policy considered in the future and you want it to be a product of the regular order process in the Senate that creates consensus, you need to say to our House colleagues that are refusing to move forward on a conference report that this situation is problematic. The process that we are supposed to follow includes the Senate and House resolving differences as part of a conference committee. Instead, if we pass the WRDA bill, we will be rewarding those that wish to sidetrack regular order and drop into bills other items that have not been worked out and basically don't adhere to the rules of the Senate or even the House's own rules against earmarks they hypocritically claim to follow.

It is a very cynical view of the world to allow the House to add Energy and Natural Resources Committee jurisdictional legislation into another committee's bill and violates the House's own rules and basically overruns the collaborative process we used for the Energy Policy and Modernization Act. The House has, instead, turned to backroom deal making.

I join my colleague, Senator MURKOWSKI, tonight to describe the great and hard work that was done in our conference. I think she and I believe in it. I think we believe in the Senate the way it is supposed to work. We believe in the hard work that it took to reach compromise on so many issues, and I think we want to make sure that our colleagues know that getting to yes was just inches away.

It is very unfortunate that the House, instead of doing its homework, pursued a very cynical approach to the legislative arena—something I thought we jettisoned a decade ago—airdropping things in the dark of night. I mistakenly thought the House leadership was being earnest about making sure that the legislative process is transparent.

I hope our colleagues will understand these are important policy issues and take the remaining days—if we happen to be here an extra few days this weekend or even into next week—and encourage the House leadership to get our energy and natural resources bill enacted and bank what is good public policy in the best interests of the United States.

I thank my colleague from Alaska for her leadership on the Energy Committee, her hard work and dedication, her willingness to work across the aisle, and a willingness to be very tough on these important thorny public policy issues—and not to back away from that—and to find solutions for everybody in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I acknowledge the very good work of my friend, colleague, and neighbor to the south of us from Washington State, Senator CANTWELL.

She has been a partner throughout this 2-year process we have been engaged in as we have tried to formulate and format a renewed energy policy for this country, something that has not been done in close to a decade.

We acknowledged early on that there were going to be policy differences we each have, given where we come from and some differing views, but we were committed to working together to work through the thorny issues, to work toward consensus, not only that she and I could come to but our whole committee and, ultimately, the Senate. We were successful in doing that.

I also acknowledge the good work of Senator CANTWELL's staff, as well as my staff, on the Energy Committee. These folks have been working tirelessly for 2 years, but more immediately—and when I say tirelessly, pretty much 24/7 for the past several weeks, in trying to get us to a point where instead of talking about what might have been in an energy bill, being able to stand in front of my colleagues and tell them these are the policy changes that we will now see placed into law.

I had truly wished I would not be in a situation where I would have to come to the floor and speak negatively about where we are right now because, as Senator CANTWELL outlined, the process we have been engaged in is one that we are proud of, but also that the institution should be proud of.

Our committees are designed to be incubators of good ideas and how we then allow these ideas to materialize and come together through good debate, amendments, refinement and then bringing that forward to the full body, again, for further work and refinement.

We have done it by the book. There are not too many things in Congress that look like what you learned about how a bill becomes law. I am looking at the young pages sitting here. In your classes, in American Government, you learn about how a bill becomes law.

If you read that and you see what happens around here, you would say: these are two different universes. You are nodding because you know you are seeing that.

What we have attempted to do and what we have done for the past 2 years is to allow our committees to work, to take the good ideas from energy-producing States such as Alaska and Louisiana, and to work with colleagues from the interior of the country with views and ideas that are perhaps different than ours, building consensus with energy policy, with resources, with access. We did it. We have been that textbook example of regular order process.

I am actually told that they have a training course or a training program offered in the Congress that walks committee staff through examples of how a bill should be moved through a committee. Just the other day, I was told that our bill, the Energy bill, is the model that is being used as what to do in that training program.

This is quite the compliment; however we still have to get it over the finish line. This is where Senator CANTWELL and I are so frustrated. This is where we are so frustrated because, after 2 years of work and being this close to the finish line, we are being denied that opportunity to share this success and all because of lack of action over in the other Chamber.

We started this Energy bill by convening ideas. We held hearings in Washington, in Alaska, and other places in between. We gathered the ideas for what we hoped was going to be the first major Energy and Natural Resources bill signed into law in nearly a decade. We held oversight hearings and legislative hearings. We reviewed over 115 separate bills. We spent weeks negotiating a base text of the bipartisan bill. We held markups where our bill drew support from nearly all of our Members. Then we brought it here to the floor.

Yes, we had some bumps along the way. Flint, which certainly needed to be addressed, was part of it. That seems like ancient history now. But we persevered. We worked through all of the issues. We added more priorities for our Members, to the point where over 80 different Senators had their priorities incorporated into our bill.

Then, in April, 85 Members of this body—85 Members—voted in favor of passage of this bill. When we think of all that was contained in it, to gain that level of consensus, I think the Senator from Washington and I were doing something positive, to get everybody on board.

Then the House responded to our Energy bill in late May, and in July, we went to a formal conference. We began work right away. The negotiations started just about immediately, even before the first formal meeting of our conference.

So think about it. We have been working this conference between the two bodies since July—and not just on an occasional basis; rather, we have been working this aggressively. During this conference, we have held more than 75 bipartisan and bicameral negotiating sessions at the staff level. There have been countless more meetings and daily interactions amongst our staff. The final conference report includes provisions from 74 Members of the Senate and 224 Members of the House. That means there is input from almost 60 percent of the U.S. Congress included in the conference report. This is not a bill where we are cramming it

through; this is a measure of considerable consensus.

The chairmen and the ranking members of the committees of jurisdiction, whether it is here in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources, the House Natural Resources Committee, the House Science Committee, the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee—we have been meeting to resolve our differences. Again, staff has been working around the clock. Just this weekend, we went through hundreds of pages to close out all of the issues. Again, we did it by the book. We did what we were supposed to be doing. We were the team players here. We adhered to the regular order process.

Senator CANTWELL said we were doing the “normal” process. But I think what we are doing now is extraordinary. It is not normal—because it seems that, if there is guerilla warfare that is going on, that seems to be the way to move a bill nowadays. That does not send a very powerful message nor set a good example for how to advance a consensus measure such as we have with the Energy bill.

We were really on the right track until just a couple of weeks ago when it became pretty apparent that the House was, plainly stated, just done. They were finished. They stopped negotiating in good faith. They stopped trying to work to reach agreement.

So we are at that point where we have the House going out. We are told we here in the Senate are going to be wrapping up shop. But, as Senator CANTWELL has outlined, what colleagues need to know is what is being left behind on the table. It is not just the guts of this conference bill that we have been negotiating that is on the table; what is on the table a tremendous amount of time and effort put forth into a good committee process that has built a consensus and a good product. That is a problem, and I think it is something we are going to have to work on. It looks like we are going to have to work on this aggressively in the next year.

There has been a lot of speculation about what is really going on. What is the problem? Why can't you get a deal? Well, I mentioned that we have closed out every aspect of this bill with the exception of two issues, but there have been a lot of excuses out there that we don't have enough time; the bill is too complicated; there is not enough in it; then suddenly, there is too much in it. So we worked to address all of that, and we got it down to two issues. Both of those issues can be easily resolved in plenty of time for us around here if everybody is willing to sit down and work through them in good faith. In fact, on both of those issues, the Senate has already written—we have already proposed the modifications that were necessary to reach the final agreement. What happened when we sent them

over? We wait. It is going to be half an hour, an hour, and now it is half a day. That is not good faith.

I will give one specific example. This relates to LNG export projects. This is something, quite honestly, that folks had agreed was going to be a part of the bill. We have included it in every Senate offer. It was taken out by the House. Then, when the House says, “Your bill doesn't seem to have enough in it. What happened to LNG?” we say “You took it out.” Let's not be moving the goalpost.

What we have is vitally significant for many in our Western States. It includes forest management reform with the potential for a fire budget fix, for our sportsmen and women who care about accessing our public lands for hunting and fishing and recreational shooting. It includes a water package to help boost our water storage and management in some of our most drought-stricken Western States. It has a robust public lands title with more than 50 bills in it that provide everything from the expansion of a VA cemetery in South Dakota to high-priority land exchanges in places like Colorado. We have language related to the National Park Service Centennial that really sets our national parks on track for a second century. It includes a range of nuclear, cyber security, and hydroelectric innovation policies. These are good things that will help our country move forward and produce more energy that is affordable, reliable, and free of any form of pollution. We have worked so hard.

To be here on the 8th of December and say we are out of time—well, tell that to the sportsmen who have been working for 6 years to get a legislative package. And here we are on December 8 saying we are done. Tell that to those—particularly from the West—who are concerned about wildfire threats year after year and whether the funds are going to be there not only to address fire but to be there for the other accounts that our agencies are worried about. Tell them that we ran out of time on December 8.

Mr. President, I have to say that we have not run out of time; we have, unfortunately, run out of a desire to work together to finish important work for this country. We have plenty of time and should not be making excuses. Now is not the time to run down the clock. We must recognize that we have worked for 2 long years and this work deserves to be placed into law.

I urge my friends and my colleagues in the other Chamber to work with us on this. Let's not give up on energy policy.

With that, I yield the floor. I thank my colleague for the indulgence of some additional time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I appreciate the good work Senator MURKOWSKI does in cooperation with people in this institution.

REMEMBERING JOHN GLENN

Mr. President, today our country lost an American hero, Col. John Glenn, Senator John Glenn. I will be back on a later date to deliver a more formal tribute with my colleague Senator PORTMAN, but I wish to share some initial thoughts as I, along with my wife Connie and so many Ohioans, mourn for John Glenn and join so many people around the country who loved him and cared for him and respected him.

It has been one of the great lessons of my life to get to know John Glenn and for Connie and me to count him and Annie as mentors and friends. We remember just a few short years ago, on the 50th anniversary of his flight into space, the night before, we had dinner with John and Annie, Connie and I and his children, David and Glen, and his daughter-in-law, David's wife, and how interesting and joyous it was to hear him recount his experiences and so much of what he has done. We loved him. We will miss him. We will continue to draw strength and wisdom from the lessons he shared with us over the years.

The first time I met John Glenn was in 1969. It was Colonel Glenn then, long before he was elected to the Senate. Colonel Glenn spoke at an Eagle Scout dinner in Mansfield, OH. Only a few short weeks earlier, in my court of honor, I was awarded the Eagle Scout award. I was 16 years old. I got to meet Colonel Glenn. His words inspired us. They stayed with me as I grew up and looked for ways to serve community and country.

Thirty years later, John granted me the honor of walking me down this center aisle. When Senators are sworn in, any term they serve, they are often accompanied by a Senator from their State or a former Senator—whomever that Senator-elect or that Senator who is soon to be sworn in chooses—and I chose to walk down with my friend and former Senator, at that point, John Glenn.

John had a humility and a kindness unusual, perhaps, in this business and in, perhaps, somebody of his level of accomplishment. His kindness and intelligence, his courage—we know about that—and his commitment to service set an example that our country needs today more than ever. His legacy will live on not just in the pages of history books, it will live on through the Americans he inspired, whether it was a passion for exploration that led him to join NASA, a dedication to country that called him to the Armed Forces, or a desire to make the world a better place that led him to public service.

John will live in the hearts of everyone who knew and loved him, including his beloved wife Annie and his wonderful children, Glen and David.

I spoke with Annie and John on their 73rd wedding anniversary, and Annie told me the story that—I knew they knew each other in grade school. They dated beginning—I don't know exactly when. I asked Annie if they wanted to marry in high school, and she said yes, but her parents said they couldn't do that because it wouldn't last. So they waited until after Pearl Harbor, when I believe John was 20 and Annie was 21, and they were married for 73-plus years.

Ohio and the United States have lost a great light today, but that pales in comparison to what we gained over his 95 years on Earth. I hope my colleagues will join me in sending out our love and prayers to John's family at this difficult time during the holidays.

I heard John Glenn stories even today at the ceremony unveiling the portrait of our Democratic leader HARRY REID, which took place in the Russell Building, and a number of former colleagues of John's came up to me and they had just heard of his death that happened midafternoon today. So I thank them for their memories.

MINERS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. President, last night Senator MANCHIN and I were on the floor of the Senate with Senators WYDEN and DONNELLY and CASEY, and we were again asking our colleagues to honor the commitment Harry Truman made seven decades ago to the mine workers of this country, to the retired mine workers, and to their widows. We all know that the life expectancy of mine workers is often less than the life expectancy of a teacher or an elected official or an insurance agent or someone who works in many other kinds of businesses. They are more likely to be injured on the job. They are more likely, in some cases, to perish on the job. They are more likely to contract an illness from the air they breathe and the conditions in the mines, whether it is black lung or whether it is some kind of heart disease. So this is particularly important to mine workers and the widows, that we take care of their insurance.

Most of the mine workers I know got a notice in late November or early this month saying their insurance would be cut off at the end of December. What a Christmas present. We have asked Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader, who seems to be the only one standing in the way, month after month after month to fix this so these widows and these retired miners don't get this notice saying: Your insurance will be cut off.

Finally, Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader, asked us to make it bipartisan. We did. We have a number of Republican cosponsors, including Senator PORTMAN from my State, Senator CAPITO from West Virginia, and a number of others. We did that.

Then Senator MCCONNELL said: Go through regular order; put a bill

through committee. We did that 18 to 8 in the Senate Finance Committee—every Democrat joined by a third or so of the Republicans. We did that.

Then he said: That is not good enough; now we want you to find a way to pay for it. We did. No tax dollars involved. This is money in the abandoned mine funds assessed against the mine companies, accumulated over the years.

We did all three of those things. Still, Senator MCCONNELL, because of his antipathy, apparently, toward the United Mine Workers union—if he wants to have antipathy towards the union, if he hates unions, that is his business. I would rather he didn't, but that is his business. But to stand in the way of these widows and these retired mine workers because of his animosity toward the union is pretty troubling.

Last night, Senator MANCHIN and I, issue after issue after issue, continued to object to other generally non-controversial bills that we support—some I cosponsored—until this body does its job. But if this Senate doesn't act—it looks like a number of Senators, as House Members, apparently have already gone home for Christmas, so I will have plenty of colleagues go home and celebrate the holidays. Regardless of their faith, they will celebrate the holidays in the 3 upcoming weeks. But these thousands of mine workers and thousand of mine worker retirees and thousands of widows of mine workers—their Christmas isn't going to be so good because now—Senator MCCONNELL offered a little bit and said: We will give you a 4-month extension. But do you know what that means? That means they will get the letter. They have already gotten the first letter saying their insurance runs out at the end of December. Now they will get a second letter, if we do the 4-month extension, in January or February saying: Sorry, it is going to run out again in April.

How would we like to live that way? You are going to have insurance until this date, and then we will give you a little extension and you can have it until that date. That is simply not fair. Maybe it is OK for us because we have good benefits and we have good insurance, but it is not OK with them.

So I am hopeful that Senator MCCONNELL and Republican leaders will bring this to the floor, will support a 1-year—we want more. We would like to see the pension problem fixed too. But before the holidays, let's do a 1-year extension on the insurance. It is a commitment President Truman made and Presidents of both parties for seven decades have honored. It is the least we can do. I think we should stay here and work up until Christmas if it doesn't happen.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to enter into a colloquy with Senator MCCAIN when he arrives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAHAM. Right on cue, so I will start off here.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for a colloquy between myself and the Senator from South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAHAM. Just to make sure.

JASTA

Very briefly, I will let Senator MCCAIN lead off, but I want to talk about the way forward regarding JASTA.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to join my friend and colleague on this issue that is of transcendent importance to America's relationship with our friends and allies—literally placing Americans and American companies and corporations and governments in great danger—particularly governments.

I would just like to mention in passing, if my colleague will indulge me very quickly, because I have here in front of me—and I will ask that it be included in the RECORD—statements from the President of the United States, the Director of the CIA, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Defense, all on this issue we are talking about.

The leaders of our government, from the President on down, including the heads of our most important defense agencies, have expressed—and I will quote them in just a minute.

My friends, Congress passed the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, or JASTA. It was well-intentioned to allow claims against foreign governments that might be complicit in terrorist attacks against the United States. The spirit behind the legislation is noble. Any foreign government behind the attack on our homeland or our citizens must be held accountable. But it has become clear that the unintended consequences of this legislation are quite grave.

As it exists now, JASTA presents a significant risk to the United States and our military and diplomatic personnel serving across the globe.

As it currently exists, as my colleague from South Carolina will explain in greater detail, JASTA undermines a fundamental international norm of sovereign immunity that protects governments from being sued in court except in narrow circumstances. If this law is not narrow—and please,

my colleagues, understand, the Senator from South Carolina and I are not for abolishing this law; we are for putting in a scope that protects the United States of America; that is, if we allow our laws to target governments indiscriminately, we will expose our country to grave risk and undermine our ability to pursue justice in a complex world.

No country in the world stands to lose more from an erosion of these legal standards than the United States of America. The United States has more bases and more forward-deployed personnel protecting peace and security than any other country. JASTA now gives these countries an incentive to bring these brave men and women to court to answer for U.S. counterterrorism policies.

If other countries pass similar legislation, it means the United States and American soldiers, diplomats, and intelligence officers serving in some of the world's most dangerous and difficult countries will be forced to justify their actions and defend the policies we have made to defend this country before courts that may not share our standards of due process and fairness. Our allies will wonder if it is wise to join our coalitions to fight terrorism if they, too, will face legal liability in courts around the world. Thus, we are faced with the twisted irony that the men and women who put themselves in harm's way to bring the 9/11 attackers to justice and to defeat those who still seek to attack the United States are the people placed directly at risk by JASTA.

We must be concerned with the diplomatic and economic fallout of this law. Our allies and partners around the world, particularly those who struggle with terrorism at home, now wonder when they might be hauled in to courts for terrorist actions. They face potential court-ordered damages and asset seizures. Their citizens and companies doing business in the United States are at risk. It is only reasonable that these countries will consider pulling their assets and resources out of the United States out of fear.

In short, JASTA could cause our allies in the fight against terrorism to distance themselves from us as a country that most needs their support against those who mean to do us harm.

Now I would like to provide some quotes. Our Nation's top national security officials have issued statements and written to Congress to warn us about the unintended consequences of JASTA.

Let's begin with President Obama. I will quote from his letter from White House. He wrote:

JASTA . . . would neither protect Americans from terrorist attacks nor improve the effectiveness of our response to such attacks. Doing so would instead threaten to erode sovereign immunity principles that protect

the United States, including our U.S. Armed Forces and other officials, overseas.

I will admit that Senator GRAHAM and I have a special relationship with the men and women who are serving—his 22 years as a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve and every year going to Iraq or Afghanistan; I obviously have sons who have served. I don't want to see my sons or anybody else's sons in court because they might have violated a sovereign nation the way that we are saying JASTA affects our country.

Enacting JASTA into law, however, would neither protect Americans from terrorist attacks nor improve the effectiveness of our response to such attacks. Doing so would instead threaten to erode sovereign immunity principles that protect the United States, including our U.S. Armed Forces and other officials, overseas.

The Secretary of Defense wrote:

U.S. Servicemembers stationed here and overseas, and especially those supporting our counterterrorism efforts, would be vulnerable to private individuals' accusations that their activities contributed to acts alleged to violate a foreign state's law.

He continued to say that, whether guilty or innocent, "the mere allegation of their involvement could subject them to a foreign court's jurisdiction and the accompanying litigation and intrusive discovery process that goes along with defending against such lawsuits. . . . Our servicemembers might be required to testify about or provide documents on operations that they are obligated under U.S. law not to disclose, exposing them to punishment for contempt by the foreign court, including imprisonment."

According to the Secretary of Defense, we could be risking imprisonment for the men and women who are serving in our military overseas.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—I think we all respect the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Here is his view:

Any legislation that risks reciprocal treatment by foreign governments would increase the vulnerability of U.S. Servicemembers to foreign legal action while acting in an official capacity.

In those cases . . . the Servicemember could be held in civil, or criminal, contempt should he or she refuse to appear or otherwise comply with the foreign court's orders.

The Secretary of State, John Kerry, wrote:

JASTA could encourage foreign courts to exercise jurisdiction over the United States or U.S. officials.

The same thing.

The Director of CIA wrote:

(JASTA) will have grave implications for the national security of the United States. The most damaging consequence would be for those US Government officials who dutifully work overseas on behalf of our country. The principle of sovereign immunity protects US officials every day, and is rooted in reciprocity. If we fail to uphold this standard for other countries, we place our own nation's officials in danger. No country has

more to lose from undermining that principle than the United States—and few institutions would be at greater risk than the CIA.

Which certainly makes sense.

So here we have the Director of the CIA, the Vice President of the United States, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense—all want us to narrow the interpretation of this law. What does it require? Whose word more do you want?

All I am saying is that we need to narrow the law. We must make it clear that countries will not be held responsible for rogue actions of their citizens. Unless we can show that a nation knowingly assists a terrorist group, sovereign nations should not be dragged into our courts.

If we don't fix JASTA, our ability to defend ourselves will be undermined and the people we ask to go into harm's way on our behalf will be placed in jeopardy. America must pursue justice, but in the long run, JASTA will make it harder, not easier, to bring terrorists to justice and prevent terrorism in the first place.

We need to fix this law.

I ask my colleague, let's make it clear, are we asking to have this law repealed? Are we asking that people in countries that are responsible for acts of terror to be let off the hook? Are we trying to say committing acts of terror can be sponsored by any nation and we will turn the other way? That is basically the argument that is being mounted in sometimes hysterical fashion, and what we are trying to do is to ensure that a government must knowingly—maybe not even have done it themselves but knowingly. Isn't that the key, particularly coming from someone with your background as an officer trained in the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the International Rule of Law?

Mr. GRAHAM. Thank you, Senator MCCAIN. Your overview was excellent about the perils we face as a nation if we don't modify the law. I will try to give you a couple of minutes of how did we get to here. After 9/11—the most horrific attack on our homeland, maybe ever, I guess, since the Civil War—the bottom line was that we responded as a nation in many ways. The 9/11 families have a special place in American history and our hearts. They have been pursuing legal claims against those responsible for the attack.

Sovereign immunity is a concept that protects our government and every other government from doing business because if you don't have the sovereign immunity, you can't function as a government. There are waivers to that concept—a tort. If somebody in Saudi Arabia is driving a car down the streets of New York and they are working for the Embassy and con-

sulate and they hit you, there is a process where you can sue. You can sue your own Federal Government—the Federal Tort Claims Act—if you are injured as a result of being hit by a military vehicle. Even though sovereign immunity applies, we waived that to allow citizens who have been injured tortuously to bring claims in a very controlled process.

The 9/11 families, for well over a decade now, have been pursuing nation-states like Saudi Arabia in court, trying to hold them liable for the act of terrorism of the 19 hijackers. Under our law, a tort does not include acts of international terrorism. I was very open-minded to say, certainly, that is a tort. If you are injured or killed because of an act of international terrorism, you have been harmed, and I don't mind holding somebody responsible who caused that harm.

Now you are getting into the operation of a nation-state. If you believe the Saudi Government collaborated with the 19 hijackers and they knew or should have known about the attack and assisted in the attack, not only should they be held liable in our courts as probably an act of war under international law. Unfortunately, the way we have structured this law, that requirement does exist.

Let me give you an example of how that can come back to haunt us. We are engaged in a conflict in Syria today. We are training, providing weapons, and training a lot of groups inside Syria to destroy ISIL. One of those groups is the WPG Kurds. They are literally the cousins of the PKK, a terrorist organization inside Turkey. There is friction between the Kurds and Syria and the Turkish Government, and it is beginning to bubble up.

We are knowingly providing training to Kurdish elements inside Syria for the express purpose of enlisting them in the fight against ISIL. What I don't want to have happen is that the CIA officer, the special forces soldier, anybody in our government who is working in the training, equipping process to be held liable if that training and those weapons are used to go into Turkey or some other place where we didn't intend for it to happen and we didn't know about it.

As this law is written now, it is my fear the very act of helping them do one thing could make you liable for everything they do. We are trying to narrow the scope, and we are trying to make sure that whatever claim against a foreign government lies for the 9/11 attack, that we don't open the door to lawsuits, imprisonment, criminal complaints, liability by us as a nation-state for all of the activities we are doing throughout the world.

We are training people in Mosul, in Iraq today. We have been training the Iraqi Security Forces. We have been training tribal militia. The one thing I

don't want to have happen is the people who provide the weapons and training—that if a Sunni group, for some reason out of our control, goes into a Shiite village and commits a genocide or the reverse or we are helping the Shiites and they go on a sectarian binge, I don't want us to be held liable unless you can prove that we knowingly engaged in the act in question; that it wasn't enough just to help the tribal leaders, Sunni tribal leaders, fight Al Qaeda; that if they do something outside of what we intended, the only way we can be liable and people working for us can be liable is if we knew about it and we are involved in it. That is what is missing.

It may be harder for the lawyers representing the 9/11 families to prove the case, but if we don't make the standard as I described, we are opening ourselves up as a nation and all of those throughout the world.

Nobody understands the world better than Senator MCCAIN. I promise you, we are providing aid and assistance to groups who are very questionable at best, but that is the world we live in. The Mideast is a complete mess. I don't want my country, our country, and those who serve under our flag to ever be hauled into a foreign court because they were doing the training and the equipping that our Nation ordered them to do, and I don't want us as a nation to be responsible for acts we did not know about or intend to happen. Just simply helping somebody doesn't make you liable for all the things they might do down the road.

If there is evidence that the Saudi Government knowingly or should have known about the attacks of 9/11 and aided that attack, you can bring a claim. If it is any less here for the 9/11 attack, then that lesser standard would be used against us because countries, as I speak, are adopting their version of JASTA. The one thing we don't want to do is open up the international legal system to claims against America based on what we did here at home and not have thought it through very well.

I would end on this. We all voted for it because we are sympathetic to the cause and want to make sure the 9/11 families can proceed in court to hold those accountable for the horrific acts against their families. I don't think we are helping those families by passing a law that is not well thought out and putting other families at risk who are in the fight today.

This is not suing for a war that is over. The damage is done after the war. The war on terror is very much alive and well. As far as the eye can see, America is going to be involved in equipping, training, aiding, and assisting groups. I don't want our country to be held liable and the people we ask to do the training and equipping to find themselves in a foreign court unless we as a nation knew and intended the consequence in question.

If we don't change this law, we will have not served those in the fight very well. We can modify this law in a way to allow claims to go forward post-9/11. All of us agreed to a process to allow the 9/11 families to move forward. I hope all of us can agree, or at least most of us, to modify that process to make sure we don't have unintended consequences that everybody in the national security infrastructure of the United States is telling us we created.

No Member of the Senate, in wanting to help 9/11 families, I believe, wants to expose other families and those who serve this Nation to being hauled into foreign courts and being accused of a crime and being sued. We have a chance to fix it. I will tell you this. If we don't fix it, we are going to regret it because the activities we are engaged in today, I am afraid, could be a basis of action against our Nation under the law we passed.

If you did exactly what this law allows in another country and the terrorist organization was helped by the United States, even if you view them as terrorists, even though we didn't know about what they did, we could be liable, and I don't want that.

Mr. MCCAIN. May I ask my colleague one additional question?

We have heard from literally every Middle Eastern country on this issue. No threats have been made. The conversation between us and Ministers of various countries in the Middle East have been of grave concern of support for the fundamentals of this law but also a deep concern about the ramifications my colleague from South Carolina just described.

Let's for a moment put yourself in their position. You face now the possibility of a lawsuit brought against your country because some acts of terror have taken place by citizens of your country without your knowledge or assistance. You are about to go into court in the United States of America, and you have significant assets—and you are the lawyer and I am not, but it seems to me the first thing a good lawyer is going to want to do is freeze the assets, pending the outcome of the suit that is being brought. By the way, I have received no threats in our conversations with these countries. Wouldn't anybody in their right mind say, Hey, I am not going to risk having my assets frozen there and maybe spend years in litigation in the courts.

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes. I think the foreign policy of nations and the willingness to assist us as a nation is very much up in the air if we don't somehow modify this law because if you are doing business in the United States—let's pick Saudi Arabia. The claims can be brought against the Saudi Government. If there is a judgment, those assets can be attached and they can be taken. If you are not doing business here, you don't have to worry about your assets being taken by a court.

I want to stress this. There can be a claim, but that claim has to be able to prove that the nation-state—example, Saudi Arabia—knew or should have known of the attack itself and aided the attack. If you can prove that, we not only should allow all lawsuits, we should rethink our relationship with Saudi Arabia.

Here is what the Saudis tell me. If we actually did that, I don't blame you for rethinking the relationship with us. What you say is very true, Senator MCCAIN. If this law stands in the United States—and this is an emotional time in the world. Juries render justice, but Mideastern nations are not very popular right now, for sometimes good reason. The Saudis are helping people in Yemen. They are helping people in Syria. Sometimes they are helping people differently than we are helping because they are more worried about Iran than Assad.

It is a complex world, and I think nation-states are going to be reluctant to do business in America if they come from a complex part of the world if we don't modify this law because all of their assets are subject not only to being confiscated through a court process, it would no longer be a safe place to do business.

I would stress this. The same thing could happen to us in other countries. If some groups we are helping in Syria somehow want to take on Saudi Arabia because they don't like their government, I don't want us to be sued in Saudi court and the American business assets that lie in Saudi Arabia be seized or attached if we didn't know the people in question were actually going to attack Saudi Arabia and collaborate in that attack.

Mr. MCCAIN. I have another scenario—drone strikes. We commit drone strikes literally everywhere in the Middle East where we find there are terrorists who are capable of mounting attacks on the United States of America. They are precision strikes, but on many occasions, civilians, as collateral damage, have also been killed. Those are just facts.

What exposure are we subject to now?

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, that is a really good question because the purpose of this legislation is to hold nation-states responsible for aiding terrorist organizations. The YPG Kurds, in the eyes of Turkey, could be a terrorist group. Al Qaeda is certainly considered a terrorist group in the eyes of everybody. We are now chasing terrorists all over the world. We are receiving information from one organization, taking that information, militarizing it, using it in a lethal fashion, and hitting people we don't intend to hit.

Here is what would solve this problem. For a liability to exist on any nation-state, including the United States, the only time you can be sued is if you

intended and knowingly engaged in the activity, partnering with a terrorist group or separately, with the knowledge that you meant for this to happen. If we don't have that knowing requirement, we are going to open ourselves up to a lot of heartache throughout the world.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, isn't it logical to say that you shouldn't hold a government of a country liable if something happened by attack from their country or by one of their citizens that we didn't know about? I mean, this is why I am confused as to why that just doesn't have a logical aspect to it. We don't want to hold people who are not guilty liable for damages.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, this is a really good question. One of the concepts we want to introduce into the new modification is discretionary decisions by nation-states. The original bill said you couldn't sue based on a discretionary decision—a planning activity, a strategic decision. Apparently, there is some evidence that lower-level Saudi officials or people in Saudi Arabia provided some money, helped people get passports, helped people do this, helped people do that. We don't want to be held liable if we have a rogue employee in a consulate somewhere. It has to be that the nation-state at the highest level of government—to be liable for the torturous act—knew or should have known. If we don't want to be guilty by association, you don't want to be held liable as an entire nation-state because you have one part of the government doing a function that was not approved by the government as a whole.

All I can say is we are making strategic decisions today. I don't know how much money we have given to the Kurds and other allies in Syria fighting ISIL, but I can tell you some of these groups in the eyes of other people in the region are terrorists, and they have an agenda outside of fighting ISIL. I don't want to be liable because we helped them in the cause of fighting ISIL if they go and do something else to harm somebody else, some other nation, unless we knew about it, because it will stop our ability to have partners. Unfortunately, in the war on terror, you are not going to win the war if you don't make alliances, and sometimes these alliances are with pretty unsavory people.

Saudi Arabia is in the same position we are. If you open the floodgates and the United States is liable because of the activity that occurred, people from your country are involved, but you don't have the requirement of saying you knew about it and you wanted it to happen. Then we are opening ourselves up to a liability all over the globe because, unlike Saudi Arabia, we are all over the place. We are everywhere—in the Philippines. I can't think of a region in the world where there are not American operatives, intelligence officials, or military officials who are not

somehow joined in the fight against different forms of terrorism, and all I am asking is that we modify this law. You can bring a claim against anybody you think caused 9/11, including a country like Saudi Arabia, but you have to prove that the government knew about it, should have known about it, and aided in the actual act. That is not in the law, and if we don't put that in the law, it will bite us all, and everybody fighting this war is trying to tell us we have gone too far.

Next year Senator McCAIN, Senator GRAHAM, and hopefully others, will make it a top priority to modify this law so we can conduct foreign policy as a nation and not put our warfighters at risk and those we rely upon to win this war, because we are not helping the 9/11 families by putting people at risk for no good reason who are out there all over the world trying to protect us. That is exactly what we have done if we don't modify this law.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, this is not the opinion of the Senator from South Carolina and myself. This is the opinion of the President of the United States. This is the opinion of the Secretary of Defense. This is the opinion of the Secretary of State. This is the opinion of the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. This is the opinion of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

I have had a lot of support in my time on various issues. I cannot remember a time in the last 30 years where literally every leader in government has come out in the strongest possible fashion not to do away with JASTA but to fix it so the United States of America itself is not put in jeopardy as other nations adopt this same law.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letters from the President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Secretary of Defense be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID: Thank you for speaking with me about the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, or JASTA. As I noted in my message vetoing the bill and reiterated on our call yesterday, I strongly believe that enacting JASTA into law would be detrimental to U.S. national interests.

I am firmly committed to assisting the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 (9/11) in their pursuit of justice. Over the last eight years, my Administration has continued and expanded upon the U.S. Government's unprecedented response to the 9/11 attacks. We have relentlessly pursued al-Qa'ida, killed Osama bin Laden, supported and signed legislation that

provides treatment for first responders and other survivors, and declassified additional information on the attacks so the families of 9/11 victims can better understand the information investigators gathered following that dark day.

Enacting JASTA into law, however, would neither protect Americans from terrorist attacks nor improve the effectiveness of our response to such attacks. Doing so would instead threaten to erode sovereign immunity principles that protect the United States, including our U.S. Armed Forces and other officials, overseas. This is why I vetoed the bill and why I believe you should vote to sustain that veto.

In general, JASTA would allow lawsuits in U.S. Federal Courts against foreign countries for actions taken abroad that are alleged to have contributed to acts of terrorism in the United States, notwithstanding long-standing principles of sovereign immunity. We already have ways of addressing state-sponsored terrorism. In fact, under existing law, lawsuits may be brought for actions taken abroad that contribute to acts of terrorism only against countries that have been designated as state sponsors of terrorism. Under JASTA, this very limited class of potential foreign state defendants would be expanded to encompass every country in the world. JASTA therefore threatens to upset immunity protections that benefit the United States more than any other Nation.

The consequences of JASTA could be devastating to the Department of Defense and its Service members—and there is no doubt that the consequences could be equally significant for our foreign affairs and intelligence communities, as well as others who work in furtherance of U.S. national security. The United States relies on principles of immunity to prevent foreign litigants and foreign courts from second-guessing our counterterrorism operations and other actions that we take every day. Other countries could attempt to use JASTA, however, to justify the creation of similar exceptions to immunity targeted against U.S. policies and activities that they oppose. As a result our Nation and its Armed Forces, State Department, intelligence officials, and others may find themselves subject to lawsuits in foreign courts—for example, Service members stationed here and overseas, including those supporting our counterterrorism efforts, would be vulnerable to accusations that their activities contributed to acts that allegedly violated foreign laws. Without immunity, we could be forced to defend ourselves in foreign courts regardless of whether the United States or its officials had in fact provided support for terrorist acts or committed acts in violation of foreign laws. Such lawsuits could subject the United States and its officials to intrusive and time-consuming discovery, including demands from foreign litigants and courts for sensitive U.S. Government information or intelligence. Such lawsuits could also lead to sizeable money damages and efforts to attach U.S. Government property to satisfy those judgments—efforts to which we would be particularly vulnerable given our substantial worldwide presence. And foreign states could create exceptions to sovereign immunity that do not directly mirror those created by JASTA, which would exacerbate these risks.

The JASTA also threatens to expose even our closest allies and partners to litigation in U.S. courts. JASTA would go well beyond 9/11 or the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and a number of our allies and partners have ex-

pressed serious concerns about the bill. I am concerned that the enactment of JASTA would risk eroding the cooperation we must have from partners and allies to defend the Nation. And as I noted in my veto message, JASTA threatens to take decisions concerning potential foreign state involvement in terrorist attacks out of the hands of national security and foreign policy professionals and to place such decisions instead in the hands of private litigants and courts. This is neither a coordinated nor an effective way to respond to such concerns.

To be clear, my opposition to JASTA is based primarily on its potential impact on the United States. Sovereign immunity principles do protect all Nations. But the United States has a larger international presence, by far, than any other country—we are active in a lot more places than any other country, including Saudi Arabia. This means we benefit more from the principles that JASTA threatens to erode than any other country and have more to lose if those principles are eroded than any other country.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington, April 15, 1968.

Hon. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM,
Chairman, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to express the Department of State's concerns regarding S. 2040, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA).

We deeply sympathize with all victims of terrorism and appreciate the motivation behind this legislation. The U.S. government condemns all acts of terrorism, and the Department has long supported efforts of U.S. terrorism victims to pursue compensation while also leading international efforts to combat terrorism and prevent more attacks and more victims.

However, as it presently stands, JASTA would strip sovereign immunity protections from all nations (not just designated state sponsors of terrorism as under current law) for a wide range of actions taken outside the United States that lead to injury or loss in the United States, including but not limited to acts associated with terrorism. This broad expansion of the Foreign Sovereign Immunity Act's jurisdictional provisions will be of deep concern to many foreign governments with potentially grave repercussions for U.S. national security interests. The United States benefits significantly from the protection afforded by foreign sovereign immunity given its extensive diplomatic, security, and assistance operations around the world. JASTA could encourage foreign courts to exercise jurisdiction over the United States or U.S. officials—including members of our military and intelligence community—for actions taken here which may cause injury outside our borders. JASTA could also expose U.S. allies and partners to litigation in U.S. courts that will raise significant foreign policy sensitivities and could limit their cooperation on key national security issues, including counterterrorism initiatives. It could also generate concerns about the security of foreign state assets in the U.S. financial system.

I ask you to consider the unintended consequences of passing this legislation in its current form. We remain prepared to work with Congress on appropriate changes that would mitigate the harmful impacts on U.S. foreign policy and national security.

Thank you for your leadership on so many critical national security issues.

Sincerely,

JOHN F. KERRY.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF,

Washington, DC, 7 December 2016.

Hon. JOHN MCCAIN, Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to offer advice on congressional efforts to mitigate concerns I expressed regarding legislation that may expose U.S. Service members to the jurisdiction of foreign courts.

On 27 September 2016, I forwarded concerns regarding the potential second- and third-order consequences of legislation that erode the long-standing principle of sovereign immunity. These were:

Any legislation that risks reciprocal treatment by foreign governments would increase the vulnerability of U.S. Service members to foreign legal action while acting in an official capacity.

In those cases where a foreign government decides to exercise jurisdiction over a U.S. Service member, the Service member could be held in civil, or criminal, contempt should he or she refuse to appear or otherwise comply with the foreign court's orders.

If a U.S. Service member were to be sued in a foreign court, it would be up to the foreign court to decide whether classified or sensitive U.S. Government information would be required as part of the litigation process. This could put the United States in the position of choosing between the disclosure of classified or sensitive information, and subjecting a U.S. Service member to an adverse foreign court ruling.

While any attempt to alleviate the above risks is commendable, increasing the burden of proof required to prevail in a civil matter would not alleviate the above concerns as victims may still file suit against a foreign state. If a foreign government enacted reciprocal legislation, suits could be brought against the United States and may implicate U.S. Service members. While at the end of a trial such a suit may not prevail if the victim is not able to meet a heightened standard of proof—a heightened standard may not stop a suit from being filed. In such a situation, Service members may be subpoenaed to appear in court and prevented from departing the country.

My concerns would only be hilly alleviated by legislation that restores the principle of sovereign immunity and protects U.S. Service members from reciprocal legislation that may subject them to the jurisdiction of a foreign court.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH F. DUNFORD, Jr.,
General, U.S. Marine Corps.

STATEMENT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ASH CARTER, DECEMBER 7, 2016.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide views on the potentially harmful consequences that the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA) may have on the United States, the Department of Defense, and Service members.

As I stated in my testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee on September 22, 2016, I agree with the intent of JASTA, which is to honor the families of 9/11 victims. However, the potential second- and third-order consequences of JASTA

could be devastating to the Department and its Service members and could undermine our important counterterrorism efforts abroad.

In general terms, JASTA allows lawsuits in U.S. Federal Courts against foreign states for actions taken abroad that are alleged to have contributed to acts of terrorism in the United States, notwithstanding longstanding principles of sovereign immunity. Under the law that existed before JASTA was enacted, similar lawsuits were available for actions only against designated state sponsors of terrorism. JASTA has extended the stripping of immunity to states that are not designated sponsors of terrorism, potentially subjecting many of the United States' allies and partner nations to litigation in U.S. courts.

We have concerns that JASTA may cause foreign governments to enact legislation to create exceptions to immunity for conduct by the United States and its personnel. Such legislation may not directly mirror, and may be more expansive than, the exceptions created by JASTA. This is likely to increase our country's vulnerability to lawsuits overseas and to encourage foreign governments or their courts to exercise jurisdiction over the United States or U.S. officials in situations in which we believe the United States is entitled to sovereign immunity. U.S. Service members stationed here and overseas, and especially those supporting our counterterrorism efforts, would be vulnerable to private individuals' accusations that their activities contributed to acts alleged to violate a foreign state's law. Such lawsuits could relate to actions taken by members of armed groups that received U.S. assistance or training, or misuse of U.S. military equipment by foreign forces.

The implications of JASTA are severe. I will highlight a few of them.

First, whether the United States or our Service members have in fact provided support for terrorist acts or aided organizations that later commit such acts in violation of foreign laws is irrelevant to whether we would be forced to defend against lawsuits by private litigants in foreign courts. Instead, the mere allegation of their involvement could subject them to a foreign court's jurisdiction and the accompanying litigation and intrusive discovery process that goes along with defending against such lawsuits. This could result in significant consequences even if the United States or our personnel were ultimately found not to be responsible for the alleged acts. For example, our service members might be required to testify about or provide documents on operations that they are obligated under U.S. law not to disclose, exposing them to punishment for contempt by the foreign court, including imprisonment.

Second, there would be a risk of sizeable monetary damage awards in such cases, which could lead to efforts to attach U.S. Government property to satisfy those awards. Given the broad range of U.S. activities and significant presence around the world, including our Department's foreign bases and facilities abroad, we would have numerous assets vulnerable to such attempts.

Third, it is likely that litigants will seek sensitive government information in order to establish their case against a foreign state under JASTA in U.S. courts or against the United States or U.S. personnel in a foreign court. This could include classified intelligence data and analysis, as well as sensitive operational information.

Furthermore, if the United States or U.S. personnel were to be sued in foreign courts, such information would likely be sought by foreign plaintiffs, and it would be up to the foreign court whether classified or sensitive U.S. Government information sought by the litigants would be protected from disclosure. Moreover, the classified information could well be vital for our defense against the accusations. Disclosure could put the United States in the difficult position of choosing between revealing classified or otherwise sensitive information or suffering adverse rulings and potentially large damage awards for our refusal to do so, and could even result in the imprisonment of U.S. personnel for refusing an order of a foreign court to disclose such classified or sensitive information.

Finally, foreign lawsuits will divert resources from mission crucial tasks; they could subject our servicemembers and civilians, as well as contractor personnel, to depositions, subpoenas for trial testimony, and other compulsory processes both here and abroad. Indeed, such personnel might be held in civil or even criminal contempt if they refused to appear or to divulge classified or other sensitive information at the direction of a foreign court.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to pay attention to the most respected individuals in this country and pay attention to why they object, not to the entire bill but to the provisions that would, as Director Brennan said, cause the most damaging consequences for those U.S. Government officials who dutifully work overseas on behalf of our country.

The Director of the CIA said that the principle of sovereign immunity protects U.S. officials every day and is rooted in reciprocity. If we fail to uphold the standard for other countries, we place our own Nation's officials in danger. No country has more to lose from undermining that principle than the United States. Mr. Brennan adds that few institutions would be at greater risk than the CIA.

I urge my colleagues not to abolish JASTA, but let's fix it because the people we respect and admire the most and to whom we give the responsibilities to defend this Nation have unanimously argued that we need this fixed.

I say to the President: I fear the profound consequences that may arise if we, with the best of intentions, do great, great damage to this Nation and its security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their thoughtful and informed analysis of an important national security issue.

I ask unanimous consent to speak briefly, and I thank my colleague from Delaware for allowing me to do so.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JOHN GLENN

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today on a sad occasion, and that is to talk about the loss of an American icon. He is a fellow Ohioan. He held

this seat in the Senate. He is one of our true heroes, as an astronaut, fighter pilot, successful business person, Senator, and later someone who helped young people throughout the State of Ohio by establishing his own school at Ohio State University. I am talking about John Glenn. We lost him today at age 95.

I was watching some of the coverage on television about his career, and it focused a lot on his being the first to orbit the Earth on *Friendship 7*, a capsule you can see at the Air and Space Museum. It is not much bigger than two of these desks put together, but somehow he wedged himself in and did something heroic and important at the time. In a spaceflight competition with the Soviets, he was one who succeeded.

What I didn't hear too much about was his career before being a famous astronaut and that amazing flight that ended up with him addressing a joint session of Congress or what he did after that amazing feat. So I want to talk about that for a second and say that I appreciate that tomorrow my colleagues will help me in joining to pay tribute to him through a Senate resolution.

But prior to his being a famous astronaut, he was a famous American hero in my mind because he was a fighter pilot who signed up after Pearl Harbor, the 75th anniversary of which we celebrated this week. He flew 59 missions as a fighter pilot in World War II. He later flew about 90 missions in Korea. He was highly decorated as a fighter pilot. He then was a test pilot, and actually he broke the transcontinental flight time record as a test pilot. Then he decided to join the astronaut corps. He was part of that group of friendship astronauts who became famous later as being called "The Right Stuff." He was the right stuff.

He then had a successful career in business. He decided he loved public service, and he wanted to be in the Senate. He won election to the Senate and was actually reelected with historic numbers in my home State of Ohio. I got to serve with him during part of his time here. I was in the House; he was in the Senate. We worked on projects together.

He was on the same committee my colleague from Delaware was on, and both of them have chaired it, the Governmental Affairs Committee. He loved good government. One of his big issues was stopping unfunded Federal mandates. I was the House sponsor on the Republican side; he was the Democratic sponsor here. We ended up in the Rose Garden together for a ceremony. He was tenacious. This was, by the way, an issue that not all Democrats agreed with him on; yet he did what he felt was right in the name of good government.

We also worked on other projects together, and I always found that his

focus was on his State, the people he represented, and how to make their lives better.

After his Senate career, he started a new project. It was called the Glenn School of Public Affairs at the Ohio State University. I had the honor of teaching there for a few years before running for the Senate. I was a co-teacher for four different courses and got to know John Glenn in an entirely different way. He asked me to join their advisory board, which I did join. I am still on the advisory board for now the Glenn College. Last year we elevated the school to a college. This was John Glenn's greatest single accomplishment in the latter years of his life—creating an institution where young people can go and be inspired to go into public service and given the tools to be able to succeed. He loved that school. He loved those students. He chaired a board meeting only last month. He did it with humor, as he always did, and passion.

One of his big issues he talked about last month was how he wanted to have a leadership institute to ensure that more young people could understand the importance of government service, which he felt was a noble undertaking—military service, government service, service for your country, service greater than yourself. We lost an American icon.

He was also a man who loved his family. His wife, Annie Glenn—many of us here in this Chamber know her, and we love her because she is an amazing woman in her own right. For 73 years, they were married. They knew each other as little kids. They virtually grew up from the crib until now together. Annie Glenn was at his side constantly. That relationship, their partnership, is an example for my wife Jane and me and for all of us here in this Chamber.

Earlier this year, my staff and I had a retreat in Ohio. We brought all of our DC staff and Ohio staff together to talk about how to better serve our constituents, how to define the mission. I asked John Glenn to come address that group. What a treat. Our staff had the opportunity to sit and talk to John Glenn about his career, but more importantly, to talk about his passion for public service. The mission he gave us was one of honor and respect and decency for our constituents and to serve the people. That was his life.

John Glenn's life story touches our hearts today, and his life story is also part of American history.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I just want to thank our colleague from Ohio for recalling the memory, the life of John Glenn and his wife Annie. I was privileged to know him. I am an Ohio State graduate, Navy ROTC. I am a re-

tired Navy captain and a huge admirer of John Glenn and his bride.

One of my fondest memories of them was at an Ohio State football game a few years ago. As the Senator from Ohio knows, one of the big attractions at an Ohio State football game at half-time is to script "Ohio," where the band spells out the word "Ohio." Usually one of the tuba players kind of dances around for a while and then dots the "i." So fans are used to that happening. On this particular occasion, no tuba player came forward to dot the "i," but John Glenn and Annie went onto the field and dotted the "i," to the amazement and delight of 100-and-some-thousand fans. Later on, they came up. I was up in the President's box with President Gordon Gee. I am not sure; maybe my friend from Ohio was there as well. But what a joyous memory that was.

He ran for President briefly too. I was pleased to support him. He didn't stay in the race for long. I thought he was a great marine, great pilot, great astronaut, great Senator, and would have been a great leader for our country.

The last thing I will say is this. Who is it that said this? Maybe—Alan Simpson, former Senator from Wyoming. He used to say this about integrity: If you have it, nothing else matters. If you don't have it, nothing else matters.

When you look up the word "integrity" in the dictionary—and "courage" as well—you see John Glenn's picture.

Thank you for your kind and wonderful words about John Glenn and Annie. Thanks for letting me say a few words as well.

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. President, I have been coming to the floor, as the Senator from Ohio knows, for months—a couple of years, actually. I come maybe once a month. The Presiding Officer and I serve together, along with Senator PORTMAN, on a committee called Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Part of our job is to do oversight over the Department of Homeland Security.

I started doing something a couple of years ago. Instead of coming to the floor to talk about some controversy or things we disagree on with our colleagues across the aisle, I came to the floor for a different purpose. I came to the floor in order to say thank you to some of the 240,000-some men and women who are part of the Department of Homeland Security, who work hard to help secure our country and make it safer in many ways.

Over the last 4 years, I have been privileged to serve with our Presiding Officer and a number of others—Senator PORTMAN and others—as the senior Democrat on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, first as chairman for a couple of years with Tom Coburn from Oklahoma as our ranking member and for

the last 2 years as ranking member of the committee while RON JOHNSON has been our chairman.

I am incredibly proud of the fact that our committee is filled with hard-working men and women, Democrats and Republicans, who work across the aisle and party lines to bolster our national security and to help agencies and programs across government work better. We follow what I call the three C's: Communicate. Compromise. Collaborate.

Those are things we do in Delaware, and on our committee I am happy to report that the three C's hold forth as well.

Serving as the senior Democrat on our committee has truly been one of the great honors of my 16 years in the Senate. During my time as chairman and ranking member, I have had literally thousands of Department of Homeland Security employees—I have seen firsthand the exceptional work they do 240 hours a day—it probably feels that way—24 hours a day, 7 days a week across our country and even around the world. I am pictured here with some of them. They do extraordinary things that some of us don't even know about.

What we do is every week we come to the floor, and one of the best things you can do when people do great work is thank them. That is what I like to do. Since my first speech on this front a couple of years ago, I have come to the floor almost every month the Senate has been in session just to say thanks to a lot of deserving individuals, to teams, even entire agencies at the Department of Homeland Security that are doing extraordinary work quietly, behind the scenes, without a lot of attention, to enable the Department to carry out its vital missions—actually its many vital missions.

To everyone who has allowed me to share their stories with our colleagues here in Congress and the American people, thank you so much. To all of those folks at DHS who I have not had an opportunity to talk about or any agency I have missed, I want you to know that the work you do every day makes a real difference and is truly appreciated. While some of your accomplishments are hard to measure, they are nonetheless important. They are reflected in lives saved, tragedies prevented, and a sense of security that Americans feel as they go about their day.

Across the Department of Homeland Security, there is so much good work going on each and every day that if I stood here every day for the next 2 years, I would have no shortage of remarkable public servants to highlight.

As some of you may recall, the Department of Homeland Security employs over 240,000 Americans doing everything from securing our cyber network from cyber attacks, to guarding our ports of entry, to helping commu-

nities recover from natural disasters. Their mission is one of the most diverse and challenging, I think, of any agency, any department in the Federal Government. The diversity of the employees I have highlighted these past many months is the best illustration of the challenges facing the Department of Homeland Security every day and facing our country every day.

Last month, I highlighted a U.S. Secret Service officer named Codie Hughes, who patrols the White House grounds as a uniformed Secret Service officer, and also Special Agent Tate Jarrow, who protects Americans from cyber criminals and financial schemes that are designed to cheat those Americans out of their hard-earned dollars.

In January, I highlighted a fellow named Milo Booth who serves as the Federal Emergency Management Agency's tribal affairs officer, ensuring our Native American communities are prepared for natural disasters too.

In September, I thanked Tito Hernandez, who travels around this country—and he does that about 9 months out of the year—in the aftermath of natural disasters to coordinate the support of State and local officials as they work through some of the most trying situations.

Last year, last July, I spoke of the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate and the state-of-the-art research work being done by Dr. Michelle Colby and Jon McEntee, who are researching how to protect us against, among other things, emerging diseases, such as avian flu and foot-and-mouth disease, while helping the Department develop the technologies of tomorrow.

This past July, I thanked LCDR Tiana Garrett and Ingrid Hope with the Office of Health Affairs for their work to prepare our border agents, doctors, medical professionals, and first responders for the emerging threats posed by the Zika virus.

From the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, which tracks radiological materials across our country, to the National Cybersecurity & Communications Integration Center, which monitors cyber security attacks and coordinates Federal cyber security efforts with the private sector, the Department of Homeland Security is truly remarkable in its ability to work together as one cohesive unit to achieve its common mission.

While it has not always been easy, the Department of Homeland Security has matured by leaps and bounds in order to become more than the sum of its parts in the 14 years since its creation. The Department remains the youngest Cabinet-level agency in the Federal Government. It is also the third largest agency in our Federal Government, behind only the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs. It was created by

bringing together more than 22 different Federal agencies. Let me say that again—22 agencies sort of glommed together a dozen or so years ago into one big Department, DHS.

The sheer scope of the extraordinary challenge DHS and its employees face means that leadership across the Department is vital to the success of that organization, as it is to any other organization but especially one this large and unwieldy. I have always said that the key to success for any organization, no matter what size, is leadership. Just like integrity—if you have it, nothing else matters; if you don't have it, nothing else matters.

SECRETARY JEH JOHNSON

Thankfully, the Department of Homeland Security has been blessed with enlightened, committed leaders since its creation. I, for one, cannot begin to say enough about the leadership shown these past 3 years by DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson, pictured here on my left.

Soon after being sworn in, Secretary Johnston immediately made clear that his highest priority would be management reform—he called it the Unity of Effort Initiative—intended to promote the coordination and cohesion throughout the Department. He also focused on employee engagement and the Department's hiring practices. He wanted to make sure that the good work at the Department was not going unnoticed.

Through his steady leadership, DHS has begun to slowly but surely turn—kind of like an aircraft carrier in the Navy—improving morale by 3 percent across the Department in the last year alone—the first increase in the Department I think in some 6 years. We are happy to see them bottom out and the improvement of the morale—the Department is heading in the right direction again. Jeh Johnson and his team deserve a lot of credit for that. I think, frankly, so does our committee, the Homeland Security Committee, and the good work we have done to try to make sure there is a good leadership team in place at DHS and that we convey clearly our gratitude to those men and women who work there—240,000 of them.

Being a change agent in the Federal Government can oftentimes be difficult, but I am confident that Secretary Johnson's dedication and his perseverance will make a lasting impact on the agency's greatest assets—its dedicated employees.

To Secretary Johnson, to his family, to his bride, I just want to say thank you for your extraordinary service. Every American is safer thanks to your leadership and your tireless efforts. Thank you, Jeh.

ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS

Until recently, Secretary Johnson's right-hand man was a fellow named Alejandro Mayorkas, a native of Cuba who came here a long time ago with his

family, on the run, if you will. I like to call him Ali; so do most other people.

Ali recently stepped down as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security—that is the No. 2 slot there—but for 7 years, including one-third or so as the No. 2 person, Ali was working tirelessly to improve the security of our Nation and improve the operations of the Department before he became Deputy Secretary. In that role, he was instrumental in strengthening the Department's cyber security policies, as well as developing critical immigration programs that cut down on fraud and helped promote economic growth.

Ali was a dedicated and thoughtful leader. His impact on the Department will continue to be felt for years to come in streamlined DHS operations that allow employees to spend less time on paperwork and more time on protecting Americans.

RUSS DEYO

When Ali left the Department a month or two ago to return to the practice of law, the Department's Under Secretary for Management, a fellow named Russ Deyo—rhymes with Rio—stepped in to fill his shoes.

As Under Secretary for Management, Russ has proved to be an effective leader also. With a strong but quiet demeanor, he is not afraid to make tough decisions.

Russ has been responsible for overseeing the Department's efforts to get the Department off of GAO's high-risk list. What is that? Well, the high-risk list is something the GAO puts out every other year. It is a high-risk list of wasting taxpayer money.

DHS, as well as a lot of other agencies, has been on it for quite a while. Russ has made very clear, with the support of Jeh Johnson and Ali Mayorkas, that they want to get off of that list the best they can. I think one of the greatest accomplishments may have been overseeing the creation of employee satisfaction programs in each and every component. I think they also got a clean audit. I think the Department of Defense, which has been around since the late 1940s, has never gotten a clean financial audit. I think for each of the last 4 years, the Department of Homeland Security has set a great example. It has gotten a clean financial audit.

I wish to say if you can't manage your finances, how do you expect to manage your whole department? That is just one aspect of the improvements being made.

With this information, Secretary Johnson and his leadership team across the Department can ask every single DHS employee: How are we doing? How can we help? What can we do better?

CRAIG FUGATE

Another DHS leader whom we all admire for his leadership and steady hand during some of those challenging times

is the Administrator of FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. His name is Craig Fugate and he hails from Florida.

For the last 8 years, Administrator Fugate has admirably led Federal responses and efforts through numerous disasters, including Superstorm Sandy, which landed a direct hit on the east coast, including a hit to my own State of Delaware. Throughout his tenure, Craig has used his whole community approach to strengthen our national resiliency and help millions get back on their feet after a disaster. I know I speak for countless Americans when I say: Craig, thank you for your dedication to the mission of FEMA, for your years of leadership to our country, and the leadership you provided for a very good team across America.

PETER NEFFENGER

At the Transportation Security Administration, affectionately called TSA, retired Coast Guard VADM Peter Neffenger has helped his agency respond quickly and effectively to a historic surge in airline travel and navigate some of the busiest travel days in American history. Last month, over the course of just 7 days, TSA helped 16.5 million Americans travel safely to visit family and friends over the Thanksgiving holiday. His continued efforts to innovate while ensuring uniform training for all TSA officers—we call them TSOs—have streamlined security screening at our airports and ports of entry without compromising passenger security. The millions of Americans who travel through our airports each week are measurably safer, thanks to Vice Admiral Neffenger's service and that of the men and women he leads.

I just wish to say about the folks at TSA that whenever I go through airport security, I always thank them. I tell them who I am, tell them who the Senator is—the junior Senator from Nebraska—and tell them how much we appreciate the work they do. When you see people doing a good job, when you are going through an airport, just take a minute and thank these folks. Thank these men and women. It goes a long way. They have had a very tough job because over the course of Thanksgiving weekend, they had 16.5 million people trying to get through security—actually, get to the airport, get their families packed up, in their vehicles, cab, Uber, or a transit bus, and try to get to the airport, get a place to park, get through security, get on a plane—make their plane.

For the folks at TSA, their job is to make sure that nobody with malintent gets through security. You have all these people trying to get through as fast as they can, get on their plane, and get going. Then you have folks at TSA who are trying to make sure that nothing tragic happens in the meantime. That is a tough job. It is a tough

job, and I urge you to give them a little bit of love and thank them for what they are doing from time to time.

Every time I speak on the floor about TSA, I encourage people to say thank you, and I have just done it one more time.

Our Nation is truly fortunate to have the Department of Homeland Security we have today. The few men I mentioned just now are the tip of the iceberg when it comes to truly great public servants at the helm of DHS. There are many more. A number of them are charged with organizations that work behind the scenes, quietly accomplishing their missions so that the rest of us can go about our lives uninterrupted every day.

SUZANNE SPALDING AND PHYLLIS SCHNECK

At something called the National Protection and Programs Directorate, Under Secretary Suzanne Spalding works with her great team to protect our Nation from ever-evolving cyber attacks. Her diligent team includes her deputy at the Directorate, Deputy Under Secretary Phyllis Schneck. I kid her. She is from Georgia Tech. I call her “Ramblin Wreck”—Phyllis Schneck, the Ramblin Wreck from Georgia Tech. She is a dynamo. She left the private sector where she was making a lot of money to come to serve her country and help lead the cyber security efforts of the Department of Homeland Security.

JOSEPH CLANCY

Also over at the Secret Service, we have a Director named Joe Clancy, who leads an organization of men and women who performed flawlessly as the agency has protected dozens of officials during the recent election season.

KATHY BRINSFIELD

Over in the Office of Health Affairs, Chief Medical Officer Kathy Brinsfield leads some of the best and brightest scientists in the world in their cutting research into emerging diseases.

REGGIE BROTHERS

At the Science and Technology Directorate, Reggie Brothers has led efforts across the Department to make smart investments in research and development for DHS and their State and local partners.

To all of you and to your agencies, again, a big thank you. These are just a few of the incredible leaders at the Department of Homeland Security, just a few.

SARAH SALDANA, GIL KERLIKOWSKA, LEON RODRIGUEZ, ADMIRAL PAUL ZUKUNFT

There are so many more who deserve our thanks for steady leadership, leaders such as Sarah Saldana, who leads Immigration and Customs Enforcement, known as ICE.

Gil Kerlikowski at Customs and Border Protection is a terrific leader.

Leon Rodriguez—I call him “Leon Red Bone”—is director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

We have the commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, ADM Paul Zukunft, whom everyone understandably simply calls “Admiral Z.”

We say a very big thank you to all of you for your service and the hard work of those across your agencies. A retired Navy captain salutes the Coast Guard.

After 4 years as the lead Democrat on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, having met thousands of DHS employees, I believe our country is in many more ways more secure today than it was yesterday. However, given the evolving nature of the threats we face, this is not the time to spike the football; this is not the time to become complacent. We need to remain vigilant, continue to work smarter, and continue to work harder.

With that thought in mind, I close by expressing the gratitude of all Americans to the Presiding Officer and to everyone at the Department of Homeland Security. I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a joyous holiday, as well as a more peaceful New Year for all of us. Keep up the good work. We are proud of you. Stay safe. God bless you all.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, my friend the Senator from Delaware has spoken very eloquently about the need to say thank you to our Members who work within TSA. I wish to speak in terms of members of the Armed Forces and to remind the people of America that we are free and we will be able to enjoy a very precious holiday season coming up because the men and women who wear that uniform are on the frontlines. It is their families who are making that sacrifice as they are away from home. We should keep all of them in our prayers and remember to say thank you to their families for the sacrifices they have made. Thank you to the men and women on the frontlines who keep us safe.

With that, as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I am pleased that we came together once again to pass the National Defense Authorization Act, a vital piece of legislation. It is a testament to the leadership of the chairmen and ranking members in the House and Senate that Members on both sides of the aisle have continued to work together to pass the NDAA again this year, and I thank them for their leadership.

It is important to continue this 55-year-plus tradition of passing the NDAA to show our troops and their families that they have our full sup-

port. As in years past, this year’s NDAA includes policies to support our wounded warriors, our troops, and their families. It also provides our military with the tools needed to combat our enemies around the globe.

However, it is also the most significant defense reform legislation in decades. An example is its significant provisions to reform how the Department of Defense acquires new weapons.

Given that the No. 1 responsibility of the Federal Government is the defense of our Nation to keep Americans safe, it is reassuring that Congress has continued to pass the NDAA every year for over half a century.

To many Americans and even Members of Congress, the most visible manifestation of our NDAA is our combat vehicles, ships, and combat aircraft that have, with our outstanding servicemembers, made our Armed Forces second to none. Less visible are things such as training, maintenance, and adequate munitions, without which success on the battlefield would be in doubt.

I am pleased that this year’s NDAA adequately authorizes funds for the DOD’s operations and maintenance account, which provides the dollars for these vital but less visible functions.

The NDAA also stops the Department of Defense’s proposed drawdown of an additional 15,000 soldiers, 2,000 marines, and approximately 4,000 airmen for fiscal year 2017.

Additionally, it addresses munitions shortfalls and provides funds for depot maintenance and facilities sustainment.

Importantly, it does not require women to register for the Selective Service and does not contain TRICARE prescription drug co-pay increases, both of which have been of concern to me and many other South Dakotans.

I am pleased it includes a number of provisions which I offered to address the serious cyber threat our Nation faces. One of those requires the President to define when an act in cyber space requires a military response. Another requires training for DOD hiring officials on how to use the special authorities Congress gave them to expedite the hiring of cyber security professionals and pay these civilian employees more than what is normally authorized for civil service.

I am also pleased that the conference report includes my mental health measure requiring the Department of Defense to more carefully monitor prescriptions dispensed at military treatment facilities for the treatment of PTSD.

I join my colleagues in urging the President to continue the decades-long tradition of signing the NDAA into law. While we champion this year’s bill, the most significant defense reform legislation in decades, we must extend our view beyond fiscal year 2017.

For the past 2 years, I have served as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, bearing witness to potential challenges that could threaten our national security if we do not address them now, including arbitrary budget caps. These arbitrary budget caps have forced the kinds of false choices that are potentially so devastating for our Armed Forces. In particular, we must avoid the false choice of paying for readiness while assuming risk for modernization or vice versa.

The American people expect us to adequately defend America next year and for every year to come. Job one in that regard is to remove the arbitrary budget caps and the threat of sequestration. Only by doing so can Congress fulfill its No. 1 responsibility—keeping Americans safe.

In closing, I thank Chairman MCCAIN, Ranking Member REED, my Armed Services Committee colleagues, and all of our staffs for the great legislation we had the honor to vote for today.

I yield the floor.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to associate myself with the objections raised by my colleague from Arizona, Senator JEFF FLAKE, concerning the 2016 Water Resources Development Act, WRDA, conference agreement.

I must express my dissatisfaction with the WRDA conference agreement. While I applaud the hard work by the conferees to advance a number of worthwhile flood control projects—some of which are located in my home State of Arizona—my objection centers around the inclusion of a massive drought relief package for California at the expense of drought priorities for Arizona.

For the past 2 years, Senator FLAKE and I have been negotiating with the committees of jurisdiction and certain offices of the California delegation to ensure that any drought legislation that comes to the Senate floor would be applicable to all Western States. We won provisions in the Senate-passed WRDA bill and the energy bill to expedite salt cedar removal and increase storage capacity for reservoirs across the West. Unfortunately, our WRDA provisions have been stripped by the conferees.

I cannot support a drought package that is overly California-centric while my home State and other Western States are also suffering under an oppressive 16-year drought.

MORNING BUSINESS

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EGYPT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have visited Egypt many times, and I have voted for billions of dollars in U.S. assistance for Egypt to support economic

and security programs in that country. I have recognized positive developments in Egypt when they occur, such as the recent decision by the government to undertake economic reforms, including by reducing some subsidies.

I also recognize the security challenges Egypt faces from instability and violence in Libya and in the Sinai. The U.S. has an interest in helping Egypt confront these challenges by addressing the underlying causes in a manner that is consistent with international law.

Today I want to speak briefly about the Egyptian Parliament's recent passage of a restrictive new law on non-governmental organizations, NGOs, that would effectively cripple Egypt's civil society for years to come. Rather than sign this legislation, I hope President Sisi calls for a new version to be drafted in cooperation with independent NGOs. If President Sisi does sign this law, it will be yet another step in the wrong direction by a government that professes to be making progress on civil and human rights when the facts indicate otherwise. Such a development would be further evidence of the need to strengthen existing democratic and human rights conditions on U.S. aid for Egypt.

According to information I have received, the law passed by parliament on November 29 would place all NGOs in Egypt, both local and foreign, under the supervision and control of a committee that would be dominated by representatives of the Defense, Interior, and Justice Ministries, as well as the General Intelligence Service, the country's top spy agency. Among other things, the law would criminalize work that harms "national security, national unity, public morals or public order" but leaves those terms undefined, allowing the authorities to bring such charges against any group they choose. Anyone convicted of violating the law would face sentences of up to 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$56,000.

The proposed law comes at a time when independent voices in Egypt are facing an existential crisis. Instead of passing a new NGO law that would allow both domestic and international groups to operate without burdensome restrictions, the Egyptian authorities have escalated their crackdown on independent NGOs, particularly against groups that focus on human rights, the rule of law, and democratic norms.

Over the past year, a court has frozen the assets of human rights groups and the personal assets of human rights defenders. At least 15 NGO founders, leaders, or staff—many from prominent groups—have been banned from leaving the country. An investigation into the foreign funding of dozens of local NGOs could result in criminal charges carrying sentences of up to 25 years in

prison. This pattern of harassment and arrests is not a new phenomenon. It has been happening for years, and, contrary to representations of Egyptian officials, it is getting worse.

I urge the Egyptian authorities to adhere to their constitution, and the pledges they have made in international fora such as the United Nations Human Rights Council, by guaranteeing freedom of expression and association. I urge President Sisi to reject this draconian legislation.

I also want to reiterate what I said in this chamber on September 27, 2016, when I spoke about Aya Hijazi, a young Egyptian American social worker currently being detained in Egypt.

Ms. Hijazi, along with her Egyptian husband and five employees of their NGO Belady, has been accused of salacious crimes—accusations that the government has yet to corroborate with credible evidence in a court of law. Ms. Hijazi has been jailed and denied due process since May 21, 2014. She and the other defendants should be released immediately or provided a fair, public trial so they can defend themselves.

REMEMBERING DAVID BUDBILL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermont is saddened by the death of the poet David Budbill, whose poetry celebrated the simple pleasures of life in Vermont and highlighted the lives of working Vermonters. He died on Sept 25, at the age of 76.

In the State that gave the world Robert Frost, Vermonters know and love our authentic poets. Through David Budbill's 10 books of poetry, 7 plays, an opera libretto, 2 children's books, and many public performances and readings, he became the most widely known and loved Vermont poet since Robert Frost.

He was born in Cleveland, OH, in 1940, and after attending Union Theological Seminary in New York City and teaching at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, he moved to Vermont—to Wolcott—in 1969.

He then learned to use a chainsaw and worked in the woods to make a living, while also writing poems about the people he met and about his experiences there. His first book of poems, "The Chain Saw Dance," was published in 1976.

Other poems and books of poems followed, and David gradually created a fictionalized version of his own community, which he called Judevine—a place where rough-hewn loggers, sawyers, farm wives, gas station attendants, and shattered Vietnam veterans struggled to make a living amid the rugged beauty of rural Vermont. That material was later shaped into a play, also entitled Judevine, which was widely produced, both in Vermont and nationally.

Then in the 1990s, Budbill's focus deepened. He began writing poems about his own life in Vermont, thinly disguising himself as "Judevine Mountain," an old Chinese sage, who somehow was settled on a nearby Vermont hillside. He wrote with the spareness, directness and clarity of the ancient Asian poets he admired. One short example is "What Issa Heard." Issa is an 18th century Japanese haiku poet. Here is what David wrote:

"WHAT ISSA HEARD"

Two hundred years ago Issa heard the morning birds
singing sutras to this suffering world.

I heard them too, this morning, which must mean,

since we will always have a suffering world,
we must also always have a song.

David wrote poetry and plays that tapped into and expressed the essence of northern Vermont, and he plumbed these subjects so deeply that they became universal through his pen. His rural characters, Antoine, Grace, Tommy, and others, are quintessential Vermonters, but they are also vivid human beings with the same sorts of hopes, fears, triumphs, and disappointments that we all experience. Similarly, his "Judevine Mountain" poems were expressions of his own life, but they continue to resonate deeply with the lives of everyone who has read and loved his poems.

In short, David Budbill's poetry and plays accurately, meaningfully and profoundly depict rural Vermont—his place, that is also our place. They have a universality that have and will enrich lives in Vermont and in the larger world forever.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY JARECKI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Henry and Gloria Jarecki are two of my longest and best friends. I speak, of course, both because of our personal friendship, but also of their efforts with the important Scholar Rescue Fund, a program designed to provide fellowships for scholars whose are persecuted or threatened at home for the important work they do. This commitment is especially poignant, when considering that, as a child, Henry fled the Holocaust in Germany, ultimately settling in the United States.

Both Henry and Gloria have worked to bring about recognition and understanding of people of different races, religions, and cultures. To me, Henry has been more than just a friend. He has been a mentor and a confidant. Some of the happiest times for Marcelle and me have been with Henry and Gloria.

Dr. Henry Jarecki recently received the Order of Merit, Officer's Cross, in Heidelberg, Germany. The Order of Merit is the only federal decoration in the Federal Republic of Germany. This high honor is befitting not only of

Henry's history, but of his long dedication to promoting the simple but sometimes difficult principles of freedom and liberty.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of Dr. Henry Jarecki's moving remarks upon receiving this prestigious honor be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DR. HENRY JARECKI: ACCEPTANCE OF ORDER OF MERIT, OFFICER'S CROSS—NOVEMBER 17, 2016

OPENING THANKS

It is a great honor to receive this award from the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Joachim Gauck, a leader honored by Germany for transforming his experiences with totalitarianism into support for freedom, human rights, and democracy. Thank you, Minister Bauer and Mayor Würzner, for presenting it to me. Thanks also to Rektor Eitel for his thoughtful welcome. Let me also thank two special individuals who have played a prominent role in this award: the former Consul General of Germany to New York, Busso von Alvensleben, who is here with us tonight, and the current Consul General of Germany to New York, Brita Wagener.

I am of course thrilled to have so many friends and members of my family here with me at this special event, including my sons Andrew, Tom, and Nick and my grandsons Alexander and Tyler. Most of all, I acknowledge my wife, Gloria. It was on this very day in 1957 that the lovely Gloria Friedland became my wife. After 59 years of marriage, I think she deserves her own award!

SYMMETRY

This is a very personal moment for me. When I look at my life, I see that it has been defined by one thing: the desire to make unruly things symmetrical, to smooth over the bumps of life, and to identify and align the parts that do not fit.

This is how I made sense of the events that first took me away from Germany and have now brought me back, accepting an award in this most distinguished Alte Aula.

Over 75 years ago, I had to flee in fear from this very country that is now presenting me with this great honor. The Hitler regime had come to power less than three months before my birth, gaining strength by finding scapegoats for the troubles of the German people that were caused by World War I and the peace treaty, and from the ensuing inflation and depression. The Nazis alleged that the country's defeat, hunger, and chaos were due to traitors and to Jews, whom they called foreigners despite the fact that they had been in Germany ever since the Romans drove them here in the 70th year of the Christian Era. My family, which could trace itself back for generations, was unwilling to believe that this land of Goethe and Heine could be governed by a nativist group of criminals: "Surely they can't mean us," my family said. But they did.

We didn't believe it until we had all been arrested and stripped of almost everything we owned. Only then did we flee, first to England and then to America. America welcomed us, as it usually does welcome refugees, despite the occasional internal bigotry. This rescue and welcome gave us the opportunity to transform ourselves into hard-working patriots.

The Nazis had forced us out of Germany but they couldn't force the German out of us.

We held on to our roots. We held on to some of the language, especially after we heard our parents lapse into German when telling each other secrets. "Aber nicht vor den Kindern." Our father taught us skat and told us about Heidelberg, where he had studied before going to the front in the First World War.

Unlike some of our fellow refugees, we made sense of what had happened not by rejecting Germany but by re-engaging with it as soon as we possibly could. In fact, my brother and I returned to Heidelberg in 1951 to pursue the same medical studies as our father had.

Doing so was our way of re-assuming our character as Germans. Philipp Schwartz, the Frankfurt professor of pathology who fled to Zurich in 1933 and rescued over 1,000 dismissed German scholars, years later said of his work: "We committed ourselves to represent the true spirit of the German nation to the world."

This re-engagement, which brought my past and present into alignment, is the reason for my award today. In seeking to make the different parts of my life fit, I have engaged actively with both the city of Heidelberg and the city of New York. I have looked for ways to further strengthen the U.S.-Germany relationship. And I have felt perfectly at home in both places, perhaps, as my wife and closest friends would say, just a bit more exuberantly in Germany, like the eighteen-year-old I was when I found myself in my lost homeland.

REFUGEES

My U.S.-German outlook, as well as my own personal experience as both a refugee and an academic, give me a unique perspective on what is happening in Germany today and have brought me to a new initiative, about which I will tell you in a few minutes.

Germany finds itself at the center of a new refugee crisis, and this time the country is courageously doing what it can to help. There were 60 million people displaced after the Second World War, 2-1/2% of the world's then-prevailing population. Today, there are 65 million refugees among the world's 7 billion people, less than 1%. The proportion makes today's situation sound better than it is, however. After World War II, most refugees were resettled within a few years. Today, a refugee's average stay in a camp is over 15 years.

During both times, refugees (we called ourselves "refs") remained controversial. Some people think of them only as weak, poor, and burdensome. Others think they are smart opportunists or terrorists just waiting for the chance to become violent or, at the very least, take our jobs.

We need an alternative narrative. I propose this: Germany's new incoming refugees are smart, strong, ambitious, and young. Our support of them now will yield great results for Germany into the future.

Throughout history, such refugee flows have always been with us. The world has in fact made the best of them; it has come to use them like an accelerated form of Darwinian natural selection. Faced with the turmoil and xenophobia that is a never-ending part of our flawed psyches and world, only the strongest and smartest, the most resilient and the hardest workers, are able to re-establish themselves. The philosopher Lin-Manuel Miranda, speaking of Alexander Hamilton, said it well: "Immigrants get the job done."

Their youth is part of their strength. Over two-thirds of them are below the age of 33. Germany's rapidly aging population makes

these migrants just the people Germany needs for its future. They are, moreover, ambitious, smart, and anxious to learn.

COMMITMENT TO HEIDELBERG

My own life serves as an example of the accelerated natural selection premise.

As I mentioned before, Heidelberg readily welcomed me and my family and gave me an education that made me thrive. We have done what we could to reciprocate. Soon after he came to office, I asked the Mayor what I could do to express my gratitude. He suggested that I help to develop a dilapidated rail yard into a science campus that would attract talent from all over the world.

Over the past few years and through the Max Jarecki Foundation, Tony and I have worked with a dedicated team to develop a whole new part of the city—the Bahnstadt. I thank Mayor Würzner, his chief of staff Nicole Huber, Giles Hemmings, who manages the Max Jarecki Foundation, Tobias Wellensiek, who is not only our legal advisor but also the son of my friend of 60 years Jobst Wellensiek, and city officials who have helped make our Bahnstadt project a reality—including Mr. Mevius, Mr. Dietz, and Mrs. Friedrich—for their help. The Bahnstadt is one of the greenest developments in this country, with full access to new technologies, and within minutes of Heidelberg's preeminent educational institutions. This project is a great example of Heidelberg's successful integration of tradition and innovation, science and business, the past and the future. As the British writer G.K. Chesterton said, "Tradition means not that the living are dead; it means that the dead come alive."

I am fortunate to have had an outstanding team facilitating our efforts. This team has been led by the talented Tony Detre, who took the ideas proposed by the Mayor and helped to make them a reality. I simply could not have done this work without him.

Today, I would like to make several new commitments to the city and the university and to undertake a new partnership with the state.

Earlier today, we dedicated a new creativity-oriented adventure playground in the Emmertsgrund, a part of the city in which many families of modest means live, many of them from immigrant and refugee backgrounds.

Just as Mayor Würzner repeatedly looks for new ways for us to help our city, Rektor Eitel finds new ways for us to collaborate in the development of the university. He started by taking me to see the dilapidated Anatomy building and asked me to help restore it. He now asks for help in refurbishing the University's Max Weber House, an important part of Heidelberg's recent intellectual history. I point out to my many American guests that this university, my alma mater, founded in 1386, is the oldest university in Germany. It is indeed one of the oldest in the world. It, too, owes its existence to refugees: it was the Great Schism of 1378 that made it possible for Heidelberg, a small city at the time, to gain its own university. Two popes were elected that year—one in Avignon by the French, and one in Rome by the Italians. When Germany supported Rome and not France, German students and teachers in Paris were thrown out, becoming (yes, we see this again) academic refugees. This led to the founding of the university, bringing to full circle its willingness to take in today's refugees.

SCHOLAR RESCUE

This brings me quite neatly to my final topic of the evening: a scholar rescue partnership I wish to create with the state of Baden-Württemberg.

My own scholar rescue work started in 2002. Drawing upon my own background as an academic and a former refugee, I joined together with several other trustees of New York's Institute of International Education, or IIE, to form a new entity that would respond to what seemed like an ever-present need to rescue persecuted scholars. With IIE's long history of this work in mind, and with the blessing of IIE's President, Dr. Allan Goodman, who is here with us tonight, we formed the Scholar Rescue Fund.

Over the past 14 years, IIE's Scholar Rescue Fund has saved the lives and work of nearly 700 professors from 56 countries, placing them in over 350 safe haven universities in more than 40 countries around the world, including Germany. It was this work that led us, last year, to partner with the Philipp Schwartz Initiative, fostered by Foreign Minister Steinmeier and managed by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation with federal resources. I am pleased to see its Director-General, Dr. Enno Aufderheide, and Director of Strategy, Dr. Barbara Sheldon, here with us tonight. This program enables German universities to host threatened scholars from around the world, thus further emphasizing Germany's role and status as a safe haven country.

As evidenced by the history of the University of Heidelberg, this is a very old story. From the burning of the great library of Alexandria, scholars have fled persecution to safe havens, bringing their knowledge and skills with them and greatly enriching academic life in their new homes. The sack of Constantinople in the year 1204 caused its best scholars to flee from Turkey to Europe, and is said to have produced the European Renaissance. More recently, the U.S. benefited greatly from scientists and scholars expelled by the Nazis, as did the Turkish higher education system, which was rebuilt in the 1930s and 1940s by over 1,000 German scholars. As collaborators of the Scholar Rescue Fund for the past 10 years, Jordan's Prince Talal and Princess Ghida valiantly made their country into a safe haven for Iraqi scholars, welcoming hundreds of talented academics into their universities. And now Germany has stepped up to help.

The need today is very great. Scholars around the world are facing fresh repression and conflict. More scholars are fleeing Iraq and Syria, a new crisis looms in Turkey, and increasing threats to academics have emerged in countries as diverse as Bangladesh and Ethiopia.

Today, I would like to tell you about developing a new partnership. Over the past few weeks, several colleagues and I have met with Theresia Bauer, Minister of Science, Research and Art for the state of Baden-Württemberg, of which Heidelberg is a part. We have discussed an innovative idea to add to Germany's current scholar rescue efforts by joining together SRF, private funds, and the state of Baden-Württemberg. We are happy to have the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung as a partner who, with the Ministry, will support a new group of persecuted academics to be placed specifically in this state. The supervisory board of the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung just decided last week to join the program. I am happy to welcome the Executive Director, Christoph Dahl, today.

While the details of such a unique multi-lateral partnership remain to be confirmed,

and we all look forward to guidance from our friends at the Humboldt Foundation, I can say a few things. First, this very much follows in the tradition of Baden-Württemberg, under Minister Bauer, showing leadership on such issues, most recently with a new program to provide scholarships to refugee students. Second, such a new program makes best use of SRF's power to find and vet persecuted academics from any country and every field. Third, it shows both the power and promise of private philanthropy to bring different groups together to find creative solutions to urgent problems. It is just this type of collaborative thinking that we need in our inter-connected world.

What we see now as a refugee problem may well become an even greater deluge in the near future as climate change devastates ever more of our planet, and technology enables tyrants to maintain power more cruelly.

We live on a tiny ball spinning through a largely empty space. And if we don't share this small world that we inhabit, it will be its end. Building walls is futile; equally bad, they put the people on each side into prisons, no matter how prettily they are wall-papered.

We in the so-called first world are, with our ferocious energy consumption, deeply implicated in the changes we see today, and the greater ones we will see tomorrow. More and more people will come to us, dragging their young children across the seas and the mountains to come to a place they don't know a continent away. We should feel deeply honored, but we must live up to it. If we don't, the liberties they hope we have will be lost to us all.

"Giess Wasser zur Suppe und heiss alle willkommen" ("Add water to the soup and make everyone welcome") is an old German folk saying. Those ancestors well understood that a meal cannot be enjoyed, a peace not maintained, and one's own not protected without sharing and compromise. It is a bit of German folk wisdom that has survived all imperializing regimes and their detriments.

Once again, I thank you for the great honor of this award and commit myself, in the spirit of true and authentic partnership, to do this critical and urgent work together.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT PAQUIN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Robert Paquin is retiring after 40 years working as a dedicated public servant in Vermont and on Capitol Hill in Washington. Bob has committed his entire career to making the Federal Government a positive force in the lives of individuals and communities. He has accomplished much, particularly on behalf of our State of Vermont.

Bob, as Marcelle and I have always known him, was my longest serving staff member and is among the longest serving personal staff members in U.S. Senate history. He began in my Washington office in 1977 and then moved to Vermont to serve as one of my outstanding field representatives. He ended his congressional staff service 32 years later, in 2009, to take a leadership role at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, in the Obama administration.

On my staff in Washington, Bob worked on defense, foreign policy, and

appropriations, and in Vermont, he supported my work on agriculture, conservation, energy, and environmental protection. He also helped to manage my Vermont offices and provided constituent services to countless Vermonters.

Bob brought Vermont values on conservation, sustainable and organic agriculture, dairy, and rural development to my work on many farm bills, affecting national agricultural practices, policy, and economics to this day.

Bob also helped to develop the Lake Champlain Special Designation Act of 1990, worked on its reauthorization in 2001, and supported my efforts every year to maintain sufficient Federal support for the Lake Champlain cleanup efforts. He worked day in and day out to nurture and grow important partner organizations in Vermont, including the Lake Champlain Basin Program, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, the Lake Champlain sea lamprey control program, and many more that have helped to leverage Federal investments in conservation and the cleanup of Lake Champlain.

I strongly believe that land conservation is an important part of the heritage of every Vermonter. Bob worked on the ground to help establish the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, the Nulhegan/Conte National Wildlife Refuge and the Upper Missisquoi and Trout National Wild and Scenic Rivers. He also helped me as I fought for the addition of more than 100,000 acres to the Green Mountain National Forest, protection of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and establishment and expansion of eight Federal wilderness areas in Vermont. He also worked on the delivery of Capitol Christmas trees from Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest to Washington, DC.

Time does not allow me to catalogue all of Bob's accomplishments while on my staff, but his greatest impact may have been his simple and honest interactions in helping thousands of Vermont constituents with problems and requests over so many years. Bob is known for his troubleshooting and advocacy for Vermonters in every corner of the State.

In 2009, I gave my highest recommendation to the incoming administration of President Obama for Bob to be appointed as executive director of the Farm Service Agency in Vermont. Bob has distinguished himself in that role—helping Vermont farmers recovering from Tropical Storm Irene, implementing new programs under the 2014 farm bill, assisting new Americans from the refugee community to start farms, supporting our dairy farmers through tough times, and nurturing his dedicated USDA staff across Vermont.

Robert Paquin has been a truly exceptional and dedicated public servant

for Vermont and the Nation for four decades. I will continue to seek his advice, and Marcelle and I wish him and his wife, Theresa, all the best in the future.

TRIBUTES TO HARRY REID

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, as a young man growing up in Searchlight, Nevada, HARRY REID was an accomplished amateur boxer. During his 30 years of service in this Chamber, Senator REID has demonstrated time and again the qualities of skill, hard work, and determination that he learned in the ring all those years ago.

Prior to joining the Senate in 1987, Senator REID established a deep commitment to public service in the House of Representatives and in State and local offices. And before that, he served Congress and supported his young family working nights as a Capitol police officer while attending law school at George Washington University. As a Senate leader, serving as Democratic whip, majority leader, and, currently, Democratic leader, he has been a formidable advocate for his caucus.

In the Senate, Senator REID has been a passionate voice for education, environmental protection, health care, and renewable energy. His commitment to those who serve our Nation in uniform is evident through his support for military readiness and for our veterans.

The great Jack Dempsey defined a champion as "someone who gets up when he can't." In his many years of service to the people of Nevada and to our nation, Senator HARRY REID has proven himself to be a fighter who always answers the bell. I wish him and his wife, Landra, health and happiness for many more years to come.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I have had the honor and privilege of serving with HARRY REID for all of my 16 years in the Senate. He has been a resolute leader for our Caucus, a fearless legislator who has brought landmark legislation to the floor and a tireless advocate for Nevadans and all Americans. More importantly, I am proud to call HARRY a friend.

We all know the story of HARRY's journey to elected office from that small mining town in Nevada. The humble way he grew up inspired him to help others who faced similar hardships his family had faced. He carried that perspective with him from Searchlight, NV, to the halls of the Capitol, where he became a champion for causes meant to improve the lives of all Americans.

HARRY is a fighter. That has been said by so many of his friends and colleagues over the years, and it is truer of him than almost anyone I have ever worked with. That title, of course, has more than one meaning for HARRY. His years of amateur boxing taught him strategy and relentless willpower in

the face of his opponents. His years in the Senate have been no different. He has had to fight for historical legislation in an increasingly vitriolic political climate, things like the Affordable Care Act and the stimulus bill, legislation that gave millions of Americans hope for their futures.

HARRY has also been a very powerful ally for me and my fellow Floridians, specifically in the fight to protect the State's fragile environment. He has always been right there with me in pushing for Everglades funding and vigorously defended our coastline from drilling proposals that threatened Florida's economy and unique environment.

His leadership has been a source of guidance and great strength for me during my time in the Senate. I am honored to have served with him and wish him and his family well in his retirement.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the many accomplishments of my friend, Senator HARRY REID, my colleague from Nevada, during his storied career in the U.S. Senate.

Growing up in a modest household without an indoor bathroom, hot water, or a telephone, HARRY learned the values of family, faith, and education. HARRY understood that it is the most vulnerable in society that need the strongest champions, someone to fight for them.

HARRY's service to the people of Nevada began long before he came to Congress. After attending law school at George Washington University, Leader REID returned home and served as Henderson's City Attorney. At the age of 28, he was elected to the Nevada State Assembly. Two years later, Leader REID became the youngest Lieutenant Governor in Nevada history. HARRY experienced political losses early in his career, but he never let that hold him back. After 5 years as chairman of the Nevada Gaming Commission, HARRY won election to the U.S. House in 1982. He served two terms before winning his first U.S. Senate race in 1986.

HARRY's stint as an amateur boxer taught him to never back down from a fight, no matter how big. Throughout his Senate career, the people of Nevada have been able to count on HARRY to fight for them.

He has spearheaded investments in clean energy, established Nevada's first national park, Great Basin National Park, and led passage of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill of Rights.

As majority leader, he shepherded landmark legislation through the Senate—The Affordable Care Act, Wall Street Reform, the Recovery Act, and many more. Despite the powerful interests lining up to defeat these efforts, HARRY didn't back down. He worked hard and got things done. As a result, millions of Americans have health care.

We have fought our way back from the Great Recession of 2008. Consumers

now have more protection against powerful companies. It is fair to say, HARRY's leadership has improved our country and our families' lives.

Today I want to focus on a few issues where I was particularly proud to have worked with him. Leader REID has been a longtime champion for the Filipino World War II Veterans. This group of over 260,000 Filipino veterans answered President Roosevelt's call during World War II and fought heroically under the U.S. flag. Unfortunately, they have had to endure another fight over the course of seven decades—the fight for the recognition and benefits they were promised. Leader REID has been at the forefront of this fight. He has helped secure compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. We have worked together to reunify the remaining veterans with their children. And just last week, the House passed and sent the President my legislation awarding Filipino World War II veterans the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow. Leader REID was instrumental in getting this bill through the Senate, and I deeply appreciate his support.

Nevada is home to a vibrant Filipino-American community. Leader REID is deeply familiar with the experiences and struggles of Filipino veterans and their families. He worked with Hawaii's late Senator Dan Inouye to create the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund within the VA in 2009. The fund's creation was a significant step forward in recognizing the dedicated service and sacrifice of these veterans. I was proud to have Leader REID join me in our successful effort to secure appropriations language prohibiting any attempts to direct these funds to other programs.

This past May, the Obama administration finalized a parole program that would allow family members of Filipino World War II veterans to come to the United States to be reunited with their aging parents and siblings. These veterans had already waited decades to be reunited with their children in the Philippines.

Speaking at my press conference announcing the program, HARRY honored the veterans' sacrifice saying, "in those islands where MacArthur left, the Filipinos were left there with some of our troops and they fought valiantly and were not recognized."

Finally, I want to highlight Leader REID's work on immigration. In 2009, while campaigning in Nevada, a young woman named Astrid Silva slipped a note to HARRY. Astrid was brought to the United States when she was 4 years old. Unable to work legally, Astrid babysat to earn money. She excelled at school but feared deportation if she applied to college. In the following years, Astrid and HARRY corresponded, and he learned of the hopes, dreams, and struggles of the DREAMers.

In a 2013 interview hours before the Senate passed comprehensive immigration reform, HARRY said, "This is why I did this . . . because of some things she said."

Later, when speaking on the floor before the vote, HARRY said, "I appreciate every one of those letters she sent me, because each was a reminder of what is at stake in this debate." A testament to HARRY's character, even while serving in one of the most powerful roles in Washington, HARRY never forgot who he was fighting for.

Aloha, HARRY. As we say in Hawaii, a hui hou, "until we meet again."

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about my longtime friend and colleague BARBARA BOXER, who is retiring from this body along with me this year.

Senator BOXER will be remembered as an inspiration to young women across our country. Her career is a textbook of how to get involved in public service. Starting at the local level, she came out of the antiwar movement and got involved in the environmental movement and local causes. Taking lessons from grassroots organizing, she ran for the Marin County Board of Supervisors. She lost that first race, but she didn't give up. She ran again and won and became the first female chair.

Eventually, she made her way to the U.S. House of Representatives. Along the way, she heard a lot of "no," but always turned it into a "yes." She never quit, never lost faith in herself, and never stopped trying.

When it looked like the accusations of Anita Hill would be swept under the rug, I spoke out in the Senate against it, but I was only one female voice. BARBARA BOXER came to my aid. Even though she was in the House, she led a troop of fierce House women running up the steps to the Senate to face down the Judiciary Committee and demand they shed light on the accusations of sexual harassment. BARBARA had the crack team of ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, Pat Schroeder, LOUISE SLAUGHTER, NITA LOWEY, Jolene Unsoeld, and Patsy Mink to back her up. They marshaled the press and marched right up these steps. They knocked on the door and were going to be turned away because they weren't Senators. But they pointed to that group of photographers and said, We are going to tell them that you turned us away, what do you think will happen then? So they were let in and made their case. Those Senators couldn't face the calculation and fury of BARBARA BOXER and the House women, and those hearings were convened. The Anita Hill hearings made an indelible mark on this country.

It really woke America up as to what was going on in the workplaces around the country for women and how little

representation women really got in Congress. Watching that all-male Judiciary Committee tear into Professor Hill for daring to accuse her boss of sexual harassment, the women of America took action and elected BARBARA BOXER, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, Carol Mosely Braun, and PATTY MURRAY to the U.S. Senate.

I was thrilled when BARBARA came to me thinking about running for the Senate. I told her it was the perfect time: she can do more in the Senate and be heard in the Senate. I said would be worth the fight to get her here with me, even if just to have someone I could see eye-to-eye with on a daily basis.

BARBARA even started an exercise program in the House when we were there together. She showed up in colorful leotards, and Geraldine Ferraro came looking like a photo op for Vanity Fair, and Olympia Snowe wore this gorgeous outfit. I show up, chunky yet funky, and the instructor is yelling, "Go for the burn! Put your hands on your waist and bend, bend, bend!" And I turned to BARBARA and said, "If I had a waist, I wouldn't be here." Well, those exercise classes may not have lasted long for me, but her energy just couldn't be beat.

Her zip and zest is pure California sunshine, and Californians have more sunshine in their spirit because of her work. Her energy has brought light to California and light to the sometimes dreary Capitol hallways.

I am going to miss my good friend and irreplaceable political partner. Democrats have had a lot of tough fights over the last 25 years, and the two BARBARAS have always been there, side by side. We voted against the war in Iraq, both believing it was a mistake. We were in the minority, but both of us still believe it was one of the best votes we have ever taken as Senators. We stood up for what we believed in and what we thought was right—which is exactly what our constituents sent us here to do.

BARBARA BOXER has been there for our children, leading the way for after school programs and making sure they are kept safe. She has fought against wasteful spending in the Pentagon—the \$400 hammer and the \$7,000 coffee pot. She has defended women's right to choose and protected women against domestic violence. She has held the feet of polluters to the fire as the champion of clean air, clean water, and our natural resources. It is too hard to pinpoint just one thing the Senate will miss about her: her political prowess, her dedication and determination, her undying loyalty and friendship. All of those and more will be missed.

As we end this session of Congress and our careers in the Senate, I wish BARBARA and her husband, Stewart, many happy days ahead as they start writing this new chapter in their lives.

Even if we are on opposite sides of the country, I know I will always have a friend in California.

TRIBUTE TO MARK KIRK

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on January 3, 2013, Senator MARK KIRK climbed the 45 steps to the U.S. Capitol, triumphantly returning to work after a year of intensive recovery from a stroke. To the cheers of colleagues and friends, he called it one of the greatest moments of his life.

It was a moment of courage and determination that defined a life dedicated to serving the people of Illinois and of our Nation. From his service in the Navy Reserve as an intelligence officer, to the World Bank, the State Department, the House International Relations Committee, and five terms representing the 10th Congressional District of Illinois, Senator KIRK brought to this chamber a wealth of experience, wisdom, and commitment.

I had the pleasure of working alongside Senator KIRK on the Appropriations, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and Aging Committees. His approach to legislating has been in the highest traditions of the Senate: Informed, passionate, and always civil. He looked at the issues before the Senate not through the lens of a political partisan, but rather through the lens of a pragmatic problem solver and consensus builder.

Senator KIRK has been a valued ally on many fronts. We introduced the REGROW Act to accelerate the development of new therapies for patients living with such diseases as Alzheimer's disease and diabetes and to achieve breakthroughs in stroke recovery. I was proud to be named with him to serve on the Women's and Family Global Health Task Force so that the United States will continue to be a leader in preventing maternal and childhood deaths from treatable causes. We joined together on vital legislation to keep firearms out of the hands of terrorists and in addressing our Nation's opioid addiction crisis. He has always had a deep commitment to good government and was a strong voice for accountability through independent, effective inspectors general.

As chairman and former ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Senator KIRK has worked tirelessly on behalf of the men and women who serve our country. Following in the tradition of Illinois Senator Everett Dirksen, who helped pass the Civil Rights Act a half-century ago, Senator KIRK has been a leader in ensuring the rights of America's LGBT community.

The past election brought disappointment, but it also revealed character. Senator KIRK ran a vigorous but honorable campaign and never compromised

his principles. When the decision went against him, he conceded graciously, reminding Americans that what unites us is far stronger than what divides us.

It has been an honor to serve with Senator KIRK in the U.S. Senate. It has been a joy to develop our friendship, one I will cherish always. I wish him all the best in the years to come, and I know that he will meet any challenges that lie ahead with the strength and fortitude he brought to those 45 steps of the U.S. Capitol.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MIKULSKI

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, today I wish to honor my friend, colleague, and mentor from Maryland, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, who is retiring at the end of this year. BARBARA has an impressively long and distinguished career in public service, representing her home State of Maryland in Congress for nearly 40 years.

Since I came to the Senate in 2013, it has been a pleasure to serve alongside titans like Senator MIKULSKI. As a matter of fact, my first official Senate office was tucked in-between hers and then-Senator Rockefeller's on the fifth floor of Hart. As neighbors we formed a friendly bond, and I oftentimes would stop by to chat with her or sometimes just Mrs. O'Malley, who runs a tight ship. On occasion, Senator Rockefeller and I would overstay our welcome, and Mrs. O'Malley would kick us out and send us back to our offices. For those of you who don't know, Mrs. O'Malley has played a critical role in Senator MIKULSKI's office for nearly 30 years and has helped instill the values of hard work and dedication to a generation of Hill staffers.

As the longest serving woman in Congress, Senator MIKULSKI has inspired a generation of women to pursue careers in public service and run for higher office. As dean of the women Senators, BARBARA worked to mentor new women Senators on how to be effective legislators and build coalitions across party lines to advance landmark legislation. The bipartisan women's group has met regularly under her leadership, helping bridge partisan divides that so often plague this Chamber by getting Senators to know each other on a personal level over her homemade Maryland crabcakes.

One cannot mention Senator MIKULSKI without also mentioning her fierce advocacy and determination to make Maryland and our country a better place to live, work, and raise a family. One of the first bills I cosponsored when I came to the Senate was the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, VAWA, which BARBARA played a critical role in originally passing. Since its passage in 1994, VAWA has been effective in responding to domestic violence. Additionally, she has worked tirelessly in the fight to close

the pay gap for women, who currently earn about three-quarters of what men earn, by advancing the Paycheck Fairness Act, which I have proudly cosponsored twice now. Women shouldn't make 77 percent of what men earn for the same job. This hurts families who are just looking to take care of their kids, put food on their table, and keep a roof over their heads.

Just as Senator MIKULSKI has been an advocate for families, she also understands the critical role science, research, and innovation play in creating economic growth in the United States. Maryland is home to several great institutions, such as the Goddard Space Flight Center, which I had the pleasure of visiting last fall, that are at the forefront of their respective fields. When I was at Goddard, the Director showed me the fascinating work their researchers and engineers are engaged in and how NASA's various missions help us enhance crop production and be better stewards of our planet. Her work on the Senate Appropriations Committee has helped keep the United States at the forefront of scientific discovery and technological innovation.

Senator MIKULSKI is the best of American public service. She is smart, honest, empathetic, and outrageously funny. She has earned her reputation as a force to be reckoned with. And on her next chapter, I wish her Godspeed—and may the force be with her.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY AYOTTE

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, today I wish to honor my dear friend and colleague from New Hampshire, Senator KELLY AYOTTE, who is departing from the Senate at the end of this year. Over the last 4 years, I have been consistently impressed with KELLY's pragmatic approach to her role as a U.S. Senator. Time and time again, I have seen her be a strong advocate on behalf of her State and have admired her willingness to forge the tough, bipartisan compromises that our country needs.

Senator AYOTTE started her career clerking for an associate justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court. After about a year of clerking, she started practicing law. She eventually moved on to be a prosecutor for the New Hampshire Attorney General's office, quickly gaining experience and know-how to become the first female attorney general of her State—something we have in common.

When I came to the Senate in 2013, KELLY and I were the only female former attorneys general in the Chamber at the time. She had been elected to her first term 2 years before me, so as new Senators, we bonded through our common experience that later pushed us to pass laws and create real change. Our shared knowledge of the issues, dedication, and common inter-

ests led us to become good friends. I am also proud to say that our relationship extended beyond the Senate Chamber, as we played together on the congressional women's softball team.

KELLY and I worked with each other to make real and substantial progress on many issues using common sense and our desire to do what is best for our States and the country. We both came to the Senate with an understanding of rural America. As the wife of a small business owner, KELLY understands the real life implications policy can have on small businesses, which she displayed as we worked together on the Small Business Committee. We also sat next to each other on the dais for 4 years as we served together on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Her commitment to keeping our Nation safe shined through time and time again as our committee worked on border security, cyber security, and improving our Federal Government's efficiency and effectiveness.

Together we passed two bills, one of which has been signed into law and the other which awaits the President's signature. The first was the Breast Cancer Awareness Commemorative Coin Act, which created a commemorative coin to help fund the Breast Cancer Research Foundation's efforts to fight breast cancer. Her dedication to help the one in eight women who will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of their lifetimes will not be forgotten. The second bill was the Northern Border Security Review Act to ensure that our Nation's northern border gets the attention and resources it needs to keep our communities safe. I am extremely proud to have worked with her on these issues.

Senator AYOTTE has been an outstanding public servant for the people of New Hampshire and this country. I know that she is proud of her accomplishments in her time as a Senator, and I am proud to be a part of some of those accomplishments. The women's softball team will definitely miss her because, let's face it, she is a better softball player than I am. I know KELLY will continue to be a champion for New Hampshire no matter what she does. And since we each have taken our turns in the batting cages, we never step down from the plate. I guess imitation truly is the best form of flattery. I truly wish her the best.

TRIBUTE TO VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, in a political world getting more contentious by the day, with even greater divisions and an increasing lack of civility, JOE BIDEN has always stood out.

The reason so many Republicans and Democrats appreciate him is because he has touched us all in a special way.

When it comes to JOE BIDEN, his word is his bond. He is a fierce competitor, but never takes the fight too far. If he can help you, he always will. He tries, as much as possible, to ensure every decision is a win-win.

As Vice President, he served President Obama extremely well with unquestionable loyalty. He has proven to be one of the most successful negotiators for the President.

I have traveled the world with JOE and the private man is exactly what you see in public. JOE BIDEN is articulate, determined, kind, gracious, funny, and an eternal optimist. I am confident he will continue to serve the nation he loves so much.

Vice President JOE BIDEN stands out in all the right ways.

21ST CENTURY CURES BILL

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I wish to address the 21st Century Cures Act legislation, which the Senate passed yesterday with my support. I voted for this bill and support many of its provisions. However, I also have some serious concerns regarding the manner in which the bill is funded.

I would like to congratulate two of my Senate colleagues for their remarkable commitment to this bill: the senior Senator from Tennessee, LAMAR ALEXANDER, and the senior Senator from Washington, PATTY MURRAY, who worked long hours in good faith to forge a bipartisan compromise on both sides of the Capitol.

Washington State is a laboratory for health care innovation. From Spokane to Seattle, my State has a culture of collaboration and inventiveness in which the entire health care community—including researchers, providers, insurers, employers, policymakers, and others—come together to find better ways of preventing, managing, and treating disease. This collaboration makes my State unique and on the cutting edge of developing innovative health care delivery.

That is why Washington is the original home of the Basic Health Plan, a State-run option that gives working people without employer-sponsored health care the negotiating leverage to get a better deal on health insurance.

It is why the Boeing Company has partnered directly with health care providers like the Everett Clinic to reduce sick days and improve the health of its workers.

It is why community leaders in Yakima and Spokane have banded together to break ground on new medical schools to fill unmet primary care needs in their regions.

And it is why so many lifesaving medical discoveries and treatments, including immuno-oncology, dialysis, and the mapping of the brain have their roots in our State. Many of these discoveries started with NIH-supported

basic research at public research universities like the University of Washington and Washington State University.

The 21st Century Cures legislation gives a big boost to Washington's health care innovators.

First, the bill's investment in President Obama's Precision Medicine Initiative will help get the right treatment into the hands of patients, building on the longtime work of renowned researchers like Dr. Leroy Hood and the Institute for Systems Biology. Tools like big data and sophisticated blood analysis can predict effective therapies based on a patient's unique biology, reducing ineffective prescriptions, and lowering health costs over time.

Second, the bill's funding commitment to Vice President BIDEN's Cancer Moonshot will advance groundbreaking research at organizations like the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. By directing the body's own immune system to attack cancer cells, new cancer treatments can save lives for patients who may not respond to traditional interventions.

Third, the bill's support for President Obama's Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies, BRAIN, Initiative will continue the leadership of organizations like the Allen Institute for Brain Science in unlocking the mysteries of the brain. Neuroscience is one of the final frontiers of medicine, and future revelations in this field hold immense promise to better treat conditions affecting the brain, such as Alzheimer's and traumatic brain injury.

In addition to my strong support for research into future medical miracles, many of my constituents need treatment for acute and chronic conditions now.

That is why I am encouraged that the 21st Century Cures legislation takes positive steps to combat the dual crises of mental health care and opioid addiction.

The legislation includes a \$1 billion funding commitment to combat the opioid and heroin epidemic. In recent years Washington has experienced a doubling in heroin-related deaths, according to data from the Washington State Department of Health. Earlier this year, PBS's "Frontline" profiled the courageous stories of some of my constituents who are battling addiction, as well as new public responses that municipalities like the city of Seattle are deploying to address this public health crisis.

The reality in too many Washington communities is that needed addiction services are simply out of reach for those in the throes of acute withdrawal, relapse, or in need of ongoing recovery supports. The Cures legislation helps by authorizing much-needed State grants for treatment services,

prescription drug monitoring, prevention, and health professional training programs, which will bolster efforts by public health departments like the Spokane Regional Health District to meet urgent community needs. This funding is far from sufficient, given that 90 percent of people who need addiction treatment in the United States do not receive it, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, SAMHSA. However, given that Senate Democrats have been calling for real money for the opioid epidemic throughout this Congress, the funding in Cures is indeed welcome.

The 21st Century Cures legislation also contains positive new policies that aim to improve access to mental health care, including efforts to better integrate mental health and physical health as well as strengthen rules to ensure health insurance companies cover mental and physical health equally. Unfortunately, many of these policies are not funded and require future appropriations.

Washington communities continue to confront a severe mental health treatment shortage at all levels of the care continuum, including community clinics and psychiatric units. A 2015 report by Mental Health America, a national advocacy group, ranked Washington State 48th in the Nation when it comes to mental health treatment, due to a high prevalence of mental illness and poor access to care. In the face of overwhelming emergency room admissions and a State legal ruling on psychiatric "boarding," community partnerships like the Alliance for South Sound Health in Pierce County have stepped up to build more treatment capacity. And Governor Jay Inslee and the State of Washington have announced ambitious goals to integrate mental health with chemical dependency and physical health.

I will continue to fight for real money for mental health, including policies to ease the Medicaid Institutions for Mental Diseases, IMD, exclusion, an archaic barrier to needed inpatient care for people in crisis, as well as policies to improve mental health delivery.

I am also pleased that the 21st Century Cures legislation includes a provision I sponsored, S. 2261, the Rural ACO Provider Equity Act, to drive coordinated health care in medically underserved areas, as well as legislation I have cosponsored to preserve access to vital outpatient therapeutic services at small rural hospitals. Medical facilities in these remote communities—such as Forks, Brewster, and Newport—need our support to keep essential health services accessible in the face of doctor and clinical staff shortages. I thank the senior Senator from South Dakota for his partnership and support on these important issues.

While I supported the Cures legislation, the package incorporates troubling budget offsets that are concerning.

First, the Cures legislation finances itself in part by selling millions of barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

The use of this budget offset steadily weakens the energy security of the United States and again uses the reserve as a piggy bank to pay for non-energy priorities. In its November 29, 2016, Statement of Administration Policy on the Cures legislation, the White House Office of Management and Budget concurred, noting this offset “. . . continues a bad precedent of selling off longer term energy security assets to satisfy near term budget scoring needs.”

Second, the Cures legislation pays for its investments in part by cutting disease prevention funding. While I appreciate current legislative realities, this policy approach is not sustainable especially in light of dwindling public health resources throughout my State.

Third, the final version of the Cures legislation omits a widely supported and bipartisan child welfare reform bill, the Family First Preventive Services Act, which I have been proud to cosponsor with my colleague Senator RON WYDEN. Washington State is currently using a Federal waiver, which I helped secure, to do a better job of keeping families together and reducing unnecessary foster care placements. This approach is better for kids and families, and it can save States money. The Senate's failure, up to this point, to pass this bill is a lost opportunity for children in Washington and throughout the Nation.

Last, I note that the funding authorized by the Cures legislation must be appropriated by future Congresses. I will continue to work with my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to fund these important health care priorities.

I view the funding and policies in the Cures legislation as a step forward that continues to support Washington's health care innovation and pave the way for future medical breakthroughs. The mental health and opioid response provisions in the legislation are welcome in addressing these crises, but are far from sufficient. Moving forward, I will work to ensure that appropriators make good on the funding commitments in Cures, and I will fight to open up greater access to health care for Washingtonians.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to four servicemembers from California or based in California who have died while serving our country in Operation Freedom's Sentinel and in Operation Inherent Re-

solve since I last entered names into the record.

STAFF SERGEANT JOHN W. PERRY

SSG John W. Perry, 30, of Stockton, CA, died November 12, 2016, of injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device in Bagram, Afghanistan. Staff Sergeant Perry was assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER JASON C. FINAN

CPO Jason C. Finan, 34, of Anaheim, CA, died October 20, 2016, in northern Iraq, of wounds sustained in an improvised explosive device blast. Chief Petty Officer Finan was assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Three.

STAFF SERGEANT MATTHEW V. THOMPSON

SSG Matthew V. Thompson, 28, of Irvine, CA, died August 23, 2016, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, of injuries caused by an improvised explosive device that detonated near his patrol while conducting dismounted operations. Staff Sergeant Thompson was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA.

PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS CHARLES H. KEATING IV

PO1 Charles H. Keating IV, 31, of San Diego, CA, died May 3, 2016, in Tall Usqf, Iraq, of combat related causes. Petty Officer First Class Keating was assigned to a West Coast-based Navy SEAL Team.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD GIL KERLIKOWSKE

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my friend from the Department of Homeland Security—U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Richard Gil Kerlikowske, who is retiring in January 2017. I have known Gil since his days as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, during which time he worked tirelessly to promote policy reforms, particularly in the area of substance abuse treatment. In 2013, he visited North Dakota at my request and saw firsthand the substance abuse dilemma that we were experiencing in the western part of the State. He worked with me to direct Federal resources to assist our State partners in reducing drug abuse, and for that, I will always be grateful.

Gil was appointed Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP, in 2014, and, as a Senator on the committee that oversees CBP, I saw firsthand the dedication he brought to the position. On his retirement, it is fitting that we recognize the successes achieved under his leadership.

Gil worked to counter terrorism and transnational crime by creating a counter-network capability to identify

and disrupt illicit networks and adapt to emerging threats along the border and abroad, placing under one roof the National Targeting-Center Passenger and Cargo facilities to enhance the agency's efficiency and effectiveness in identifying potential high-risk individuals and freight.

He made efforts to enhance transparency and accountability by implementing the CBP Integrity Strategy, enhancing the agency's ability to address corruption and misconduct in the workforce; initiating a review and redesign of CBP's complaint and discipline system to promote a timely, transparent, and accountable dispute resolution process; fostering the agency's commitment to respond to use of force incidents by creating an incident team to conduct investigations and by initiating a National Use of Force Review Board to assess policy compliance and best law enforcement practices; implementing firearms and less-lethal use of force simulator training; implementing National Standards on Transport, Escort, Detention, and Search, the first nationwide standards that govern interaction with detained individuals.

He engaged stakeholders and partners globally to enhance U.S. border security. Such actions include signing new preclearance agreements with Sweden and the Dominican Republic; creating increased security, economic growth opportunities, and an improved passenger experience with CBP performing the same immigration, Customs, and agriculture inspections of air passengers on foreign soil prior to boarding a direct flight to the United States; assisting the Government of Tanzania in establishing a sophisticated canine program to combat the smuggling of contraband; and sponsoring ten Customs Mutual Assistance Agreements with various countries.

He worked to advance border security and management by addressing the surge of unaccompanied alien children and family units by enhancing the agency's capabilities and coordination with Federal partners while sustaining all border security responsibilities; deploying advanced technological solutions to provide additional layers of surveillance; initiating a Naloxone pilot program, becoming the first Federal law enforcement agency to train and equip officers with the potentially lifesaving drug for the treatment of overdoses; installing facial comparison technology in two airports and continuing work towards a comprehensive biometric exit system; establishing the Missing Migrant Initiative in the south Texas corridor—a proactive program to establish preventative procedures in order to preserve human life.

He worked to enhance economic competitiveness through lawful trade and travel with a continued commitment to the strong partnership between the U.S. and Canada by leading

CBP to deliver on key Beyond the Border Action Plan commitments related to joint commerce and travel facilitation and security initiatives; transitioning to the Automated Commercial Environment, which serves as the “single window” for the electronic transmission of import and export information for 47 agencies; streamlining the import-export process and eliminating more than 200 forms; developing ten centers for excellence and expertise to facilitate trade for compliant importers; achieving positive results in CBP’s Traveler Satisfaction Survey administered at the top 25 airports between September 2015 and February 2016.

He promoted organizational integration, innovation, and agility by raising levels of engagement and commitment higher than at any other time since 2011, according to the 2016 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey. He led creation of advanced hiring hubs and other recruitment initiatives that reduced overall costs and hiring delays for CBP officers and Border Patrol agents. The agency was recognized by Monster.com and Military.com’s “Best Companies for Veterans 2016” as the second best organization for veterans among government and private sector employers.

I would like Congress to recognize the significance of these accomplishments and to express my appreciation and the appreciation of the American people for Gil Kerlikowske’s selfless dedication to service. I wish him the best of luck as he pursues the next chapter of his life.

HONORING OFFICER JOSE GILBERT VEGA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Police Officer Jose Gilbert Vega, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and uncle who was tragically killed in the line of duty on October 8, 2016.

Jose “Gil” Vega was born in Texas to a family of migrant farm workers. When Gil was 6 years old his family relocated to Coachella, CA, where he graduated from Indio High School. In 1979, Gil began his career in law enforcement by serving as a reserve police officer for the Indio Police Department. He was hired as a community service officer by the Palm Springs Police Department in 1982, and the following year, he accepted additional responsibilities as a jail and reserve field training officer. Gil’s hard work and dedication was recognized in 1985 when the city of Palm Springs hired him as a police officer trainee. Upon completion of his program at the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Academy, Gil was promoted to police officer.

Officer Vega worked on various assignments throughout his career, in-

cluding serving as a detective for the Riverside Auto Theft Interdiction Detail, RAID, and the Palm Springs Crimes Against Property Unit. Over the course of three decades, Officer Vega mentored over 30 police officers and was consistently recognized for his commitment to his job and the community. He was awarded a lifesaving medal for performing CPR on an infant in 2010 and received the Medal of Merit in 2013. He is also the only officer in the history of the Palm Springs Police Department to have been selected twice by his peers as “Officer of the Year,” in 1992 and 2011.

Officer Vega truly embodied the very best of law enforcement and his courageous service will be forever remembered. On behalf of the people of California whom Officer Vega served so bravely, I extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Susana; his eight children; and his entire extended family.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN LEWIS LARKIN O’HERN III

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize U.S. Army CPT Lewis Larkin O’Hern III for his extraordinary dedication to duty and honorable service to our Nation. During his exemplary career with the Army from May 2008 to January 2017, Captain O’Hern made an immense impact on those he worked with both in the Army and here in Congress.

Captain O’Hern was born at Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis, WA, and grew up in a military family before graduating from Belton High School in Belton, Texas, in 2004. He received his commission from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 2008. After completing the infantry office basic course, airborne school, and Ranger school at Fort Benning, GA, he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, at Fort Campbell, KY, where he served as a rifle platoon leader. He deployed to Kandahar in June 2010 and, after 7 months in Afghanistan was severely wounded, suffering the loss of both legs and a hand. In the course of his 2 and a half year recovery, Captain O’Hern completed the Defense Strategy Course and worked as a future operations planner at U.S. Army North. In 2013, Captain O’Hern was accepted into the Army’s prestigious Congressional Fellowship Program. He earned a master’s degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University and in 2014 served as my defense legislative fellow. Following his fellowship, Captain O’Hern continued to serve as an Army legislative liaison in the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison.

Captain O’Hern has performed at the top of his profession throughout his career, providing motivation and serving as a role model for his fellow service-

members and colleagues. Captain O’Hern demonstrated his impressive intellect in all duties, questioning assumptions and pushing team members to achieve their highest potential. He easily grasped the complexities of policymaking and the appropriations processes, greatly contributing to both while in my office.

Part of what makes Captain O’Hern such a remarkable leader is that his great intellect is coupled with incredible humanity and compassion. I witnessed his inexhaustible drive to provide assistance to fellow servicemembers and veterans, which is in the image of some of the Army’s greatest leaders. I was privileged to have Captain O’Hern as an enormously important member of my legislative team. His contributions continue to resonate today.

Captain O’Hern models resilience and determination. His story is a testament to the power of a positive can-do attitude and a shining example of the refusal to let obstacles stand in his way. Captain O’Hern’s inspirational journey would not have been possible without the unfailing support from his exceptional wife. Mrs. Rachel Brooks O’Hern was an integral partner in Captain O’Hern’s recovery. In addition to undertaking her substantial caregiver role, Rachel also built an impressive career of her own, serving the wider veteran community.

It is my honor to recognize this remarkable couple and congratulate Captain O’Hern on his military retirement as he proceeds to the next chapter of his life. I ask the entire country to thank him for his service and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO AYO GRIFFIN

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, for many years, the Judiciary Committee and the Senate have been well served by the distinguished service of Ayo Griffin. Ayo is a talented lawyer and a principled public servant, respected and admired by his peers, who has ably guided some of my most significant legislative initiatives.

Ayo’s career has always demonstrated what Victor Hugo called “conscience in the service of justice.” By the time Ayo joined my Judiciary Committee staff in 2011, he had already taken on difficult work conducting foreign corruption investigations in private practice. He had volunteered with human rights litigation and anti-corruption training in Cambodia. In the important tradition of making legal aid available to all people, even unpopular defendants, he had represented pro bono detainees at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base detention center in Cuba.

Here in the Senate, Ayo took on legislation to improve our prisons and strengthen law enforcement, to prevent

domestic violence and sexual assault, to reform our immigration regime, to curb gun violence, and to undo the damage done to our campaign finance system by the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. In the wake of the flood of secret money unleashed by Citizens United, Ayo helped me craft the DISCLOSE Act to require groups spending large amounts to influence our elections to identify their donors and to prevent corporations and other wealthy interests from using shell corporations to funnel secret money to super PACs.

Ayo worked closely with good governance advocates, campaign finance experts, and our colleagues here in Congress to build a strong coalition behind the legislation. When Republicans blocked the legislation from proceeding in 2012, Ayo helped me coordinate a midnight vigil, with the bill's Democratic sponsors holding the Senate floor into the morning hours until we secured a vote on the measure. In the end, the DISCLOSE Act twice won support from a majority of Senators in votes before this body. Ayo's contribution to that effort not only channeled a groundswell of popular support, but shone a bright light on an issue at the very heart of our democracy.

Today Ayo is facing a much different challenge. Some time ago, he was diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer, requiring intensive therapy. He has tackled his treatment with signature determination, working intently with his specialists and therapists to stay ahead of the disease. His wife, Mary Dewhurst, has shown great love and courage through this trying time and is Ayo's steadfast partner in every winding step of their journey.

"You must work very hard," Maurice Ravel once wrote to a fellow composer, "because someone who is gifted must work harder than someone who is not." I am grateful for both the ample gifts and hard work of Ayo Griffin.

I thank Ayo for his faithful service. My entire staff and I offer our unending support. And I wish him and Mary health and much happiness in their days to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LISA M. CLINE

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize educator Lisa M. Cline for over 30 years of service as a K-6 STEM educator throughout the State of Montana. Mrs. Cline's love of STEM, particularly biology, was inspired by her mother, Nancy Yonkee, who grew up on a ranch during the Great Depression era and was among the first women to study premedicine at her university in the 1950's.

Mrs. Cline grew up on a ranch near Broadus and studied animal science at

Montana State University, with the goal of becoming a veterinarian. Later, Mrs. Cline decided that she could have the greatest impact on her communities by sharing her love of STEM with children and earned an additional degree, also from MSU, in education. In her time as an educator throughout the State, including in the communities of Bozeman, Plevna, Great Falls, and Cut Bank, Mrs. Cline has passionately brought to her students a love for the STEM disciplines that is grounded in her agricultural upbringing, her background in biology, and her genuine excitement about asking tough questions, solving tricky problems, and learning along the way.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Cline strived to bring a rigor to her classroom that prepares her students to become the best scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. She does this both inside and outside of the classroom, working tirelessly over the years to organize innovative, inquiry-based assignments, student debates, local science fairs, field trips to archaeological sites, and voyages into the mountains. Most recently, she brought her sixth graders to Glacier National Park, where they learned about its intricate ecosystems and rich geological history.

I want to express my deep gratitude to Mrs. Cline for her dedication and service to educating our country's youth, particularly for cultivating within them a love for STEM and inquiry-based learning. And a big thank you to Dr. Angela Person for her nomination of Mrs. Cline as Montanan of the Week.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVE RAU

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize Lewis and Clark County undersheriff Dave Rau who announced his retirement after 20 years of service to the people of Montana. Dave is the prime example of law enforcement's tireless efforts to protect and serve Montanans at any cost.

Undersheriff Rau launched his law enforcement career in Texas as a prison guard, and after 7 years he came to the last best place. He began serving Montanans with the East Helena Police, then his path led to the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office. Throughout the last two decades, Dave has garnered countless advocates in the Helena community. Sheriff Leo Dutton has said, "There will never be another Dave Rau."

Dave is a husband to Tammy and father to their children, Aaron and Whitney. He is unsure what his next adventure will entail, but he is sure he will remain active in the community that he loves.

Undersheriff Rau, the U.S. Senate commends you for your service to the people of Helena and Lewis and Clark

County. Thank you for your diligent work in keeping the people of Montana safe. I hope that your path continues to be blessed with success.●

TRIBUTE TO TIM SANDERS

• Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to the public service of Tim Sanders, a longtime clerk of the Courts for Madison County, FL. Tim has served admirably as county clerk and comptroller for six consecutive terms and will retire after 24 years, which is an incredible achievement.

His contributions to Madison County and Florida long predate the start of his tenure as county clerk. He began his career at Madison County Memorial Hospital, where he worked on the floor, in the emergency room, and in the x-ray department. After earning a second degree from the University of Florida, Tim spent time surveying in Madison and nearby counties for a business that he later acquired himself. Tim accomplished all of this before starting his career in public service as county clerk.

A true man of the community, Tim currently serves on the board of trustees at the Madison First United Methodist Church, as well as on the boards of directors at Big Bend Hospice, the Madison County Foundation for Excellence in Education, and the Treasures of Madison County Museum.

Tim was born, raised, and attended public schools in Madison. In fact, he has devoted a great deal of time supporting public education and children in Madison County. To give a sense of this man's character, Tim has performed as the American folk hero Johnny Appleseed for elementary school children in Madison and surrounding counties each fall for 20 years.

Dedicated and selfless in his approach to public service, this son of Madison County has surely left a lasting mark on the people of his community and his State. I am honored to acknowledge his retirement from public service and recognize this great Floridian.●

REMEMBERING TONY REYNA

• Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Taos Pueblo Governor Tony Reyna, who passed away December 5, 2016, at the age of 100, in Taos, NM.

Governor Reyna's life was defined by service to others: he served his country, his State, his community, his Pueblo.

Governor Reyna was born February 1, 1916, to Helario and Crucita Reyna of Taos Pueblo. He was given the name "Chuta," which means "Hunter's Call." According to Governor Reyna, "It was so important, the care my father and mother gave us, their commitment to us they said, 'Don't take. Give

something back.' That's the philosophy we live by."

Governor Reyna was raised in the traditional pueblo of Taos—occupied for 1,000 years and considered the oldest continuously inhabited community in the United States. The five-storied adobe pueblo—dramatic and picturesque—lies at the base of the Mo-ha-loh or Ma-ha-lu, which we call the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Governor Reyna maintained a home there, where the family gathered for pueblo ceremonies.

Governor Reyna attended the Taos Pueblo Day School as a young boy. "By the time we could carry a bucket, we were carrying water and wood for mother to cook. We would run home from school to water and feed the horses. We would ride into town bareback to get kerosene. Those were very enjoyable days. We thought it was very hard, but looking back, it was very worthwhile. We learned to work and to take responsibility."

He attended Santa Fe Indian School and graduated from Santa Fe High School in 1936. After high school, he taught woodworking at Albuquerque Indian School.

Governor Reyna was a member of the New Mexico National Guard in 1941 when he was shipped to the Philippines. At that time, Native Americans were not considered full citizens. They served in the military with bravery and distinction, yet did not have the right to vote. Governor Reyna was captured by the Japanese, along with 10 other servicemen from Taos Pueblo. He endured and survived the 65-mile Bataan Death March and 3 and one-half years of brutal captivity. He was tortured and forced to bury hundreds of his fellow servicemen, including his best friend. "I was raised a farm boy from sunrise to sundown, so I was tough enough to survive starvation," he said. "Determination kept me going. I had a family, a home to come back to." Five from Taos Pueblo survived till the end of the war, and Governor Reyna was the last surviving of them. His American Legion garrison hat—honoring his service—bears an eagle feather in the band. According to Governor Reyna, "This feather represents all the Indian veterans, men and women."

Today marks the 75th anniversary of the Bataan invasion, which began on December 8, 1941—just hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor—when soldiers from the 200th Coast Artillery Regiment became the "first to fire" to defend the Philippines from Japanese bombers. It is fitting that we Honor Governor Reyna today.

After the war, Governor Reyna returned to Taos Pueblo and, as he said, ". . . got busy." He married, and he and his wife, Annie Cata Reyna, had four children, Diane, John Anthony, Phillip, and Marie.

Governor Reyna wanted to open an art shop in Taos, but banks would not

loan to a Native American, even a veteran. "I went to the bank, but they weren't interested in loans to Indians because they had nothing in the way of security," he said. He found two businessmen in town who would lend to him, and over the next 2 years, he hand-built an adobe shop and home and paid the men back in full.

"I opened the doors to the shop May 1, 1950," he said. "There was no shop like this at the Pueblo at the time. I felt I had a responsibility to promote Indian craft." At the time, Governor Reyna's shop—Tony Reyna Indian Shop—was the only Native-owned store dealing strictly in Native-made crafts. The shop is open to this day—run by Governor Reyna's son Phillip—and is the oldest shop in Taos selling Native-made art.

Governor Reyna served Taos Pueblo as secretary for the Governor's office in 1975 and Lieutenant Governor in 1977. He served two terms as pueblo Governor, in 1982 and 1992, and was a lifetime member of the tribal council. "I served in the Army, I served the state of New Mexico, and I served the city of Taos, but the most important of all was serving my people as governor."

Governor Reyna was instrumental in the successful effort to return Blue Lake to Taos Pueblo. Nestled in the mountains northeast of the pueblo, the lake is sacred to the pueblo. It and 48,000 acres were taken from the pueblo and appropriated as Federal lands in 1906. After much work, the area was returned to the pueblo in 1970.

As Governor, Governor Reyna was instrumental in securing Taos Pueblo's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992. He secured that status without compromising the pueblos' conditions for privacy. After the designation, he convinced the U.S. Air Force to change flight patterns of supersonic jets over Taos Pueblo. The flights were damaging the structure of the buildings. As a veteran, Governor Reyna had credibility and assured the Air Force he understood the need for national security, but firmly demanded the damaging flights stop. The Air Force rerouted the flights.

Governor Reyna served as police commissioner for the town of Taos, as a member of the Taos Municipal School Board, as a trustee for the Millicent Rogers Museum in El Prado, and as a tribal judge at the Santa Fe Indian Market.

In 1992, he was honored as a Santa Fe Living Treasure. The Heard Museum gave him the Spirit of the Heard Award in 2010. The chair of the advisory committee stated that Governor Reyna was selected ". . . because he dedicated his life to the betterment of Indian people and, in particular, to helping preserve the culture, resources and traditions of his tribe." And, "[h]e is a man who has given much, but has asked for little in

return." The New Mexico Legislature proclaimed his 100th birthday, February 1, 2016, as "Tony Reyna Day."

Governor Reyna was buried December 5, 2016, dressed in a deerskin robe and with full military honors, at the Taos Pueblo cemetery, following a mass at the pueblo's San Geronimo Church.

War hero, husband, father, businessman, pueblo leader, community leader—Governor Reyna's contributions to arts, culture, politics, community, and the Nation are astounding. His life demonstrates the value of service to others. He will be missed.●

TRIBUTE TO TOM M. PHELPS

● Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Tom M. Phelps on his retirement as chief executive officer, CEO, of Plateau Telecommunications, New Mexico's oldest telecommunications company. Tom leaves Plateau after a distinguished career of more than 20 years in my home State of New Mexico and more than 50 years in the telecommunications industry.

Plateau began as Eastern New Mexico Rural Telephone Cooperative in 1949 when a group of civic leaders, farmers, and ranchers responded to the need of rural New Mexico for affordable, reliable telephone service. The next year, the cooperative received its first Federal loan of \$581.00 to construct and operate telephone lines and facilities in Curry, De Baca, Quay, Roosevelt, and contiguous counties.

Tom joined Plateau in 1995 as assistant general manager. However, it was not long before he took the helm in 1997 as general manager. The title changed to CEO in 2001.

During his 21 years of leadership at Plateau, he has improved the quality of life for those in our rural communities through deployment of modern telecommunication services, community economic development partnerships, and participation in many local philanthropic projects, community events, and educational enterprises.

Tom oversaw the company as it grew and changed—when it first offered high speed DSL internet service and a fiber-to-the-home program. He managed expenditure of \$116 million to install over 5,200 miles of fiber-optic cable across eastern and central New Mexico and to expand high-speed internet access to critical community institutions. This facilitated distance learning so children in rural schools can access resources that are not available in their hometowns. And it has enabled hospitals to use telehealth to improve care and provide services they can't offer in person. Plateau's service area now extends in 25 counties in New Mexico and western Texas, covering 25,000 square miles. Under his leadership, Plateau's technology has been and continues to be state-of-the-art. In 2015, Plateau was

the fastest home internet service provider in New Mexico.

Bringing affordable and reliable telephone service to rural areas is key to economic development. Plateau brought service to rural New Mexico when larger, national companies would not. Its investments in telecommunication services created many business opportunities in rural Eastern New Mexico, supporting and enhancing economic stability in the region.

When Plateau decided to sell its mobile wireless operations, the company anticipated having to lay off 70 employees. At that time, Tom was eligible to retire, but he stayed until he made sure his employees were taken care of. As the company transitioned, he provided early retirement for employees and made sure there were no layoffs.

Under Tom's management, Plateau continually contributed to the communities it served. Plateau collected school supplies for local school children, provided economic development grants for new businesses, and annually gave over \$70,000 in scholarships to area high school students.

Tom has been active in many local, State, and national activities. He received the New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Award in 2014, which recognizes those who have made "unusual contributions to the public service and to the improvement of government at all levels by both government employees and private citizens." His service as a member of the Clovis Committee of 50, Cannon Air Force Base support groups, and the Plains Regional Medical Center Board, as well as his continued support for the Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Eastern New Mexico contributed to his selection.

Tom's dedication, leadership, and business acumen—and personal commitment to Plateau employees and his community—have made a difference in the lives of many people across our State.

We wish him continued success and that he and his wife Candyce enjoy retirement.●

RECOGNIZING IDEA VILLAGE

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, the city of New Orleans has served as an economic engine since its founding in 1718. Its location at the mouth of the Mississippi River, influential and innovative population, and unique accessibility to natural resources have allowed the Big Easy to prosper, but it wasn't until recently that New Orleans has become a hub of new technology and entrepreneurship. A major part of that success is due to Idea Village, an independent nonprofit organization that is dedicated to driving economic growth in and around New Orleans.

In 2000, a group of New Orleans-based technology entrepreneurs came to-

gether to discuss how to spark economic growth for small businesses and entrepreneurs in the Crescent City, in order to make New Orleans the hub of entrepreneurship in the South. Allen Bell, Sally Forman, Sam Giberga, Darin McAuliffe, Michele Reynoir, Tim Williamson, and Robbie Vitrano all agreed that in order to see a lasting change, they should create a business accelerator program that partners with the local community in order to reinvest in New Orleans-based businesses. Idea Village was officially established in 2002 and immediately went to work in identifying, supporting, and retaining local entrepreneurs. That year, each founder contributed \$2,000 to the first business plan competition and successfully raised a total of \$125,000 to award to the winning business.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of southeast Louisiana and parts of Mississippi. Several New Orleans businesses were damaged and closed, putting an enormous strain on the local economy. In 2006, Idea Village launched IDEAcorns in partnership with local universities, including Tulane University, to help New Orleans businesses rebuild and reopen their doors. Following the success of IDEAcorns, Idea Village since has launched over 25 initiatives to provide strategic guidance and resources to access capital to local businessowners, including IDEApitch, IDEAInstitute, among others. One of its most successful ventures is the annual New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, NOEW, a festival celebrating innovation, entrepreneurship, and new thinking and which awards thousands of dollars to several entrepreneurs through various pitch competitions and challenges. Each year NOEW engages thousands of entrepreneurs, investors, professionals, students, and community members to showcase regional startup ventures in industries important to New Orleans, including technology, water, education, energy, healthcare, and food. Going into its 10th year, NOEW has become an important part of New Orleans' festival season.

Since its inception, Idea Village has provided direct support to more than 5,794 entrepreneurs and invested \$25 million in New Orleans businesses. Currently, entrepreneurial activity in New Orleans is 64 percent higher than the national average, and much of that success can be attributed to the efforts of Idea Village. I would like to recognize the entire team at Idea Village and look forward to their continued leadership and success in supporting New Orleans entrepreneurs and our economy.●

RECOGNIZING KREWE DU OPTIC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, whether it is our food, architecture, or drawl, New Orleans is undoubtedly home to

one of the more unique cultures across America. However, while we are not necessarily known for our contributions to the fashion industry, one young entrepreneur is changing that with his popular Crescent City-inspired eyewear line Krewe du Optic. I would like to recognize Stirling Barrett's Krewe du Optic as Small Business of the Week. Barrett's artistic designs have earned him not only tremendous success in the last 3 years, but they have also caught the attention of the national fashion industry, helping to develop New Orleans' role and reputation in national and international fashion.

New Orleans native Stirling Barrett is an artist, designer, and entrepreneur who launched Krewe du Optic in 2013. The unique eyewear line combined Barrett's love of art, fashion, and the Crescent City and has been embraced by the fashion industry across the United States and around the world. Two years after his initial investment into the New Orleans-inspired eyewear concept, Barrett cemented his commitment to the industry and his hometown by opening a flagship brick and mortar store on the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's historic landfall. Despite the geographical challenges of running a designer line from New Orleans, Barrett has been quoted as saying, "Krewe is about doing something from somewhere no one expected." This philosophy rings true since New Orleans, which certainly serves as a hub for entrepreneurship, has not been historically associated with the fashion industry. Earlier this year, Krewe expanded its operation by opening a second store in Savannah, GA.

Most recently, the growth of the Krewe brand has reached historic proportions, becoming the first New Orleans-based top-10 finalist for the prestigious Council of Fashion Designers of America/Vogue Fashion Fund. Krewe received the runner-up award for technological creation of sunglasses that double as a camera and are able to capture memories in a natural way.

For their unique creativity and commitment to community, Stirling Barrett and the entire team at Krewe du Optic have made New Orleans proud. Congratulations for being named Small Business of the Week, and I wish you continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING RUSTON ANIMAL CLINIC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, during the month of November, our Nation comes together to honor and commemorate the service and sacrifices of our veterans. The week of October 31 through November 4, 2016, is officially National Veterans Small Business Week. When our brave men and women in uniform return to civilian life, some turn to entrepreneurship. In fact, there

are more than 2,500,000 veteran-owned small businesses, employing nearly 6,000,000 individuals, in the United States. This week, I would like to recognize the veteran-owned Ruston Animal Clinic as Small Business of the Week.

The Ruston Animal Clinic first opened its doors in 1970 to provide preventative medicine, dental care, orthopedic surgery, bathing, and boarding for animals in north Louisiana and over the decades has become an integral part of the local community.

Following a 4-year stint in the U.S. Marine Corps, Marion Sewell moved to Louisiana to earn an undergraduate degree from Louisiana Tech University and a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Louisiana State University's School of Veterinary Medicine. In 2007, Dr. Sewell moved to Ruston, began working at the Ruston Animal Clinic, and 2 years later took ownership of the small business. In the dual role of small business owner and veterinarian, Dr. Sewell has taken a leadership role in the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association and currently serves as president-elect.

Worthy of recognition is Dr. Sewell's work during the deadly, historic August flooding disaster in south Louisiana. In the wake of one of the Nation's worst natural disasters over the last decade, Dr. Sewell traveled across the State to lend her time and talents to assist in animal evacuation and rescue efforts.

Today Ruston Animal Clinic has established a strong social media presence in order to update north Louisiana pet owners and animal lovers with pet adoption notices, missing animal alerts, and helpful information on proper pet care.

Congratulations to Dr. Sewell and the entire team at Ruston Animal Clinic for being selected as Small Business of the Week. I look forward to your continued success.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

SOCIAL SECURITY TOTALIZATION AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL, TITLED "AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL," AND A RELATED AGREEMENT TITLED "ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY"—PM 58

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith a social security totalization agreement with Brazil, titled "Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil," and a related agreement titled "Administrative Arrangement between the Competent Authorities of the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Implementation of the Agreement on Social Security" (collectively the "Agreements"). The Agreements were signed in Washington, D.C., on June 30, 2015.

The Agreements are similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with most European Union countries, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries.

The Agreements contain all provisions mandated by section 233 of the Social Security Act and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4) of the Social Security Act.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act on the estimated number of individuals who will be affected by the Agreements and the Agreements' estimated cost effect. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreements to me.

I commend the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Administrative Arrangement between the Competent Authorities of the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Implementation of the Agreement on Social Security.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, December 8, 2016.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 11:05 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerics, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 817. An act to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.

S. 818. An act to amend the Grande Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

S. 2873. An act to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

S. 3076. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish caskets and urns for burial in cemeteries of States and tribal organizations of veterans without next of kin or sufficient resources to provide for caskets or urns, and for other purposes.

S. 3492. An act to designate the Traverse City VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Traverse City, Michigan, as the "Colonel Demas T. Craw VA Clinic".

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 11:46 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1632. An act to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram.

S. 3028. An act to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

S. 3183. An act to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 329. An act to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1219. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and appurtenances of the Arbuckle Project, Oklahoma, to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3711. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park, located in San Diego, California, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4298. An act to direct the Secretary of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring the helicopter pilots and crew members of the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5099. An act to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 5143. An act to provide greater transparency and congressional oversight of international insurance standards setting processes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6076. An act to require the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish a program for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of astronauts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6130. An act to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.

H.R. 6400. An act to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey.

H.R. 6431. An act to ensure United States jurisdiction over offenses committed by United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives.

H.R. 6435. An act to authorize the Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with appropriate civilian accreditation entities or appropriate health care evaluation entities to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 181. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a certain correction in the enrollment of S. 1635.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2854. An act to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007.

S. 2971. An act to authorize the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 34. An act to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2974. An act to ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill,

in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4919. An act to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2028) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 612. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

At 5:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6450. An act to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6451. An act to improve the Government-wide management of Federal property.

H.R. 6452. An act to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6477. An act to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title.

H.R. 6480. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Intelligence Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 183. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill S. 612.

At 6:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431) and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on International Religious

Freedom for a term ending May 14, 2018: Dr. Tenzin Dorjee of Fullerton, California, to succeed Ms. Hannah Rosenthal.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4 of the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission Act (Public Law 114-224), and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Minority Leader appoints the following individual to the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission: Ms. Stacey Plaskett of the United States Virgin Islands.

The message further announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1011c, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mr. Brian Jones of Washington, DC.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3516. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a best-practices peer review of each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs to evaluate the efficacy of health care delivered at each such medical center.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 8, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 817. An act to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.

S. 818. An act to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

S. 2873. An act to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

S. 3076. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish caskets and urns for burial in cemeteries of States and tribal organizations of veterans without next of kin or sufficient resources to provide for caskets or urns, and for other purposes.

S. 3492. An act to designate the Traverse City VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Traverse City, Michigan, as the "Colonel Demas T. Craw VA Clinic".

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7831. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tau-Fluvalinate; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 9954-33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7832. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Quizalofop ethyl; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 9950-89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7833. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oxathiapiprolin; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 9954-69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7834. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Muscodor albus strain SA-13 and the volatiles produced on rehydration; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9952-88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7835. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bicycloporyne; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9954-63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7836. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commodity Pool Operator Financial Reports" (RIN3038-AB47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7837. A communication from the Honors Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending (Regulation Z)" (RIN3170-AA67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7838. A communication from the Honors Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consumer Leasing (Regulation M)" (RIN3170-AA66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7839. A communication from the Honors Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold" (RIN3170-AA68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7840. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Standards for 2017 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2018" (FRL No. 9955-84-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7841. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Pennsylvania; Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley" (FRL No. 9955-91-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7842. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Plans; Kentucky; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9955-96-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7843. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Revisions to Louisville Definitions and Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9955-90-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7844. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Application of Section 108(a)(1)(E)(ii) to the Federal Housing Finance Agency's (FHFA's) Principal Reduction Modification Program (PRMP) and the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP)" (Notice 2016-72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7845. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—December 2016" (Rev. Rul. 2016-27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7846. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "SE/SE Fast Track Mediation—Collection" (Rev. Proc. 2016-57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7847. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Treatment of Amounts Paid to Section 170(c) Organizations Under Employer Leave-Based Donation

Program" (Notice 2016-69) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7848. A communication from the Director, Civil Rights Center, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act" (RIN1291-AA36) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7849. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Submission of Food and Drug Administration Import Data in the Automated Commercial Environment" ((RIN0910-AH41) (Docket No. FDA-2016-N-1487)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7850. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Guanidinoacetic Acid" (Docket No. FDA-2015-F-2337) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7851. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Animal Drugs for Use in Animal Feed; Category Definitions; Confirmation of Effective Date" (Docket No. FDA-2016-N-1896) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7852. A communication from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Gallery's Performance and Accountability Report for the year ended September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7853. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7854. A communication from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Gallery's Performance and Accountability Report for the year ended September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7855. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7856. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election

Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7857. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Report on the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7858. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Report on the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7859. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's twelfth annual report on ethanol market concentration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7860. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Used Motor Vehicle Trade Regulation Rule" (RIN3084-AB05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7861. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Labeling Rule" (RIN3084-AB15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7862. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Arkansas River, Little Rock, AR" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0992)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7863. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Great Egg Harbor Bay, Marmora, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-1011)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7864. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Illinois River mile 69.3 to 69.8; Meredosia, IL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0678)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7865. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; San Francisco, CA"

((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0154)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7866. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Tennessee River, Knoxville, TN, MM TNR 646.9-647.1" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0845)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7867. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Arkansas River; Little Rock, AR" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0887)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7868. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Ouachita River, Monroe, LA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0666)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7869. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Saint Andrew Bay; Panama City, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0932)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7870. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Anchorage Grounds; Delaware Bay and River, Philadelphia, PA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0110)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7871. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone; Potomac River and Anacostia River, and adjacent waters; Washington, DC" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0675)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2852. A bill to expand the Government's use and administration of data to facilitate

transparency, effective governance, and innovation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-396).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3520. A bill to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to clarify report dates, modify the criteria for determinations of whether countries are meeting the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking, and highlight the importance of concrete actions by countries to eliminate trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3521. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide students with disabilities and their families with access to critical information needed to select the right college and succeed once enrolled; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 3522. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify the payment amount for direct graduate medical education costs for certain hospitals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3523. A bill to amend the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 to extend the jurisdiction of tribal courts to cover crimes involving sexual violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3524. A bill to amend Rule 611 of the Federal Rules of Evidence to prohibit cross-examination by the accused of minor victims of sexual assault; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3525. A bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and the stability of the transportation security workforce by applying a unified personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration who are responsible for screening passengers and property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3526. A bill to provide incentives for States to invest in practices and technology that are designed to expedite voting at the polls and to simplify voter registration; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 3527. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent high net worth individuals from receiving tax windfalls for entering government service; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HEITKAMP:

S. 3528. A bill to provide for mandatory training for Federal Government supervisors and the assessment of management competencies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 3529. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a progressive consumption tax and to reform the income tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 3530. A bill to allow the use of claims, eligibility, and payment data to produce reports, analyses, and presentations to benefit Medicare, and other similar health insurance programs, entities, researchers, and health care providers, to help develop cost saving approaches, standards, and reference materials and to support medical care and improved payment models; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 3531. A bill to designate certain National Forest System land in the State of Idaho as wilderness; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3532. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide funds to States and Indian tribes for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3533. A bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to discourage litigation against the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management relating to land management projects; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 3534. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to locate and recover certain assets of the United States Government; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FLAKE:

S. 3535. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from employing any individual who has been convicted of a felony and medical personnel who have had their medical licenses or credentials revoked or suspended, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3536. A bill to impose sanctions on persons that threaten the peace or stability of Iraq or the Government of Iraq and to address the emergency in Syria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of

States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 627

At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 627, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in electronic wait list manipulations, and for other purposes.

S. 742

At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 742, a bill to appropriately limit the authority to award bonuses to employees.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 803, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide employees in the private sector with an opportunity for compensatory time off, similar to the opportunity offered to Federal employees, and a flexible credit hour program to help balance the demands of work and family, and for other purposes.

S. 1200

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1200, a bill to promote competition and help consumers save money by giving them the freedom to choose where they buy prescription pet medications, and for other purposes.

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1588

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1588, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and violence to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

S. 1714

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan

and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1866

At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1866, a bill to establish the veterans' business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1911

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1911, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 2175

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2175, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2725

At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2725, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the ballistic missile program of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 2726

At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2726, a bill to hold Iran accountable for its state sponsorship of terrorism and other threatening activities and for its human rights abuses, and for other purposes.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2957, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

S. 2962

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2962, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2989

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2989, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 3052

At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.

3052, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for an operation on a live donor for purposes of conducting a transplant procedure for a veteran, and for other purposes.

S. 3177

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3177, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax-exempt financing of certain government-owned buildings.

S. 3237

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 3237, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 3384

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3384, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for middle-income housing, and for other purposes.

S. 3448

At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3448, a bill to provide for the creation of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and the public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, and for other purposes.

S. 3478

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3478, a bill to require continued and enhanced annual reporting to Congress in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom on anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, the safety and security of European Jewish communities, and the efforts of the United States to partner with European governments, the European Union, and civil society groups, to combat anti-Semitism, and for other purposes.

S. 3491

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3491, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to provide justice to victims of fraud.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. HEINRICH):
S. 3525. A bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and the stability of the transportation security workforce by applying a unified personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration who are responsible for screening passengers and property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, the legislation I will introduce shortly focuses on a small sector of the Federal workforce. But there is a broader message that I would like to deliver as well today. There is something I want to say to all Federal workers: I have got your back.

We have all been hearing statements by politicians in the halls of Congress, in the news, and even on Twitter threatening to gut the Federal workforce, cut earned benefits, reduce paychecks, make it easier to fire people at will, and other destructive and misguided actions.

To Federal employees, these statements must be particularly hurtful. Some may feel anxious and disheartened. But I want to assure all Federal workers that I am on your side. Your contributions are integral to our Nation. You live and work in small towns, in urban centers, and around the country. You do crucial work for our government and for the American people.

As the capital of the United States, Washington, D.C., is often mistaken as the primary location for Federal workers. But this is patently false. Eighty-five per cent of Federal workers actually live and work outside of the D.C. area. Federal workers live and work in every town, city, and State. In many places, the Federal Government is the main employer—and those jobs are vital to the local economy. The Federal workforce represents the diversity of our country.

Since 1960, the GDP has multiplied five times, new agencies have been added to the government, and the responsibilities of Federal workers have grown exponentially, and yet hiring has stagnated. The civilian workforce, not including Postal Service employees, is roughly the same size it was during the Kennedy administration, at around 2 million.

Pledges from short-sighted politicians about privatizing government services and programs like Medicare and Social Security would cause many Federal jobs to vanish and impair access to Federal services. This would put real Americans out of work and cause measurable economic hardship to local and State economies.

In addition, the government is the number one employer of veterans, particularly disabled veterans who have trouble finding jobs in the private sector. Freezing hiring or cutting the workforce means fewer opportunities for America's heroes.

That is why I want the next administration to understand the importance of Federal workers. Their jobs cannot be outsourced, replaced by machines, cut, or consolidated. I would urge the next administration to stop using our Federal workforce for purposes of partisan rhetoric and political games.

I want to let Federal workers know that I will continue to work in the Senate to fight efforts to undermine you and the work that you do. I will look for opportunities to improve the Federal workplace and strengthen the Federal workforce. So keep up the good work across America. You can count on me for support.

Today I also rise to introduce the Strengthening American Transportation Security Act of 2016, SATSA. This bill would extend to Transportation Security Officers, TSO, the same worker rights and protections under Title 5 of the U.S. Code that most other Federal workers enjoy and that TSOs are currently denied.

TSOs are Federal employees who work on the frontlines of aviation security, and make up 70 percent of the Transportation Security Administration's workforce. They provide essential protection to all Americans by screening passengers and baggage at our airports.

Every day TSOs stop eight guns from getting on our airplanes. That's nearly 3,000 guns a year. They hold life-saving jobs and TSOs deserve parity under Title 5 of the U.S. Code. My bill would provide fair treatment to TSO's and, in doing so, would improve passenger safety and enhance the overall capacity of the Federal workforce responsible for protecting our aviation transportation system.

I am proud to introduce SATSA, which would improve the morale and stability of TSOs, the Federal workers keeping our airports and aviation travel safe. I want to thank my colleagues that have joined as original cosponsors of this bill: Senators BROWN, MERKLEY, WARREN, FRANKEN, PETERS, TESTER, and HEINRICH.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3525

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening American Transportation Security Act of 2016”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; sense of Congress.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Conversion of screening personnel.
- Sec. 5. Transition rules.
- Sec. 6. Consultation requirement.

Sec. 7. No right to strike.
 Sec. 8. Regulations.
 Sec. 9. Delegations to Administrator.
 Sec. 10. Authorization of appropriations.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) On September 11, 2001, 19 terrorists, who underwent airport security screening prior to boarding domestic flights, were able to commandeer 4 airplanes and use those airplanes to perpetrate the most deadly terrorist attack ever to be executed on United States soil.

(2) In the aftermath of those attacks, Congress passed the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (Public Law 107-71), which was signed into law by President George W. Bush on November 19, 2001—

(A) to enhance the level of security screening throughout our aviation system; and

(B) to transfer responsibility for such screening from the private sector to the newly established Transportation Security Administration (referred to in this section as “TSA”).

(3) By establishing TSA, Congress and the American public recognized that the highest level of screener performance was directly linked to employment and training standards, pay and benefits, and the creation of an experienced, committed screening workforce.

(4) Section 111(d) of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (49 U.S.C. 44935 note) authorizes the Under Secretary of Transportation for Security to “employ, appoint, discipline, terminate, and fix the compensation, terms, and conditions of employment of Federal service for such a number of individuals as the Under Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out the screening functions of the Under Secretary under section 44901 of title 49, United States Code”. The functions of the TSA were transferred to the Department of Homeland Security by section 403 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 203).

(5) TSA has interpreted the authorization set forth in paragraph (4) as applying to the majority of the Transportation Security Officer workforce performing screening functions, while all other Transportation Security Administration employees, including managers, are subject to title 5, United States Code, as incorporated in title 49 of such Code.

(6) In November 2006, the International Labor Organization ruled that the Bush Administration violated international labor law when it prohibited Transportation Security Officers from engaging in collective bargaining.

(7) After the Federal Labor Relations Board approved a petition for the election of an exclusive representative, on February 4, 2011, TSA Administrator John Pistole issued a binding determination stating that “it is critical that every TSA employee feels that he or she has a voice and feels safe raising issues and concerns of all kinds. This is important not just for morale; engagement of every employee is critically important for security.”

(8) This determination was superseded by a second determination issued on December 29, 2014, which changed the previous guideline for collective bargaining and resulting in limitations in the subjects that can be bargained, issues in dispute that may be raised to an independent, third-party neutral decision maker (such as an arbitrator or the Merit Systems Protection Board), and barriers to union representation of the Transportation Security Officer workforce.

(9) The 2011 and 2014 determinations both cited TSA’s authority under section 111(d) of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (49 U.S.C. 44935 note) to create a personnel system that denies the Transportation Security Officer workforce the rights under title 5, United States Code, that are provided to most other Federal workers, including—

(A) the right to appeal adverse personnel decisions to the Merit Systems Protection Board;

(B) fair pay under the General Services wage system, 2011;

(C) fair pay and raises under the General Services wage system, including overtime guidelines, access to earned leave;

(D) the application of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.);

(E) fair performance appraisals under chapter 73 of title 5, United States Code; and

(F) direct protections against employment discrimination set forth in title 7, United States Code.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the personnel system utilized by the Transportation Security Administration pursuant to section 111(d) of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (49 U.S.C. 44935 note) provides insufficient workplace protections for the Transportation Security Officer workforce, who are the frontline personnel who secure our Nation’s aviation system; and

(2) such personnel should be entitled to the protections under title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the official within the Department of Homeland Security who is responsible for overseeing and implementing transportation security pursuant to the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, whether designated as the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration), the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, the Undersecretary of Transportation for Security, or otherwise.

(2) **AGENCY.**—The term “agency” means an Executive agency, as defined by section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) **CONVERSION DATE.**—The term “conversion date” means the date as of which paragraphs (1) through (3) of section 3(b) take effect.

(4) **COVERED EMPLOYEE.**—The term “covered employee” means an employee who holds a covered position.

(5) **COVERED POSITION.**—The term “covered position” means—

(A) a position within the Transportation Security Administration; and

(B) any position within the Department of Homeland Security, not described in subparagraph (A), the duties and responsibilities of which involve providing transportation security in furtherance of the purposes of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (Public Law 107-71), as determined by the Secretary.

(6) **EMPLOYEE.**—The term “employee” has the meaning given such term by section 2105 of title 5, United States Code.

(7) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(8) **TSA PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.**—The term “TSA personnel management system” means any personnel management system established or modified under—

(A) section 111(d) of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (49 U.S.C. 44935 note); or

(B) section 114(n) of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 4. CONVERSION OF SCREENING PERSONNEL.

(a) **TERMINATION OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL AUTHORITIES.**—

(1) **TSA PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.**—Section 114 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (n).

(2) **TERMINATION OF FLEXIBILITY IN EMPLOYMENT OF SCREENER PERSONNEL.**—Section 111 of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (49 U.S.C. 44935 note) is amended by striking subsection (d).

(3) **HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 9701 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(i) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(ii) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) **LIMITATION.**—The human resources management system authorized under this section shall not apply to covered employees or covered positions (as such terms are defined in section 3 of the Strengthening American Transportation Security Act of 2016).”

(B) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subparagraph (A) shall take effect on the date set forth in subsection (b).

(b) **COVERED EMPLOYEES AND POSITIONS MADE SUBJECT TO SAME PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AS APPLIES TO CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES GENERALLY.**—On the earlier of a date determined by the Secretary or 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) all TSA personnel management personnel policies, directives, letters, and guidelines, including the Determinations of February 2011 and December 2014 shall cease to be effective;

(2) any human resources management system established or adjusted under section 9701 of title 5, United States Code, shall cease to be effective with respect to covered employees and covered positions; and

(3) covered employees and covered positions shall become subject to the applicable labor provisions under title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 5. TRANSITION RULES.

(a) **NONREDUCTION IN RATE OF PAY.**—Any conversion of an employee from a TSA personnel management system to the provisions of law referred to in section 4(b)(3) shall be effected, under pay conversion rules prescribed by the Secretary, without any reduction in the rate of basic pay payable to such employee.

(b) **PRESERVATION OF OTHER RIGHTS.**—The Secretary shall take any necessary actions to ensure, for any covered employee as of the conversion date, that—

(1) all service performed by such covered employee before the conversion date is credited in the determination of such employee’s length of service for purposes of applying the provisions of law governing leave, pay, group life and health insurance, severance pay, tenure, and status, which are made applicable to such employee under section 4(b)(3);

(2) all annual leave, sick leave, or other paid leave accrued, accumulated, or otherwise available to the covered employee immediately before the conversion date remains available to the employee, until used, while the employee remains continuously employed by the Department of Homeland Security; and

(3) the Government share of any premiums or other periodic charges under the provisions of law governing group health insurance remains at the level in effect immediately before the conversion date while the employee remains continuously employed by the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 6. CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.

(a) **EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE.**—The labor organization certified by the Federal Labor Relations Authority on June 29, 2011, or successor organization shall be deemed the exclusive representative of full- and part-time nonsupervisory personnel carrying out screening functions under section 44901 of title 49, United States Code under chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code, with full rights under such chapter 71.

(b) **CONSULTATION RIGHTS.**—Not later than 14 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) consult with the exclusive representative for employees under chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code, on the formulation of plans and deadlines to carry out the conversion of covered employees and covered positions under this Act; and

(2) provide final written plans to the exclusive representative on how the Secretary intends to carry out the conversion of covered employees and covered positions under this Act, including with respect to—

(A) the proposed conversion date; and

(B) measures to ensure compliance with section 5.

(c) **REQUIRED AGENCY RESPONSE.**—If any views or recommendations are presented under subsection (b)(2) by the exclusive representative, the Secretary shall consider the views or recommendations before taking final action on any matter with respect to which the views or recommendations are presented and provide the exclusive representative a written statement of the reasons for the final actions to be taken.

(d) **SUNSET PROVISION.**—The provisions of this section shall cease to be effective as of the conversion date.

SEC. 7. NO RIGHT TO STRIKE.

Nothing in this Act may be construed—

(1) to repeal or otherwise affect—

(A) section 1918 of title 18, United States Code (relating to disloyalty and asserting the right to strike against the Government); or

(B) section 7311 of title 5, United States Code (relating to loyalty and striking); or

(2) to otherwise authorize any activity which is not permitted under either provision of law cited in paragraph (1).

SEC. 8. REGULATIONS.

The Secretary may prescribe any regulations that may be necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 9. DELEGATIONS TO ADMINISTRATOR.

The Secretary may, with respect to any authority or function vested in the Secretary under any of the preceding provisions of this Act, delegate any such authority or function to the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration under such terms, conditions, and limitations, including the power of redelegation, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 3529. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a progressive consumption tax and to reform the income tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce the Progressive Consumption Tax Act of 2016.

We need a tax code that is fair for American employers and fair for American families. We need a tax code that makes our U.S.-based businesses more competitive. Finally, we need a tax code that allows us to responsibly and reliably collect reasonable revenues.

I introduced a version of this bill in the 113th Congress to provide an opening for discussion and a first opportunity to review legislative language for this type of comprehensive tax reform.

Since the introduction of the Progressive Consumption Tax Act, many policymakers, including in Congress, have become increasingly interested in moving to a border-adjustable consumption tax base.

As we move towards consideration of comprehensive tax reform in 2017, I wanted to reintroduce an updated version of this bill, which I think shows what progressive, fiscally responsible, pro-growth tax reform could look like.

As many of my colleagues recognize, the extent to which we rely on income taxes is very out of step with the rest of the world.

Compared to other countries that are in the OECD—developed countries with advanced economies, countries that we want to be competitive with—all taxes as a percentage of GDP in the United States are low.

But, the U.S. is not a low income tax country. Our income tax revenues as a percentage of GDP are higher than the OECD countries. We have some of the highest statutory income tax rates in the world.

What accounts for the difference is that all OECD countries except the U.S. have a consumption tax. In fact, about 150 countries now have a consumption tax, many of which were enacted decades ago.

Unlike the U.S., these countries can tax imports and subsidize exports by rebating their consumption taxes for exports—without violating current World Trade Organization, WTO, rules. As important, these countries can sustain reductions in their corporate income tax rates, because they have an alternative and more pro-growth revenue source—a consumption tax.

The Progressive Consumption Tax Act puts this country on a competitive playing field by providing for a broad-based progressive consumption tax, or PCT, at a rate of 10 percent. The PCT would generate revenue by taxing goods and services, rather than income.

This is not simply an add-on tax. The revenues generated by the act would be used to eliminate an income tax liability for most households. This bears repeating: instead of paying an income tax, most Americans households, under this bill, would only pay a consumption tax.

Those who do still have an income tax liability would see a much simplified income tax with their marginal rates reduced—the top marginal individual income tax rate, applying to taxable income over \$500,000 for joint filers, would be 28 percent. The current top marginal rate, applying to taxable income over approximately \$450,000 for joint filers, is 39.6 percent.

Four important tax benefits remain: the charitable contribution deduction, the state and local tax deduction, health and retirement benefits, and the mortgage interest deduction.

The act would also slice our corporate rate by more than half, to 17 percent.

Finally, the act would provide rebates to lower- and moderate-income families to counteract their consumption tax burden and to replace essential support programs like the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. Like the EITC and CTC, Individuals and families who do not have an income tax liability would still be able to receive these rebates.

A key part of the act is progressivity. By eliminating an income tax liability for a significant number of households and providing rebates, the act is meant to be at least as progressive as the current system.

The act is also meant to responsibly raise reasonable revenues. I know that some have concerns that the act would just provide a new lever for the government to raise funds. That is why the act contains a revenue “circuit breaker” mechanism that returns excess PCT revenues to taxpayers if a certain threshold is met. The PCT is not meant to be a means to quickly raise revenues while disregarding the effects of higher consumption taxes on U.S. families and employers.

Overall, the Progressive Consumption Tax Act has many advantages compared to past reform efforts.

First, it encourages saving. Under current law, families and individuals are taxed on income, which includes savings. Under the act, most households would be exempt from the income tax, and thus would be able to save tax free.

The act enhances U.S. economic competitiveness. The U.S. corporate income tax rate would be lowered to 17 percent, encouraging multinational corporations to locate here, not abroad. OECD countries currently attracting U.S. multinationals often impose higher consumption or corporate tax rates than those envisioned by the act.

In fact, if the Progressive Consumption Tax Act became law, every top statutory rate in the United States—our individual income tax rate, our corporate tax rate, our consumption tax rate—would be at least five percentage points lower than the OECD average.

The act encourages economic growth. In a study that examined 35 years of data on 21 OECD countries, consumption taxes were found to be more growth-friendly than both personal income taxes and corporate income taxes. Corporate income taxes, especially, appear to have the most negative effect on GDP per capita. Growth-oriented tax reform should move away from income tax revenues and towards consumption tax revenues, as the act does.

The act also enhances U.S. trade competitiveness. Countries with consumption taxes can adjust their taxes at the border by rebating exports. That means that these countries can agree to reduced tariffs under trade agreements, can still tax imports with their consumption taxes, and can export their own goods without a full tax load. Because the PCT is border-adjusted, the U.S. would be able to maintain export and import tax parity in the same way as these other countries. In addition, the PCT is designed to achieve these benefits while being compliant with WTO rules.

The act reduces income tax compliance costs. Most households would not have an income tax liability under the act—although they would need to provide key pieces of information to the IRS in order to obtain their rebates.

Finally, the act protects low- and middle-income families from an unfair tax burden. Through the income tax exemption and rebate feature, the Progressive Consumption Tax Act aims to ensure that this new tax system is at least as progressive as the current income tax system.

When my colleagues and others talk to me about comprehensive, responsible, pro-growth tax reform, this to me is what we need to do.

That is why I am pleased to reintroduce the Progressive Consumption Tax Act in this Congress. This newest version of the act responds to input from stakeholders that we received last year. As important, the act shows exactly what serious, comprehensive consumption-based tax reform legislation looks like.

As this Congress closes and the new Congress convenes, I hope we will stand for what is right in our tax code, and enact the type of reform that allows our country to have among the lowest tax rates in the industrialized world, and the fairest system for all Americans.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5139. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

SA 5140. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5139 proposed

by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 2028, supra.

SA 5141. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2028, supra.

SA 5142. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5141 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 2028, supra.

SA 5143. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5142 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 5141 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 2028, supra.

SA 5144. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”.

SA 5145. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5144 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 612, supra.

SA 5146. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 612, supra.

SA 5147. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5146 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 612, supra.

SA 5148. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5147 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 5146 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 612, supra.

SA 5149. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 612, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5150. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5139. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following:
“This act shall be effective 1 day after enactment.”

SA 5140. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5139 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”.

SA 5141. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following:
“This act shall be effective 3 days after enactment.”

SA 5142. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5141

proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”.

SA 5143. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5142 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 5141 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “4” and insert “5”.

SA 5144. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; as follows:

At the end add the following:
“This act shall be effective 1 day after enactment.”

SA 5145. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5144 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; as follows:

Strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”.

SA 5146. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; as follows:

At the end add the following:
“This act shall be effective 3 days after enactment.”

SA 5147. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5146 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”.

SA 5148. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5147 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 5146 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; as follows:

Strike “4” and insert “5”.

SA 5149. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted

an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 2113 and insert the following:

SEC. 2113. TAXPAYER-PRODUCED IRON AND STEEL IN PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS.

Section 1452(a) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(4) REQUIREMENT FOR THE USE OF AMERICAN MATERIALS.—

"(A) DEFINITION OF IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS.—In this paragraph, the term 'iron and steel products' means the following products made, in part, of iron or steel:

- "(i) Lined or unlined pipe and fittings.
- "(ii) Manhole covers and other municipal castings.
- "(iii) Hydrants.
- "(iv) Tanks.
- "(v) Flanges.
- "(vi) Pipe clamps and restraints.
- "(vii) Valves.
- "(viii) Structural steel.
- "(ix) Reinforced precast concrete.
- "(x) Construction materials.

"(B) REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in subparagraph (C), none of the funds made available by a State loan fund authorized under this section shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system unless all the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.

"(C) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (B) shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator finds that—

- "(i) applying subparagraph (B) would be inconsistent with the public interest;
- "(ii) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or
- "(iii) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

"(D) PUBLIC NOTICE; WRITTEN JUSTIFICATION.—

"(i) PUBLIC NOTICE.—If the Administrator receives a request for a waiver under this paragraph, the Administrator shall—

"(I) make available to the public on an informal basis, including on the public website of the Administrator—

- "(aa) a copy of the request; and
- "(bb) any information available to the Administrator regarding the request; and

"(II) provide notice of, and opportunity for informal public comment on, the request for a period of not less than 15 days before making a finding under subparagraph (C).

"(ii) WRITTEN JUSTIFICATION.—If, after the period provided under clause (i), the Administrator makes a finding under subparagraph (C), the Administrator shall publish in the Federal Register a detailed written justification as to why subparagraph (B) is being waived.

"(E) APPLICATION.—This paragraph shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

"(F) MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT.—The Administrator may use not more than 0.25

percent of any funds made available to carry out this title for management and oversight of the requirements of this paragraph."

SA 5150. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. NO BUDGET NO PAY.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "No Budget, No Pay Act".

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "Member of Congress"—

- (1) has the meaning given under section 2106 of title 5, United States Code; and
- (2) does not include the Vice President.

(c) TIMELY APPROVAL OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.—If both Houses of Congress have not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget as described under section 301 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632) for a fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year and have not passed all the regular appropriations bills for the next fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year, the pay of each Member of Congress may not be paid for each day following that October 1 until the date on which both Houses of Congress approve a concurrent resolution on the budget for that fiscal year and all the regular appropriations bills.

(d) NO PAY WITHOUT CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds may be appropriated or otherwise be made available from the United States Treasury for the pay of any Member of Congress during any period determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under subsection (e).

(2) NO RETROACTIVE PAY.—A Member of Congress may not receive pay for any period determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under subsection (e), at any time after the end of that period.

(e) DETERMINATIONS.—

(1) SENATE.—

(A) REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.—On October 1 of each year, the Secretary of the Senate shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate for certification of determinations made under clause (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B).

(B) DETERMINATIONS.—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate shall—

- (i) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with subsection (c) and whether Senators may not be paid under that subsection;
- (ii) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Senators may not be paid under subsection (c); and

(iii) provide timely certification of the determinations under clauses (i) and (ii) upon the request of the Secretary of the Senate.

(2) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(A) REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.—On October 1 of each year, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives for certification of determinations made under clause (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B).

(B) DETERMINATIONS.—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives shall—

(i) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with subsection (c) and whether Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under that subsection;

(ii) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under subsection (c); and

(iii) provide timely certification of the determinations under clauses (i) and (ii) upon the request of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply on and after the date on which the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress convenes.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID MANAGEMENT, INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS, AND BILATERAL INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "State Department and USAID Management Challenges and Opportunities for the Next Administration."

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Army defense fellow for Senator TOM UDALL, Mr. Shawn Brown, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 114th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ryan Bodge, my militarily liaison, be granted floor privileges for the rest of this weekend.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER
9, 2016

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Friday, December 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the

two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 2028.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:41 p.m., adjourned until Friday, December 9, 2016, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KELLY CRAVEN

HON. PAUL D. RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it was thanks to an incredible stroke of good luck that, when I became speaker, I inherited an exceptionally talented director of House operations: the one and only Kelly Craven. I don't know what I would have done without her. First of all, she knows every nook and cranny of the building, which came in handy when she oversaw the first renovation of the Capitol dome in over 50 years. But more important than that, she seems to know every single person who works here. From working closely with House officers to helping up-and-coming staffers find the right job, she treats everyone with the same kindhearted respect—and she has a tireless work ethic to boot.

But it shouldn't have been a surprise. Kelly has worked long and hard at building up this institution into the House we know and love. She started as a chief of staff to Rep. Steve Buyer and later served as deputy staff director of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. She then became assistant director of the House Office of Interparliamentary Affairs and after that, staff director of the House Administration Committee. She rose through the ranks and it's not hard to see why. Kelly is simply first-rate. I know she also once served as a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force—which is in and of itself an impressive achievement. But thanks to her many years of dedication to the House of Representatives, we're claiming her as the legislative branch's own. You might say we consider her congressional timber.

It is hard to say goodbye to such a wonderful member of our team, but all of us know Kelly will continue her legacy of public service in the next chapter of her life. We wish her all the best, and on behalf of the members and staff, we extend our many heartfelt thanks to the great Kelly Craven.

THE MOST TRUSTED NEWSMAN IN HOUSTON: DAVE WARD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Dave Ward is your father, brother, trusted friend. If you're from Houston, he's been with you most, if not all, of your life. He's the person the city turns to when they need straight talk, or when they want the no-spin facts, in times of national tragedy, or when they want to relish the success of the country's most diverse city. The longest running TV anchor in history will close

his last 6 p.m. newscast on KTRK Channel 13 tomorrow. He will move on from the only TV station he's ever worked for and he's still at the top of his game.

This year he marked the 50th anniversary of his first day on the job at KTRK Channel 13. It's the longest run at the same TV station, according to Guinness World Records. He arrived at Channel 13 in the 1960s and took the station from third place to the top of the ratings into the 70s and beyond for the next 45 years. Dave joined KTRK-TV in 1966 as an on-the-street reporter and photographer. The next year he was assigned to anchor Channel 13's weekday 7 am newscast. In 1968, Dave was assigned to anchor the weekday 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscasts where he has remained one of Houston's most experienced news professionals.

Born in Dallas and raised in Huntsville, Dave's broadcast career began in radio with KGKB in Tyler. Then to WACO radio in Waco, Texas, then a stop in Houston and KNUZ/KQUE. He started out as a reporter known for his grit and determination and for talking directly to Houstonians to see what they're thinking.

During his career with 13 Eyewitness News, Dave has reported on everything from presidential elections to space walks, and even the Vietnam Peace Talks. He's covered fires, explosions, earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes throughout Texas and the region. He's interviewed heads of state and traveled to Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua, and Colombia on numerous stories. He's also covered several national political conventions and worked extensively with NASA on *Mercury*, *Gemini*, *Apollo* and shuttle missions. Dave also landed a special one-on-one interview with President Barack Obama. In 2007, Dave was awarded an Emmy and the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award in Broadcast Emmys presented by the Lone Star Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

In addition to his extraordinary broadcast career, I will always remember Dave for his role in the establishment of Houston Crime Stoppers, which has become the model of excellence for similar programs across the nation. As a judge on the bench during this time, I remember his iconic tagline, "Crime Stoppers will pay a one thousand dollar cash reward this week for information leading to the arrest and grand jury indictment of the person responsible" and that it led to thousands of tips coming into the Crime Stoppers hotline, hundreds of thousands of dollars in rewards, and millions in recovered property. Just a day after celebrating his 50th anniversary on air, the first-in-the-nation Dave Ward Crime Stoppers Headquarters broke ground in Houston. The new facility will be the cornerstone of Houston's first Public Safety and Crime Prevention Block.

When asked to reflect on his career, Dave told his colleagues at KTRK, "I am very proud

of my work here at Channel 13 over the past 50 years. I will always cherish having witnessed firsthand the transformation of this great city," said Mr. Ward. "I leave Channel 13 with a lifetime's worth of memories, having reported on some of Houston's greatest moments of triumph and tragedy, including the Moon landing in 1969, the first and last space shuttle launches and many in between, and the recovery efforts following Hurricane Ike in 2008. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to my loyal viewers, my friends, without whom my extensive career would not have been possible. My 50 year tenure at Channel 13 represents the hallmark of my career, and I look forward to the next chapter."

We look forward to Dave's next chapter too. Today in his trademark down-to-earth style, we will hear Dave begin the 6 p.m. newscast with "Good evening, friends," for the last time. We will say goodnight to the most trusted newsman in Houston.

And that's just the way it is.

CELEBRATING INDIANA'S BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the State of Indiana's Bicentennial Anniversary. 200 years ago, on December 11, 1816, our great state was admitted to be a part of the United States of America, and I am so proud to call Indiana and its Northwest region my home.

I believe that Northwest Indiana is the best place in the world to live, work, visit, study, and raise a family, and it is an honor and privilege to represent this area on the 200th Birthday of our state. I also want to thank my Indiana colleagues for establishing the time today to discuss this historic event. It is always a privilege to be able to work with you, along with Senator COATS and Senator DONNELLY, on behalf of the issues that impact our great state.

Our state and our region have a rich history in agriculture production, and in addition to the value of Indiana land, I believe that people have been drawn to Northwest Indiana because of the pristine beauty of our lakeshore and the Lake Michigan water. We are so fortunate to be situated along the largest body of fresh water on the planet. For 200 years, our shoreline has been an invaluable natural asset that has attracted people and has driven economic opportunities, and I have no doubt that it will continue to do so for the next 200 years and beyond.

We also are fortunate that over a hundred years ago, businesses saw the value in the Northwest region of Indiana and decided to

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

make investments to create unprecedented steel mills and oil refineries. It is because of these investments in Northwest Indiana that our steelworkers and steel mills are able to currently make the best and most efficient steel in the world. No other area of our country makes more steel than Northwest Indiana. Steel is the foundation of our economy, our national defense, and is essential for our transportation infrastructure. It has been an economic engine for our state this past century and we must continue to work to see that our industrial base and Indiana manufacturing continue to power us forward in future centuries.

Finally, I am proud of all the hardworking people in Northwest Indiana and our state and the contributions that they have provided to our nation over the past 200 years. They have built transportation infrastructure in our state that connects rail, road, and waterway systems that traverse our nation. Our airports and ports along Lake Michigan serve as gateways to connect people and economic activity within our state to the rest of the world. Our Indiana National Guard servicemembers have also selflessly protected us every day of our past 200 years, including during the Civil War and the over 17,000 servicemembers who have been deployed overseas since September 11, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me now in celebrating the vibrant history of Indiana's steel and manufacturing industries, our unparalleled natural resources, and our industrious and courageous people, by wishing Indiana a very happy 200th Birthday.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF GARY S.
BORDERS

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere appreciation that I recognize Lake County Sheriff Gary S. Borders for his leadership and service to Lake County. After more than 36 years of service, Sheriff Borders will retire at the end of his term in January.

Sheriff Borders began his law enforcement career with the Osceola County Sheriff's Office in 1980, and received his Corrections Officer Certification through the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission one year later. At the age of 24, he was selected as the Assistant Jail Administrator.

Sheriff Borders came to the Lake County Sheriff's Office in 1989 where he served as the Major and Chief Deputy in the Criminal Justice Operations Bureau until he was appointed Sheriff of Lake County in 2006 by Governor Bush. During his tenure, Sheriff Borders developed the agency's first cybercrimes unit and street crimes unit. The agency became accredited for the first time in 2007, and has subsequently been awarded re-accreditations.

Sheriff Borders has been a dedicated servant to our community throughout his 36-year law enforcement career. Sheriff Borders' re-

markable service has also been recognized on the state level. He was honored as the 2008 Florida DARE Sheriff of the Year, Golden Eagle Honoree by the Boy Scouts of America Central Florida Council, and the 2010 Lake County Community Service Award in 2010. He volunteers on several boards including the Lake-Sumter Community College Foundation, Educational Foundation of Lake County, Crimeline Board of Directors, United Way Board of Directors, and Institute of Public Safety Advisory Board.

I am honored to recognize Sheriff Borders, and thank him for his hard work and many contributions to the Central Florida community. His commitment to excellence, leadership and service is to be admired, and may it inspire others to follow in his footsteps. My sincerest wishes and congratulations to Sheriff Borders and his family on his retirement.

HONORING 2017 RHODES SCHOLAR
LAUREN JACKSON

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lauren Jackson, who became one of 32 American students to be named as a 2017 Rhodes Scholar to the University of Oxford in England.

A 2013 graduate of Pulaski Academy in Little Rock, Lauren became the first Arkansan to be named a Rhodes Scholar since 2003.

She received a full merit scholarship to the University of Virginia (UVA) and a \$20,000 Jefferson Public Citizens research grant to study post-traumatic stress syndrome in post-genocide Rwanda.

Currently a senior at the University of Virginia, Lauren is completing a bachelor's degree in political and social thought with the plan to pursue master's degrees in both global governance and diplomacy and refugee and forced migration studies at Oxford.

While at the University of Virginia, Lauren has been on track to pursue her goal of a career in journalism, writing as a columnist for the Cavalier Daily while serving as creative director for V Magazine and president of the Latter-Day Saint Student Association.

On behalf of all Arkansans, congratulations, and we look forward to following your continued success.

CONGRATULATING RONALD LYNN

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ronald L. Lynn and commend him on 35 years of service to the State of Nevada as Director and Chief Building and Fire Official of the Clark County Department of Building and Fire Prevention. Mr. Lynn retired from his post on August 5, 2016, after serving the greater Las Vegas area since 1981.

Mr. Lynn's professional accomplishments range from local to international. He has served in multiple roles at the International Code Council (ICC), including President of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Major Jurisdiction Committee which represents the interests of cities and enforcement agencies throughout the country.

Mr. Lynn also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Accreditation Service and is currently on the Board of Managers for the International Evaluation Services, both subsidiaries of the ICC.

In addition, he serves as chairman of multiple organizations: the McCarran Airport Hazards Area Board of Adjustment; the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council; and the Western States Seismic Policy Council's Architecture, Engineering and Construction Committee. He is a member of the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee and the Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology Advisory Committee. Mr. Lynn was also appointed to the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction (ACEHR) by the National Institute of Standards & Technology. The congressionally authorized National Institute of Building Sciences has also appointed him to the Building Seismic Safety Council.

In 2009, Mr. Lynn was recognized by the United States Congress for his contributions to the building safety community; and in 2010, he received a U.S. Senate commendation for his commitment to building safety, energy conservation, and emergency response. Additionally, Governor Brian Sandoval of Nevada declared December 9, 2010, as Ronald L. Lynn Day.

In 2012, Mr. Lynn received the Ron H. Brown Standards Leadership Award, named after the late Secretary of Commerce, in recognition of his commitment to the U.S. standardization system and conformity assessment community. He was the first code official to receive this award. As an active contributor to the development of national voluntary consensus codes and systems and as a leader in the construction industry, Mr. Lynn helped promote the important role of standardization in international trade agreements.

In 2014, Mr. Lynn received the Community Achievement Award from the Asian American Group (AAG), the Government Person of the Year Award from the International Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), and the Western States Seismic Policy Council Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2015 he received the International Code Council's highest award, the prestigious Bobby J. Fowler Award, for his career spent leading the building safety industry.

I am proud to recognize this exceptional Nevadan and thank him for his commitment to the people of Nevada and the entire United States. I first met Ron through my father Joe Titus who was Director of Building and Safety for the City of Henderson, Nevada, and often heard him testify on important safety issues during my time in the State Senate. I wish him and his wife, Denise, all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING CHARLIE BARRA

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON today in recognition of Charlie Barra and his exceptional community service on the occasion of his 90th birthday on December 12, 2016.

Born in Calpella, California in 1926 to Italian immigrants, both from generational wine growing families, Charlie Barra and his two brothers spent their young teen years working in their father Antonio's vineyard. In 1945, when Charlie was a junior in high school, he leased a ranch from one of his old Italian neighbors, beginning his long and successful independent career in viticulture.

In 1955, Charlie purchased the 175-acre Redwood Valley Vineyards located at the headwaters of the Russian River. At the time, most growers were farming "standard" grapes that were used by the major wine producers to make basic table wines. Charlie worked with pioneers of the industry and began moving to a varietal-focused vineyard. He was one of the first growers on the North Coast to plant Chardonnay, Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Pinot Noir.

As a true steward of the land, Charlie converted all his vineyards to organic grapes in 1989. In 1997, after a downturn in the grape market, Charlie and his wife Martha began BARRA of Mendocino Winery, specializing in premium wines. He was honored by Slow Foods San Francisco as a pioneer for organic farming in the United States in 2011. To this day, Charlie Barra prides himself on never having missed a harvest.

Throughout his life, Charlie Barra has been an active member of the community. He was a founding member of the California North Coast Grape Growers association and served on its board for 41 years. Charlie was appointed to the Mendocino County Planning commission in 1965 and again in 1975, and Governor Ronald Reagan appointed him to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in 1968.

Charlie Barra's legacy is one of stewardship of the land, economic development and community service to Mendocino County. Please join us in congratulating him on his 90th birthday and expressing our deep appreciation for his long and exceptional life and outstanding contributions to our local economy.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
ERIC SPIEGEL**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Youngstown, Ohio, native Eric Spiegel, CEO of Siemens USA, and congratulate him on his retirement. Mr. Spiegel has worked at Siemens for seven years, where he has

been able to grow the company and further its reputation within the United States. As CEO he has shown tremendous leadership as he contributed to our country's economic, manufacturing, and innovation engines.

While serving as President and CEO of Siemens USA, Mr. Spiegel focused on electrification, automation, and digitalization. Siemens USA is represented in all 50 states.

Before joining the Siemens USA team, Mr. Spiegel gained 25 years of experience working with many complex organizations during his time in the consulting field and served as the Managing Director of Booz Allen Hamilton International from 1999–2003, while living in Tokyo. Mr. Spiegel managed the firm's business in Asia, Latin America, and in the Middle East in his role as Managing Director. Mr. Spiegel was a member of the Board of Directors for Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc. and remained a senior partner of Booz & Company's Global Energy, Chemicals and Power until taking on his position at Siemens USA.

Before Mr. Spiegel began his successful career, he earned an MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College and an A.B. with Honors in Economics from Harvard University. He remains a member of The Board of Overseers at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business.

Mr. Spiegel has given back to the Washington, DC communities in many ways, one being his dedication to Ford's Theatre as a member of its Executive Committee. Mr. Spiegel's accomplishments are many; including his position as a member of the Business Roundtable, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Electrification Coalition.

I wish Mr. Spiegel a happy retirement, and will continue to admire his accomplished career.

REMEMBERING JOHN LIGNELLI'S
LIFETIME OF SERVICE**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a dedicated public servant, John Lignelli. "Chummy," as his friends knew him, passed away on Thursday, December 1st at the age of 95.

John was known best as the longtime hard working mayor of Donora, Pennsylvania, but John was no stranger to hard work and public service before being elected mayor. He attended Monongahela High School before he joined the Navy to serve his country during World War II. After the war, he returned to Western Pennsylvania to work in a steel mill. Before being elected to his first term as mayor of Donora in 1993, John served on the city's council and was a 50-year member of the Donora Fire Department.

In 2013, the citizens of Donora elected John Lignelli to his sixth term as their mayor. As mayor, John was a true public servant to his beloved Donora. He organized an annual cashew sale to raise money for a new local library. He sold raffle tickets to purchase a new police cruiser after the only one they had

broke down. Countless times he would open his own wallet if it meant improving the quality of life for Donora residents. He was chairman of the Washington County Housing Authority, where he fought to construct a senior citizen high-rise in Monongahela. Into his 90s, he still volunteered for Meals on Wheels and helped transport residents with special needs to services in nearby Charleroi. John was always searching for new opportunities to help his neighbors. In September of 2014, Mayor Lignelli decided to retire at the age of 93, capping off his four decades of service to the people of Donora and the Monongahela Valley.

Those who knew Chummy know his true passion was helping his community. I want to honor Mayor Lignelli for his decades of dedication to public service, doing everything in his power to help his community. Mr. Speaker, Donora, Pennsylvania is known as the City of Champions, and they have lost a true champion of public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on December 5, 2016, I missed two recorded votes on the House floor due to a family illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 602 and YEA on Roll Call 603.

IN RECOGNITION OF MEGAN JACKSON'S SERVICE TO KENTUCKY'S
SECOND DISTRICT**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my sincere thanks to Megan Spindel Jackson, my Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director, who will be moving on from my office at the end of this year. Megan has been an essential part of my office since I came to Congress, and she will be missed.

Megan grew up in Hawesville, Kentucky, where her parents are still active in the community. Her mother was a public school teacher and principal in Hawesville for more than 40 years. Inspired by a call to serve her community, Megan moved to Washington, D.C. after graduating from Centre College in 2002 to serve my predecessor. She has been dedicated to the Second District of Kentucky ever since then.

I first met Megan in 2008, when she moved back to Kentucky to help me with my first campaign. Even though she had never met me before, she was dedicated to the campaign from day one. When I won, she was one of the first people I hired to work in my D.C. office.

Megan has been an integral part of my legislative operation since I was elected, and has selflessly worked to better the lives of countless Kentuckians. I cannot thank her enough

for her years of service. Though I will miss her, I wish her, her husband Kyle, and their son Henry the best of luck as they start the next chapter of their lives.

HONORING ROGER AND SUE FOX

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roger and Sue Fox and their retirement from the Oswego County Pioneer Search and Rescue Team. Roger and Sue became members of the Oswego County Pioneer Search and Rescue Team in 1994; Roger went on to serve as Director for more than ten years.

Oswego County Pioneer Search and Rescue is a first tier response agency that works with law enforcement to seek out those that are lost or stuck in hazardous conditions. Together, Sue and Roger have generously volunteered their time over the years to search for missing persons in Oswego County and throughout New York State. Roger and Sue Fox are fully trained in search and rescue techniques, land navigation, first aid, as well as survival methods. Roger and Sue are both trained in National Incident Management Systems procedures and are certified Wild Land Search Crew Bosses. Roger and Sue have dedicated many years to the Oswego County Pioneer Search and Rescue team and have served their community honorably.

Outside of the Oswego County Pioneer Search and Rescue Team, Roger and Sue have served their country and their community faithfully. Roger is a 1974 graduate of the United States Naval Academy and served ten years in the Navy as a helicopter pilot, specializing in search and rescue and anti-submarine warfare. Roger and Sue were both members of the Parish Fire Department; Roger served as Chief, and Sue as a volunteer EMT. Roger served as Chairman of the New York State Federation of Search and Rescue and was an instructor for the National Association for Search and Rescue. Sue taught at the Town of Parish elementary school and was a local Girl Scout Council Leader.

I am honored to recognize Roger and Sue Fox for their lifelong commitment to public service and their dedication to our local community. On behalf of the entire Central New York community, I would like to thank Roger and Sue for their dedication to serving our local community and I wish them the very best in their retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF DALE E.
KIMBLE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dale E. Kimble, Chief Executive Officer of DATCU, as he retires after nearly forty

years in the financial services sector and also for his tireless community service in Denton County.

Since joining DATCU in 2001, Mr. Kimble has dynamically led the Credit Union to double digit growth, increasing the assets of the institution from \$180 million to \$868 million and more than doubling the membership of the Credit Union from 40,000 to over 88,000 members. Under his leadership, DATCU recently completed their construction and relocation of its core operations to the new 52,000 square foot Corinth headquarters, providing much needed support for their growing assets and membership. During his tenure, DATCU has expanded the number of Denton County branch locations from four to ten.

Through this tremendous growth, Mr. Kimble has ensured the financial stability of the organization, recently ranked 7th best performing large credit union in 2012 by SNL Financial. DATCU has had consistent recognition as a five-star rated institution by Bauer Financial and recognition by IDC Financial Publishing as one of the few credit unions to achieve a perfect score of 300, accomplished in both 2010 and 2011. In addition, Deposit Accounts.com has named DATCU a "Top 200" of the approximate 6,500 credit unions in the country. Mr. Kimble's effective leadership has also ensured that the growing number of members has been served by a strong and loyal employee base, evidenced by DATCU's ranking by Texas Monthly as the 2nd Best Place to Work in Texas in 2009 and 2010, as 4th best place in 2013 and 2014 and 17th in 2015. This recognition resulted from nominations by the credit union's own employees.

Service to his community has also been a hallmark for Mr. Kimble and his wife, Pamela. In 2007, he and his wife were named as joint recipients of the Boy Scouts of America-Denton Distinguished Citizens Award. In 2009, they were again jointly honored by Health Services of North Texas' Hearts and Heroes with the "Founders Award." Mr. Kimble has also served in multiple North Texas community organizations, including his role as the inaugural Chairman of the Board for Serve Denton, Board Chairman of Denton Regional Medical Center, Health Services of North Texas, and the Denton Rotary Club.

I am pleased to honor Mr. Kimble for his years of dedicated work and service to his profession and community and wish him as much success in his retirement as he has had in his career. It is a privilege to represent Mr. Kimble, his family and DATCU in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING JOHN KIMPEL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause on Pearl Harbor Day to recognize John Kimpel, a native of the Kansas City area and a veteran of World War II.

Mr. Kimpel served in the 44th Armored Infantry Division in the European theater, where he received the Purple Heart after being

wounded by a German shell on March 3, 1945. Mr. Kimpel received shrapnel wounds in his arm and both legs, which required almost two years' worth of therapy and rehabilitation to recover from. After receiving his discharge, Mr. Kimpel worked for a short time at the General Motors plant in Fairfax, Kansas, followed by a long career maintaining buses and equipment for the Shawnee Mission School District and the Kenneth Smith Golf Company. When many would have sought out a quiet retirement, Mr. Kimpel continued to volunteer at the Johnson County Christmas Bureau for 25 years, crafting many pieces for their Christmas displays.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, his friends, and his family in recognizing John Kimpel for his accomplishments and his service to his country and his community.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF JULIE HARWOOD

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Julie Harwood. Julie has dedicated her career to public service, serving constituents in Idaho for 23 years, 3 months and 2 days.

Julie began her career with Senator James McClure, a man who served our great state well and one whom I've always admired. She has worked for Senator Dirk Kempthorne, before I was lucky enough to have her join my team on August 1, 2003.

There are people who call our office and will only talk to Julie. She treats people with kindness, respect and always helps them find the answer they are seeking—which is often not an easy task.

Over the years, Julie has touched so many lives, it is impossible to name them all. However, Kathy, myself, and my entire staff will miss her greatly.

Congratulations Julie. I have a feeling you will be busy, but I hope you are not a stranger and please know you will always be part of Team SIMPSON.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call 608. I would have voted "Aye" on Roll Call 608 had I been there.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote Number 613 on

H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act of 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING ASHER WEINBAUM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Asher Weinbaum. Asher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Asher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Asher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Asher has led his troop as the Patrol Leader and Quartermaster. Asher has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Asher constructed a 160 foot path for Immacolata Manor in Liberty, Missouri, providing a safe walkway for the home for women with developmental disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Asher Weinbaum for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING RAMSAY HIGH SCHOOL IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA ON ITS FIRST STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Ramsay High School Rams 2016 Football Team for winning the Alabama High School Athletic Association's Class 6A state football championship on Friday, December 2, 2016.

The Rams defeated the Opelika Bulldogs 21–16, which gave Ramsay its first state football championship ever and the first for a Birmingham City School since another area high school won back to back state titles in 1972 and 1973.

Mr. Speaker, what makes this victory even more special is that Ramsay discontinued its football program after the 1976 season, and didn't resume the sport for 36 years until hiring its current coach, Rueben Nelson Jr., in the Spring of 2011.

The Rams officially returned to the field in 2012, suffering through a one-win season and two wins the following season. The program is without football lockers, a football stadium, and many of the amenities that often lead to success. Yet, the players and coaches have persevered, and have now reached the pinnacle of success.

Speaking to their accomplishment following the game, Coach Nelson stated, "God allowed me to put my hands in His hands and He would lead the way. It's not like I'm the head coach. He's the head coach and I'm just the servant. He allows me to work with kids."

The Rams were 13–2 this season, and were led by their left-handed, Senior quarterback Baniko Harley, who rushed for 158 yards on 21 carries and completed 8 of 18 passes for 132 yards and two scores in the winning effort.

I want to extend heartfelt congratulations to these outstanding players and Coach Nelson. We are very proud of the team, and I am confident these young men have bright futures ahead for them, and will look back proudly on their achievement.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of this team's outstanding achievement. May their efforts continue to yield great success in the years ahead.

CONGRATULATIONS ATTORNEY GENERAL SCOTT PRUITT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, President-elect Donald Trump selected Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt to serve as administrator of the Environment Protection Agency—yet another positive choice for the American people.

A recent article in the Wall Street Journal notes, "As the chief legal officer of a major oil and natural-gas producing state, Mr. Pruitt, a Republican, has led legal fights against some of President Barack Obama's most significant environmental rules, and one of his major roles as EPA administrator would likely be to roll back those regulations."

President-elect Trump stated that Attorney General Pruitt will, "restore the EPA's essential mission of keeping our air and our water clean and safe."

As the grateful father of South Carolina's Attorney General Alan Wilson, I know firsthand the tenacity and dedication to upholding the Constitution and protecting American families that state Attorneys General have. I look forward to Attorney General Pruitt's success in his new role, promoting limited government and expanded freedom.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MAYWOOD SENIORS CLUB

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Village of Maywood and the 250 seniors who with the Hon-

orable Mayor Edwina Perkins, Board of Trustees and the Honorable Village Clerk Viola Mims, and other dignitaries as they gather on Wednesday, December 14th at their 9th Annual Christmas Party and Dinner at Mariella's Banquet Hall. This event climaxes another year of engagement, fellowship, activities, information and healthy meals for the 250 members. During 2016, these 250 members had exercise sessions, visited Brookfield Zoo and the DuSable Museum of African American History, interacted with Promise East High School during Black History Month and benefitted from programs sponsored by the Secretary of State of Illinois and participated in a power of attorney workshop.

They also held weekly meetings, had a senior prom, outdoor jazz night and an R & B night.

I commend the Maywood Seniors Club and urge them to keep their spirits high.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ VALLE

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rafael Rodriguez Valle, a World War II veteran, entrepreneur, pastor, and late grandfather of my staff member Jose Rafael Rodriguez.

Rafael was a product of America's greatest generation. He grew up during the Great Depression in Puerto Rico and moved to New York City after his service in the U.S. Army during World War II. There he married the love of his life, Josefa, with whom he spent the rest of his life. He eventually returned to his beloved Puerto Rico to raise his family and open a flower shop. On his time off, Rafael volunteered as a neighborhood watchman and a pastor in his church. His hard work allowed him to provide a safe and happy home for his family, put his children through college, and enjoy a peaceful retirement with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Before his passing in 2011, he would reflect on his life's work saying that he was grateful because God allowed him to spend his life working around roses.

Jose describes his grandfather as his best friend and role model. Rafael taught Jose the values of hard work and service to God, family, and community. These are the values that inspire Jose to dedicate his life to public service and are the legacy he passes on to his children.

I am honored to recognize Rafael Rodriguez Valle for dedication to his family and service to the country.

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTHERN
LITERACY TOURISM INITIATIVE**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to challenge my colleagues to help promote the local economy of their districts in a new way: through the power of a story set in a real place. Our greatest resource in this nation has always been our people and their ability to unleash their talents in innovative ways that promote progress and prosperity. I recently witnessed one such innovation when I was invited to present a tourism fiction award in my district through the Southeastern Literary Tourism Initiative.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with tourism fiction, the concept is simple: write stories set in real places, stories that capture the imaginations and hearts of readers, and then invite those same readers to visit the places.

As my colleagues may know from their own districts, tourism is an economic driver that attracts welcomed spending on local attractions, hotels, restaurants, and other places that help drive local economies and provide jobs. If writers are already producing books and short stories, then why not ask them to set those stories in real places that their readers would love to visit?

That is exactly what an innovative writing contest did in my home district. The Southeastern Literary Tourism Initiative or SELTI, teamed up with the Selma Chamber of Commerce to challenge writers to compose a short story aimed at encouraging readers to visit the area. The 2016 winner of the contest, Charisa Hagel, wrote a powerful story that brought a local historical attraction to life through her fictional characters. At the end of the story, readers were invited to visit the real place, Kenan's Mill in Selma, Alabama, and literally step into the setting of Charisa's story. While there, they can also visit the National Voting Rights Museum and many other unique local attractions.

I will soon be honored to present Ms. Charisa Hagel, a student at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama, with the 2016 SELTI Tourism Fiction Award at Kenan's Mill in Selma. The attraction Ms. Hagel wrote about in the Selma contest is not well known outside the local area, but now anyone with internet access can read about it through her story. How many attractions in your districts deserve to be written about and promoted in the same way?

As a legislative body, we often differ on our views for creating economic opportunity in the country. However, I feel that we can all agree that we want writers in our districts that can help tell the history of those areas through engaging stories with characters who win the hearts of readers, while also bringing in new tourism dollars.

IN HONOR OF JESUS "JACK"
TERRAZAS**HON. JUAN VARGAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Imperial County Supervisor Jesus "Jack" Terrazas who is retiring from public service. Supervisor Terrazas graduated from San Diego State University-Imperial Valley Campus and is a licensed Life, Health, Fire and Casualty Insurance Broker. He was elected to the Imperial County Board of Supervisors in June of 2008. Supervisor Terrazas represents the communities of Heber, El Centro, and Ocotillo and is serving his second term.

Supervisor Terrazas currently serves as Chairman of the Board and is a Board representative on the Imperial County Employees Retirement System, the Imperial County Transportation Commission, the Southern California Association of Governments, the Local Transportation Authority, and the Service Authorities for Freeway Emergencies. Supervisor Terrazas is also an alternate for the Local Area Formation Commission and California State Association of Counties. Prior to being elected to the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Terrazas served three terms as an El Centro City Councilmember where he was appointed Mayor three times. In addition, Supervisor Terrazas served as a member of the El Centro Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees for eleven years and on the Board of Directors of the Imperial County Work Training Center.

During his years of public service, Supervisor Terrazas contributions to the community have been numerous. He was committed to the completion of numerous projects including, the improvement of roads, sidewalks, and public facilities in the Heber community. Supervisor Terrazas also supported a variety of housing programs such as, the First Time Home Buyer program, the Cal Home Program, and the Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehab Program which helped to assist families to repair and replace damaged and dilapidated homes. Supervisor Terrazas was also committed to protecting water in his community and launched a study to determine the condition and capabilities of the current meter systems. All his hard work and dedication was acknowledged in 2015 when Supervisor Terrazas was recognized with the Sure Helpline Crisis Center 2015 and Inspirational People of the Community Awards.

Supervisor Terrazas worked tirelessly to advance community and economic development in Imperial County through the growth of a robust renewable energy industry. He helped keep the county fiscally sound while preserving jobs, improving service quality, and advocating for Imperial County at the state and federal level. Supervisor Terrazas has four grown children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren and currently resides in El Centro with his wife of over forty years, Frances.

TRIBUTE TO THE AFRICAN
SERVICES COMMITTEE**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor African Services Committee, Inc. for their many years of selfless and compassionate service to the African community, and all of our community's residents.

Founded in 1981 by Ethiopian refugees to give a helping hand to other newcomers, today African Services is a multiservice agency based in Harlem and dedicated to assisting immigrants, refugees and asylees from across the African Diaspora.

Their programs address the needs of newcomers affected by war, persecution, poverty, and global health inequalities. The agency provide health, housing, legal, educational, and social services to 12,500 people each year. Staff representing more than 20 countries and speaking over 25 languages provide culturally and linguistically relevant support to this diverse and growing community.

Expanding HIV prevention and access to AIDS treatment and care is central to their mission. African Services has taken this work from Harlem to the frontlines of the global pandemic and now operates five HIV clinics in Ethiopia.

African Services Committee was started in 1981 in a Bronx basement apartment by Asfaha Hadera. Asfaha arrived in the United States having experienced first-hand the realities of refugee life. Asfaha fled his home country of Ethiopia in 1977 for refugee camps in Sudan, before emigrating to the U.S. in 1979.

Upon arrival, he saw a lack of assistance for others, like himself, who were refugees from conflicted areas throughout Africa. So, he established the organization to give a helping hand to other African newcomers and, with Kim Nichols, began refugee resettlement programs in New York City. As immigration from the continent increased, their offices expanded to their current home in West Harlem, and African Services' priorities widened to include broader support services for African immigrants coming to the United States including, but not limited to: HIV/STD/TB/Hepatitis B and C testing, diabetes & blood pressure testing, legal services, immigration assistance, advocacy, and policy work.

The services have expanded to serve over 12,000 people each year in their Harlem location and continue to grow each year. Though they are based in Harlem, they primarily service the African community in the Bronx.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring African Services Committee, Inc. for their consistently remarkable dedication to servicing the African community.

URBAN AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly submit the Urban Agriculture Production Act of 2016.

Across America, too many urban neighborhoods are absent stores where community members can purchase fresh, healthy foods. More than 23 million individuals reside in these so called "food desert" neighborhoods, where no stores are located within one mile in which they can buy healthy food.

Without accessible healthy options, all that is available and affordable is unhealthy, processed, junk-food. The Urban Agriculture Production Act is a step to correct this unacceptable trend.

I am pleased to recognize and support the growing resurgence of locally grown and produced product happening across our great country. I see it in my own community at the Sustainable Local Foods and the Toledo Grows Community Garden.

Individuals, non-profits, and co-ops have stepped up to take action to address the challenge of access to healthy food, and developed local food sources and community gardens to provide fresh, affordable produce throughout underserved communities. Not only are they growing product to provide to communities, they are also engaging and encouraging community participation throughout the stages of growth and production.

They are reconnecting community members to Mother Earth and how to farm in the process.

As the ancient proverb says, "give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." And so goes my bill, the Urban Agriculture Production Act.

The measure will encourage economic development in underserved communities by furthering the mission of local farming. It provides programmatic funds to educate people on health and wellness, supports marketing and development networks, and will inspire communities to create self sufficient food production systems to stimulate community development and healthy eating options.

Throughout our urban and suburban communities there is an abundance of unused land and space conveniently located to neighborhoods that is ripe for agriculture development. We must support and encourage the means to development these plots so they become local sources of wholesome food options.

My bill will spur the development and expansion of community agriculture in nontraditional agricultural production areas across this great nation.

Mr. Speaker, urban and suburban farming and food production is a viable solution to support healthier dietary options and improve overall health of communities. The Urban Agriculture Production Act is the appropriate means to further develop alternative, more urban agricultural production and to help meet

all communities' food production needs of the future.

RECOGNIZING DREW KERIN

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated member of my staff, Mr. Drew Kerin, who will be retiring from my office at the end of the year.

Mr. Kerin began working in my Colorado District Office in 2010 after a long career teaching elementary school in Mexico, Texas, and Colorado. During his seven years in my office, he has served countless constituents with a smile and a caring spirit.

Drew is still a teacher at heart as he is able to share wonderful anecdotes from history, sports, and personal stories about former students that can quickly warm your heart. He is an avid sports fan, a dog lover, and someone both my staff and I are proud to call a friend.

I am grateful for Drew's tireless work on behalf of Colorado's Sixth Congressional District and I wish him all the best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL CARR

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rachel Carr, who has served as Counsel for the Subcommittee on Aviation for the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives, since I became Ranking Member in 2013. As a long-time Member of the Committee, I have had the pleasure of working with Rachel on numerous transportation issues, from railroads, pipelines, and hazardous materials safety to unmanned aircraft systems and efforts to defeat faulty legislative proposals to privatize the Air Traffic Control system. Her hard work and wise counsel have been invaluable to me and to many Members of the Committee, and I look forward to continuing to work with her as she embarks on a new endeavor.

Rachel is a long-time aviation lover. In a recent Congressional Quarterly article which featured key staff on Capitol Hill, Rachel reminisced about how she went to air shows as a child, and then studied engineering thinking she would get into a technical aspect of the industry, but after an internship at an airport, Rachel became intrigued with the policy side of transportation and, in particular, aviation. Indeed, Rachel began her career on Capitol Hill serving as Staff Assistant for the Full Committee in 1999 and, just a short time later, the Subcommittees on Aviation and Railroads, a foreshadowing of her accomplishments to come.

Rachel went on to serve as Manager of Legislative Affairs for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; an attorney at Coddington,

Hicks & Danforth in Redwood City, California; and then, in 2009, Counsel for the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials for the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. In that role, she helped lead efforts to investigate the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, which resulted in numerous improvements to the Department of Transportation's hazardous materials safety program. She also played a key role in defeating Republican efforts to privatize Amtrak, our national passenger rail system before landing on the Aviation Subcommittee.

Rachel's understanding of complex transportation safety issues has been an asset to the Committee for over a decade. Rachel was instrumental in drafting significant pieces of legislation including H.R. 4441, the "Aviation Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization Act of 2016"; An Act to allow the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to enter into reimbursable agreements for certain airport projects (P.L. 114-); and the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (P.L. 114-190). The latter legislation includes provisions that will substantially improve aviation safety and accommodate an emerging group of new airspace users who operate unmanned aircraft.

Last month, Rachel was appointed Federal Policy Advisor for the Denver International Airport. Her expertise and counsel will be truly missed.

I join my colleagues on the Transportation Committee in wishing Rachel and her dog, Sasha, all the best in her new endeavor.

RECOGNIZING KERVEN W.
CARTER, JR.

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. Kerven W. Carter Jr., a cherished Stop Six educator and beloved member of the Fort Worth community, who was laid to rest on October 25, 2016.

Kerven Wyncelar Carter was born on October 15, 1922 in Wortham, Texas. His family eventually relocated to Fort Worth, Texas where he ultimately graduated from the historic I.M. Terrell High School. Following his high school graduation, Mr. Carter earned a bachelor's degree from Wiley College and continued his education at the University of Denver, University of Southern California and University of Wyoming.

In addition to demonstrating a commitment to furthering his own education, Mr. Carter was a distinguished educator in his own right. He served as a professor at Wiley College and worked in various capacities at the Fort Worth Independent School District. Mr. Carter ended his career in education working in administration and teacher appraisal work and was later recognized for his commitment to education when he was selected as an honoree by Tarrant County Community College during the dedication of its Opportunity Center Resource.

Mr. Carter was also dedicated to serving his community outside of the classroom. He served as Deacon and Chairman of Finance and Superintendent in the Youth Sunday School at his church. Additionally, he was a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. for more than 75 years and co-founded the Texas Council of Alpha chapters. He was a president of the Texan Christian University chapter of Phi Delta Kappa International Education Fraternity, co-founder of the Texas State Teacher's Association, and a Master Prince Hall Mason, where he served as Grand Treasurer and Grand Worshipful Master

CONGRATULATING THE CULVER CITY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the Culver City High School Girls Varsity Volleyball Team.

Under the leadership of Coach Tanner Siegal and Assistant Coach Eriko Gambol, for the first time in Culver City High School (CCHS) history, the Girls Varsity Volleyball team, the Lady Centaurs, has won the 2016 California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Division 5 Championship.

I salute the team members for the enthusiasm and competitive play that won the team and the school this distinction: Octavia Mott-Collins, Megan Shimoda, Alyssa Hernandez, Katrina McCoy, Jessica Stewart, Carmen Reyna, Destiny Padilla, Jayli Nealy, Haien Anderson, Sonya Allen, Sarah Miller, Neusha Parsa, McKenna Stevens, Lena Johnson, Layla Grant Lauren Tishkoff, Krista Hernandez.

I would also like to recognize the many people who dedicated time and energy to the team's success: first and foremost, the team members' parents and guardians; Dr. Joshua Arnold, Culver City Superintendent of Education; Dr. Lisa Cooper, CCHS Principal; DuBois McMillan, Assistant Principal for Athletics; Tom Salter, Athletic Director; and last but not least, the Culver City High School Band and Cheerleaders, who participated in both home and away games.

No team reaches the top of its division without a passion for improving both individual skills and its strengths as a team. Becoming Division 5 Champions required that the Lady Centaurs give their best effort at every practice, demonstrate good sportsmanship, and build their teamwork from one game to the next.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Culver City High School Girls Varsity Volleyball team for its outstanding achievement in winning the 2016 CIF Division 5 Championship.

IN RECOGNITION OF BAN KI-MOON, 8TH SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the tenure of Ban Ki-moon, the 8th Secretary General of the United Nations. His appointment and inauguration nearly ten years ago marked a historic achievement for the Republic of Korea.

In his two terms in office, Secretary General Ban has advanced the cause of global peace through his work on economic, security, and human rights issues.

He remains firmly and resolutely committed to the UN's long-term development goals and to helping those who suffer from international crises and humanitarian disasters.

His leadership on global threats, such as the spread of infectious diseases, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, has contributed to international peace and security.

And he has worked tirelessly to advance human rights around the world. Secretary General Ban has promoted women's empowerment and gender equality everywhere, and fought to improve human rights in North Korea.

Under his tenure, the UN's Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea put together the most comprehensive report to date on the horrific abuses carried out by the Kim regime. As this report found, these abuses "shock the conscience of humanity," and demand that we hold the regime accountable.

Before serving as Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon served as South Korean Foreign Minister, where he worked towards denuclearizing the Korean peninsula.

I hope that the next Secretary General will continue Secretary General Ban's work to advance the UN's mission of peace and prosperity around the world.

As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I wish to recognize Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's service to the United Nations, to express my deep appreciation for his contributions to global peace and security, and to extend my sincere best wishes for his future endeavors. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING CHRISTINA GOSSNER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christina Gossner, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Sonoma County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

A paramedic with American Medical Response (AMR) Sonoma, Ms. Gossner started

her Emergency Medical Services (EMS) career with training at the Santa Rosa Junior College Fire Academy in 1992 and Paramedic Academy in 1994. For more than two decades, Ms. Gossner has been an enthusiastic and generous emergency responder.

To help others further their EMS careers, Ms. Gossner became an Adjunct Faculty for the Santa Rosa Public Training Center. During her career, Ms. Gossner has also worked as a volunteer firefighter with the Windsor Fire Protection District and as a rescue operation flight paramedic with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Helicopter. Her commitment and diverse experience exemplify the dedication and character of our community's best public servants.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Gossner for her dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor her here today.

HONORING MICHAEL SEITZ FOR HIS YEARS OF DEDICATED LEADERSHIP OF THE GREATER LA PORTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Seitz, who will retire December 8th as president of the La Porte, Indiana, Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Seitz has spent decades working to keep the Northern Indiana economy growing, including 15 years as the Greater La Porte Chamber president, and our community will miss his invaluable contributions.

Mr. Seitz began his path of public service while attending Indiana University, where he received an undergraduate degree in Public Administration and graduated from the United States Chamber of Commerce Institute. He furthered his commitment to economic development by attending the Certified Economic Developers program at the University of Kentucky.

After school, Mr. Seitz began a long career dedicated to the economic success of the Hoosier State. Before serving as president of the Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Seitz worked for the South Bend Chamber of Commerce and in twelve years rose from manager to vice president of Existing Business Development and Membership Services at the St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce. He later served as president of the Logansport Chamber of Commerce, finally joining the Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce.

With this background of dedicated service, clear passion for helping Indiana, and true commitment to economic prosperity, it is not surprising that Mr. Seitz oversaw a range of advancements and improvements for La Porte's business community during his tenure. The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce has accomplished much through the work of Mr. Seitz, his staff, and Chamber and LEAF board members. It has gone through three accreditation processes, received two four-star

ratings, and most recently, a five-star rating. The five-star rating elevated the Chamber into the highest class possible and defined it as an outstanding organization and facilitator of local commerce.

Mr. Seitz's work both as president of the Chamber and in his other public service exemplifies his dedication to Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Michael Seitz upon his retirement after nearly three decades of hard work and dedication to improving the business environment of Northern Indiana. I am grateful for his public service and wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARINE
CORPS GENERAL JOHN KELLY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, reports indicate that President-elect Donald Trump plans to select former Marine Corps General John Kelly to run the Department of Homeland Security—yet another excellent appointment which will protect American families.

The Washington Times announced, "General Kelly caught the eye of Mr. Trump's top advisers with a forceful appearance before Congress in 2014 and 2015, where he said he was shocked at how easily smugglers were able to penetrate the U.S.-Mexico border, and said it represented a major hole in national security."

General Kelly embodies the highest ideals of military service. He served with distinction in the Marine Corps, rising through the ranks to run U.S. Southern Command. As Commander, he has been critical in disrupting how organized crime networks run drugs, weapons, etc., through networks in the Western Hemisphere.

As the grateful father of four sons who have all served overseas in the Global War on Terrorism, I appreciate General Kelly's dedication and leadership. I am confident in his future success.

Congratulations again to General Kelly and his entire family on this exciting new role.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BISHOP
SPARKS

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Major Bishop Sparks, of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our nation. Major Sparks distinguished himself through exceptionally meritorious service from January 6, 2014 to December 15, 2016, while serving as

a Legislative Liaison for the Army House Liaison Division.

Major Sparks was instrumental in developing strategic relationships with Members of Congress and their staffs throughout the 114th Congress as a Legislative Liaison to the House of Representatives. His expertise proved critical in providing requisite support for Army and DoD initiatives. Through these relationships he ensured Congressional decision makers had accurate and timely information on Army programs, policies and priorities; his hard work directly impacted future defense legislation and built upon the Army's equities.

Major Bishop Sparks is a native of West Palm Beach, Florida. Bishop enlisted in the Wisconsin Army National Guard in 2003 as the Fire Direction Specialist (13P). Bishop graduated from Concordia University Wisconsin with a degree in Justice and Public Policy and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 2006.

After completion of the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, Major Sparks was assigned to the 2-2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. While assigned to 2-2nd Infantry Regiment, Major Sparks served as a Company Fire Support Officer. Major Sparks was later assigned to 1-6th Field Artillery, 1st Infantry Division. While assigned to 1-6th Field Artillery, Major Sparks served as a Platoon Leader and Executive Officer deploying in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM from July 2008 through July 2009.

In 2009, Major Sparks attended the Field Artillery Captain's Career Course (FACCC). After graduating the FACCC, Major Sparks was assigned to 1-12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division where he served as a Battalion Fire Support Officer and deployed in support of OPERATION NEW DAWN in January 2011. While deployed, Major Sparks assumed command of Bravo Battery, 2-82nd Field Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division.

Following battery command, Captain Sparks attended George Washington University earning a master's degree in Legislative Affairs and served as a Congressional Fellow for Congressman HANK JOHNSON (GA-4). Bishop currently serves as a Legislative Liaison for the Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison (OCLL).

Bishop's military education includes the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, Ranger School, Joint Fire Power Course, Tactical Information Officer Course, the Field Artillery Captain's Career Course, and Airborne School. Bishop also graduated from Liberty University with a master's degree in Business Management and Leadership.

Major Sparks' awards include the Bronze Star Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal Army Achievement Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Afghan Campaign Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal (Expeditionary), Global War on Terrorism Medal (Service), Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Parachutist Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

Major Sparks' professionalism and high standards of duty improved relations between the Army and the House of Representatives. Major Sparks' leadership, initiative and truly

outstanding performance contributed immeasurably to maintaining the Army's enduring, positive relationship with Congress and advancing the Army's top priorities, bringing distinct credit upon him, the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, and the United States Army.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Major Bishop Sparks as he proceeds to the next chapter in his remarkable career and continues to serve our great Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF DON KNABE
OF CERRITOS

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Don Knabe of Cerritos, California who retired on December 5, 2016 after 35 years of exceptional public service, of which twenty years were spent serving as Supervisor in the 4th District of Los Angeles County. Don is a patriot who consistently put the needs of community and country first. Never shy to stand for what is right, he proudly advocated for the least fortunate and provided a space for their voices to be heard.

Hailing from the Midwest, Don is a native of Rock Island, Illinois and served in the United States Navy. He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa. He was a small business owner before he answered the call of public service.

Don has been a fierce advocate for children and has done many great things for the community, including policies that supported jobs for veterans and youth. He's been a staunch national leader on anti-child sex trafficking, which is an issue Don and I worked closely together on when I was a State Senator in the California State Legislature. He also saved lives by creating the Safe Surrender program that allows parents to surrender newborns at fire stations and hospitals.

Don was also a tremendous supporter for the arts. He created several innovative youth programs, such as the Pediatric Arts Program at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, and the Arts Education Partnership Program, which provides grants to schools and community organizations to fund visual art, dance, music, and theatre programs.

As Don prepares for the next chapter in his life, the people of Los Angeles can rest assured he leaves behind an incredible legacy and foundation for our community to grow. I wish Don, his wife Julie, their two children, and four amazing grandchildren well and many more years of happiness together. I am positive Don's magnanimous influence will be felt for many decades to come.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING DIRECTOR
OF SAGINAW COUNTY
9-1-1, TOM MCINTYRE

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tom McIntyre, upon his retirement as the Director of Saginaw County 9-1-1 and for his many contributions to the Saginaw community.

Originally aspiring to be a teacher, Mr. McIntyre first began his work in law enforcement as a school liaison police officer in the village of Chesaning. From there Mr. McIntyre worked at the Saginaw Sheriff's Department holding a variety of positions including working in the juvenile division, serving as sergeant in charge of the marine division, jail administrator and directing the road patrol. In 1993 he was elected by the community to serve as sheriff, holding this position until 1998. Mr. McIntyre has since spent the last 18 years in his current position, as Director of Saginaw County 9-1-1. Those in the community still know him as the sheriff.

With a total of almost 50 years of service, Mr. McIntyre has demonstrated a devotion to the public safety of Saginaw County. Through his illustrious career at the Saginaw Sheriff's Department, Saginaw County 9-1-1, and as a community leader, Mr. McIntyre has positively influenced the lives of the countless community members he has selflessly served.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to extend my gratitude to Tom McIntyre for his many years of hard work and service to Saginaw County, and wish him a happy and healthful retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2016 ARTS COUNCIL OF
FAIRFAX COUNTY ARTS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Arts Council of Fairfax County and the recipients of its 2016 Arts Awards.

These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of artists and arts organizations, as well as individuals and businesses in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church that support the arts in our community.

Founded in 1964, the Arts Council of Fairfax County is a non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency. The Arts Council operates programs and initiatives that include grants, arts advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for artists and arts organizations. The Arts Council has awarded more than \$540,000 in County, public, and private funds through competitive grants and awards. These grants have helped to fund approximately 13,000 performances which have been attended by more than 1 million people.

Each year, the Arts Council of Fairfax County honors a select group of individuals, companies, or organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to the local arts community. These annual awards honor supporters of the arts in four categories: the Jinx Hazel Arts Award, the Arts Impact Award, the Arts Philanthropy Award, and the Arts Education Award. It is my honor to congratulate this year's honorees.

The 2016 Jinx Hazel Arts Award is being presented to Dominion Resource Services in recognition of its tremendous support and long-term investment in the artistic and cultural vitality of communities in Fairfax County and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Since 2011, the Dominion Foundation has provided financial support to 26 non-profit arts organizations in both Fairfax County and the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. In addition, Dominion and its employees contribute more than 100,000 volunteer hours each year to support local festivals and community activities.

The 2016 Arts Impact Award is being presented to George Washington's Mount Vernon for its extraordinary impact on the collection and preservation of art, culture, and decorative artwork from the mid-18th century. Mount Vernon's archaeological collection includes more than 500,000 pieces and more than 700 pieces are on display today. In addition, Mount Vernon sponsors and hosts extensive visitor education programs.

The 2016 Arts Philanthropy Award is being presented to the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. Since 2000, the Cooke Foundation has awarded more than \$152 million in scholarships to nearly 2,200 high-performing low-income students as well as more than \$90 million in grants to organizations that serve these students. In addition, scholarships and grants are awarded to individual students as well as community music schools, pre-conservatories, and summer music programs to help talented young students achieve their artistic dreams.

The 2016 Arts Education Award is being presented to the Fairfax Choral Society in recognition of their contributions in music education, performance, and appreciation of choral art by people of all ages. The FCS is the only organization in Northern Virginia that provides opportunities to nearly 400 choral students ranging in age from pre-school through adulthood. The repertoire of the FCS includes classical, folk, and contemporary compositions, and it has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra, the American Youth Philharmonic, as well as at Carnegie Hall and the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2016 Arts Awards and in recognizing and thanking the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 613 on suspending

the rules and passing H.R. 5143, the Transparent Insurance Standards Act, I am not recorded because I was detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

HONORING JOHN SARGEANT

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the Fourth District of Ohio lost a great one in August. Today I pay tribute to the life and memory of a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, veteran, business leader, and I'm proud to say a good friend: John Sargeant.

John was a Shelby County boy through and through, born in 1930 to Cleo and Gertrude Sargeant. In 1950, he married Jeanette Frazier, who survives him. John's brother Bob survives him as well.

It's been said that "you can't fake good kids," and that was certainly the case for the Sargeants. His three kids, Julia, Jay, and Jeff, and their children and grandchildren all carry John's spirit of service and leadership with them today.

John was a Korean War veteran. Like many in his generation, he humbly and bravely served our nation, then came home to serve his community. He became a business leader, co-founding and owning Sidney Tool and Die, Bensar Developments, and SMT Industries. He was active with his church and service clubs in and around Sidney, from the Rotary to the American Legion to the Shrine. He actively supported lots of local causes with his time, talent, and treasure.

From the day I met him, it was clear: He knew that he had been richly blessed in this life, and he was going to live every moment to its fullest.

But among all of his successes in life, his family was what he valued most. It's an honor to recognize them today: His kids Julia Barker, Jay and Elaine Sargeant, and Jeff and Nancy Sargeant; his grandchildren Benjamin Barker, Matthew Sargeant, Megan and Erik Zarnitz, Brett and Courtney Barker, Kevin Sargeant, Ciara Sargeant, and Kandis Sargeant; and his two great-grandchildren, Torrin and Taylor; and of course his wife, Jeanette, and his brother, Bob.

We will always remember John Sargeant for the impact he made on this world. To his family we say: Please accept our sincere wishes on behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District.

RESTORING THE CONGRESSIONAL
DUTY TO DECLARE WAR

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, we currently have United States military forces involved, directly and indirectly, in conflicts in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, among other

places. Our use of attack drones is blurring the distinction between war and peace. Therefore, it is time to reflect on the constitutional basis for the use of military force by the United States, anywhere in the world.

For more than a century and a half, Congress declared war as the framers of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 directed when they wrote that Congress had the "power to declare war." But starting in the 1950s, Congress began authorizing the President to make the determination for war and voters were deprived of the power to influence their Congressional representatives. The result has been labeled an Authorization for Use of Military Force, or AUMF. It was used in the Vietnam War of 1965–73 and the 2003 war against Iraq, 2003 to the present.

I want to bring attention to a Rutgers Law Review article, "Restoring the Congressional Duty to Declare War," that has challenged the Constitutionality of all United States wars fought since World War II. The article examines not only on the language of the Constitution that "Congress shall have the power to declare war" but also on the debates in the Constitutional Convention that began June 1, 1787. On that day, Charles Pinckney from South Carolina made clear that he opposed giving the power of war to the President because that would render him "a Monarchy of the worst kind, to wit an elective one."

The Convention took two votes. The first put the power of war in the Congress and the second prohibited the Congress from transferring that power to the President. In the following weeks all but one member of the Convention joined Pinckney in the conclusion that Congress, and not the President, should declare war.

Later in the convention, after Pinckney pointed out that Congress might not be in session when the country was attacked, the Convention provided that the Congress could allow the President to call out the state militias in cases of insurrection, invasion, or resistance to federal laws. Congress later implemented its power by declaring a limited war on France for seizing seamen from American ships under claims that they were French. In 1880 the Supreme Court approved this procedure by interpreting the Declare War clause as encompassing "any contention by force" with another country, including both full-scale wars and limited wars. But the events at the Convention and the early Supreme Court opinions were not considered by Congress and the lower Federal Courts when the president was allowed to determine war in Vietnam in 1964 and against Iraq in 2003.

The authors found that the Federal judicial system had ignored the decision of the Constitutional Convention and the early Supreme Court opinions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all interested in this subject to refer to Restoring the Congressional Duty to Declare War, 63 Rutgers U.L. Rev. 407 (2011).

RECOGNIZING GLOVER MANNING,
JR. ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Glover Manning's 100th birthday on November 6, 2016 and to share his amazing story.

Born in 1916, Mr. Manning began serving his country in the U.S. Navy at the age of 19. During one of the most infamous days in American history, the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Manning was aboard the USS *Rigel*. Mr. Manning and his vessel then went on to play an important role in many operations in the Pacific. After 20 years serving his country in the Navy, he retired and subsequently moved to Savannah, Georgia.

Mr. Manning has 4 children, 9 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, and 5 great-great grandchildren.

Mr. Manning, thank you for your service to our country and I hope you have a very happy 100th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFETIME ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. JAMES S. WHITFIELD

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. James S. Whitfield, a dedicated community leader and World War II veteran. On Tuesday, December 6, 2016, Jim passed away, after an incredible life of service to our country.

Mr. Whitfield, of Independence, Missouri, served as a Commissioner for The United States World War One Centennial Commission as a representative of The American Legion. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, he served in World War II, traveling the Far Pacific, North Atlantic, Indian oceans, and the Mediterranean Sea aboard the same ship for 33 months to transport troops across the globe.

The appointment to the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission was personal to Jim. As a child, he became acquainted with many World War I veterans while delivering milk to them from his father's dairy. Fascinated by their world travels and dedication to our country, they inspired him to enlist when World War II broke out. In 1943, he went to boot camp in Idaho after fulfilling a promise to his parents to finish high school first.

The same veterans that motivated him to join the Navy, elected Whitfield to serve as their post commander in The American Legion. That was the start of a very long career of service to veterans of both Missouri and across the country. He became a member of the Legion in 1946 and assumed many distinguished leadership positions, including Executive Director of the National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. Jim was a Life Member of The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign

Wars in the United States, and BPO Elks, all of Warrensburg, Missouri. As an honorary lifetime commander of the Missouri American Legion, Whitfield shares a distinction with only three others, including President Harry S. Truman.

Jim was also very active in Missouri Boys State, and received an honorary award from them for over 50 years of leadership and is regarded as having the most prolific service record in the program. Along with his service to the American Legion and Boys State, Whitfield served as Chairman of the Missouri Veterans Commission. During his tenure as the first chairman, the state established seven veteran's homes and a veteran's cemetery system. He served on that commission for 10 years helping establish its influence and direction. He was also a longtime supporter of the Liberty Memorial, dedicated in Kansas City in 1926 as a monument to those who served in World War I. I recall visiting with Jim at a recent Memorial Day ceremony, hosted at the National World War I Museum and Memorial, about our shared interest in honoring those who served our country.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in honoring the lifetime accomplishments of Mr. James Whitfield. He served our country while in uniform and for the remainder of years following, helping veterans and future generations alike. I appreciated his friendship and unwavering service. He epitomized America's Greatest Generation.

RECOGNIZING RALPH HOLLMON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ralph Hollmon who is retiring from the Milwaukee Urban League (MUL), on December 31, 2016. He has served the organization since 2002, when he assumed the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of the MUL.

Over the 14 years at the helm of the MUL, he has been in charge of the organization's management, strategic planning and overall operation insuring that the League's education, employment, economic development and social justice programs are implemented in an effective manner. He was also the Central Region Vice President of the National Urban League Association of Executives. Mr. Hollmon has been a tireless advocate for the organization and its commitment to serving African Americans and others in need of assistance in order to improve the quality of their lives.

Mr. Hollmon has spent much of his career helping uplift those in need and has a wealth of knowledge gained by service in various governmental and community positions including: Director, Milwaukee County Department of Human Services, Chief Executive Officer of the Private Industry Council, Executive Director, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and held positions with the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration and the Social Development Commission of Milwaukee County. Prior to joining the Milwaukee Urban

League, Ralph led his own company as President of Hollmon Management and Consulting LLC, (HMC) a project management and public affairs consulting firm.

Mr. Hollmon holds a long standing commitment to community service and has served on a variety of civic and community boards/commissions including: Co-Chair of the Milwaukee Commission on Police Community Relations, Co-Chair of the Governor's Business Opportunity Advisory Commission; member of the JP Morgan Chase Bank National Community Advisory Board; Marcus Center for the Performing Arts Board of Directors; VISIT Milwaukee Board of Directors; Milwaukee Succeeds Executive Committee; Greater Downtown Action Agenda Executive Leadership Committee; African American Chamber of Commerce and Member of the Greater Milwaukee Committee.

Ralph Hollmon is a homegrown Milwaukeean and graduated from North Division High School. He received his undergraduate degree at Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa, and earned his Master's Degree in Urban Affairs from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He also completed the Executive Education Program, "Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management" at the Harvard School of Business.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Ralph Hollmon for many years on issues at the various positions where he has had tenure. I join with his wife Margaret and friends in congratulating him on his many years of service to this community and the Milwaukee Urban League. Ralph has led the organization admirably and I wish him much success as he transitions into a different phase of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ralph Hollmon, I am proud to call him a friend and thank him for all he has done. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin are privileged to have someone of his ability and dedicated service working on their behalf for so many years. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Ralph E. Hollmon.

TRIBUTE TO THERESA RANGEL

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Theresa Rangel. A beloved San Antonian, Theresa grew up on the West Side of the city where she attended Blessed Sacrament High School. She married her high school sweetheart, Ernest A. Rangel, with whom she traveled the world, had two children, and enjoyed 48 years of marriage.

Throughout her career, Theresa served the San Antonio community and strove to help the people of our city excel. She worked at the University of the Incarnate Word in career development, and later became a caseworker in the office of Congressman Albert G. Bustamante. She went on to work in the Small Business Administration before joining the of-

fice of legendary Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez where she was a caseworker. She remained in that position when Charles Gonzalez won the congressional seat in 1999, and eventually retired in 2013 after 28 years of dignified civil service.

After her retirement, Theresa remained active. She was a member of several Bible study groups, spent time scrapbooking, and was a devoted grandmother to five grandchildren whom she loved dearly.

Theresa touched the lives of so many in our city, and I join her family and those whom she helped in mourning her loss. She was an exemplary civil servant and American whose contributions to our community and Nation will not be forgotten.

HONORING OFFICER CECILE FOCHA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Cecile Focha, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Sonoma County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

A native of Oakland, California, Officer Focha received her B.A. in Integral Liberal Arts at St. Mary's College and her K-12 Teaching Credential at California State University, Hayward. Prior to her work in law enforcement, Officer Focha was an elementary school teacher.

Officer Focha joined the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office in 1998. Over the past 18 years, she has served as the first female Detective Sergeant in the history of the Office, the supervisor of the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Detective Unit, and the first Press Information Officer for the agency. Officer Focha was instrumental in the establishment of the Sonoma County Family Justice Center and is the President of the Board of Directors for Verity, Sonoma County's only rape crisis center. In recognition of her tremendous service, the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office awarded Officer Focha with the Bronze Medal of Merit, and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors awarded her a Certificate of Commendation for her work with Alive at 25, a model teen driving program she helped establish.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Officer Focha for her dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 INDIANA MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR NATHAN BOYD

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grissom Middle School Principal

Nathan Boyd, who was recently named the 2016 Indiana Middle School Principal of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Principals.

Principals from across Indiana selected Mr. Boyd for this great honor due to his commitment to excellence in education and his tireless work to give all his students the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Each year, the IASP recognizes outstanding leaders in education for their contributions to the profession and the difference they make in students' lives. Since becoming principal of Grissom Middle School in 2013, Mr. Boyd has been an exemplary educator and administrator. He has maintained the school's record of academic achievement and its A rating from the Indiana Department of Education. He has introduced innovative programs and strategies to motivate and inspire students, including the "Grissom Drum Brigade" and the popular "Club Honors." And he has fostered a culture of excellence among the school's teachers to best prepare students for the future.

As principal, Mr. Boyd works each day to create a shared vision and purpose that stays true to Grissom Middle School's motto: "Good, Better, Best." Under Mr. Boyd's leadership, Grissom Middle School is providing students a positive, challenging, and academically-oriented learning environment with a focus on building knowledge, reinforcing values, and developing a strong sense of self-worth for every student.

Having received the Indiana Principal of the Year Award, Mr. Boyd will represent the Hoosier State at the National Association of Secondary School Principals Recognition Program in the Fall of 2017. Mr. Boyd's energy and passion for serving his students and his ability to inspire enthusiasm in his team distinguish him as an exceptional leader. He exemplifies the work ethic and humble leadership for which Hoosiers are known, and I am proud that a Hoosier from Indiana's 2nd Congressional District will be representing our great state next year.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Grissom Middle School Principal Nathan Boyd for his boundless passion for working with parents, teachers, and staff to build a strong community and a bright future for students. I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nathan Boyd for his tireless dedication and wishing him and everyone at Grissom Middle School all the best.

HONORING CHRISTINE M. WISEMAN ON HER RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY IN CHICAGO

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Christine M. Wiseman, who is retiring from her position as president of Saint Xavier University in Chicago. She has served as Saint Xavier's President since June 2010.

Throughout her illustrious career, President Wiseman has demonstrated an outstanding

commitment to students in higher education. Her career in higher education started at Marquette University, where she was a tenured member of the law faculty and earned the Marquette University Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence in 1991. She became Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Marquette University Law School and later the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, making her the first woman to serve in Marquette's senior administration. After Marquette, she held the same position at Creighton University.

President Wiseman arrived in Chicago in 2007 as professor of law and Provost of Loyola University Chicago. As Provost she oversaw the academic division of the largest Catholic research university in the country.

Between her career in academics and her public service, President Wiseman has been awarded and honored on many occasions for her work. She was named the Wisconsin Civil Liberties Union Volunteer Attorney of the Year in 1989 and the Spirit of the Law School recipient in 2003 at Marquette for being a role model to the school's students. In addition, she has been recognized as one of the "Most Powerful and Influential" women in Illinois by the National Diversity Council, and was appointed by the Governor to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Her long list of qualifications and achievements led to her hiring as the 19th President of Saint Xavier University Chicago. Saint Xavier University is in the Mt. Greenwood neighborhood of Chicago and has just over 5,000 students studying in 43 undergraduate majors and 25 graduate programs. In 2016 the Online Graduate Nursing Program was ranked number 3 in the country by US News and World Report. Saint Xavier University will surely miss the academic and administrative stewardship provided by President Wiseman.

I ask you to join me in honoring President Christine Wiseman on her retirement as President of Saint Xavier University, and congratulate her on her outstanding work at the university.

RETIREMENT OF CIRCUIT JUDGE
BERLIN JONES

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fixture of the Arkansas Judiciary. The Honorable Berlin Jones of the Eleventh West Judicial Circuit in Pine Bluff was originally appointed to the bench by then-Governor Bill Clinton on July 11, 1987, serving the remainder of a term that ended on December 31, 1988.

Judge Jones ran for a full term four years later, taking office January 1, 1993. Since assuming the bench more than 20 years ago, Judge Jones has heard a magnitude of criminal, civil, and probate cases in the Delta.

Among Judge Jones' accomplishments since taking the bench has been the Jefferson County Drug Court, for which he has been the presiding judge since its formation in March

2004. In the time Judge Jones and his staff have been managing the drug court program, 106 citizens have graduated and started on the path to a new life free from drugs.

In addition to being an advocate for those in recovery, Judge Jones has also served on the Arkansas Sentencing Commission and has been an active member of the Arkansas Bar Association, where he was admitted in 1976.

Men like Berlin Jones are hard to find today. Not only did he serve his country in uniform during the Vietnam War, but he has devoted his life to the people of Jefferson and Lincoln Counties as an attorney and judge. I thank him for his decades of dedicated service to the Pine Bluff region, the state of Arkansas, and the United States. May God bless him.

HONORING TERESA DEPPNER OF
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Teresa Deppner, the clerk of the U.S. District Court Southern District of West Virginia, who recently received this year's U.S. Courts Director's Award for Outstanding Leadership.

In 1976, Ms. Deppner started her career as deputy clerk in Huntington. Her commitment to public service is exemplary, as she has spearheaded innovative initiatives to make her courts more efficient in the handling of lawsuits, improving document accessibility, and tackling an always increasing case workload. Her appreciation and respect of the arts is noteworthy, and I commend her on her role in bringing the first-ever judiciary fine arts program to the courthouse in Charleston for lawyers, judges, jury members and constituents to enjoy.

A staunch supporter and advocate for her hometown of Huntington, her vision, experience, and strategy in her professional life have paved the way for a plethora of successful philanthropic projects for the tri-state area.

I wish Ms. Deppner well and send my best to her husband, Greg, and their two huskies, Sapphire and Aurora. I offer her my appreciation and gratitude for her commitment to her neighbors and our state.

TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF OF
CONGRESSMAN JOHN L. MICA

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, this will be my final official submission as I complete my service in the U.S. House of Representatives. It has truly been an honor to represent the people of Florida's 7th Congressional District and to serve the nation in six Congressional leadership positions, including being the first Florida Congressman to Chair the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

As you and our colleagues can attest, serving in Congress requires the assistance and work of many. Today, as I reflect upon my years of service, the challenges we have faced and overcome as a nation and our work to make the federal government more responsive and efficient, I believe it is important to recognize the staff who have worked with me and dedicated outstanding service to our 7th Congressional District and our nation.

They are: Tim Anderson, Agustina Andisco Pardo, Keith Appel, James Bailey, Zane Beard, Aaron Bivens, Collier Black, John Booker, Sue Bower, Patrick Bowl, Casey Brinck, Beth Ann Bryant, Elizabeth Buckles Deck, Gary Burns, Alan Byrd, Jean Carrero, John Ciccone, Jessie Cleveland, Mike Cosio, Barry Cotton, Marshall Critchfield, Stephanie D'Angelo, Greg Davis, John Day, Wiley Deck, Brian Dempsey, Laurel Edmondson, Ted Edwards, Jan Farnsworth, Andrew Florell, Joe Freeman, Josh Gaboton, Ashley Galloway, Allison Galovic, Andrew Giacini, Alan Gilbert, Stephen Goldie, Andrew Green, Matt Grimison, Dick Harkey, Susan Hast, Lou Hayden, Cheyne Hicks, Julie Hogan, Jared Houghton, Kellie Huckeba, John Hudiberg, Krystal Hudson, Dan Hughes, V., Thane Hutcheson, Eric Jontz, Ashley Jordan, Randall Judt, Patrick Kelly, Cheryl Kimball, Mary Klappa, Barbara Koch, Thomas Larsen, Alexandra Lovelace, Sally Lum, Lawrence Lyman, Gerry Lynam, Laura Mathews, Michael Matousek, Tara McBride, Sean McMaster, Katie McMichael, Alicia Melvin, Janet Mines, Dan Moll, Kiernan Moylan, Chelsey Neuhaus, Brian North, Sharon Pinkerton, Marshall Polston, Kristen Pugh, Gail Reese, Paul Reynolds, Joel Rivera, Rusty Roberts, James Rockas, Debby Roeder, Jason Scism, Talia Shabat, Kathleen Smoak, Caragh Stichter, Kevan Stone, Charlene Swartz, Tanice Tait, Chrissy Tellalian, Evonne Torres, Joseph Trovato, Patrick Tuohy, Toni Tury, Brian Waldrip, Lisa Wandler, Robert Wehagen, Nicholas West, Gregory Williams, Michael Willis, Leslie Windram O'Shaughnessy, Jillian Wist and Sally Zarnowiec.

I thank them for their public service and for the opportunity and privilege to work with each of them. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these committed Congressional staff members who have helped me, the House of Representatives and our nation. I am deeply appreciative of their work and hope that God continues to bless each of them and the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO ARNOLD CENTER
PRESIDENT CHARLES MARKEY

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles Markey, the President of the Arnold Center, upon his retirement on December 31, 2016. Mr. Markey has made many contributions to Midland and the great state of Michigan.

Mr. Markey attended Central Michigan University, where he excelled as a member of the

football team. After graduating in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science degree, Mr. Markey joined IBM. From 1974 to 2004 he held several different titles and went on to become the Vice President of Solution Sales before becoming a partner at IM1 Capital Group, LLC. During this time he was inducted into the CMU Football Hall of Fame.

In 2009, Mr. Markey became the president of the Arnold Center. The Center has since become a large employer in Midland and has aided in giving back to the community in a multitude of ways. Most importantly, it has enhanced the quality of life for those with disabilities and donates thousands of hours of community service. During his tenure, Mr. Markey has held fast to the mission and vision of the Arnold Center and has helped countless individuals who have sought his guidance. I have seen firsthand the dedication and service Mr. Markey has given to our community. I thank him and wish him luck as he begins this new chapter of his life.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Charles Markey for his dedication to the Midland community.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said: "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated. That is why today I rise to pay tribute to five extraordinary young persons for their service

to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas and to the American people. They are: Katherine Jenkins from Texas Tech University; Michaellette Haywood from Georgia State University; Kai Scates from Wiley College; Keera Ingram from Howard University; and Lisa Oguike from the Madeira School.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism these wonderful young people brought to my office and those interning in the offices of my colleagues help keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

Because of persons like them the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead. I wish them all well.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great, good, and forever young.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF WENDELL HALL UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SANTA ROSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sheriff Wendell Hall upon the occasion of his retirement from the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Hall has dedicated more than 35 years to serving his community through law enforcement.

Sheriff Hall attended Ernest Ward High School in Walnut Hill, Florida. He continued his education at Pensacola State College and at Troy State University where he graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice.

Upon completion of college, his career began in 1981 as a Correction's Officer with the Escambia County Sheriffs Office before he transferred to Law Enforcement in 1982; serving as a Patrol Deputy, Narcotics Investigator/Supervisor, and Administrative Supervisor. He was promoted during this time to the rank of Corporal and again to Sergeant, eventually becoming a Certified Hostage Negotiator, Firearms Instructor, and Field Training Officer. During his tenure at the Escambia Sheriff's Office, he received special award recognitions for "Outstanding Service to the Community," in 1984; a Meritorious Service Award," in 1992; as well as numerous other honors for his dedication to protecting our community.

In 2000, Sheriff Hall began serving the people of Santa Rosa County when he was elected Sheriff. He has received numerous recognitions for his service including, but not limited to, Elk Lodge Number 2787 "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" for 2002 through 2003; Pace Rotary Club "Rotarian of the Year for Exceptional Dedication and Commitment" for 2003 through 2004 and 2006 through 2007;

Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency "Law Enforcement Distinguished Service Award" 2003; and Pace Chamber of Commerce 2015 "Man of the Year Award."

In addition to his career in law enforcement, he has been a shining role model in his community. He currently serves on the Santa Rosa Kids House, as the Board of Directors Chairman, the Florida Sheriff's Association District 1 Board of Directors, the Vets to VA Clinic Committee, and as a member of the First Judicial Circuit Law Enforcement Association, along with other countless volunteer positions.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Sheriff Wendell Hall for his dedication and service to Northwest Florida. My wife Vicki and I wish him and his wife, Karen; his children, Lisa, Dana, Kayla, Brandon, Amanda, Kenneth, and Megan; and his fourteen grandchildren all the best as they embark on this next journey in their lives.

RECOGNIZING DR. BILL GORSKI

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Bill Gorski who is retiring from SwedishAmerican after serving for 16 years as its President and CEO. For decades, he has aided the public honorably by creating life-saving opportunities for communities in Illinois and Wisconsin.

Under Dr. Gorski's guidance, SwedishAmerican built a major acute care hospital, a freestanding outpatient cancer center in Rockford, a network of 30 primary care and multispecialty clinics, and the region's largest home health care agency. He has worked to improve health services in the community of Belvidere as well, by acquiring and renovating a medical center that now provides ambulatory services and 24-hour emergency care.

Dr. Gorski has a demonstrated history of going above and beyond. Through its foundation, SwedishAmerican has helped rebuild the neighborhood surrounding its main campus. Twenty-six homes have been built and an additional 120 houses and two apartment buildings have been renovated. SwedishAmerican has also cooperated with Rosecrance Health Network by investing more than \$5 million a year in inpatient behavioral health services within the Rockford region. His inspiring work has given our communities a healthier future where citizens can have reliable health services.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Dr. Gorski for his dedication to improving the quality of care our citizens receive when they need it most. I congratulate him again on his well-earned retirement and wish him luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING FORMER SENATE
MAJORITY LEADER MIKE HEWITT

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate former Washington State Senate Majority Leader Mike Hewitt on his retirement. Senator Hewitt had a successful business career before dedicating his time and energies to advocating for the people of southeast Washington.

He is an outstanding leader in the state legislature, and is respected by both sides of the aisle for his generous spirit and warmth. His business acumen meant he brought a valuable insight to public policy, owe we have all come to appreciate.

We have been so blessed to have Senator Hewitt doing everything he can to make sure the people of southeast Washington are his top priority, particularly veterans and the Hispanic community. Congratulations again Mike. Enjoy your retirement—you deserve it.

HONORING JIM HARRIS OF
WAUSAU, WI FOR HIS SERVICE
TO OTHERS

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you today to recognize Mr. Jim Harris of Wausau, Wisconsin for his exceptional service to others.

Mr. Harris worked for more than 30 years in education. First, as a teacher in the Wisconsin Indian Teacher Corps, where he taught children of the Ho Chunk Tribe, and later as one of the first male kindergarten teachers in Wisconsin. Along his journey in education, Mr. Harris also spent two decades as a school administrator and an activist for public health.

During his many years of service in education, Mr. Harris got to know the children of Hmong Refugees who fled war in their home country to seek a better life in Wisconsin. Our state has a vibrant Hmong community that Mr. Harris has grown close to. He founded We Help War Victims, a nonprofit organization, with his wife, Marty, also a public school educator. Founded over 30 years ago, We Help War Victims has been working with refugee families in the Wausau, Wisconsin area, providing dozens of Lao schools with their first libraries, and helping families receive access to medical care.

Since 2006, the Harris' organization has been working with villagers in Laos to destroy land mines, bombs, rockets, mortars, and other unexploded ordnance. Mr. and Mrs. Harris's example directly inspired me to fight for this cause in Congress and their advice has directly affected the focus of my efforts. Countless farmers and families across Laos live in safer communities because of Mr. Harris's work and my community in Wisconsin has been strengthened by the work he and his wife do through We Help War Victims.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today to congratulate Mr. Harris on his accomplishments and work on behalf of others. His selfless demeanor in which he answers the call to serve in our district is truly valued.

CONGRATULATING THE MOTHER
MCAULEY VOLLEYBALL TEAM
ON THEIR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School volleyball team—the Mighty Macs—on being the first team ever to be named National Champions by USA Today, Max Preps, and Prep Volleyball.

Their history-making season included finishing strong with a 32 game winning streak that took them all the way through the Class 4A State Championship Tournament. After defeating Minooka in the final game, they secured their program's record 15th state championship, their first since 2013.

In compiling their near-perfect 40–1 record, Head Coach Jen DeJarld's team was taken to three sets just seven times. Four of Mother McAuley's athletes were named to the Daily Southtown's 2016 All Area Team, a list that includes just 12 players. Mother McAuley's volleyball team has won at least one state championship in each of the past five decades, a long tradition of excellence.

I would like to wish the best of luck in the next season to the returning players and coaches, and continued success to the departing seniors, several of whom will play their next season at colleges including Notre Dame, Appalachian State, Ferris State, and Lipscomb.

I ask you to join me in congratulating the Mother McAuley Volleyball team on their excellent season and their historic success on the national stage.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING
TIMOTHY HOY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, as both this Congress and the year come to a close, it is with heavy heart that I rise to honor, and remember, a kind and exemplary citizen whom we recently lost. Timothy Hoy, of Denton County, Texas, passed away the week of October 31st at the age of 55. Hoy was known to many for being extraordinarily active in Republican Party politics in Denton County, as well as at the state and national level. He was, as the Denton County Republican Party publicly remembered, “truly a legend in political circles;” but, more importantly, he was also “always kind, gentle and gracious to all.” His profound friendliness was present to anyone

he met, and it was a pleasure to get to know him over the years as someone who loved and served his community.

Originally from upstate New York, and having received his college education at the University of Dayton in Ohio, Hoy made Texas his home. In the late 1980s he began to become active in Republican politics in Denton County and became a precinct chairman, a role for which he would eventually be named Precinct Chair of the Year in 2001. He steadfastly served as an elections judge from the 1990s into the 2010s. His service also extended to being on the State Republican Executive Committee for eight years, from 2002 to 2010, and he received an award for his achievements in that role. His zeal for civic engagement for the betterment of his community was unparalleled.

Hoy's dedication and love for his fellow citizens in Texas, and desire to improve the lives of those around him, led him to work exceptionally hard and rigorously for the causes and candidates in which he believed. The Denton County Republican Party recalls that “He was there for everything Republican. Every phone bank, every meeting, and countless campaigns, if there was a need, there was Tim to fill it. He was the first to come and the last to leave.” For these reasons, they named him Volunteer of the Year 1998. He was even known to the former majority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, Dick Arme of Texas, who has said that “Tim Hoy was the constant guy for me. Whenever I came back to town, I would count on Tim to bring me up to speed on things here in Denton County.” His work for individuals seeking an elected public service role included serving as campaign manager for County Commissioner Ron Marchant during his first run for the city council of Carrollton, Texas. Senator TED CRUZ was a favorite official of Hoy, who loyally campaigned for him in Iowa during the 2016 presidential primary election.

During all of this tireless service and exceptional labor, Hoy continued to perform his daily job. He embodied his love for service to the public as he worked as a mail clerk for the Denton County Sheriffs Office for 23 years.

A man who worked for his strong conservative ideals, with a spirit of public service and true friendliness to all in the community, Hoy will be missed and remembered in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring Timothy Hoy.

TRIBUTE TO BILL CARNAHAN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to southern California are exceptional. Mr. Bill Carnahan, who, for more than 16 years, has served with distinction as Executive Director of the Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA) will be retiring after 50 years of dedicated service to public utility.

Since he became Executive Director in 2000, Mr. Carnahan has succeeded in making SCPPA one of the largest and most active joint action agencies in the country, with a diverse energy resource portfolio. SCPPA represents 11 community-owned utilities and one irrigation district that provide electricity to 4.8 million people, over 7,000 square miles in Southern California. Mr. Carnahan has worked with Members of Congress throughout the West, from both sides of the aisle, to advance the interests of community-owned utilities. He is well known for his vision, his ability to bring stakeholders together, and his forthrightness. Bill has played a pivotal role in advocating on behalf of non-profit, publicly-accountable utilities that serve consumers in small and large communities alike.

Under Mr. Carnahan's leadership, SCPPA has grown immensely—evolving from six generation and transmission projects in its early days, to 32 generation and three transmission projects bringing power from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Washington, Oregon, California and Nevada to Southern California today. Mr. Carnahan helped enact legislation to extend federal contracts which will ensure that Southern California consumers continue to enjoy emissions-free hydropower from Hoover Dam for another 50 years. Hoover power is a low-cost, reliable energy resource, and is critical to helping keep Southern California's energy costs as low as possible. The bill, the "Hoover Power Allocation Act," was signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 10, 2011.

My personal and professional respect and admiration for Mr. Carnahan runs deep, and I wish him happiness and good health in his retirement. The wise counsel, determination, and good Scotch-Irish sense-of-humor, which he has provided to me and others in Congress for many years on behalf of public power—will be fondly remembered.

TRIBUTE TO CURRENT AND
FORMER STAFF MEMBERS

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special group of people from Florida's 13th Congressional District. I rise to recognize the current and former staff members of our congressional office, both at home in Pinellas County and here in the halls of Congress. And importantly, I do so not just on my behalf, but truly on behalf of a most grateful community that for nearly three years has been blessed to have a team of dedicated and selfless individuals serving Pinellas County residents by giving voice to the interests and concerns of everyone, regardless of political party; fighting for those in need of assistance at their most challenging times; and working ceaselessly to improve the lives of every individual they encountered.

Mr. Speaker, each one of us who have the privilege to serve in this body, the People's House, understand the honor that has been bestowed upon us by our community. But to

fulfill our responsibilities, both constitutional and sacred, we are only as good as the team around us. Mr. Speaker, I have been blessed to work with a remarkable team of individuals, and I stand here today proud of each one of them and grateful for their willingness to serve our community and our country.

It's a unique role to serve on a congressional staff. You have to bring a servant's heart, a commitment to your community, and a willingness to listen to the criticisms brought on not by your own actions, but by the actions of the institution for which you work—the actions that you and I as colleagues take in making decisions of policy and of politics. And in doing so, the staff members of this body serve their nation just as faithfully and honorably as you and I attempt to do so each day. It is their work, as much as ours, that leads our nation forward, and leads our communities and our neighbors through some of our most challenging times.

It is for this reason that I recognize with a grateful heart, and on behalf of a grateful community, the work of the following individuals who have served Florida's 13th Congressional District during my time in office:

Mr. John David White, Chief of Staff; Mr. Preston Rudie, Communications Director; Ms. Nicole Smith, Constituent Services; Ms. Stephani Lavelly, Constituent Services; Ms. Brenda Frantz, Constituent Services; Ms. Sandy Hutton, Constituent Services; Mr. Nick Golden, Constituent Services; Mr. Paul Matthews, Constituent Services & Legislative Staff; Ms. Katie Heffernan, Constituent Services; Ms. Rochelle Colburn, Constituent Services; Ms. Sharon Ghezzi, Constituent Services; Ms. Natalee Campagnola, Constituent Services; Mr. Adam Boggs, Constituent Services; Ms. Jenifer Nawrocki, Legislative Director; Mr. Ian Manzano, Senior Policy Advisor; Mr. Tim Medeiros, Legislative Staff; Mr. Reggie Paros, Legislative Staff; Mr. Doug DeWysocki, Jr., Legislative Staff; Mr. Joshua Perez, Legislative Staff; Mr. Nicholas Catroppo, Deputy Chief of Staff; Ms. Alex Goodman, Legislative Staff; Mr. L.J. Govoni, Legislative Staff; Ms. Brittany Roberts, Legislative Staff; Mr. Joshua Nawrocki, Legislative Staff; and, Ms. Blake Churchman, Legislative Staff.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask that the House join me in recognizing the service of each of these individuals. This body has been well served, and indeed is better today, because of the service of these men and women; and the people of Pinellas County, Florida can be proud of their faithful work over these last three years. I consider each to be a friend, and I thank them today for joining me on this remarkable journey of representing Florida's 13th Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent December 2nd due to a medical appointment. Had I been present, I would have voted no on

Roll Call Vote 600, agreeing to the conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

This year's NDAA passed by the House of Representatives continues to contain spending for wars that were never authorized by Congress, mandates restrictions on closing the prison at Guantanamo Bay, and supplements Pentagon spending with \$67.8 billion in Overseas Contingency Operation funds. For these reasons, I oppose the Fiscal Year 2017 NDAA.

However, the NDAA did include a lot of meritorious provisions that I support including a 2.1 percent pay increase for our military men and women. Those who serve in uniform have already made extraordinary sacrifices for our country, and have earned and deserve a pay raise. I also strongly support the provisions that address the growing problem of sexual assault in the military by updating the Uniform Code of Military Justice and providing public access to court documents and proceedings.

Additionally, I support the addition of language to direct the DOD to complete a review of all California Guard members who were impacted by the California National Guard Bonus Recoupment scandal and alleviate financial hardship for California Guardsmen who were erroneously paid bonuses. I am appalled that the Pentagon punished service members for mismanagement by National Guard officials, and previously signed a letter to the Secretary of Defense demanding that the DOD halt recoupment efforts.

Despite progress on these issues, I have serious concerns with the bill. I have always advocated for maintaining Congress's constitutionally-confirmed prerogative to declare war under the War Powers Act and limiting the President's authority to engage in armed conflict without the consent of Congress. I strongly oppose the NDAA's authorization of spending for wars that are not congressionally approved. The President has sent troops to Iraq, Syria and elsewhere without seeking an Authorization of Use of Military Force (AUMF), a violation of the War Powers Act.

Additionally, the NDAA continues to bar the use of funds from transferring detainees from the Guantanamo Bay prison and prevents the President's plan to permanently close this facility. The prison at Guantanamo Bay has been a black eye for the United States, has eroded relationships with our allies, undermined U.S. missions, and put our troops at risk of retaliation.

Most importantly, this bill fails to rein in the only federal agency that is not fully auditable and continues to authorize wasteful spending without implementing proper oversight of the Pentagon's budget. I am outraged by a recent report revealing \$125 billion dollars in largely administrative, bureaucratic spending at the Pentagon was covered up. I have fought for fiscal responsibility and accountability at the Pentagon so that scarce funds can better be spent on the basic needs of our troops, obligations to veterans of past wars and other domestic priorities throughout my time in Congress.

Although this year's NDAA contained significant bipartisan compromises it also failed to address some of my longtime concerns.

RECOGNIZING NATALIE RAMOS AS
AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERV-
ANT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Natalie Ramos for her tireless work as Constituent Advocate for Florida's Ninth Congressional District in Central Florida.

Beginning as an intern in 2015, Natalie showed great promise from the start. She excelled and went on to become a Constituent Advocate where she played a vital role as part of the casework team. With her help, the office was able to assist members of the community, namely immigrants, veterans, and those seeking urgent assistance. She has a bright future ahead of her as a public servant.

I am honored to recognize Natalie Ramos for her service to my office and the constituents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH K. AWADJIE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. Joseph K. Awadjie for his years of compassionate advocacy and tireless work to improve the lives of our students.

Born and raised in Ghana, Mr. Awadjie is fluent in the languages of Twi, Fanti and Ga. Emigrating from Ghana, Mr. Awadjie was drawn to CUNY because of its rich diversity and broad service to New Yorkers of all backgrounds. Mr. Awadjie is dedicated to ensuring that students have an active role in university governance, and is committed to improving the quality of public higher education through advocacy efforts at the university, city, and state levels.

Mr. Awadjie earned his Master of Science Degree at Brooklyn College, specializing in Natural and Behavioral Sciences, in June of 2016. Prior to his graduate studies, Mr. Awadjie earned his B.S. in Exercise Science from Brooklyn College. In 2014, Mr. Awadjie was elected the thirtieth Chairperson of the University Student Senate (USS) and just completed his second term as the USS Chairperson and CUNY Trustee.

Mr. Awadjie has a long record of service at CUNY. While at Brooklyn College, he has served as Senator of Student Government, President of the Forensics Debate team and the Academic Club Association, and Captain of the men's soccer team. Shortly upon returning to Brooklyn College for his Master's degree, Mr. Awadjie was elected President of the Graduate Student Organization.

During his tenure at USS, Mr. Awadjie was an integral part of the grassroots campaign that restored a Merit Based Scholarship within the New York City Council Budget. With strong support from the City Council Committee on Higher Education, Mr. Awadjie

helped secure \$11.1 million in the FY2015 Budget and \$17 million in the FY2016 budget for a Merit Based Scholarship for CUNY students. In 2016, Mr. Awadjie led a successful student campaign to halt tuition increases at CUNY, while helping acquire increased funding for essential university programming.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Joseph K. Awadjie for his consistently remarkable dedication to education and longstanding commitment to improving our community.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT OF THE
CADILLAC AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE, BILL TENCZA

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bill Tencza, upon his retirement as the President of the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce.

Bill became the President of the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce in 2000. Over the years Mr. Tencza has been a champion in furthering industry and education in Cadillac. He has played a vital role in the formation of the Business Expo and the LEAD meetings, along with fostering relationships between those in business and education.

Mr. Tencza remains very active in the community and has served as a judge for the Congressional App Challenge from our district. He also works with the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance, Cadillac Industrial Fund and the Cadillac Area Industrial Group.

After 16 years as the President of the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce, Bill has left a legacy of hard work and dedication to the community of Cadillac.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to extend my gratitude to Bill Tencza for his many years of hard work and service in the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce, and wish him a happy and healthful retirement.

RECOGNIZING 50 YEARS OF THE
BI-STATE REGIONAL COMMISSION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Bi-State Regional Commission on 50 years of collaboration to promote important changes to transportation, communication, technology, and the environment in the Quad-Cities area.

Through intergovernmental and regional cooperation, this commission has brought local governments from Illinois and Iowa together to address important economic issues and collaborate on projects for the benefit of the region. Some notable projects include developing our interstate system, the expansion of

the 1-74 bridge and improvements to passenger rail service and transit systems in the region. I applaud the efforts of this commission for their commitment to excellence in the Quad Cities.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate the Bi-State Regional Commission for this remarkable achievement and I thank them for their 50 years of service to our community.

IN TRIBUTE TO NANCY O'KEEFE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy O'Keefe who is retiring from the Historic Third Ward Association, HTWA, on January 3, 2017. The HTWA was organized 41 years ago and Nancy has served the organization for 21 of those years. She began since 1996 and for 20 of those 21 years of service has been the Executive Director of the HTWA. During her tenure as Executive Director, the agency has grown tremendously; she has gone from supervising 2 employees to over 50.

In the 20 years since Nancy O'Keefe took charge as executive director, she has helped HTWA act as a catalyst to develop the district as an innovative, livable and exciting mixed use neighborhood while preserving its historic and creative character. The neighborhood has emerged with vibrant agencies, businesses, restaurants and entertainment venues including: The Broadway Theatre Center with its spectacular Cabot Theatre draws audiences into the ward at night, many fine restaurants bringing a contemporary vibe and flair to the neighborhood, a Congressional District Office, and the annual Third Ward Art Festival has joined the roster of Milwaukee's outdoor events. However, the construction of the Milwaukee Public Market has been the pivotal point in guaranteeing the Third Ward's sustained viability, as well as, a new hotel, the Journeyman. However, the HTWA does not want to rest on its laurels, Nancy would like to see more public space, more people getting off the streetcar and shopping and dining in restaurants, as well as, a grocery store and a drug store in the Third Ward.

Nancy O'Keefe is responsible for the many social events which are staples of the downtown culture and brought many visitors to the Third Ward including: Summer Sizzles, Christmas in the Third Ward, Gallery Nights, World's Largest Coffee Break, Shortest & Smallest St. Patrick's Day Parades, Sculptures on Ice Competitions, and Small Business Saturdays. She has also served on numerous boards including: Architectural Review Board, Friends of Lakeshore State Park, and Downtown Neighborhood Association.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Nancy O'Keefe. In fact my Congressional District Office is sited in the Third Ward. I have had the privilege of joining with Nancy and other dignitaries to promote Small Business Saturday and other events in the Third Ward. I join with friends in congratulating her on her retirement. I wish her much

success as she transitions into a different phase of her life.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Nancy O'Keefe and celebrate her outstanding leadership. Nancy O'Keefe has overseen the Third Ward's transformation from a district with growing potential into an urban success story. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin are privileged to have someone of her ability and dedicated service working on their behalf for so many years. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Nancy O'Keefe.

COMMEMORATING FRANK
ABDNOUR, OWNER OF THE SPOT-
TED COW

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Frank Abdnour of Peoria, Illinois on his retirement as owner of The Spotted Cow, an iconic restaurant in my hometown.

Mr. Abdnour first opened the Spotted Cow in the early 1980's as an ice cream push-cart on the Bradley University campus. During this time, Frank became a fixture of campus life and a favorite of students in need of a frozen treat in between classes. In 1987, fueled by the American entrepreneurial spirit, Frank successfully opened a brick-and-mortar ice cream store in Peoria Heights. Nineteen years later, Frank pursued his dream of turning the Spotted Cow into a full service restaurant at the corner of Sheridan and Glen, where it has become an institution in the Peoria community, serving the most delicious food and of course, ice cream.

The Spotted Cow is a landmark throughout Central Illinois, known for its Italian beef, burgers, salads, and, most importantly, ice cream. Frank's famous, one of a kind ice cream is made in-store with flavors that can only be found at the Spotted Cow.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Frank on a successful career as a Peoria icon, and I look forward to seeing his legacy carry on as The Spotted Cow continues to serve as a cornerstone of Peoria culture for years to come.

RECOGNIZING BELLA RUBIO FOR
HER 20 YEARS OF DEDICATED
PUBLIC SERVICE TO REAL COUN-
TY AND THE STATE OF TEXAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Bella Rubio for 20 years of dedicated public service to Real County and the State of Texas.

Bella currently serves as county and district clerk for Real County, the western-most county that I represent. She is retiring but her legacy will live on for years to come in the towns of Leakey and Camp Wood in Real County.

Bella has been a dear friend to me and my staff for two decades. She is well-respected in her community and has helped me greatly in serving Real County at the federal level. For anyone in Real County needing assistance with the government, Bella has been there for them. She is dedicated, persistent, and conscientious.

Apparently, Bella has inspired a spirit of public service in her son, Lucus, who is now interning in my San Antonio district office.

Congratulations to Bella Rubio on her retirement. Everyone who knows her appreciates her many contributions to Real County. She is a patriot, a leader, and a friend to all. And for all that she deserves our heartfelt thanks.

HONORING SHERIFF BRIAN
MARTIN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheriff Brian Martin, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Lake County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

A native of Lakeport, California, Sheriff Martin enlisted in the United States Army Military Police in 1992. While in the Army, Sheriff Martin was a paratrooper and was assigned to the Fort Bragg Military Police Special Reaction Team as a team leader and sniper. Sheriff Martin then attended Modesto Junior College Police Academy in 1997 and joined the Pismo Beach Police Department where he was recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and as an Officer of the Year. Sheriff Martin has since served as Deputy Sheriff, Sergeant and Lieutenant in the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Martin has served as Sheriff for Lake County and provided valuable leadership during times of crisis. During the devastating fire season of 2015, Sheriff Martin led the evacuation of 20,000 people in response to the historic Valley Fire, which burned over 70,000 acres and destroyed nearly 2,000 structures. His actions saved countless lives in Lake County.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sheriff Martin for his dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor him here today.

TYBEE ISLAND VETERANS CIRCLE
OF FREEDOM MEMORIAL MONU-
MENT

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Tybee Island Veterans Circle of Freedom Memorial Monument.

This monument is a tribute to all branches of the military: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Merchant Marines, and Coast Guard.

It was built for all veterans that have previously served in the United States Armed Forces as well as those currently serving.

The Veterans Circle of Freedom Memorial Monument took several years to complete, with a committee dedicated to this project beginning their work in October 2006. Tybee Island donated a piece of property in Memorial Park, and the groundbreaking was done two years later, on December 7, 2009.

I am proud to represent a district whose citizens came together to build this memorial monument. Generous donations poured in from community members, fundraisers, and even brick sales. This speaks to the proud military tradition present on Tybee Island, and Georgia's First Congressional District, more broadly. The monument is a beautiful tribute to our servicemen, and I thank the city of Tybee Island for making it happen.

IN HONOR OF ANNA MARIE SMITH

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Anna Marie Smith, a woman of strength, character and commitment to her community. Ms. Smith has been a friend, mentor and volunteer to many individuals and for organizations throughout the City of Gloucester City and the surrounding community in southern New Jersey, including myself, and it only seems fitting that we honor someone on the floor of the House of Representatives who has dedicated herself to helping others.

Ms. Smith has lived in the City of Gloucester City since 1963. Throughout the time since then, she has proven to be a tireless advocate for veterans, children, those less fortunate and animals.

For the past twenty-eight years, Ms. Smith has been the Secretary to the Gloucester City Board of Health. She worked for a decade at the Camden County, New Jersey Clerk's Office until she retired at the age of 82.

She formed the Heroes to Hero Run and Memorial Scholarship Event in honor of our fallen soldiers, and remains actively involved in that yearly event. She is an active member of the local Democratic Committee's Executive Board and attends monthly meetings and volunteer activities.

Ms. Smith works actively with the City of Gloucester City's Rabies Clinic, and volunteers to help staff the events in the City and she regularly volunteers her time for the City's Red Cross Blood Drive. She volunteers at the local Ronald McDonald House, at the Larc School for disabled children, and helps to collect school supplies and winter clothing items for local school children.

With all of her volunteer efforts, Ms. Smith remains a proud Grandmother to Velann Tomlin and is fixture in the lives of her Great Grandchildren, Luke and Mersadie.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Smith continues to encourage and inspire everyone who knows her and those she continues to meet. I hope that you will all join me in thanking her for all she

has done and will continue to do for her friends, family and neighbors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
HONORABLE A. WALLACE CATO

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional public servant and outstanding leader, Chief Judge Anthony Wallace Cato, on the occasion of his retirement from the South Georgia Judicial Circuit in Bainbridge, Georgia.

A. Wallace Cato was born on February 6, 1938 in Decatur County, Georgia to the late John Ebb Cato and Edna Stegall Cato. A Georgia man through and through, he has lived in Bainbridge his entire life. He attended the University of Georgia and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1960 and a law degree in 1964.

In 1966, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives but he resigned in November 1969 to take office as District Attorney for the South Georgia Judicial Circuit. He served as District Attorney, prosecuting crimes in Southwest Georgia, until 1978.

Judge Cato resigned as District Attorney in 1978 and was appointed as Superior Court Judge for the South Georgia Judicial Circuit in a newly added seat. He served as Judge under Chief Judge Robert Culpepper, Jr., until December 15, 1982 when Judge Culpepper retired. At that time, Judge Cato became Chief Judge and he has maintained that position since.

Chief Judge Cato was a member of the Council of Superior Court Judges and served as Secretary and Treasurer in 1983–1984 under President Judge Emory Findley. Chief Judge Cato succeeded Judge Findley as the President of the Council in 1984–1985.

Chief Judge Cato also served as an Administrative Judge of the Second Judicial Administrative District for two terms: 1986 through 1988 and 2002 through 2006. As Administrative Judge, he served on the Executive Committee of the Council during these time periods.

Throughout his career, Chief Judge Cato has been recognized for his commitment and leadership on the bench. This year, he received the 5th Annual Emory Findley Award for Outstanding Judicial Service from the Council of Superior Court Judges. Always a mentor to those around him, Chief Judge Cato possesses the rare quality of humble leadership.

After retirement, Chief Judge Cato will enjoy spending time with his wife, Sadie; their three children, Karen, Wally, and Nancy; and six grandchildren. Chief Judge Cato has accomplished much in his life, but none of it would be possible without the love and support of the family he cherishes so dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to the Honorable A. Wallace Cato upon the occasion of his retirement from an

outstanding career spanning 38 years as a Judge for the South Georgia Judicial Circuit.

DAN EVANS OLYMPIC
WILDERNESS ACT

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, my home state of Washington and the region I represent are known for their breathtaking natural treasures.

Visitors from around the world come to take in the view of Mt. Rainier and hike the beautiful trails in the North Cascades.

But we cannot talk about Washington's natural treasures without thanking the man who's been instrumental in maintaining and protecting them for future generations.

Former Washington governor and U.S. Senator, Dan Evans, had an unwavering commitment to preserving our state's national parks and forests throughout his distinguished 50 years as a public servant.

From the 1984 Washington Wilderness Act to the Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988, Senator Evans' initiatives have had a lasting impact on every person who had or will get the opportunity to experience Mother Nature's gifts.

It is only fitting that the name of the Olympic National Park Wilderness recognizes the efforts of the man who fought so hard to preserve it.

As someone who remembers the excitement of exploring our national forests as a kid, it has been one of my greatest pleasures as a father—and now as a grandfather—to pass the experience on to new generations.

Senator Evans understood this. He understood that even man's greatest feats of architecture could not compare to the magnificence Mt. Rainer's over 14,000 foot summit or the hidden pristine lakes in the North Cascades. He understood we only have one chance to protect these gifts.

And as a Republican from Washington State, he showed us that conservation did not have to be a partisan issue. It is a duty that falls on all of us, regardless of party or region.

Senator Evans deserves to be recognized for the contributions he made to my home state and to our country. I ask my colleagues in the House to please join me in supporting the Daniel J. Evans Olympic National Park Wilderness Act.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT AUWATER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. Scott Auwater for his many years of selfless and compassionate service to the African community, and all of our community's residents.

Scott Auwater became BronxWorks' Assistant Executive Director for Case Management Programs in 2002 after serving as a department director for seven years. He is an alumnus of the State University of New York at Cortland and has a Master's degree from the Hunter College School of Social Work. After graduating from college, he served for two years in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone. Scott first joined BronxWorks as a student intern in 1986 and has been a full-time staff member since 1988.

His portfolio includes BronxWorks' street homeless services, family shelters, HIV/AIDS services, and foster care prevention programs. Scott established the BronxWorks Homeless Outreach Team, led BronxWorks' expansion into the homeless services programs, and he is widely recognized as an expert on homelessness. He oversaw BronxWorks' role in dramatically reducing street homelessness in the borough and has done innovative work in addressing the health needs of chronically homeless individuals.

Scott has served on a number of not-for-profit boards over the years including The Bronx Borough President's African Advisory Board and Throup Family Residence, a Bronx faith-based organization that shelters families and provides permanent supportive housing. Scott is married to Luz Real and has four children. In the years since his Peace Corps services ended, Scott has kept in close contact with his network of friends in Sierra Leone and returned to the country twice. Scott and Luz's youngest son, Hassan, was born in Sierra Leone during the country's brutal civil war and Hassan was adopted after his birth parents were killed during the war.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Scott Auwater for his consistently remarkable dedication to public service.

REP. CORRINE BROWN, RANKING
MEMBER COMMITTEE ON VET-
ERANS AFFAIRS NOTABLE AC-
COMPLISHMENTS OF 114TH CON-
GRESS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Representative CORRINE BROWN, has been a member of the House Veterans Committee for 23 years becoming its Ranking Member at the beginning of the 114th Congress. Because of my long tenure my work in key policy areas bridges from one Congress to the next. With that said, here are a few highlights of my accomplishments in the 114th Congress:

RESTRUCTURING THE VA BUDGET

I sponsored the Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Planning Reform Act, H.R. 216, which restructures the VA's budget based on how much it costs to deliver services to veterans. It sets down the requirements for knowing what their needs are and then draws up a budget that will meet those needs.

In its present form, the Department of Veterans Affairs budget process does not provide

sufficient information on not only current resource requirements, but also future funding needs. To improve the budget formulation process and by extension, the Committee's understanding of the Departments goals and the resources needed to meet those goals H.R. 216 reforms the manner in which the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) determines, plans for, and delivers health care, benefits and services, by requiring the VA to periodically review and assess veterans' needs, identify a plan of action to meet these changing needs, and align its resource requirements with its current, and future, operations.

H.R. 216 passed the House on March 24, 2016 by a vote of 420-0, and awaits action in the Senate.

CLEARING LOGJAMS IN HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION

Funding caps, contractor lawsuits and design changes have delayed and even threatened the opening of new VA medical facilities.

By consistently concentrating on getting hospitals open I helped the Veterans Committee bypass the partisan infighting and legislative stalemates that threatened to shutter new construction projects. I led the effort to garner support among the Democratic Caucus for down-to-the-wire emergency funding necessary to finish new construction projects, while at the same time, working in close coordination with VA Secretary McDonald and the Chairman of the House Veterans Committee to provide necessary assurances that those at the VA responsible for malfeasance in new hospital construction would be held accountable. The funding passed the House September 30, 2015 as part of an omnibus bill to continue to fund the government after a previous continuing resolution expired.

CHOICE PROGRAM

Veterans cite access to health care, both physical and mental care, as their most important benefit. The Veterans Choice program was enacted by the 113th Congress as a temporary program in the wake of the wait time scandal that was endemic across the VA in 2014. In the first full year after enactment, VA made 1.6 million more appointments than it did the year before. Though she was not the Ranking Member of the Veterans Committee at the time of enactment, she was a conferee and participated fully in the negotiations that led to the program's inception.

Since I became the Ranking Member, VA has proposed following the current Choice program with a more permanent program and has presented the Committee with a long-term strategy for consolidation of community care programs.

One of the essential elements is that the plan streamlines eligibility requirements for veterans to receive increased access to care in their communities from non-VA providers. The goals of the new Choice program include making access to community care easier to understand, improving the veterans' experience, clarifying the program for VA staff, and make it easier for community providers to partner with VA, provide seamless connections between VA and community providers and apply best practices from the private sector.

I have taken a leadership role in three key areas to help in the implementation of the new program:

1. Encouraging veterans to sign up for care. In opening statements before Full Committee hearings and repeatedly in public forums at home and in Washington, I have ex-

pressed frustration that too many veterans don't sign up for the VA care they are entitled to. In order to overcome any doubts about the quality of care veterans may have after the drumbeat of negative news about the VA after the wait time scandals in 2013, I counter the negative images summarizing survey figures indicating that once they are in the system and receiving care, veterans are extremely satisfied with the quality of that care.

2. Recognizing that there were implementation problems and that unusually close coordination between Congress and the VA would cut through them faster, I called meetings with Democratic House Members and VA Secretary Robert McDonald to allow members to air concerns, prioritize changes that needed to be made, and determine whether legislation would be needed to fix the problems.

3. The absence of a workable provider agreement proved to be a major logjam in the delivery of Choice Program care. Upon discovering this, I led an effort among House Committee members to put in place a simple two-page provider agreement so more private care doctors could begin delivering services to veterans and be paid in a timely manner.

OPIOIDS

Opioid abuse is a rampant problem which cuts across all socioeconomic classes. Recognizing that wounded veterans are at risk for the over prescription of opioids for pain treatment. I advocated for VA to initiate a program of ensuring alternative treatment techniques. In May, 2016, the House passed a bipartisan package of bills to battle America's growing epidemic of painkiller abuse and heroin addiction focusing on opioid addiction, treatment and prevention. An important element was the PROMISE Act, which will help improve VA opioid safety, and provide Veterans with safe, personalized care to deal with their physical and invisible wounds including using alternative treatment techniques. From the beginning, the PROMISE Act is a bipartisan bill. It is currently being conferenced with similar legislation which passed the Senate.

WOMEN VETERANS

I introduced H.R. 1575, which makes permanent a highly successful pilot program to provide counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces. Women veterans transitioning from active duty experience re-adjustment issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), military sexual trauma, substance abuse, and homelessness similar to their male counterparts, yet there are indications that military service may affect women differently than men. Research has shown that women exposed to stressful situations like combat or military sexual trauma react differently than their male counterparts, and female veterans commit suicide at nearly six times the rate of other women.

Ensuring that VA is properly addressing the unique needs of women veterans is an essential component of the Committee's oversight efforts. During the 111th Congress, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-163, 124 Stat. 1130) required VA to conduct, through the Readjustment Counseling Service Vet Center Program (RCS), a pilot program to evaluate the feasibility and advisability of providing reintegration and readjustment services in group retreat settings to women veterans recently separated from service in the Armed

Forces after a prolonged deployment. The pilot program ran for two years. Evaluation data was gathered pre-retreat, immediately post-retreat, and 2-month post-retreat. Written feedback from the veteran participants immediately after the retreats was unanimously positive for both years and RCS received several letters from participants expressing their gratitude for the opportunity. More importantly, the majority of the women veterans who participated in the retreats showed improvements in their psychological well-being, decreased stress symptoms, improved stress coping skills, and a reduction in the severity of their PTSD symptoms immediately both following the retreat and 2-months post retreat. H.R. 1575 was reported to the House by the Veterans Committee on November 2, 2015, and awaits consideration on the House Floor.

I cosponsored H.R. 1948, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act, sponsored by Rep. Julia Brownley, Ranking Member of the Health Subcommittee. It expands and makes permanent a successful pilot which provides drop off child care services for veterans with appointments at a VA medical center. Studies of the four original sites in the pilot showed that the program is extremely popular with veterans, particularly veterans who are grandparents. The program also proved to have been effective in reducing "no show" appointments at VA.

HOMELESS VETERANS

I sponsored H.R. 5407, the Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Act. It directs the Secretary of Labor to put homeless veterans with dependent children at the top of the list to receive services through the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP). This program provides grants to local workforce boards, non-profits, and community and faith-based organizations to help homeless veterans find jobs.

HVRP is one of the few nationwide federal programs focusing exclusively on helping homeless veterans reintegrate into the workforce. By making veterans with children the priority to receive the temporary housing and the wrap-around services necessary to support a single working parent with children, it is my hope that vulnerable families will stabilize, move on to permanent housing and employment, and one-by-one, never be forced to spend another night in an unsafe environment. The bill would also require DOL to study access to shelter, safety and other relevant services for homeless veterans with dependent children. This information would help us understand the problem and identify opportunities to resolve issues facing homeless veterans with children. A hearing was held on June 23 in the Committee on Veterans Affairs. Testimony in support of its passage was received from the American Legion Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

DISABLED VETERANS

IT Accessibility for Visually Impaired Veterans—In February, 2015, I pushed the VA Secretary to ensure the agency is compliant with laws requiring VA website accessibility for disabled veterans, particularly for visually impaired veterans, and received the George "Buck" Gillispie Award from the Blinded American Veterans Foundation in June, 2016.

Caregivers—In 2010, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act (P.L. 111-163) was enacted to provide comprehensive caregiver support to caregivers of veterans severely injured or disabled after September 11, 2001. I strongly advocated for the

enactment of the original program. In the six years since, I have spoken with many caregivers in my district who have benefited from the program, but also heard from caregivers who have given up careers to provide unpaid care for veterans suffering from illness rather than injuries, or who were injured or became ill before 9/11. I strongly favor expanding this highly successful program to provide support for them by cosponsoring H.R. 1969, the Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act. The bill has been referred to the Veterans Committee and several other committees continues to push for hearings and has advocated about the need to find the necessary funding by closing tax loopholes and not cutting other VA programs.

HONORING AND MEMORIALIZING VETERANS AND SURVIVING SPOUSES

I sponsored H.R. 3715, the Final Farewell Act of 2016. It provides for Saturday burials for any eligible veteran or spouse at any of the nation's 134 National Veterans' Cemeteries in light of the preference in certain communities and cultures in the US who, by tradition, hold burial services on Saturdays. This makes it possible for family members to be comforted when they need it most. H.R. 3715 passed the House by voice vote on May 23, 2016.

Introduced H.R. 5059 the Love Lives On Act of 2016, April 26, 2016, which allows spouses to continue to receive survival benefits should they remarry, which has been, referred to Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. I am working with Veteran Service Organizations such as the Gold Star Wives of America and Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) to garner the support and find the funding offsets needed to make this bill a priority and move it forward.

I took the lead in the effort by Members of Congress on the House side for the inclusion in H.R. 4909, the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and H.R. 4974, the 2017 Military Construction Appropriations and Veterans Affairs Act of \$5 Million (through the Department of Defense) to support the Women in Military Service to America Memorial (WIMSA) at Arlington Cemetery. WIMSA recognizes and honors the service of women in the military throughout the country's history. The 2017 funding is primarily for maintenance and renovation of the Memorial's building, which is in serious disrepair. Funding for the WIMSA's educational programs and exhibitions come from private fundraising. These efforts were successful. H.R. 4909 passed the House on May 26 and is awaiting action in the Senate. H.R. 4974, passed the House on May 19 and the House-Senate Conference Report passed the House June 22.

COMMENDING THE WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM AND THE KICKOFF OF SOBERIDE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) and to congratulate the recipients of the Law Enforcement Awards for Excellence.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is an award-winning, public-private coalition formed to fight drunk driving, drugged driving, and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. Through educational and innovative public outreach programs, WRAP is credited with keeping local alcohol-related death rates consistently below the national average. Its programs educate students and the general public on the dangers of alcohol and drugs, particularly driving while under the influence. Through the WRAP Holiday SoberRide program, individuals who are impaired can request a free cab ride home. Since SoberRide was launched in 1993, 65,385 free cab rides have been provided in the Washington Metropolitan area, preventing potential accidents and deaths.

In 1982, the year that WRAP was founded, 26,173 people in the United States lost their lives in alcohol-related car accidents, and 60 percent of all traffic fatalities involved drunk driving. Due to the tireless efforts of WRAP, other organizations such as MADD and SADD, local and state police, and enforcement of more stringent anti-drunk driving laws, considerable progress has been made in decreasing the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities, yet more still must be done. In 2015, 10,265 people died in the United States in alcohol-related crashes which represents 29 percent of all traffic fatalities. Sadly, this is a 3.2 percent increase over the 2014 fatalities which totaled 9,967.

Since 1997, WRAP has sponsored an annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony to honor local law enforcement professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the fight against drunk driving. It is my honor to include the following names of the Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention recipients:

Officer Wesley Vitale, City of Alexandria Police Department;

Officer John Clark, Arlington County Police Department;

PFC Kevin Hedden, City of Falls Church Police Department;

Second Lieutenant Jason Long, Fairfax County Police Department;

Private First Class Eliezer Calo, Herndon Police Department;

Deputy Jason Totaro, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office;

Trooper First Class Anthony Wallace, Maryland State Police;

Officer David Naples, Metropolitan Police Department;

Police Officer III John P. Romack, Montgomery County Department of Police;

Police Officer III Alex Latifov, Montgomery County Department of Police;

Corporal Sage Saliba, Prince George's County Police Department;

Officer Jeremy A. Schenck, Prince William County Police Department;

Officer Benjamin Tomasiello, United States Park Police;

Trooper Zachary Koon, Virginia State Police.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the recipients of the Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence and in recognizing WRAP for its 34 years of public service. I commend the staff of WRAP under the

leadership of President Kurt Erickson for their tireless dedication to eradicating underage drinking and drunk or drugged driving. Their efforts combined with the support of partner organizations and law enforcement agencies have truly saved lives and are deserving of our highest praise and gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S 68TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Israel's 68th Independence Day commemorating the day before the expiration of the British Mandate in 1948, when Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion declared the establishment of Israel as the sovereign state of the Jewish people. I am pleased to celebrate that defining moment, as well as Israel's remarkable growth and success.

When the United Nations issued Resolution 181 on November 29, 1947, approving the Special Committee on Palestine's partition plan establishing a Jewish and an Arab state, it seemed to be the culmination of decades of hard work and bold dreams. On May 14, 1948 (5 Iyar), as the British Mandate was coming to an end, David Ben-Gurion held a special ceremony at the Tel Aviv Museum and read the Declaration of Independence (Megilat HaAtzma'ut), announcing the establishment of a Jewish nation to be known as Israel. The members of the Provisional State Council joined him in signing the document. America recognized Israel just after midnight on May 15, moments after the new nation was proclaimed.

Since that day the relationship between the United States and Israel has strengthened and flourished. Israel remains a beacon of hope and justice in an otherwise tumultuous region. Democracy, freedom of expression, an independent judiciary and government by the rule of law are among the ideals shared by our two nations. As a result of our common outlook, the bonds of friendship between our two nations are strong and unbreakable.

Like the United States, Israel is a nation of immigrants and draws its strength from the diversity and tenacity of its people. Israel has been a haven for Jews from every part of the globe, particularly those fleeing discrimination and expulsion. Israel has succeeded in integrating diverse populations and making them part of Israeli culture.

By investing in its citizens, Israel has proven that a creative and resourceful population can overcome a lack of natural resources. Lacking potable water, Israel is at the forefront of desalination efforts. Lacking arable land, it has developed innovative ways to grow produce in the desert. Lacking energy, it has pioneered advances in solar and wind energy. Lacking security, it has built some of the most effective defensive systems to ensure the safety and welfare of its people.

Given its record of innovation, it makes sense that Israel has more high tech start ups

than any other country in the world other than the United States and is a global leader in medicine. Israeli inventions have revolutionized communication, agriculture, imaging and other industries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 68th Israeli Independence Day. Today we rejoice in Israel's success, embrace its people, and renew our nation's commitment to standing alongside Israel in defense of its right to safety and prosperity.

TRIBUTE FOR CAL AND SANDY
RUNYON'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th wedding anniversary of a beloved couple in Eastern Kentucky, my dear friends, Cal and Sandy Runyon of Pikeville.

Cal and Sandy's commitment and love for one another is equally as strong as their devotion and loyal service to the people of Eastern Kentucky. I say that with confidence due to their combined decades of service in multiple capacities to our nation, our commonwealth and our region.

Sandy faithfully served as my Field Representative for nearly a decade. In fact, she still tries to keep me in line, advising and providing guidance about projects and politics in the Big Sandy region. She is a friend to many and has mentored countless young people and rising leaders by taking them under her wing. Sandy started in public service at a young age, landing her first job with former Pike County Commonwealth's Attorney Thomas Ratliff, and continuing on with the State Highway Department in Pikeville, serving as a former representative for the Southern Labor Union, and finally earning a gubernatorial appointment as former Pike County Circuit Court Clerk. Today, her heart of service reaches Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin and Pike Counties as Executive Director of the Big Sandy Area Development District. She has diligently sought out economic development opportunities and infrastructure enhancements to expand clean water and sewer service to people living in some of our most rural communities. She's known for getting things done in a no-nonsense approach and doesn't accept excuses. Sandy is tenacious and fights for projects that will improve the lives of Eastern Kentuckians. For those reasons, former Governor Louie B. Nunn designated Sandy as a bonafide Kentucky Colonel.

While Sandy has worked tirelessly for project funding, Cal has spent a lifetime serving and protecting our way of life. As a Corporal in the U.S. Marines, Cal served in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and a number of other posts around the world. He later served as a member of the United States Army Security Agency (USASA) in Kushiro, Japan, working in cryptography communications. When Cal returned to U.S. soil, he continued to serve through the Pike County Sheriff's Department, Pikeville City Police Department, and as a

Deputy U.S. Marshal Court Security Officer. He is also a Shriner and 32nd Degree Mason in Pikeville.

As individuals, they have helped transform Kentucky's Appalachian region. As a couple, they have conquered the obstacles of life, upheld their wedding vows for 50 years and shared a love that so many people spend a lifetime searching for. As a result, they have one son, Eddie, a daughter-in-law, Yvette, and two wonderful grandchildren, Triniti Shae and Jonah Brock Runyon.

My wife, Cynthia, and I wish Cal and Sandy a happy 50th Anniversary and many more years of marital bliss.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF SACRAMENTO
CHILDREN'S HOME

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Sacramento Children's Home. As the staff, volunteers, and community supporters gather to celebrate this momentous occasion and the beautiful renovations on their historic home, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding organization.

I know firsthand the incredible impact the Children's home has on our community. I have long been a supporter of the Sacramento Children's Home and I formerly served as a member of their board. I will continue to offer my support in any way that I can because I believe in their mission to serve our community's most vulnerable families. By supporting both children and parents, to create happier, more stable families, the Sacramento Children's Home is making an invaluable investment in our community.

Founded on February 14th, 1867, the Sacramento Children's home began as an orphanage for abandoned children during the time of the Gold Rush. Since then, the Sacramento Children's home has continued to serve the most urgent needs of children with unwavering dedication. Today, the Sacramento Children's Home provides a variety of services to children and families, including counseling, emergency childcare, and programs promoting healthy parenting. These wraparound programs and resources, many of which are provided at no cost to the family, fight and protect against child abuse and neglect in our community.

Mr. Speaker, as the Sacramento Children's Home gathers to celebrate their renovated home on their 150th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring 150 years of service to Sacramento's children and families.

ASSAULTING PROPERTY RIGHTS
TO ONE'S INVENTIONS

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues an analysis of our recent government actions toward intellectual property rights titled "Assaulting Property Rights to One's Inventions," which shows how we are undermining our position as the world leader in innovation and preventing the creation of new wealth.

For a country with a momentous beginning, whose intellectual-property-rights approach produced the most iconic inventors and inventions in the world, recent changes to America's patent system should be alarming.

Mark Twain wrote, "[A] country without a patent office and good patent laws was just a crab and couldn't travel any way but sideways or backwards."

America made writing "good patent laws" that secure intellectual property rights a high priority. The Founders enumerated the Patent Clause in Article I, Section 8 of our Constitution—the only individual right named in the Constitution itself.

The Founders moved quickly to implement this property right. The Patent Act of 1790 was the third law enacted by the first Congress.

What did the Founders regard as "good patent law?" Deeding newly created property to its creator. One that democratized the property right to one's inventions. The 1790 law achieved this by awarding a patent to the "first and true inventor."

But lately, Congress, the courts and the administrative branch have diverted America toward the way of the crab. Our own government has whittled away at our patent system, degraded patent rights, devalued patents and IP and diminished inherent property rights.

What would inventors like Thomas Edison, the Wright Brothers and Alexander Graham Bell think about this new direction? Or Founders such as James Madison?

In recent years, Congress has shifted patent terms to 20 years from when a patent is applied for, though the average patent application pendency is 36 months—far longer for sophisticated inventions.

Congress changed the law to require virtually all patent applications to be published 18 months after filing, even if no patent has issued. That's a problem because it gives IP thieves a head start by providing them an invention's blueprints early. If a patent doesn't issue, disclosure makes the invention "prior art" and unpatentable.

Congress enacted the antiproperty-rights "America Invents Act." AIA denies inventors de novo judicial review if the patent office invalidates a patent. AIA also lets patent infringers off the hook if they used someone's patented invention for a year before a patent was filed. It seriously disrupts the one-year grace period, when inventors could discuss their ideas with investors and partners, improve their details and make a stronger patent application.

The AIA allows third parties to anonymously submit "prior art" while a patent application is

being considered. Use of an invention anywhere in the world now makes an invention subject to being invalidated here.

AIA changed from a first-to-invent to a first-to-file basis for winning the patent. This runs counter to the American principle of a property right to one's ideas.

AIA also put the post-grant challenge process, started in 1999, on steroids. Now anyone, with or without standing, may ask the Patent Trial and Appeal Board to invalidate an issued patent, with a low burden of proof. Infringers, hedge fund sharks or anyone can bring patent holders into double-jeopardy-like patent reexamination in this quasi-judicial administrative setting. Judge Randal Rader has called the PTAB a "patent death squad" because it revokes patents 80 percent of the time.

Courts are making it harder to secure a patent, in rulings like *KSR v. Teleflex*, *Bilski v. Kappos* and *Mayo v. Prometheus*. Judicial rulings have also raised the bar for patent owners to win infringement, in such cases as *Global-Tech Appliances v. SEB*, *Abbott Labs v. Sandoz* and *Quanta Computer v. LG*.

Even if an inventor gets a patent, then proves someone is infringing the patent, courts have put permanent injunction against infringers out of reach under *eBay v. MercExchange*. A patent is supposed to ensure exclusive rights, but if you can't stop infringers from making, using or selling your invention even when you've proven IP theft, where is the private property right to exclusivity?

Agencies like the Federal Trade Commission, myopically fixated on antitrust and unproven theories of patent litigation abuse, miss the core constitutional goal of patents, namely to vest in individual inventors enforceable property rights, which include the right to sell or license that intellectual property. The FTC's recent "study" of certain patent assertion entities, or PAEs, paints with such a broad brush; it sheds little light on this area of patent litigation.

The FTC lacks sufficient data to draw conclusions, especially with an unrepresentative sample of 22 firms and no data on the potentially abusive practices of large infringers. Making sweeping policy recommendations on such a thin foundation only picks sides in a manner that hurts inventors who have no interest in setting up manufacturing plants and threatens property rights, including the right to buy or license IP.

Meanwhile, countries like China, South Korea and Taiwan take advantage of the FTC's and U.S. Justice Department's efforts to weaken the rights and remedies of American patent owners.

These foreign governments enable their countries' businesses' theft of U.S. IP. How? By depriving American firms of due process, equating exclusive patent rights with "anticompetitiveness," and running judicial proceedings based on predetermined outcomes favoring domestic players, rather than the rule of law.

In Federalist 43, Madison explained that the right to inventions belongs to their inventors, and "the claims of individuals" to their IP rights "fully [coincide]" with the "public good." The exclusive property right benefits society while inventors enjoy the fruits of their cre-

ativity. It worked exceptionally well for about 200 years.

But today, our property rights-centered patent regime is shifting. These changes to America's once-world-class patent system must be reversed and our course righted if we are to continue as the world leader in invention and creation of new wealth.

HONORING MARCUS FAUMUI

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marcus Faumui, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Contra Costa County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

A native of Richmond, California, Mr. Faumui attended Contra Costa College and Los Medanos College, where he earned his A.S. in Fire Technology. He then graduated from the top of his academy class and joined the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Department, where he has made a tremendous impact in a short time.

Mr. Faumui is one of the youngest firefighters at the department, but has quickly gained the respect of his peers and community with his positive attitude and willingness to contribute in any way possible. At the department, Mr. Faumui serves as the incident photographer and collects evidence used in the peer review process. He also shares his experience as a volunteer trainer at the Los Medanos College Fire Academy and oversees the school education programs for Rodeo and Hercules students.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Faumui for his dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor him here today.

HONORING HUGH EVANS

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Hugh Evans, whose body will soon be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Hugh was a decorated veteran for his courage during the Vietnam War, receiving three Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star, and a Silver Star. After hearing his remarkable story, it's clear why. In 1968 he led a platoon through gunfire and across a mine-filled road to provide reinforcements to his fellow troops. Later that year, he was shot in each arm while directing artillery fire at a hidden enemy base camp amid gunfire and grenades. Hugh showed bravery in the face of danger, and a gentle, humble spirit around all who knew him.

After the war, Hugh had a fulfilling career as an attorney in Spokane, finding joy in his free

time outdoors and with his family and his constantly growing list of friends. Hugh passed away in March, and his presence is sorely missed.

INTRODUCING THE STOP ARMING TERRORISTS ACT OF 2016

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, under U.S. law it is illegal for any American to provide money or assistance to al Qaeda, ISIS or other terrorist groups. If you or I gave money, weapons or support to al-Qaeda or ISIS, we would be thrown in jail.

Yet the U.S. government has been violating this law for years, quietly supporting allies and partners of al Qaeda, ISIL, Jabhat Fateh al Sham and other terrorist groups with money, weapons, and intelligence support, in their fight to overthrow the Syrian government.

The CIA has also been funneling weapons and money through Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar and others who provide direct and indirect support to groups like ISIS and al-Qaeda. This support has allowed al-Qaeda and their fellow terrorist organizations to establish strongholds throughout Syria, including in Aleppo.

A recent New York Times article confirmed that "rebel groups" supported by the U.S. "have entered into battlefield alliances with the affiliate of al-Qaeda in Syria, formerly known as Al Nusra." This alliance has rendered the phrase "moderate rebels" meaningless.

Reports confirm that "every armed anti-Assad organization unit in those provinces [of Idlib and Aleppo] is engaged in a military structure controlled by [al-Qaeda's] Nusra militants."

A recent Wall Street Journal article reported that many rebel groups are "doubling down on their alliance" with al Nusrah. Some rebel groups are renewing their alliance, while others, like Nour al-Din al-Zinki, a former CIA-backed group and one of the largest factions in Aleppo, are joining for the first time.

"The Syria Conquest Front—formerly known as the al Qaeda-linked Nusra Front—is deeply intermingled with armed opposition groups of all stripes across Syria's battlefields."

The CIA has long been supporting a group called Fursan al Haqq, providing them with salaries, weapons and support, including surface to air missiles. This group is cooperating with and fighting alongside an al-Qaeda affiliated group trying to overthrow the Syrian government.

The Levant Front is another so-called moderate umbrella group of Syrian opposition fighters. Over the past year, the United States has been working with Turkey to give this group intelligence support and other forms of military assistance. This group has joined forces with al-Qaeda's offshoot group in Syria.

This madness must end. We must stop arming terrorists. The Government must end this hypocrisy and abide by the same laws that apply to its' citizens.

That is why I've introduced the Stop Arming Terrorists bill—legislation based on congressional action during the Iran-Contra affair to

stop the CIA's illegal arming of rebels in Nicaragua.

It will prohibit any Federal agency from using taxpayer dollars to provide weapons, cash, intelligence, or any support to al Qaeda, ISIS and other terrorist groups, and it will prohibit the government from funneling money and weapons through other countries who are directly or indirectly supporting terrorists.

IN RECOGNITION OF HENRY WIRZ

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Henry Wirz as he retires after thirty-six years of service to SAFE Credit Union. As his family, friends and colleagues gather to celebrate his long list of accomplishments, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great individual who has served and contributed so much to the Sacramento Region.

Graduating from the MBA program at UC Berkeley, Mr. Wirz started his career at a CPA firm before joining SAFE Credit Union, a not-for-profit, community-chartered credit union with membership open to businesses and individuals. Upon joining SAFE, he quickly moved up the ranks and after five years took over the reigns as CEO, staying in that role for the last thirty-one years. Under his leadership, SAFE Credit Union has grown and flourished. Embracing new ideas and technologies, SAFE Credit Union is now the second largest credit union in the Sacramento Region. It started with four branches, but has since grown to twenty-one service centers across twelve Northern California counties. SAFE's workforce has grown from 130 employees to close to 600. Over his entire career, Mr. Wirz has worked tirelessly for the more than 190,000 members of SAFE, and his efforts are a major reason why the credit union is such a pillar in our region.

In addition to his work at SAFE Credit Union, Mr. Wirz is involved in many philanthropic efforts to benefit our community. He is a champion to end homelessness, a supporter of educational programs, and an innovator of the first degree. He has inspired SAFE Credit Union members and employees to volunteer endless time to our community. Mr. Wirz is a Past Chairman of KVIE Channel 6; a Trustee of the University of California, Davis Foundation; a Trustee of the RCA Fund of the Sacramento Regional Foundation; and Chairman of the Board of Sacramento Community Foundation. He has served on the Twin Rivers Unified School District Advisor Board, the NextEd Board, and the City Year Sacramento Board. Although he will be greatly missed from the day-to-day operations at SAFE Credit Union, Mr. Wirz will remain involved in our community.

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Wirz and his family, friends and colleagues gather to celebrate his retirement, I am pleased to honor and recognize him for his hard work and dedication to making Sacramento a better place for all to live. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him the best in retirement and thanking him

for his contributions to the Sacramento Region.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST SIXTIES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the East Sixties Neighborhood Association (ESNA). For the last quarter century, ESNA has had an extraordinary impact on the quality of life of residents of the East 60s.

ESNA was founded in the summer of 1991 to ensure that residents had a say in decisions that were being made in their neighborhood. The idea for ESNA came about because of a proposal to turn a vacant lot on the corner of 63rd Street and Second Avenue owned by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to a parking lot. A parking lot would have attracted more traffic to one of New York City's busiest intersections. Instead, the founders, Barry and Judy Schneider and Neil and Judy McLennan, were able to persuade the owner to lease the property to an alternative tenant that was more acceptable to the community.

Over the last 25 years, ESNA has grown into an influential organization with a committed group of community volunteers. ESNA's catchment area includes the area from East 60th to East 69th Street from the East Side of Third Avenue to the East River, and is home to more than 35,000 New Yorkers. Today, ESNA's many committees all work together to make the community a better place to live. ESNA volunteers help prune street trees, promote recycling, remove graffiti from city property, and monitor neighborhood conditions on the streets, alerting the city to sanitation conditions, traffic and noise. ESNA also encourages community spirit through a number of social events and caroling during Christmas.

One of ESNA's current concerns has been the East Side Access project (ESA), which will bring the Long Island Rail Road into Grand Central Terminal. Some of the construction work related to ESA is in ESNA's catchment area. ESNA worked with the MTA to minimize the impact on local businesses and residents. Similarly, one of the stations for the Second Avenue Subway is being built in the ESNA area, and ESNA helped alleviate construction impact while continuing to support the development of a subway that will provide much needed transportation alternatives to the area.

New York is a city of neighborhoods. Local groups like ESNA make it possible for residents to come together as a community and have a profound impact on the quality of life in their neighborhood. I applaud ESNA for helping to create a real feeling of community in one of New York's most dense urban neighborhoods and for ensuring that community concerns are considered when decisions are being made.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 25th anniversary of ESNA

and its immeasurable contributions to the East 60s and New York City at large.

TRIBUTE TO BRONX LEBANON HOSPITAL—MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DIASPORA CLINIC

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor the Bronx Lebanon Hospital—Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for their years of tireless work to improve the lives of our community, especially the African Diaspora.

Prior to the Diaspora Clinic being opened June 12, 2012, the primary care staff at the Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Health Centers found that many patients who speak minority languages ended up in emergency rooms. The Diaspora Clinic at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Health Center on 1265 Franklin Avenue, Bronx, New York was first conceptualized to break down the myriad barriers between doctors and immigrant patients, and it was opened specifically for the growing African immigrant population in the Bronx. The Diaspora clinic focuses on providing culturally sensitive services, including health education, prevention, maternal/child health care, chronic disease, dental care, and HIV counseling. Thus far, the Diaspora clinic has had more than 15,000 visits to date.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Health Center has staff members who speak several of the African languages and dialects and very often they act as cultural ambassadors who help bridge the trust between the Diaspora patients and the medical system. The Clinic has reached out to the West African population by way of direct visits to mosques and churches; participated in their radio programs; and also organized and participated in numerous health fairs and community events because they wanted to emphasize the need for primary health care to this community. As recently as October 15, 2016, the Center hosted several Imams from Togo, Senegal, Ghana, Guinea and Gambia communities; a leading Ghanaian pastor, Mr. Benjamin Boakye, the Gambian Ambassador to the United Nations, Dr. Mamadou Tangara, and more than two hundred and fifty adults and kids from the West African community participate in the second Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Diaspora Health Fair, and they were treated to giveaways, free screenings for blood pressure and diabetes.

During the Diaspora clinic hours, the clinic has a social work assistant who is responsible for ensuring that the concrete services needs of these patients are met, and the social work assistant and the registrars also make sure that the unemployed, undocumented or temporary residents benefit from paying little or no cost via Charity Care. Many "Diaspora" patients now visit the clinic regularly for appointments with our Internists, but many of these patients have also been incorporated into the clinic's regular operating hours.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Bronx Lebanon—Martin Luther King, Jr. Health Center for their consistently remarkable dedication to the health and wellness of our community, especially for the African community.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES
DUBBERLEY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Charles Stanley Dubberley, Sr. who passed away on November 27th at the age of 82.

Mr. Dubberley was raised on a farm in Alabama, with his parents and two siblings, Ben and Beth.

When he was 22 years old, he married Judith Russell. Together, they raised five children, and passed on the hardworking, small town values they learned from their parents.

Mr. Dubberley demonstrated these values in his commitment to civil service. Beginning in 1955, he dedicated 37 years of his life to the United States Postal Service.

He moved up the ranks in the Postal Service until his hard work landed him the important position of Postmaster of Savannah.

Further, Mr. Dubberley served as the Chairman of Savannah's Postal Credit Union.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Dubberley's life today and his dedication to our community. He will certainly be missed.

HONORING CESAR LOPEZ

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cesar Lopez, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Napa County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

A firefighter, paramedic and apparatus specialist with the City of Napa Fire Department, Mr. Lopez was born in Mexico and became a citizen of the United States in 1988. A graduate of Vintage High School, Mr. Lopez continued his education at Napa and Sonoma Colleges to receive his Firefighter 1 and 2 certification and Emergency Medical Technician 1A certification. Mr. Lopez then received his Paramedic training at the University of California, Davis.

In his job with the City of Napa, Mr. Lopez is known for his personal sacrifice, generosity and kindness. In addition to his service as a first responder, Mr. Lopez is active in his community as an athletic coach, mentor and First Aid and CPR instructor. His willingness to put himself in danger for the safety of others and his contagious humor make Mr. Lopez a val-

ued team member at the City of Napa Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Lopez for his dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor him here today.

HONORING RON BREWER

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of "Young" Ron Brewer and congratulate him on his well deserved retirement.

A veteran of the airwaves for more than 40 years, Brewer's 26-year partnership with Paul Castronovo made him one of South Florida's most popular radio personalities. Their partnership is ending next week after Ron starts what he is calling an "extended vacation."

Ron Brewer started in radio as a teenager in his hometown of Annapolis, Maryland. After a stop in Virginia, he came to South Florida and made this area his home.

Paul and Young Ron's first meeting was over dinner. Ron's program director asked him to have dinner with Castronovo who was looking for a job. Pretty soon into their meal they had the entire room laughing. A partnership was born.

I was fortunate enough to join them live in studio many times to discuss the news of the day or an event in my Congressional district. One of my happiest birthday memories is when the guys had Steven Van Zandt from the E-Street band call into the show to sing me Happy Birthday.

While listeners got to hear Ron Brewer on the air every morning many don't know the ultimate family man he is off the air. Ron and his wife raised their two sons in South Florida and he spends all his free time with his family.

Ron's also been involved with many charities. For years he and Castronovo held a holiday food drive that's delivered more than 15 million pounds of food to those who needed it most.

Other charities that Ron donates his time to are kids in Distress, Women in Distress, Joe Dimaggio Children's Hospital, St. Jude's Hospital and the Sylvester Cancer Center at the University of Miami.

Ron Brewer will be missed by the millions who listened to him on the radio and morning radio in South Florida won't be quite the same.

Congratulations to Ron on his successful career and I wish him the best extended vacation ever.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN C.
LECHLEITER ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM ELI
LILLY AND COMPANY

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. John C. Lechleiter on

the occasion of his retirement. Through his tenacious and determined leadership at Lilly's helm and through his compassionate engagement with our community, Dr. Lechleiter has brought about positive growth to our Hoosier home. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Dr. Lechleiter's dedication to our Hoosier community.

Although born in Louisville, Kentucky, Dr. Lechleiter has lived and worked in Indiana for decades. He joined Eli Lilly in 1979 as a senior organic chemist in process research and development after earning his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Xavier University and his master's and doctoral degrees in organic chemistry from Harvard University. He became head of the process research and development department in 1982, and in 1984, he began serving as director of pharmaceutical product development for the Lilly Research Centre Limited in Windlesham, England. He later held roles in project management, regulatory affairs, product development, and pharma operations. Dr. Lechleiter was named President and COO of Eli Lilly in 2005, was named CEO in 2008 and was subsequently appointed Chairman of the board in 2009. In his eight years as CEO, Dr. Lechleiter has demonstrated key strategic leadership abilities and tireless efforts to ensure the growth and success of one of Indiana's largest employers. His outstanding leadership was not only good for Lilly and Indiana's economy but also for the economic well-being of so many families in our community. His unwavering commitment to Lilly's mission to make medicines that help people live longer, healthier, and lead more active lives, as well as the commitment to make significant contributions to humanity by improving global health in the 21st century, has supported the flourishing biosciences industry and Indiana STEM jobs. Under Dr. Lechleiter's leadership, Lilly has helped make Indiana a leading state, number two in the nation, in the life sciences exports.

Since the company's inception more than 140 years ago, Lilly has been devoted to discovering, developing, and improving new and better pharmaceuticals. Under Dr. Lechleiter's leadership, Lilly continued to achieve its vision of contributing to humanity and improving modern healthcare. Headquartered in Indianapolis, Eli Lilly and Company has had a positive impact throughout the state of Indiana. The Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, created in 1968, is dedicated to improving the lives of those lacking the resources to obtain quality healthcare and strengthening education in math and science for underserved students. The Lilly Foundation has given more than \$15.7 million to Indiana organizations, and Lilly employees have given more than \$19.6 million to charitable organizations. Lilly does \$819 million in business with over 700 Indiana vendors. Lilly employees work to create an impact on the world by discovering and creating life-changing medicines; improving the understanding and management of disease, and giving back to communities through philanthropy and volunteerism. This philosophy of giving and commitment to the community has been carried down through management from Colonel Eli Lilly to Dr. Lechleiter. And Dr. Lechleiter's own personal dedication to charitable work and emphasis on sustainable giving

has greatly improved our community's long term growth and development.

Under his leadership, Eli Lilly has shown progress year after year in diversity initiatives and through his insistence to make diversity of his scientific workforce a priority, Lilly climbed DiversityInc's Top 50 list. Lilly's corporate philosophy rests on the belief that the employees are the company's most valuable assets. Indeed Dr. Lechleiter's dedication to this principle has made an impact through the Lilly community, he is known for his enthusiasm to take on any problem none too small for his attention. His friends, his colleagues, and our community have benefited from his sincere regard for his employees, his hands on approach to sustainable giving, and dedicated community involvement.

Dr. Lechleiter's passion for, and dedication to, the biosciences industry clearly shows in his award winning work throughout the years. In 2014, he was named as the August M. Watanabe Life Sciences Champion of the Year for his vital support as one of the original organizers of the Indiana Biosciences Research Institute. BioCrossroads presents the Watanabe Award annually to an individual or organization that has facilitated the development and promotion of Indiana's life sciences. Dr. Lechleiter stated the importance of bringing together industry and research universities in a new, industry-led research institute that would bring entrepreneurial success as well as world-class talent to Indiana. His efforts to engage all sectors across the broader community have pushed Indiana forward to become a national leader in the biosciences industry.

Additionally, he was awarded the inaugural Global Health Partner Award from Project HOPE in 2012, and he received the 2015 International Citizen of the Year Award from the International Center of Indianapolis, Indiana. John and his wife Sarah have just recently been named as the winner of the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee's 2016 Charles L. Whistler Award. This annual award recognizes individuals who, outside the regular duties of their chosen professions have brought together the public and private sectors for civic improvement in Indianapolis. This award recognizes the great commitment John and Sarah have made to early childhood education and their dedication to helping the advancement of our young people through early education. He has received Honorary Doctorates from Marian University, the University of Indianapolis, the National University of Ireland, Indiana University, Franklin College, and Purdue University.

In addition to his work at Lilly, Dr. Lechleiter is also a member of multiple boards and councils. Dr. Lechleiter is a member of the American Chemical Society and Business Roundtable. He is chairman of the U.S.—Japan Business Council, United Way Worldwide, and the United Way of Central Indiana, the Central Indiana Community Foundation, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and the Indiana Repertory Theater. He also serves on the boards of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, PhRMA, the Chemical Heritage Foundation, the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, Nike, Inc., and Ford Motor Company.

During his time at Lilly, Dr. Lechleiter upheld and expanded Lilly's devotion to producing

high-quality pharmaceuticals and giving back to the community. Lilly employs more than 11,000 people in the state of Indiana and more than 42,000 people across the globe. Lilly medicines serve countless doctors and more importantly patients around the world. Through Dr. Lechleiter's guidance and resolute leadership, great good has been done for the people of Indiana and the larger world. On behalf of the citizens of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Dr. Lechleiter on his outstanding career at Eli Lilly and Company and wish all the best to him and his wife Sarah and their children Andrew, Daniel and Elizabeth and their families as they start the next exciting chapter their lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF BEN
VEREEN'S FIRST ANNUAL
WELLNESS THROUGH THE ARTS
SACRAMENTO ESSAY AWARDS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ben Vereen's First Annual Wellness through the Arts Sacramento Essay Awards at California State University, Sacramento on April 30th, 2016. The evening gathering is the inaugural event for Ben Vereen's new Sacramento chapter of Wellness through the Arts. Mr. Vereen created Wellness through the Arts for young people who are struggling with B.O.L.D. (Bullying, Obesity, Low Self-Esteem, and Diabetes), inviting them to embrace the performing arts as a means to a healthier lifestyle.

It is a great pleasure to welcome Ben Vereen and his program, Wellness through the Arts, to Sacramento. Ben Vereen is not only a legend and idol for many in the performing arts world, but he continues to use his platform to give back to communities in big ways. Bringing Wellness through the Arts to Sacramento will empower our region's students through art and positively impact them for the rest of their lives, no matter what they choose to do in life. Art enriches our lives in so many ways and Ben Vereen is making sure that students in Sacramento have greater access to those incredible benefits that art can have on our overall health and wellbeing.

As part of Wellness through the Arts, students from local high schools have taken part in an essay competition titled "My Best Day," about how the arts have helped them address health issues. I am excited about the accomplishments of each of the finalists of this competition: Alanna Serrato and Dylan Curry from C.K. McClatchy High School, Brendan Orellana, Danniell Urena, Darius Wilson, Dylan Achermann, Joseph Weldon, and Kate Brugger from Natomas Charter School, and Brian Thao and Joseph Gonsolis from Luther Burbank High School.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate the students on their success in the competition and to welcome Ben Vereen's outstanding organization to our community. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the hard

work of these students and Ben Vereen and his program that promotes healthier lifestyles for students by empowering them through performance and art.

CONGRATULATING LEONARD MARTIN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF CARROLLTON, TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Leonard Martin, City Manager of the City of Carrollton, on his upcoming retirement after 15 years of outstanding service.

Leonard Martin has worked in city management for over four decades, serving in six cities, across four states. He began his career as a management analyst in Wichita Falls, before moving on to positions in Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Over time, he has earned a reputation among his peers and council members as a leader and an innovator with a sincere commitment to good government.

Leonard was appointed City Manager of Carrollton in August 2001. From the beginning, he fostered a culture of managed competition. Dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents, he worked with local leaders and community members to set ambitious goals and cut waste, challenging city departments to find more efficient ways to serve the people of Carrollton.

His sustained commitment to high quality and affordable services led to incredible growth in the city over the past 15 years, including the expansion of the Dallas Area Rapid Transport system in Carrollton and the establishment of a multi-jurisdictional Public Safety radio system and regional dispatch center. These projects have had a tremendous impact on the lives of residents, transforming the downtown area and providing quicker emergency response times.

Under Leonard's tenure, the City of Carrollton has also developed a state-wide reputation for government transparency. Earlier this year, Carrollton became the first Texas municipality to receive commendation from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts as part of the new Transparency Star program. As a direct result of Leonard's efforts to increase accountability and openness, Carrollton has earned Transparency Stars in the areas of Traditional Finances, Economic Development, Debt Obligations, and Public Pensions—the most of any municipality in the state.

Among his many achievements, Leonard has been recognized as City Manager of the Year in both Oklahoma and Missouri, and in 2014 he was awarded the William J. Pitstick Regional Excellence Award from the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize Leonard and his many years of exceptional service to the City of Carrollton. His leadership will be greatly missed. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Leonard Martin on his retirement.

HONORING THE DELBERT DAY
CANCER INSTITUTE

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the Delbert Day Cancer Institute at Phelps County Regional Medical Center.

The nationally accredited Delbert Day Cancer Institute will provide comprehensive cancer treatment care to residents of south central Missouri and its surrounding areas. The center will directly improve access to life saving and live extending services. I am proud to know Missouri's Eighth Congressional District will be home to one of the finest cancer treatment centers in the country.

Doctor Delbert Day serves as a leader in biomedical research in his role as the Curator's Professor Emeritus of Ceramic Engineering at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. Over the course of his impressive career, Dr. Day founded MO-Sci Corp in 1985, and introduced the glass microsphere components used for inoperable liver cancer treatments. As a leader in the advancement of radiation therapy, Dr. Day earned dozens of awards and high honors for his achievements as an incredibly successful forward thinking engineer. The Delbert Day Cancer Institute will use state of the art medical technologies, including some of the breakthroughs he developed, to treat the citizens of south central Missouri.

This week the United States Congress sent a bill to the President's desk that will support the principles of incentivizing research to create new treatments and one day cures for rare diseases, including cancers. I was proud to support the 21st Century Cures Act because we need to unleash the ingenuity of future inventors so they can continue to develop pioneering technologies so that centers like these will be able to better treat and one day cure cancer.

For improving access to cancer treatments in rural Missouri it is my pleasure to recognize the Delbert Day Cancer Institute before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING NELL PAYNE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Nell Payne for her more than 16 years of service to our nation as the Director of Government Relations at the Smithsonian Institution. The Smithsonian Institution that we all love and admire just wouldn't be the same had it not been for all of the hard work that Nell has put in.

Nell began her formal education with a Bachelor of Art in French Language and Literature from the University of Iowa and graduated in 1978. After finishing her Bachelor Degree, she went on to pursue a Doctor of Law

(J.D.) from George Washington University, which she finished in 1982.

Nell began her professional career working as the Staff Attorney, Counsel, and then Chief Counsel for the U.S. Senate Budget Committee from May 1982—September 1987. Nell then spent October 1987—January 1990 as the Director of Government Affairs for Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. As Nell continued in her career she went on to become a Special Assistant to the President, Legislative Affairs for the White House from February 1990 through December 1991. After Nell had served alongside the President, she was able to move to Paris, France and serve as a Corporate Relations Manager for the American University of Paris. From 1994—2000 Nell served as Counsel for Verner Lipfert Bernhard McPherson & Hand. Furthermore, Nell went on to serve as Director, Office of Government Relations for the Smithsonian Institution from August 2000—present.

There are three kinds of people in this world: those who make things happen; those who sit around and watch things happen; and finally those who sit and wonder what just happened. Time and time again Nell has proven that she is of the first category of people who go out and strive to make the world a better place and I am honored to be able to recognize her for that greatness here today.

As I previously mentioned, throughout Nell's career she has continued to shine and serve the American people graciously. I cannot express my gratitude enough for all that Nell has accomplished for the Smithsonian Institution over the past 16 years or how grateful the American people should be for her diligence and excellence as the Director of Government Relations at the Smithsonian Institution. Once again, I would like to sincerely thank Nell for her vigor in service to the American people as the Director of Government Relations at the Smithsonian Institution.

God bless you Nell. I salute you.

IN RECOGNITION OF SACRAMENTO'S BUSINESS LEADERS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many outstanding Sacramento business leaders who are tonight's honorees at the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce's 121st annual dinner and business awards ceremony. Those being honored at tonight's event are dedicated to the success of the Sacramento region and have worked tirelessly to advance its economic vitality. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring these fine Sacramentans.

Martha Clark Lofgren, Partner and Co-founder of Brewer Lofgren, LLP, is Sacramentan of the Year. A distinguished attorney, Ms. Lofgren specializes in public policy matters with an emphasis on government relations, transportation, and land entitlement. She continually contributes her expertise and hard work to the well-being of the Sacramento region.

Donna Bland, President and CEO of Golden 1 Credit Union, is Businesswoman of the Year. Under Donna's guidance, Golden 1 continues to grow, to the benefit of its members and of the regional economy. Golden 1 is a large part of the Sacramento community, and we all look forward to the opening of the Golden 1 Center in Sacramento later this year.

Bill Yee, President and CEO of Western Contract, is Businessman of the Year. Mr. Yee has led the employee-owned Western Contract for over three decades. Under his leadership, Western Contract has maintained its focus on outstanding customer service, while—finding innovative ways to adapt to the changing demands of the furniture industry.

Aerojet Rocketdyne, a company that has been advancing technologies in rockets for over seventy years, is being inducted into the Centennial Business Hall of Fame. Aerojet Rocketdyne has long been a valued member of Sacramento's regional economy, providing many high-quality jobs to my constituents and advancing our national security.

Julius Clothing Company, a top-tier fashion specialty store serving the Sacramento region for over eighty years, and Frank M. Booth, Inc., which has provided contracting services in California and Nevada for over a century, are being inducted into the Business Hall of Fame. These two enterprises are certainly worthy of tonight's honor, and have played major roles in the development of Sacramento's economy over their numerous decades of operation.

Crocker & Crocker is one of Sacramento's most successful public and consumer engagement firms. Its services have helped clients for over 20 years, and tonight it receives the well-deserved Small Business of the Year award.

Tre Borden is this year's Young Professional of the Year. Tre has his hands in a dizzying number of local art and place-making projects, including curating Warehouse Artist Lofts and founding a business incubator for Sacramento's creative talent.

This year's Al Geiger Memorial Award is going to Kelly Bennett-Wofford of Sacramento Covered and Darrell Teat from Nehemiah Corporation of America. These two individuals carry on Mr. Geiger's legacy by serving as role models who help inspire others to serve our community. Sacramento is a better place because of their tireless efforts.

For his many philanthropic endeavors and close involvement in Sacramento's midtown renaissance, Patrick Mulvaney, Owner and Chef of the renowned Mulvaney's B & L restaurant, is a most deserving recipient of tonight's Volunteer of the Year award.

Scott Hanson receives the Peter McCuen Award for Civic Entrepreneurs. Scott is senior partner and founding principal of Hanson McClain Investment Advisors, and has helped people plan for retirement for over 20 years. He is a nationally recognized investment advisor, author, and radio host.

Finally, Sedrick Ghoston is Ambassador of the Year. A highly successful financial services representative at Mass Mutual Northern California, Sedrick's persistent efforts help his clients reach their financial goals.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize these individuals and businesses for their contributions to the Sacramento region that I love.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring them for their unwavering commitment to Sacramento.

HONORING THE FOUNDATION FOR
SICKLE CELL RESEARCH

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Foundation for Sickle Cell Research, a comprehensive non-profit organization in my district that provides a platform for researchers, healthcare providers, and those living with sickle cell disease.

The Foundation for Sickle Cell Disease Research was founded by Dr. Lanetta Bronte in 2012, and on October 20, 2016, the Foundation held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of its facility in the city of Hollywood, Florida.

Currently, Florida has the highest number of individuals with Sickle Cell Disease. This disease is unique in that acute treatment options rarely suffice. Instead, Sickle Cell requires a lifetime of care management.

I could not be prouder of Dr. Bronte and the rest of the team at the Foundation for Sickle Cell Disease Research for taking up this important work. I am proud to be an advocate for those affected by Sickle Cell Disease and I stand in solidarity with this community to educate, advocate, and ultimately eliminate Sickle Cell.

IN HONOR OF ABDUL KARIM
KABIA, SR.

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Abdul Karim Kabia, Sr., who was born in August of 1952 in Bo Sierra Leone, West Africa to the late Mohamed Ishmin and Fatmata Yailey Kabia.

Mr. Kabia graduated from Saint Andrews secondary school in Bo Sierra Leone and at 18, his parents sent him to Europe to learn different languages and have new, exciting life experiences. Mr. Kabia studied under a Master Chef while in Spain and became a wonderful cook. He could speak Italian, German, Spanish and several African dialects.

After moving to the United States of America, he received a degree in Human Services through Camden County College and began a thirty-four year career as a social worker at the Camden County Board of Social Services before he retired in 2014. During his time with the Board of Social Services, he was an active member of the Communication Workers of America Local 1084 and became a passionate political campaigner.

Upon moving to the United States of America in 1975, Mr. Kabia met Dorleen Chism and they were married on Valentine's Day in 1976. Throughout their forty-year marriage, they had

two children, Fatinata Yailey Kabia and Abdul Karim Kabia, II. He was a proud grandfather to Fyar Ishmirr Kabia.

In addition to his family, he was a mentor, surrogate father and uncle to many individuals who he encountered throughout his life's journey, providing them advice and support and showing them kindness and love.

Mr. Kabia was a devoted family man who will be remembered fondly and deeply missed by all who had the pleasure to have known him. His always present smile and his soulful laughter will be impossible to forget.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kabia was an inspiration to his family and truly exemplifies the American Dream. I hope that you will all join me in honoring his memory here today.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE ANNIE
GRAY HICKS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include the following:

Annie Mae Hicks was born August 18, 1935 in Culpeper, Virginia to the late William Festus Gray, Sr., and Laura Mae (Scott) Gray. She was the eldest of 6 children, William Jr., Regina, Claudine, Hattie and Lillian.

Ann, as she preferred to be called, spent her formative years on her parents' farm where they raised livestock and grew vegetables. The Gray family was a loving family and her father believed in working hard. The Gray children all had chores, but Ann had a deep love for learning and would often be found doing homework or reading a book. Her siblings said she loved school so much that if she missed a day she would cry.

At the young age of 16 she graduated from George Washington Carver High School and was offered a scholarship to Virginia Union College. Ann decided to attend college in Rochester, NY where she had a cousin named Regina Alexander. She was accepted at Brockport State College and worked as an elevator operator at a local department store while she attended college. Her bus ride to Brockport and back was an hour each way.

Soon after arriving in Rochester she joined Mt. Olivet Baptist Church and she became active in the young adult fellowship program. It is there that she met a young man named Harry A.D. Hicks. At the time, Harry had already served in the Air Force and was working on his Bachelor's Degree at Rochester Institute of Technology. During this period, Harry learned about Ann's gift of gab and her ability to do homework at the same time.

After graduating from Brockport State with a degree in Elementary Education, Ann became a teacher. But, she found that teaching was not her calling. She later became a Social Worker and worked for 28 years at Monroe County Department of Social Services, retiring in 1987. Ann worked hard and took her job seriously. She knew that there were individuals and families that needed to be connected to critical resources in the community.

As a Social Worker, she traveled all over Monroe County meeting with families. In November 1975 she was one of the initial 19 members of a class action law suit against

Monroe County Social Services for not hiring and promoting minorities in supervisory positions. Ann and countless others paved the way for those that followed them to be promoted into senior level positions.

After retiring, Ann and Doug, as she affectionately called him, were able to travel to Italy, France, and England. They also enjoyed traveling to Washington, DC and Florida to spend the winter with their daughter and family. Ann and Doug enjoyed a marriage 49½ years.

Ann, surrounded by family left to be with her beloved Doug on November 14, 2016. She is survived by her sons Kevin and Keith Hicks, Rochester, NY; her daughter Santhea Hicks Brown; (Honorable Alvin Brown), Florida two grandsons, Joshua Andrew and Jordan Latham Brown, her siblings William Gray, Jr. (Alice), Regina Grayson (Ed), Claudine Cottom (Jim), Hattie Hicks (Don), and Lillian Jones (Irving); nieces, nephews and extended family, church family and many friends.

Ann will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother and a child of God.

HONORING USAID AND THE RE-
CONSTRUCTION OF HAITI'S NA-
TIONAL CAMPUS OF HEALTH
AND SCIENCES

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise to recognize the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the design-build team for their efforts to reconstruct the National Campus of Health and Sciences of Haiti.

As the proud Congressional Representative for one of the largest populations of Haitian Americans in the United States, I am deeply concerned about the quality of life for Haitians here and in Haiti. I am beaming with pride and honored to commemorate the great works that are being undertaken by USAID and others to improve living conditions in Haiti.

The National Campus of Health and Sciences of Haiti was developed by USAID as a part of Haiti's recovery following the devastating 2010 earthquake. The catastrophic earthquake caused widespread death and destruction, and destroyed the original National Medical University and National School of Nursing where the majority of Haiti's doctors and nurses were trained.

The National Campus of Health and Sciences was originally built in 1862. The loss of the two important learning institutions had a major impact on the delivery of medical care in Haiti and their replacement was critical to the country's recovery. The new facility is set to produce approximately 1,500 doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other health practitioners over the next 10 years.

The collaboration, of the design-build team was remarkable and worthy of recognition. The team was led by Tseng Consulting Group, under the leadership of George S. Tseng, PhD, PE, and included Mr. Eric Accime, Mr. Jene C. Thomas, Mission Director of USAID-Haiti, Mr. Manish Kumar, PE, of USAID, Dr.

Jean-Claude Cadet, Dean of the National Campus of Health and Sciences, and many other USAID key personnel.

The reconstruction of the National Campus of Health and Sciences was based upon the best practices of design-build and delivery techniques as developed and promoted by the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA). Jane H. Hsiao, PhD, Dr. Tseng, and Mr. Accime also provided significant financial contributions to the National Campus for Health and Sciences to ensure its long term maintenance and sustainability.

Haiti has provided the world with learned scholars, renowned and acclaimed artists, and some of the most delectable cuisine. I am excited about the new contributions that Haitians will be able to make to the world through the reconstructed National Campus of Health and Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you, my colleagues in Congress, and all Americans to please join me in recognizing USAID and the design-build team for their commitment, dedication, and excellence in the reconstruction of the National Campus of Health and Sciences of Haiti.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 5, 2016, I was unable to vote due to prior commitments. Had I been present on the House floor, I would have voted "aye" on roll call No. 601, final passage of H.R. 5015, the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act. I would have voted "aye" on roll call No. 602, H.R. 6427, the Creating Financial Prosperity for Businesses and Investors Act, and "aye" on roll call No. 603, S. 1635, Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017.

HONORING SERGEANT BRENTON GARRICK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Brenton Garrick, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Solano County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

Sergeant Garrick is a 25 year Veteran of the Vallejo Police Department, and was appointed to be the community engagement officer last year. His work is instrumental to the Vallejo Police Department's successful community policing efforts, demonstrating extreme care and decisive leadership when appropriate.

As a community engagement officer, Sergeant Garrick has made communication with the residents of Vallejo a top priority for the

department. He regularly meets with students and parents at schools, staffs events such as Late Night Basketball, and hosts Coffee with the Cops and the annual Department open house. His work helps Vallejo Police officers connect with the people they work for and builds trust between law enforcement and citizens in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sergeant Garrick for his dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor him here today.

THWARTING GOVERNMENT WASTE AND REPRIORITIZING AMERICAN TAXPAYER DOLLARS

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the concerning \$125 billion in bureaucratic waste brought to light by the Washington Post this week.

This article came on the heels of two major votes last week in the House of Representatives: an additional \$4.8 billion in funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the authorization of \$611.2 billion for the Department of Defense. Considering these measures back-to-back leads me to put them in context with each other.

On the one hand, Congress has allocated hundreds of billions of dollars to fund a military that is larger than the next seven country's combined, including China, Saudi Arabia, Russia, the United Kingdom, India, France, and Japan. On the other hand, we are providing a helpful, but relatively minute, sum of money to increase lifesaving medical research, educate our nation's youth, and support our first responders.

To then discover that the Pentagon has identified at least \$125 billion in waste further underscores our nation's misguided priorities. If just ten percent of the self-identified waste were redirected to the NIH, new cures could be found and lives could be saved. In this year's Defense Authorization, \$1.5 billion is spent to upgrade an aircraft carrier that the U.S. Navy had asked to retire. Why not reprioritize that money to improve veterans' healthcare or expand access to education?

This gratuitous spending must stop. The American taxpayer deserves to know that their hard-earned dollars are going toward promoting American values and being reinvested in their wellbeing. It's not just the programs that I highlight that deserve a higher priority—it's Medicare and Medicaid, it's Social Security, it's social safety net programs—the list goes on and on. Until we press the Pentagon to undergo a rigorous audit, I cannot and will not support bloated spending at the Defense Department. The American people deserve more transparency and accountability.

Dwight D. Eisenhower shared my fears and concerns. Our 34th President, a five-star general in the United States Army during World War II, and Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe once said, "[i]n the councils of government, we must

guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists, and will persist."

TRIBUTE TO GALEN ZUMBACH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Galen Zumbach of Creston, Iowa, for being inducted into the Creston High School Hall of Fame.

Galen came to Creston High School in 1977 as the agriculture education instructor and Future Farmers of America advisor. He taught at Creston High School for 33 years. Under his direction, Creston FFA students participated in more than 100 activities each year. The local FFA chapter has been considered one of the nation's best throughout Galen's teaching career and has been named Iowa Supreme Chapter 13 times. During his tenure, Creston High School FFA was the only chapter in the nation to win five National Chapter Award competitions.

Over his 33 year career at Creston High School, Galen stood on the stage as 209 students received their State FFA degrees, with 56 earning American FFA degrees. Under his leadership, 22 members held offices at the state or national level of FFA. Even with such success, Galen's dedication to his students didn't stop at FFA—he also coached high school football during a majority of his time at the school.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Galen for this outstanding achievements and his unwavering commitment to improving the lives of his students. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Galen and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LINDA McMAHON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, President-elect Donald Trump selected Linda McMahon of Greenwich, Connecticut, to head the Small Business Administration where she will continue to make a difference with vision to create opportunities and jobs.

President-elect Trump announced, "Linda has a tremendous background and is widely recognized as one of the country's top female executives advising businesses around the world . . . Linda is going to be a phenomenal leader and champion for small businesses and unleash America's entrepreneurial spirit across the country."

The Hartford Courant reported, "The mother of two and grandmother of six, McMahon is a

fiscally conservative Republican who embraces the party's small-government ethos. In her two runs for Senate, she campaigned on a promise to bring fresh energy, a businesswoman's savvy and an outsider's common-sense approach to Washington."

I believe that Linda McMahon will be a passionate advocate for small businesses and further facilitate a climate of job creation in this country. I look forward to working with Ms. McMahon to create jobs and expand opportunity for all Americans. The citizens of Connecticut are being recognized for their entrepreneurial expertise.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING OFFICER LUIS PANIAGUA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Luis Paniagua, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Napa County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

A native of Santa Rosa, California, Officer Paniagua graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College with an Associate's Degree in Administrative Justice before joining the Calistoga Police Department. Additionally, Officer Paniagua works with third grade students through the Read Aloud Partners program.

Officer Paniagua showed outstanding leadership and bravery during a robbery incident this year. Despite his relatively short tenure, Officer Paniagua reacted quickly and bravely to stop two armed suspects from fleeing the robbery of an armored car. He even managed to arrest one of the men without drawing his weapon, and the other suspect was appre-

hended shortly thereafter. Officer Paniagua's quick thinking under pressure helped the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office arrest the two suspects, and his example of bravery and decisiveness should inspire all of our public servants.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Officer Paniagua for his dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I missed a vote during a vote series on September 28, 2016. Had my vote been recorded for Roll Call 572, final passage on H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, I would have voted Yes.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOUNT HOPE MOSQUE—ISLAMIC SUNNA WAI JAMAA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor the Mt. Hope Mosque for their many years of selfless and compassionate service to all of our community's residents.

The masjid was founded by a group of Guyanese Muslims led by Imam Shameem Ali on the Grand Concourse in the early part of the 1980s. It was the second such institution in the whole of the Bronx. Due to the need for a larger space in 1985 it was moved to its present location, 24 Mount Hope Place. Once at its present location, a residential area, it

drew the attention of Muslims in the neighborhood who had no place to go for prayers. In the spirit of the unity of Islam, the doors of the masjid were opened to all, including non-Muslims. In doing so, the ethnicity of the members became so diverse that it was dubbed—The United Nations Mosque.

The Ameer or leader of the masjid, Mr. Abdallah Cromwell is a Trinidadian, who runs the "His People Halal Restaurant" down the block from the masjid. The first imam of the masjid is Imam Shameem Ali from Guyana, who recently retired and passed his mantle to his young and energetic deputy, Imam Issah Lamin Yusif, who is from Ghana. Imam Issah Lamin Yusif's deputy is Imam Hameed Fofana from the Gambia. Imam Issah and his deputies lead the congregants in their daily prayers and also run a daily after-school and weekend programs to educate children of the congregation in religious knowledge.

The mosque has a Boys' and Cubs' Scout Troop, who have been invited to many places in the city and the state. Recently, they were invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the Scouts' Creed at the last general meeting of the New York State leadership committee.

There are programs to educate the congregants on good citizenship and civic responsibilities. Every Friday after congregational prayers there is enough food for all. During the holy month of Ramadan there is enough food for everyone who comes to break their fast. From 1989 until 2000 the mosque ran a food pantry for the neighborhood's needy.

Another uniqueness of this masjid is its plurality of ethnicities. Its congregants are from—Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Mount Hope Masjid was founded to serve the religious and social needs of some Guyanese, but it grew to serve a diverse group of people with the same needs. It still serves the same purpose and it will continue to do so for a long time, Insha-Allah.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Mt. Hope Mosque for their consistently remarkable dedication to public service.

SENATE—Friday, December 9, 2016

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Great and eternal God, we refuse to forget Your generous blessings that bring joy to our lives. You satisfy us with good things in every season. We particularly thank You for the laudable life of former Senator John Glenn.

Lord, You have not dealt with us according to our sins. Continue to sustain our lawmakers. Remind them that their days are like grass, which flourishes and then disappears. May they find sustenance in Your steadfast love, striving to please You in all they do. Give them the wisdom of a reverential awe that will trust the unfolding of Your majestic providence even when they do not understand Your movements.

Lord, we thank You for the faithful service through the decades of Your servant, Senator HARRY REID. As he prepares to transition from the legislative branch, give to him and his beloved Landra fair winds and following seas.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JOHN GLENN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, we were saddened yesterday to learn of the passing of one of the most iconic figures of the 20th century, John Glenn. He described his childhood as being like something out of a Norman Rockwell painting, but as we all know, his life was anything but ordinary. This smalltown boy from New Concord, OH, came a long way and lived a full life, one that touched many and will not soon be forgotten.

Elaine and I send our condolences to his wife Annie and the rest of the Glenn family.

LEGISLATION BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday the House passed a continuing resolution on a very large bipartisan basis, with more than three-fourths voting in its favor.

Let me repeat that. Three-fourths, a majority of both parties, voted for the legislation needed to keep the government open. While some Senate Democrats may want to delay into a government shutdown, House Democrats overwhelmingly rejected that approach.

The funding in this CR is critical to our Nation's defense. It supports overseas operations, the fight against ISIL, and our forces in Afghanistan. It provides resources to begin implementing the medical innovation bill we passed earlier this week and to start bringing relief to victims of severe flooding across our country, and of course it includes provisions that will guarantee that retired coal miners in Kentucky—in Kentucky—and other States will not lose their health benefits at the end of this month. Would I have preferred that provision to be more generous? Of course I would have. My request to the House was to fund it for a full year, but we will be back at it in April, and I think it is highly unlikely that we will take it away—just as I would have preferred that so many miners' places of employment hadn't been driven into bankruptcy in recent years, which as we all know is due in no small part to President Obama, his policies, and the overwhelming majority of Senate Democrats who support all those policies that have been a huge factor in creating the dilemma we have in coal country in Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia. Most of the Senate Democrats support the war on coal.

It has been my intention that the miner health benefits not expire at the end of April next year. As I just said, I am going to work with my colleagues to prevent that, but this is a good time to take yes for an answer. We should pass the CR without delay because if we don't pass the CR, the health benefits will go away at the end of this month. The House is gone. They are through for this session.

Failure to pass this legislation means delaying funding for our troops overseas. Failure to pass this means delaying funding for Flint, MI. I promised Senator STABENOW we would deal with that issue, and we have, in the WRDA bill and the CR that are here, having passed the House. Failure to pass this legislation means delaying funding for storm recovery in many of our States,

and of course failure to pass this legislation means creating a shutdown of the government. Over what? We have funded health care for miners through the end of April. We have funding in here for the opioid crisis and a whole lot of other things that Senators say they care about. They want to shut the government down to stop this? Really. It hardly makes sense to me. In fact, passing this CR guarantees that health care will be there for miners through the end of April. It guarantees it. Failure to pass it guarantees it goes away at the end of the month.

I think it is time to get serious. I think we all don't want any of these consequences to come about. The thing to do is to pass this continuing resolution. After we pass that, we will turn to the water resources development bill. The House overwhelmingly passed the bipartisan water resources development bill as well, with more than three-fourths in its favor. It was overwhelming on both sides of the aisle.

Now it is our turn to act. Remember, this bill supports waterways, infrastructure, enhances commerce, and maintains American ecosystems. It also authorizes spending in the continuing resolution, which will help families in Flint. Flint is in both of these bills. These are the folks who have been impacted by the drinking water crisis. We will have a vote on WRDA after the CR has been approved.

I encourage my colleagues to work together now so we can pass both of these as soon as possible. It strikes me that delay is not a solution to any of these problems I have outlined.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JOHN GLENN

Mr. REID. Madam President, our Nation and the world lost a historic figure yesterday, a legend, John Glenn.

As a relatively new Senator, I had the good fortune to take a trip with him. He led the trip with Ted Stevens of Alaska. It was a wonderful trip. We were in Austria. The Iron Curtain was down. We went into Czechoslovakia and had all the Russian soldiers checking the train. They had dogs.

But around the world, everyone knew that John Glenn was leading that trip, and a number—three, to be exact—of the soldiers, when none of the others were looking, asked if he would autograph for them just a piece of paper

they had, and he did that. Everyplace we went, in Poland—we were all Senators, but there was only one John Glenn. Everyplace we went, he was beloved. He really was an icon.

In reading the morning newspaper, I was disappointed it had a headline, John Glenn known for his space exploits. John Glenn was known for far more than that. Of course, he was our first to circumvent the globe. He told all of us he wore that space capsule, it was so small. In all the news last night, it showed him climbing into that. If you were claustrophobic, you could not get in that, it was so tight. He could reach out and touch both sides of it.

Here this great aviator told me and whoever else was listening that when that came down in the ocean, if they had waited another minute to pick him up, he would have had to throw up. Here was a guy who never got sick any time, but he was getting sick then.

I have so many fond memories of John Glenn. He was so nice to me, as he was nice to everyone. He was an ace in World War II, a fighter pilot. He was an ace in the Korean conflict. I think he had 90 missions there. This may upset some people, but it is a fact of war—war is tough. We were having a debate here on napalm, and someone asked John Glenn: Did you ever use that in World War II?

He said: Yes, we did.

When would you decide to drop your load?

He said: When we could see the whites of the eyes on the people on the ground.

That was John Glenn. He was so thoughtful of everyone else—but a soldier, a marine, a pilot. He held that record for flying across the United States faster than anyone else. He was known by far more than his space exploits. He served in the Senate for 24 years. In all the years I have been here, no one in the Senate had more respect than John Glenn.

His story is legendary. He and Annie, who is a wonderful woman, knew each other when they were little kids, first and second graders. That was a love affair that was ongoing forever. To show the strength of this woman, we only had to look at what happened yesterday after John passed away. She is 96 years old, and she was worried about people coming to her home—with John having died and well-wishers coming—so she went grocery shopping so she would have food in her home when people came to visit.

As a child, Annie was stricken with an inability to speak. She stammered so that no one could hear her—they could hear her, but they couldn't understand her. As she was growing up, John Glenn was her mouthpiece. He would take her phone calls because she couldn't talk on the phone, but she overcame that and became the Annie Glenn we all know who speaks very well.

I am not going to go over the list of his many awards. The Distinguished Flying Cross is really a big deal in the military. He was awarded one six times.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a listing of the many awards he received, including the Congressional Gold Medal, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Distinguished Flying Cross, six different times,

Navy Unit Commendation for service in Korea,

The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal,
The American Campaign Medal,
The World War II Victory Medal,
The China Service Medal,
The National Defense Service Medal,
The Korean Service Medal,
The United Nations Service Medal,
The Korean Presidential Unit Citation,
The Navy's Astronaut Wings,
The Marine Corps' Astronaut Medal,
The NASA Distinguished Service Medal,
The Congressional Space Medal of Honor,
The Congressional Gold Medal,
and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Mr. REID. Madam President, after a quarter of a century, Senator Glenn left the Senate, and here is what he said: "Yeah, I'll miss it, sure. But you move on to other things. That's it."

That was John Glenn. He moved on to other things.

Until a couple of years ago, he flew his own airplane. When he was a Member of the Senate, he flew back to Columbus, OH. I think that is where he went. Every time he wanted to go, he didn't take commercial; he flew his own airplane.

So I express my condolences to Annie. I admire the inspiration she has been to everybody who has ever known her. Of course, John Glenn, I repeat, is an icon of the Senate, an icon of the military, an icon of the space program, an icon in life, and a wonderful human being.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 2028, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House Message to accompany H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with McConnell amendment No. 5139, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5140 (to amendment No. 5139), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 5141, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5142 (the instructions (amendment No. 5141) of the motion to refer), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 5143 (to amendment No. 5142), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

REMEMBERING JOHN GLENN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I wish to join in and echo the comments of the Democratic leader, Senator REID, about the passing of John Glenn. I was just in high school when he was the famous astronaut who risked his life to prove that we could move forward in the space program. It wasn't just an achievement that came to science. It was an achievement America was hungry for.

We were so afraid, after launching the Sputnik and two Russian cosmonauts, that we were falling behind in the space race. All of the astronauts, especially John Glenn, risked their lives to move us forward in the space program that ultimately landed a man on the Moon.

I read this morning in the obituary columns about the risk that was attendant to this launch after it was scrubbed over and over because of mechanical problems and weather and the fact that 40 percent of the time the efforts to use this rocket had failed. Yet John Glenn put his life on the line in *Friendship 7*, in that tiny little capsule that was only 7 feet across and was launched into space. He almost died on the reentry when the tiles that were to protect him started failing and, as he termed it, there was a fireball as he came back into Earth.

He made it. He was greeted with a hero's welcome all across the United States, and he addressed a joint session of Congress. That was the man I knew.

He was also the man who then volunteered to come to Springfield, IL, in 1982 and campaign for me when I ran for Congress. I was just awestruck that this great man, this American hero and then a U.S. Senator, would take the time to come to my hometown and campaign for me. He did, and he was beloved. A large crowd gathered, cheering him on, as they should have. I was just kind of background noise to the real arrival of the real American hero—John Glenn.

Many years later, when I was elected to the Senate, I was lucky enough to serve with John Glenn for 2 years and

be on his committee. He was the ranking Democrat, and Fred Thompson was the Republican chairman of that Administration Committee.

We held some very controversial hearings under Chairman Thompson. John Glenn would sit there very quietly, and I wondered if he was going to be outflanked by this trial lawyer, Fred Thompson, who was so gifted with his own oratory. But time and again, John Glenn rose to the occasion for our side of the aisle and did it in his own quiet, persuasive, Midwestern way.

At the end of that 2-year period that I served with him when I first came to the Senate, he was launched again into space at age 76 or 77. He was the oldest astronaut and went up into space and came back safely. He always wanted to fly, whether it was his own beloved airplane or whether it was a space capsule. He loved flight, and he made history with his flights around the country and, literally, around the Earth.

We should remember that he risked his life, too, in airplanes for us. In World War II, he had some 59 combat missions in the Pacific, earning the distinguished Flying Cross and many other decorations. But that wasn't the end of his service. When the Korean war started, he volunteered again and flew 90 combat missions there. Interesting footnote: His wingman in those Korean missions, at one point, was Ted Williams, the famous baseball player for the Boston Red Sox.

His is such a storied career of what John Glenn gave to America, including restoring our faith in our own space program, risking his life to prove that we can move forward into space, and serving the State of Ohio and the Nation as a Senator for four terms. He was just an extraordinary man.

We can't mention John without mentioning Annie, his wife of 73 years. They literally shared the same playpen when they were little toddlers. They grew up together in the same school. They got married at a very early age. It was a love affair that went on for decades. The two of them were inseparable.

I am honored to have served with John Glenn. He truly did have the right stuff, time and again, to make America proud.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 3542 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

(The remarks of Mr. DAINES pertaining to the introduction of S. 3539 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

WRDA

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, invasive mussels are wreaking havoc

on our ecosystem in Montana. This is negatively impacting our economy, including our recreation and tourism industries.

Watercraft inspection stations are one of the most effective ways to stop the spread of these invasive species and to protect neighboring and distant bodies of water. I am working to ensure that the needed resources are delivered.

It is time to act now.

TRIBUTE TO JESIKA WHITTLE

Madam President, behind every Senator is an extraordinary scheduler. Since 2012, I have had the privilege of having Jesika Whittle as my extraordinary scheduler.

As one of the very first staff members I hired, Jesika has literally been with me from my very first day, and I could not have asked for a better person for the job or one more willing and prepared to help me serve the people of Montana.

Jesika played a critical role in setting up our House freshman office, which is not an easy task, helping me to learn the ropes of where to go and sometimes where not to go.

Undoubtedly, there were times when it felt like a thankless job, but I can assure you that the countless meetings scheduled, emails sent at all hours of the day and night, and gentle reminders to wrap up a meeting did not go without notice or appreciation.

Her love for and dedication to her family shines through everything she does. It is this love and dedication that has propelled Jesika and her husband Zak to return to their native State of Washington. Knowing the joy this will bring Jesika and her family makes the bitter pill of losing her easier to swallow, but only slightly.

There isn't a member of my staff who has not benefited somehow from Jesika, whether it is a reassuring word, a baked good, or sage advice that perhaps she lifted from Star Wars. Speaking of Star Wars, I would say that Jesika has the wisdom of Yoda, the work ethic of Luke Skywalker, and the class of Princess Leia. Because of her, our staff is more than an odd assortment of public servants. We are a family, and this Senate family will sorely miss the extraordinary Jesika Whittle.

Jesika, thank you for everything.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

CUBA

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, the election of Donald Trump as our next President has ignited a rash of speculation about the future of U.S. policy toward Cuba.

What we know is that the President-elect has said contradictory things about President Obama's decision to resume diplomatic relations with Cuba, as he has about some other issues. Among other things, he has tweeted

that he plans to reverse the Obama administration's regulatory changes relaxing restrictions on U.S. engagement with Cuba unless the Cuban Government agrees to a "better deal."

Despite that, we don't actually know what he will do. I hope, before making a decision, he listens to advocates on both sides of the issue, including Cuban-Americans, a growing majority of whom support the resumption of diplomatic relations. As someone who has traveled to Cuba many times and seen firsthand the benefits of the policy of engagement for both the Cuban people and the American people, I will do whatever I can to encourage the President-elect to continue that policy.

The decision to resume diplomatic relations has been enthusiastically supported here and around the world. One of our closest allies in South America—their Ambassador talked to my wife Marcelle and me the day our flag went up for the first time in over 50 years at our Embassy in Havana.

He said: You know, our country has always strongly supported the United States. But we are also friends of Cuba, and the relationship between the United States and Cuba was always like a stone in our shoe. Today, when your flag went up over your Embassy, the stone came out of our shoe.

The number of Americans who travel to Cuba has risen dramatically in the past two years. U.S. airline companies and cruise ships are carrying passengers there. Hotel deals have been signed.

But the same 5 Members of Congress—3 in the Senate, 2 in the House, of the 535 Members of the House and the Senate—these 5 Members have steadfastly opposed the new opening with Cuba. They continually say that the only Cubans who have benefited from the new opening are Raul Castro and the Cuban military.

Of course the Cuban Government has benefited. That is unavoidable. It happens in any country with state-owned enterprises with which we also have diplomatic and commercial relations. There are many like that. But it is false and misleading to say that they alone have benefited. In fact, the Cuban people, particularly Cuban entrepreneurs, have benefited. So have the American people, and they overwhelmingly want this opening to continue.

I have met many times with Cuban Government officials. I have also met with Cuban dissidents who have been persecuted and imprisoned. No one is a stronger defender of democracy and human rights there than I am. I raised the issue of dissidents being imprisoned, first face-to-face with Fidel Castro many years ago, and later with Raul Castro. Like President Obama, we all want the Cuban people to be able to express themselves freely and to choose their own leaders in a free and fair

election. But I resent the assertions of those who remain wedded to the old, failed policy that to favor diplomatic relations is a form of appeasement to the Castro government.

I am as outraged as anyone when Cubans who peacefully advocate for human rights and democracy are harassed, threatened, arrested, and abused, just as I am when such violations of human rights occur in other countries, including countries by governments whose armed forces and police annually receive hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. aid.

For 55 years we have tried the approach of isolating and pressuring Cuba that is still advocated by a dwindling, albeit passionate, minority in Congress. That approach has failed miserably. The Castro family and their shrinking circle of aging revolutionaries are still in power. Cuba is still a country where political dissent is not tolerated.

No one who knows the Castro government expected the resumption of diplomatic relations to quickly result in an end to oppression of free elections. Those who label the policy of engagement a failure after just 2 years because the Castro government continues to persecute its opponents are either naive or not to be taken seriously. Change in Cuba will happen incrementally, as it does in most countries. But I have no doubt that in a lot fewer than 55 years, the Cuban people have a lot more freedoms than they have had in the past 55 years.

The record is indisputable. Bullying the Cuban Government and making threats and ultimatums have achieved nothing in more than half a century. In fact, it isolated the United States and damaged our own interests.

Consider for a moment what it would mean if we did what these five Members of Congress advocate. Not only would we have no Embassy in Cuba, but to be consistent we would have to withdraw our Ambassadors and impose a unilateral embargo against China, Vietnam, Russia, Ethiopia, and many other countries where human rights are routinely violated, where political opponents and journalists and defenders of human rights are imprisoned and tortured, where there is no such thing as a fair trial, where civil society organizations are threatened and harassed, and where dissent is severely punished.

And when we withdraw, others will happily fill the vacuum, as they have in Cuba, which trades with countries around the world, including with many of our closest allies. In fact, I recall a meeting I had with the Ambassadors of at least a dozen European and Asian countries and with representatives of major companies from those countries. They told me: We love your embargo. Keep your embargo. Our companies can do business here and they don't have to compete with American businesses.

Is that what these isolationist Members of Congress want, or are they just concerned about human rights in Cuba? Would they rather have Cubans buy rice grown in China or in Louisiana? Would they rather have Cubans buy milk from New Zealand as they do now or from the United States? Would they prefer that China and Russia build ports and airports in Cuba while we lower the flag at our Embassy, pound our chest, and demand the Cuban Government to relinquish power? That argument is as illogical as it is inconsistent.

For 55 years, Americans have been free to travel anywhere—Iran, Russia, Vietnam, any country in the world—but not to Cuba, which is only 90 miles away. One of my fellow Senators, a Republican Senator, who has traveled often to Cuba, said: It is one thing if a Communist country tells me I cannot come to their country, but I don't want my country telling me I can't go there.

Last year, more than half a million Americans visited Cuba. This year, the number is even higher. Even from my little State of Vermont, so many people just drive a few miles to the airport in Canada and fly down. These Members of Congress want to turn back the clock and make it a crime for Americans to travel to only one country in the world—Cuba. If North Korea will let you in, you can go there, but not to Cuba. If you go to Egypt, which is cracking down on dissent, that is fine, but not to Cuba. I could go on and on.

Fortunately, more Republicans and Democrats in both the House and Senate support the right of Americans to travel freely to Cuba, the right of U.S. farmers to sell their products on credit to Cuban buyers, and the rights of Cuban private entrepreneurs who are already benefiting directly from the new opening with the United States. They will benefit even more when the U.S. embargo—a failed, self-defeating, vindictive policy if there ever was one—has finally ended.

I have talked with the Cuban owners of these private businesses. They say they are now able to make far more money than before because as things have opened up, as more Americans travel there, these businesses have expanded to meet the growing demand. Those who continue to defend the embargo should listen to these people. I hope the President-elect will listen to them.

The purpose of a policy of engagement is to protect and defend the interests of the United States and the American people and to promote our values and our products. Diplomatic relations is not a reward to a foreign government; it is what we do to protect our own interests. Do the isolationists think our Embassy in Russia is a reward to President Putin, or that having an Ambassador in Moscow somehow conveys that we agree with Presi-

dent Putin's corrupt and repressive policies? Does anyone think that Russia's Embassy here in Washington is somehow a reward to the United States or to President Obama? Does anyone think the Cuban Government regards its Ambassador here as a reward to us?

The United States has interests in every country, even if it is just to stand up for the rights of Americans who travel and study or work overseas. But there are many other reasons, such as promoting trade and investment, protecting national security, law enforcement cooperation, and stopping the spread of contagious diseases. These are all in the interest of the United States but they are far harder to pursue without diplomatic relations.

We either believe in the benefits of diplomacy or we don't. We either empower our diplomats or we don't. Cuba, after a year of difficult negotiations, agreed to reopen embassies. Americans are traveling to Cuba in record numbers, including representatives of American companies, chambers of commerce, and State and local government officials. Our two governments have signed new agreements paving the way for cooperation on a wide range of issues, from the resumption of regular postal and commercial airline service, to cooperation on law enforcement and search-and-rescue.

I urge Members of Congress to get briefed on the many ways our countries are cooperating, to our benefit. It might be an eye-opener.

I understand this is an emotional issue for some Cuban-American families, including some who are Members of Congress. I have met with a number of these families. But I have also met with many who have gone to Cuba even though their property was confiscated by the Cuban government, even though they thought they would never go back, but now they can go and visit old friends, and they have changed their views.

In fact, after 55 years, survey after survey, poll after poll shows that most Cuban-Americans support the new policy of engagement. They want the United States to have an embassy in Havana. They are not saying they agree with the Cuban government, but they are saying they want the United States to have an embassy in Havana.

There is a time for family politics, and there is a time for what is in the best interest of the Nation as a whole, all 50 States. Diplomatic relations serve the national interest.

I urge these Members of Congress to put what is in the interest of the American people above their personal interest. Listen to the overwhelming majority of the Cuban and American people. They want the policy of engagement to continue because they believe it is the best hope for a free and prosperous Cuba.

Marcelle and I had a delightful time in Vermont a few months ago when we

went and cheered on a group of Little Leaguers from all over our State. They were going to Cuba to play with Little Leaguers in Cuba. Marcelle and I gave them an American flag that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol. Those kids were grinning from ear to ear while holding it, and they sent me pictures of them flying the American flag on the baseball fields in Cuba where they were playing ball and being photographed, the Cuban teams with their flag and the Vermont team with ours. Only a few years ago that would not have happened—the U.S. flag flying in Cuba with the Cuban people cheering.

One of the photographs I remember the most from that trip was taken by a member of my office, Lisa Brighenti. The picture was from the back, and one team wore red T-shirts and the other wore blue. There they were—so much like you see with Little Leaguers—walking off the field, their arms around each other's shoulders, and they just played a game together. You don't have to see their faces or which T-shirt says "United States" and which one says "Cuba." You know it is one of each, and they are together because of their shared love of the game.

I think of the times during the worst part of the Cold War, and I have gone to countries behind what we then called the Iron Curtain. I would be talking to Foreign Ministers, Defense Ministers, people in key positions, and they would say "My niece went to Stanford" or "My son is studying at the University of Kentucky," and some would tell me about my own alma mater, Georgetown.

These were openings that everybody from our diplomatic corps to our intelligence community would tell me were very important because they would learn about us, and, just as importantly, we would learn about them.

So I urge President-Elect Trump to carefully weigh the pros and cons of this issue. I believe that if he follows his instincts, if he listens to Cuban private entrepreneurs, he, too, will conclude that it makes no sense to return to a failed policy of isolation. That policy has been used by the Castros as an excuse to justify their grip on power and their failed economic policies, it has divided the Cuban and American people, and no other country in this hemisphere supports it.

As that Ambassador said to Marcelle and me: When your flag went up, the stone came out of our shoe.

The Cuban and American people share much in common—our history, our cultures, our families, our ideals, our hopes for the future. We are neighbors. Our economies are increasingly intertwined. We should no longer be isolated from one another.

As the Castro era ends, our policy today is focused on the next generation of Cuban entrepreneurs, activists, students, and leaders. They are Cuba's fu-

ture. We should endeavor to engage with them in every way we can. I met with some of them, as did a bipartisan group of House and Senate Members, earlier this week. They are bright, motivated young people. They are starting their own businesses. What a refreshing attitude they have toward life. Will everything change overnight? No. But Cuba is changing.

I want to yield the floor, but before I do, I will say that I will speak on this many more times. I think our relationship with Cuba is important not only for the United States but for the whole hemisphere. The stone has come out of the shoe; let's not put it back in. Let's work to help the Cuban people—not the Cuban Government but the Cuban people. By helping the Cuban people, we help ourselves.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

UKRAINE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I have several topics to talk about today, but I will start with a very important letter that was sent to President-Elect Trump by members and friends of the Senate Ukraine Caucus. We had 27 Senators, including me, come together to advocate and make clear that we wanted to continue the strong United States-Ukrainian relationship that our two countries have enjoyed for many years and to convey our support for Ukraine and ask the President-elect and the new administration to support our ally Ukraine and help it secure a peaceful and democratic future.

Almost 3 years after Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and military aggression in eastern Ukraine, daily cease-fires along the line of contact make a mockery of the Minsk agreement and demonstrate that this conflict in the heart of Europe is far from over. Russia has yet to withdraw its heavy weapons. It continues to engage in sabotage. It has not halted its disinformation war against Ukraine and the West nor stopped the economic and political pressure aimed at undermining the Ukrainian Government.

I was in Ukraine last year, and I saw firsthand the struggles that their government is having. They have their own internal issues with corruption and the like, but they are trying to make for a better country, and that is very difficult when you have an outside nation that is engaged in the kind of combat that we see from Russia and these kinds of interventions. According to conservative estimates from the United Nations, approximately 10,000 people have been killed, over 20,000 wounded, and more than 2 million internally displaced since the conflict began.

We said in our letter—27 Senators, Republicans and Democrats, led by Senators DURBIN and PORTMAN—that

Russia has launched a military landgrab in Ukraine that is unprecedented in modern European history, and we asked the President-elect to work with us on this very important matter so that we may help the Ukrainian people secure their democracy.

My State has a very strong tradition of Ukrainians. I actually live only a few miles from the Ukrainian center in our State. We have a long tradition of opening our arms to people from every corner of the globe. The people in my own city and State are concerned about the situation in Ukraine. There are a lot of people worried about what is going on, especially with the new administration coming in, so I think a strong statement, followed, of course, by actions from the President-elect would be very helpful.

I have to mention one Ukrainian place that I adore, Kramarczuk, which is in my neighborhood. I actually held my first election celebration there when I was running for county attorney. Of course, it didn't end because we had to go into the next morning. The vote was a little close. We didn't know the result until maybe noon, but that evening we were at Kramarczuk. They have a mural that is literally almost the size of the entire backdrop from door to door in the U.S. Senate, and it is a mural they have proudly hung of the Statue of Liberty. That mural is there because the Kramarczuk family has always believed in a country that brought them in as immigrants and refugees.

I am proud to represent that community and join the other 26 Senators in asking the President-elect to continue to support Ukrainians here at home but, most importantly, the sovereignty of the country of Ukraine and their democratic values.

CURES BILL

Next, I will turn to another issue that is of key importance to this body, and that is the passage of the CURES Act, which I know the President is going to sign into law. We are very excited about that bill. There are several things in that bill that the Presiding Officer and I have both worked on. The bill includes opioid funding. Both of our States, West Virginia and Minnesota, have seen way too many deaths and lives lost early, way too many people experiencing an overdose without the help they need for treatment.

The bill authorizes \$1 billion, \$500 million a year, to help the many families struggling with prescription drug addiction. Senators WHITEHOUSE, PORTMAN, AYOTTE, and I actually authored the original bill, the CARA bill, which set the national framework for dealing with opioid addiction. It didn't just include authorizing money for treatment; it also included some foundation steps for doing a better job of exchanging information among physicians in terms of who is getting

opioids. I remember one guy I met—a rehab guy up in Moorhead, MN—who had a patient that had gotten opioid prescriptions from 85 different doctors and medical providers in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. As a State with many States on its borders, we see this going on all the time.

I have built on that with a bill I introduced for a national prescription drug monitoring program that I think is very important. Senator CORNYN and I did the original bill on a drug take-back program to make it easier to get drugs out of medicine cabinets. The CARA bill actually built on that, but what was missing from the CARA bill, because it was an authorization bill, was the funding. This effort at the end contained in the CURES Act is going to be very important in the form of grants to our States to get the money out there.

Second is the research money. Nearly \$5 billion will go to NIH to help them look for a cure for horrific diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's. That money will be critical. We are doing groundbreaking work in Minnesota at the Mayo Clinic and also at the University of Minnesota, which will be key to finding a cure to these diseases.

The third thing in the bill that maybe hasn't gotten as much attention is the Anna Westin Act. The Presiding Officer and I worked on that bill together along with Senator AYOTTE and Senator BALDWIN—four women leading the bill, and we got it done. That bill has been kicking around for over a decade. It is a bill that actually came out of Anna Westin's untimely death. She was a young girl who struggled with an eating disorder and eventually died due to the circumstances related to her eating disorder. Her mother, Kitty Westin, has carried her torch. She first gave it to Paul Wellstone, her Senator. Paul died way too young in that tragic plane crash, and then it was passed on to Senator Harkin of Iowa. I was on the bill with him, and when Senator Harkin left, I took the bill over and was able to reach across the aisle and get the support of the Presiding Officer, Senator CAPITO, as well as Senator AYOTTE and then Senator BALDWIN. This bill builds on the Wellstone-Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act to clarify that insurance companies must cover residential treatment for eating disorders the same way they cover treatment for other mental and physical illnesses.

Over 30 million Americans struggle with eating disorders, including over 200,000 people in my State. It is actually the leading cause of death from mental illness. People don't realize that, but obviously anorexia is a very dangerous disease, as are other eating disorders. That one bill has a lot, but we know there is more work to do on prescription drugs.

I see Senator GRASSLEY here. He and I have worked very hard on what is called the pay-for-delay bill, which would tell the big pharmaceutical companies that they cannot pay the generic companies to keep their products off the market. That literally eliminates competition, and, from the estimates we have gotten, it would save billions of dollars over years. We think that is a really, really, really important bill and something we would like to get done.

I have worked with Senator MCCAIN on legislation that focuses on bringing in less expensive drugs from Canada, as well as a bill I have to allow for negotiations of prices under Medicare Part D.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Madam President, I will close my remarks by turning to some of our retiring Senators and speaking briefly on each one of them.

HARRY REID

We had a beautiful portrait unveiling for Leader REID yesterday. He has been a leader who takes all ideas into consideration, even those of newer Members.

In January of 2007, I began working on ethics reform, and, in fact, I asked him if that would be an important priority when he took over as leader. It was S. 1, and one of the first bills we passed.

Senator REID didn't give new Members the opportunity to lead just on big bills. When a little girl in Minnesota named Abbey Taylor was maimed while swimming in a pool with a defective drain, Leader REID stood by my side and helped me work with Republicans to get a bill passed in honor of Abbey's memory and final wish.

I met this little girl in the hospital. She went on to live for a year. She had been swimming in a kiddie pool when her intestines were pulled out by a defective drain due to the way it was installed.

Her parents never gave up. Scott Taylor, her dad, called me every single week to see what was happening with the bill. Honestly, again, the bill was moving around and hadn't had any action for years. Ted Stevens, who at the time was a Senator from Alaska, helped me. In the end, it was Senator REID, working with others, including Senator Lott, and we were able to get that bill on another bill, and we were able to pass it.

To this day my proudest moment in the U.S. Senate was calling Scott Taylor and telling him that bill had passed, and then last year hearing from the head of the Consumer Product Safety Commission in the Commerce Committee that not one child has died because of a defective drain since that bill passed. That bill, by the way, was named after James Baker's granddaughter, who had also perished in a pool incident. That is an example. I

don't think it would have happened if HARRY REID hadn't been one of our leaders.

Another example is when we were trying to build a bridge to Wisconsin, Senator JOHNSON and I were working on that issue along with House Representative Bachmann, Representative DUFFY, and Senator FRANKEN, and we had to get everyone signed off on an exemption to the Scenic Rivers Act. It was a Saturday, and no one was left in the Senate except two or three Members, and I had one Member I couldn't reach who had gotten on a plane, but we thought we could still reach him so I could get the last signoff to get the bill done. HARRY REID had just found out his wife had breast cancer and was waiting at home, but he wouldn't go home. He insisted on presiding for me. The leader of the Senate sat in the Presiding Officer's chair so I could be back in the Republican cloakroom trying to reach the Senator. That happened.

We didn't get the bill done that day, but the minute we got back in January, Senator REID worked with Senator MCCONNELL, and we were able to get that on the agenda and get that exemption. That bridge is going up as we speak. It is a massive bridge that had to be built because the other bridge was so bad it closed down all the time. People would literally cross their fingers when they went over it. That is Senator REID.

A lot has happened since he first came to work in Congress as a police officer in the halls of the Capitol. But one thing has stayed the same about Leader REID—the true spirit of him. It is the considerate leader who will sit up at the presiding desk just to help a freshman pass a bill that is important to her and her constituents. It is the kind of person who takes the time to talk to a little boy with leukemia and show him his favorite pictures right in the middle of the budget debate. That happened to me with a kid I brought in his office from Minnesota. It is the humble Senator who never forgets that he came from Searchlight, NV, and always serves with his home in mind.

Thank you, Senator REID, for your service. You will be missed.

BARBARA MIKULSKI

So there are two other Senators who are retiring this week, and one of them is Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI. She has been, as the Presiding Officer knows, the dean of the women in the Senate for a very, very long time. She is the queen of one-liners, and one of my favorite ones is one she uses when she talks about women elected officials. She always says: We see things not just at the macro level but at the macaroni-and-cheese level.

After a few years when I had been in the Senate, she called us into the President's Room—a number of the women Senators—to gear up for a debate that mattered to the women of

this country. She, literally—being short, as she is—stood on the couch in that room and said: Gear up. Square your shoulders. Put your lipstick on. Get ready for the revolution.

Now, at the time, I was not even sure what the revolution was. I was thinking all the time that she had probably used that line for maybe much weightier things. But that is her life. She is an advocate. She is a leader. She is someone who has championed the women of the Senate and all women in elected office. She is the one who was here first, of her own making. She is not someone who took over a seat after a husband or father had died. She ran, and she ran on her own merit, and she leaves on her own merit. She leaves on the merit of passing incredibly important bills for Maryland, incredibly important legislation for this country. I will miss her as a mentor, and we will always miss her dearly.

BARBARA BOXER

Finally, there is Senator BARBARA BOXER, who joined the Senate in 1993. When I got to the Senate, I was on the Environment Committee. She was the new chair. I got to see firsthand her advocacy—her advocacy on climate change, her advocacy on transportation and waterway infrastructure—and the way she would just never give up when she decided something was right for her State and right for the country.

But the one thing is that everyone talks about BARBARA BOXER's fiery advocacy and her incredible humor and tenacity. Sometimes, I think people forget how productive she has been when she worked across the aisle. I saw firsthand how she was able to work with Senator INHOFE on the transportation bill and then later with Senator MCCONNELL on the last transportation bill.

She is someone who has credibility on our side of the aisle. When she says she is willing to make a compromise with the Republicans, people listen. She never gave up. She would have dinners at Italian restaurants. She would find ways, in kind of a mom's way, to get everyone together. She passed some really incredible legislation, including water infrastructure legislation with Senator VITTER over the last few years.

That is what she has done. I can't think of anyone whom we are going to miss more in terms of that presence and that kind of hardscrabble advocacy, which is always coupled with the pragmatic way of getting important bills done. So we are going to miss Senator REID, Senator MIKULSKI, and, also, Senator BOXER.

KELLY AYOTTE

I would also like to add that, of the Republican Senators who are leaving, I have enjoyed a very strong working relationship with Senator AYOTTE. She and I have worked together on opioids. We have worked together a lot on the

issue of the eating disorder bill. I am glad that in her final weeks in the Senate, we have been able to pass that important legislation that embraced so many of her priorities.

DAN COATS

I also worked at length with Senator COATS. We both serve on the Joint Economic Committee. He has shown great leadership there, and also, again, an ability to work across the aisle. He believes strongly in civility and in getting to know your fellow Senators. We are going to miss him dearly for his pleasant way and his ability to cross over the aisle and work together. I also want to thank him for the work he did on an adoption bill that we worked on together.

There are many other Senators whom we wish well to. There is Senator KIRK and the work he has done on the Great Lakes priorities. We have worked on that together, as well as all of his leadership in the area of international relations.

Madam President, I see that the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY, is here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, for the last 8 years, we have seen President Obama's administration take action after action and do it without regard for concerns expressed by the American people or their elected representatives in Congress, which amount to a great deal of unconstitutional or at least contrary-to-statute Executive overreach.

The Obama administration used Executive fiat to push sweeping regulations with little thought about damage to American jobs. The Obama administration has repeatedly stretched its authority beyond limits set by Congress in law. It has twisted the same laws and even the Constitution itself to justify this Executive overreach. Despite early promises of transparency, it has kept the American people and the Congress in the dark about many of its most significant decisions.

Americans are right, then, to be frustrated with what they see as more unnecessary burdens and unchecked abuses being handed down by an out-of-reach bureaucracy. In November, they made their voices heard. So now we are going to have a new President on January 20. President-Elect Trump has said that he intends to roll back the mess of harmful regulations and Executive power grabs of the last 8 years.

He is certainly going to have his hands full, as we all know. But there is plenty that we can do to begin the process on January 20. President Obama's tenure has brought about an unprecedented expansion of the regulatory state. By some estimates, bureaucratic redtape now places a \$2 trillion burden on the Nation's economy.

You know who pays for that? The American people do.

I don't doubt that there are some good intentions behind every new rule. But the notion that so-called experts in Washington, DC, need to regulate every aspect of our lives does not make much sense to many of the Iowans I talk to. They are hoping that a President Trump will bring common sense to Washington, DC.

Take, for example, the Environmental Protection Agency's waters of the United States rule. It is often referred to by acronym WOTUS. This rule seeks to expand what the government can regulate under the Clean Water Act. Congress intentionally limited EPA's reach under the law to what is termed navigable waterways. But the WOTUS rule would subject 97 percent of the land in my State of Iowa to EPA bureaucratic burdens.

I assume it does the same in several other States. But I have only checked on Iowa. So 97 percent of the land to be regulated by the EPA bureaucracy is just an impossible situation. Think about that. Every homeowner, every contractor, and every farmer would need to seek a Federal permit for projects requiring the simple task of moving dirt, even if it is nowhere near an actual body of water. That, of course, means more paperwork, more time wasted, and, of course, more money spent to get Federal permits for activities that this Congress never intended the Federal Government to regulate.

A bipartisan majority of both Houses of Congress has voiced its disapproval of the WOTUS rule, and a Federal appeals court has placed a nationwide stay on its implementation. Yet I continue to hear concerns, regardless of the court case, that some in the EPA are going to move forward with the rule's implementation, causing unnecessary fear and confusion among farmers and landowners.

So on day one, President Trump should direct his administration to stop defending the WOTUS rule in the Federal courts where it is now held up. He should also direct his EPA to immediately stop implementing or enforcing the rule while the Agency begins the rulemaking process to take it off the books once and for all. It is not just official regulations that have sparked concern over the last 8 years, the Obama administration has also used Executive actions, agency guidance documents, and legal interpretations to push its agenda, leaving Congress and the American people in the dark.

Often this has been done with disturbing results. In 2014, the Obama administration acted unilaterally to release five senior-level Taliban commanders who were being held at Guantanamo Bay in exchange for SGT Bowe Bergdahl. Now, that is contrary to law.

Despite the requirements of law, the administration never notified Congress, as the law requires, prior to this prisoner's transfer. The law required the administration to provide Congress with a detailed statement of the basis for the release, an explanation for why it is in our national security interests, and a plan to prevent the prisoners from returning to the battlefield.

Instead, Congress heard only crackles. The administration provided no notice to the Congress, no legal justification for the release, and no plan to prevent these Taliban commanders from reentering a fight that has already spilled so much blood of America's sons and daughters.

One reporter said the Taliban has been more transparent about this exchange than the Obama administration. Even the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office later concluded that the administration acted illegally. Well, it is pretty clear. The law says that you have to give Congress 30 days' notice. They didn't give any notice.

There were and still are, then, serious questions about whether releasing these detainees from Guantanamo was a good idea, even to the extent to which the law was violated. So I asked this administration to disclose the legal advice that the Department of Justice apparently provided that justified its failure to notify Congress in a timely way—in other words, a justification for ignoring the law.

But the Department of Justice refused to do that. The public deserves a full and transparent accounting of why the administration believed it could disregard the law. On day one, then, President Trump should order the Justice Department to produce any legal advice that it concocted to excuse the Obama administration from its obligation to notify Congress of this decision 30 days before the release, because that is what the law says.

Unfortunately, this isn't the only legal opinion the Obama administration has used to avoid scrutiny of its actions. The Justice Department also brewed up a ludicrous legal opinion to block government watchdogs from accessing Federal records needed in the course of congressional oversight. If this year has taught us anything, it is that the government needs more oversight, not less.

It is unbelievable that a handful of unelected bureaucrats would try to defy the Congress and the people it represents by ignoring that law. Unfortunately, it hasn't stopped with the case I just cited.

The Obama administration practically treats a congressional subpoena as if it were a freedom of information request rather than a constitutionally mandated inquiry from a coequal branch of government. This very issue is now being debated in the courts.

But it is not just Congress that can't get information; the press and private citizens have had their freedom of information requests regularly met with very long delays, if they get any response at all. You know it is bad when the New York Times calls this White House the most secretive in more than two decades.

President Trump should take steps to reverse this trend of more secrecy in government because more transparency in government will bring more accountability. On day one, he should direct his agency heads to cooperate with congressional inquiries, inspector general investigations, and FOIA requests, and he should empower government whistleblowers.

Whistleblowers expose facts about wrongdoing and incompetence inside the vast Federal bureaucracy, often at risk of their own career and their own reputations and, in some cases, I found out, even their health.

Without whistleblowers, Americans would be none the wiser that, for instance, the Justice Department walked guns that put law enforcement agents in jeopardy—that is the Fast and Furious investigation I did—or that the EB-5 investor visa program is riddled with fraud, or that agencies spend tens of millions of taxpayer dollars every year to pay employees under investigation for misconduct who simply sit at home on paid leave. Information provided by whistleblowers under the Securities and Exchange Commission Whistleblower Program has brought in more than \$584 million in financial sanctions. The Internal Revenue Service has collected more than \$3 billion in tax revenues since 2007 thanks to whistleblowers under a piece of legislation I got passed in 2006, I believe it was.

Since I pushed to empower and protect whistleblowers under the False Claims Act way back in 1986, the Federal Government has recovered more than \$48 billion in taxpayers' money lost to fraud. That simple, quantifiable information is a good deal. But these brave employees often face retaliation from their own ranks. So I am going to suggest that if President Trump is going to be very serious about fixing the Federal bureaucracy, he should empower these patriotic citizens to help us identify fraud, abuse, and misconduct so that we can get this government working again.

I will propose to the President-elect, when I get a chance to talk to him, something I have proposed to every President since Reagan. And no President, of course, has done this, and maybe it is ridiculous for me to think President Trump will do it, but he is coming to Washington to shake things up. I will suggest to him, to empower whistleblowers, who know there is fraud and who are patriotic people who want fraud corrected, that he hold a

Rose Garden ceremony honoring whistleblowers, and maybe do it once a year so that they know that the tone from the top—that the new Commander in Chief has the backs of these patriotic soldiers for good government whom we call whistleblowers.

Of course, what I have gone through in these remarks as I finish is far from an exhaustive list, but the common thread in all of this is that the Obama administration frequently failed to take care that the laws be faithfully executed as required by our Constitution. When that doesn't happen and Congress lets a President get away with it, then we are not upholding our oath to the Constitution, which basically says that Congress passes the law and they ought to be a check on the executive branch to see that the laws are faithfully executed. The person coming to town to drain the swamp—a person by the name of Trump—should prioritize these failures and begin to restore the executive branch to its proper place in government consistent with the checks and balances outlined in our Constitution. These actions will help the new President make good on his pledge to fix the Federal bureaucracy and do what he said last night on television in Des Moines, IA—put Americans first.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Madam President, before I begin my remarks on why I came down to the floor today, I would like to join with my colleague from Iowa in saying it is a very good idea to have a Rose Garden ceremony talking about whistleblowers, supporting people who want to do the right thing in the bureaucracy, and I am willing to work with him in any way that is appropriate to talk about what we need to do to make sure that whistleblowers in our bureaucracy have the protection and the appreciation. There are many great people in government who see things every day. We spend a lot of time in our Subcommittee on Homeland Security talking about what we can do to get those good ideas from the bureaucracy, those good ideas from folks who actually work in the government percolated up to the Congress and implemented. So I applaud the work he has done on whistleblowers.

Senator GRASSLEY, I look forward to having another conversation about what we can do to put America first by making sure our public employees have an opportunity to feel pride in what they do every day, knowing that they are working for a cause in the most efficient, effective manner for the American people. I applaud your work.

COAL MINERS' HEALTH CARE AND PENSIONS AND THE EX-IM BANK

Madam President, I want to talk a little bit about this past election. There has been a lot of Monday night

quarterbacking about what happened. I guess you can't say that anymore now that they play football on Monday nights, but there has been a lot of backseat driving over what happened.

For this Senator, the message of this election could not be clearer that people who go to work every day—particularly those people who shower when they come home at night or come home in the morning if they are working shift—feel like we left them behind. They feel like things happened to them that are unexplainable to them even though they are working as hard as they can. They think that the government and the people in Washington, DC, aren't working for them and they are getting left behind.

Now there is an important opportunity to work in a bipartisan way to learn the lessons of this past election and to stand up and fight for American workers, to listen to American workers and hear about the challenges they have and to respond to those challenges, especially when those challenges clearly represent injustice. Every person in America being told these stories would say that shouldn't happen. There is no clearer indication of a "that shouldn't happen" story today than in the dialogue and debate in Washington, DC, and what is happening to the coal miners in this country.

Last night, I stood with 20 to 30 coal miners from the Presiding Officer's State. These are good people who work hard—and I know the Presiding Officer has been fighting for them as well—who simply want what they have earned. They simply want the opportunity to take care of their families and the people in their communities. You know, it was pretty cold out when we were standing out there. A number of the reporters were giving me a hard time because, being from North Dakota, everybody assumes it is always 20 below zero there, even in July, and I had some choice words. I said: You know, we were only out there for about 20 minutes in the cold, but if we leave here without a clear message, without an opportunity for those miners to know not only that we care but know that we are making their concerns a top priority, then they will be left out in the cold for a lot longer than 20 minutes by this Congress.

I made the point that there is a coal miner on the flag in West Virginia but there is also a farmer on the flag in West Virginia. That farmer, for me, represents the people who I know built the country in my State. We don't have coal miners who went underground, but we have a lot of coal miners who helped build our region. This is a moment where we can say to people who go to work every day, people who believe and built this country, whose ancestors built this country, that they are going to get what they earned—not what they deserve but what they earned.

When you look at many of the miners in these communities, there isn't a lot of economic opportunity and there aren't a lot of other jobs available. They risked their health, but they took that risk knowing they were going to get something in return: financial stability for their families. Suddenly, they are told that all they bargained for and all they agreed to is gone. There is something wrong with that. There is something wrong when we don't learn the lessons of the last election.

The other reason I react personally to this is I see the string that goes back to what is happening with Central States Pension Fund in my State. My good friend from Minnesota has joined with me in many of the efforts that we had on Central States to hear the stories of people who worked hard at a time when people were lifting packages and delivering goods with much heavier weight requirements than we have today. They talk about the surgeries they had, the hip replacements and knee replacements, and they talk about why they did it—to put food on the table for their families. Will all of that go away because of an irresponsible financial sector that destroyed this economy and made it virtually impossible for these pension funds to cash flow?

I think it is time that we stand up for these workers. I think it is time that we take the right fight.

I came to the floor and listened as Presiding Officer when we were in the majority, and I wish I had a dollar for every time someone talked about the American people and the American worker and what they were going to do for them. We now have an opportunity to do a lot. We have an opportunity not only to give the people who earned financial security the financial security they earned, but we have an opportunity to make sure we have good American jobs.

There is another provision that got left behind despite a lot of people who support it, and that is the "Buy American" provision, which is in the WRDA bill. The "Buy American" provision has broad-based support throughout this country, but yet when we get into the Halls of Congress, we cannot negotiate and get it done.

Finally, I wish to talk about something on the floor that I have spent a lot of time talking about; that is, the Ex-Im Bank. We started basically shutting down the Ex-Im to any new credit by not reauthorizing it. Guess what. We got it reauthorized by huge majorities, a huge majority in the Senate and over 70 percent in the House.

Victory, right? Well, guess what. We cannot make any deal over \$10 million at the Ex-Im Bank unless we have a quorum. We have singlehandedly seen this body hold up the quorum at the Ex-Im Bank. People want to say this

simply about: Well, why do you want to bail out or help out GE? Why do you stand for Caterpillar? Why do you stand for Westinghouse? Why do you stand for Boeing? Those are the big benefactors.

That is an argument that so misunderstands what happens in America. To give you an example, Boeing has 16 suppliers just in North Dakota. Boeing, with the ability to sell airplanes across the country and across the world, means we get good jobs in North Dakota, good jobs we will lose out on.

I have said it once, I have said it many times. I don't stand here and cry for the CEOs of GE or Boeing. That is not whom I am standing for. I am standing here begging this body to basically get the Ex-Im Bank approved once again. I will tell you why—because \$20 billion or \$30 billion of deals are waiting for us to get a quorum. What does that mean? That \$20 billion supports over 116,000 jobs in America. If those CEOs are forced, by a lack of export credit assistance, if they are forced to take those jobs overseas—which they already have, thousands have already left this country—that means workers in this country don't get those jobs. Once again, people say: Well, what kind of government subsidy is this?

In the face of the reality that the Ex-Im Bank actually returns dollars to the Treasury of this country, we are going to shut down the Ex-Im Bank and continue to keep it hobbled to the point where it cannot do its job, it cannot allow our manufacturing interests to be competitive.

As we leave this Congress and we open up the opportunity for further dialogue, I hope all the rhetoric we have heard over and over again about American jobs, American workers, and about American opportunity—I hope we live up to that rhetoric. I hope we take the steps we need to take to guarantee that American workers come first whenever we set our policies. There is no better place to address these pension concerns, there is no better place than the "Buy American" provisions, and there certainly is no easier way to get an immediate result than to get the Ex-Im Bank up and running. It is a tragedy that we are so unwilling to do this, not because it doesn't make huge common sense but because it doesn't fit in with an ideological position that was taken by the hard right against the vast majority of American interests and certainly the majority of people in this body.

With that, I turn to my colleague from the great State of Minnesota for her comments.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I stand here today with two incredibly strong women, Senator HEITKAMP of North Dakota and Senator SHAHEEN of

New Hampshire—and of course the Presiding Officer as well from the great State of West Virginia. I think we all approach our jobs with a certain pragmatism about what matters. It is not about what is left or what is right, it is about what is right for the people of this country. The two issues the Senator from North Dakota has raised are both incredibly important for these workers. When people have felt nickel-and-dimed and pushed down by the system, they can't always put a bill number on what that means. They can always put a number on how things have changed and why they feel like, hey, my cable bill is eating me up or, hey, I can't get a mortgage or I can't send my kid to college, but we know that is happening now. We in this Chamber know what is going on.

The two things the Senator from North Dakota mentioned are both things we could do for the people of America. The first is to stand with the coal miners of West Virginia, promises made should be promises kept. It was Barbara Jordan of Texas, who once said: What the American people want is something quite simple—they want a country as good as its promise. These coal miners were promised things. Over 70 years ago, President Harry Truman brokered an agreement that provided health and pension benefits for coal miners in the United Mine Workers of America Health and Retirement Funds. The Coal Act and its 2006 amendments showed the continuing commitment to the health and retirement security of our Nation's miners and their families. Yet, in October, approximately 12,500 retired coal miners and widows received notices telling them their health care benefits would be cut off at the end of this year—retired miners and widows. Then, in November, another 3,600 notices went out. That is over 16,000 people who will lose their health care coverage. I know negotiations are going on as we speak, but we urge our colleagues and the leadership in the Senate to do all they can for these miners, many of whom are in the State of the Presiding Officer.

As Senator HEITKAMP mentioned, we have a similar situation with the Central States Pension Plan, 14,000 Minnesotans. I just met with 300 of them this weekend. The plan that was originally proposed was actually rejected by the Treasury Department because it was so unfair to these workers. They are continuing to look for a solution.

Lastly, I say about the coal miners, in Minnesota, we have iron ore miners. So while your miners might be covered in black soot, ours are covered in red iron ore.

My grandpa worked most of his life underground in the mines in Ely, MN. He had to quit school when he was in sixth grade because his parents were sick and he was the oldest boy of nine kids. He went to work pulling a wagon.

When he was old enough as a teenager, he went to work in those iron ore mines. In sixth grade he quit school. He had dreamed of a career in the Navy. Instead, every single day he went down in a cage 1,500 feet underground with a little black lunch pail that my grandma packed for him every single day. His youngest sister had to go to an orphanage, and he promised we would go and get her. In a year and a half after he got the job and married my grandma, he went back, got his little sister Hannah, brought her back and raised her. That is our family story. It is a mining story.

I always think about what he thought when he went down in that cage every day—that career in the Navy, or out in the woods where he loved to hunt. Instead, he did that job. He did that job for his family, his two kids, and then the rest of his brothers and sisters because he knew if he worked hard, he would be able to support them because there would be a pension, because there would be health care, because he wouldn't die—like his own father—leaving behind kids, with the oldest one being 21 years old. That didn't happen. My grandpa raised two boys. One became an engineer. And my dad, the other boy, went to a 2-year college that was paid for at the time, went on to get a journalism degree, and became a reporter who interviewed everyone from Mike Ditka to Ronald Reagan, to Ginger Rogers. That is America, and these coal miners deserve that same support.

Another part of our State which believes if you work hard every day you should be able to get where you want to go are those who work in manufacturing, those who work in the rural parts of our State. I don't think they would ever put together the Ex-Im Bank—that Senator HEITKAMP has gathered us to talk about today—with their own livelihoods. That is a very complex matter about a guy getting confirmed on the Bank, but, in fact, it is true. Because while we have saved the Ex-Im Bank, which finances so many hundreds of small businesses in Minnesota that wouldn't be able to deal with going to a big major bank, we still haven't confirmed someone for that Board. Getting that person confirmed for that Board and through the Senate would mean the Ex-Im Bank could go back to its functional levels of financing major transactions.

That is why we are here, to ask the Senate to support the nomination of J. Mark McWatters to serve as a member of the Board of Directors. I join my colleagues to do that.

On January 11, the Senate Banking Committee received the nomination of McWatters to fill the Republican vacancy on the Board. This is a Republican candidate we are asking the Senate to confirm, but it is 333 days and counting since he has been nominated.

In 2015, I remember bringing together a group of small businesses from all over the country to talk about the importance of the Ex-Im Bank, to hear their stories of how they are going to go under if they are not allowed to continue their financing. Mostly, at a time when we are dealing with the winds of global competition being blown at us every single day, to be at such a disadvantage to other developed nations that have Ex-Im-type banks, that have financing authority—and it is not just China that is going to eat our lunch unless we can help businesses get over \$10 million in financing. They must be laughing at us over there. There are about 85 credit export agencies in over 60 other countries, including all major exporting countries. Why would we want to make it harder for our own companies to create jobs here at home and then allow these other countries to have financing agencies that compete with us. That is exactly what is going on right now. The Ex-Im Bank has supported \$17 billion in exports. Those are American jobs, 17 billion. It has a cap of \$135 billion. That sounds like a lot, but an article in the Financial Times showed that the China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China combined had an estimated \$684 billion in total development finance. These two banks combined provide five times as much financing as the Ex-Im Bank, with its cap of \$135 billion.

As Senator HEITKAMP explained, this is about jobs, and it is as simple as that. In FY2015, Ex-Im financing supported 109,000 U.S. jobs. Since we reauthorized the Ex-Im Bank, nearly 650 transactions have been approved. Now it is about time that we put the person on the Board—the Republican nominee—so the Bank can go back to fully functioning and be able to make transactions that are worth over \$10 million. Without a quorum and Board approval, Ex-Im is not able to adopt any of the accountability measures or update the loan limits so American businesses have access to the financing they need to compete globally.

Here we are, three Democratic Senators on the floor simply asking the Senate to move ahead to confirm a Republican nominee. That may be irony, but it is irony that is on the backs of the American people and we need to get it done.

Madam President, I yield the floor to the Senator from New Hampshire.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues Senator HEITKAMP of North Dakota and Senator KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota. I represent New Hampshire so I think we have three major regions of the country represented to talk about why we need to make the appointments to allow the Ex-Im Bank to continue to do their transactions.

As my colleagues have said, Ex-Im has a five-member Board of Directors. In order to consider transactions that exceed \$10 million, they have to have a quorum—three people. Right now, again, as Senator KLOBUCHAR and Senator HEITKAMP explained, there isn't a quorum so they cannot continue to do transactions worth over \$10 million. That is having a real impact on companies across this country.

After a period where Ex-Im was not reauthorized in 2016, where they were not able to do business, we finally got that legislation through. They were able to begin operating again.

In 2016, they were able to support about 52,000 U.S. jobs by authorizing more than \$5 billion in transactions—2,000, almost 3,000 export transactions.

At the same time, Ex-Im returned \$283.9 million to the U.S. Treasury and maintained a default rate of 0.266 percent. That is a pretty good record, but, by comparison, the last year that Ex-Im was fully operational, they authorized more than \$20 billion in almost 4,000 transactions in 2014 when they were fully operational. Those transactions supported 164,000 U.S. jobs and returned \$674 million to the Treasury.

So one might ask: What is wrong with this picture? Why is the Senate Banking Committee holding up the person who would allow Ex-Im to continue to operate at its full capacity and allow it to continue to help with job creation?

We have seen this very directly in New Hampshire. New Hampshire is a small State. We are a small business State. Yet we are the State that Ex-Im chose when they rolled out their small business program to help small businesses with the financing they needed to export. One of those first people to take advantage of that program was Boyle Energy Services & Technology. Their CEO, Michael Boyle, says that without Ex-Im, he would have to consider offshoring production in order to continue to grow his business.

Now, BEST does 90 percent of its business overseas, and it relies on Ex-Im for working capital guarantees. They are not doing a lot of transactions over \$10 million, but we have a lot of companies in New Hampshire that are doing transactions over \$10 million and that are subcontractors to big companies that are doing those transactions. So in New Hampshire, we have General Electric, which is very dependent and needs those exports and that financing. We have a growing aerospace industry that includes companies like New Hampshire Ball Bearings, and it includes companies like Albany Engineered Composites, which worked on the Dreamliner with Boeing.

I talked to the CEO of Albany after he came back from the Paris Air Show a couple of years ago. He said: The people who are getting the jobs, getting the accounts, are the companies that

can provide financing around the world.

We make a lot of things in New Hampshire. We have a robust manufacturing industry because we have companies such as Boyle Energy Services & Technology, New Hampshire Ball Bearings, GE, and BAE. Yet we are hamstringing those businesses and their ability to continue to grow jobs, to continue to grow their business because we are not willing to make one appointment to the Ex-Im Bank that would allow us to create jobs in this country and that sends money back to the Treasury.

For all of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who are so concerned about the fiscal health of this Nation—and I think we share that concern on the Democratic side—why would you not reauthorize and make sure that an agency like the Ex-Im Bank is fully operational, can create jobs, and can return money to the Treasury? It boggles my mind that, because of this ideological battle, we are not willing to do what is practical, what is in the interests of our businesses, of job creation, of making sure that we can compete around the world with other companies that are making things.

So I share the concern we heard from Senator HEITKAMP and from Senator KLOBUCHAR, which is that the longer we delay in approving the nomination of Mark McWatters, the longer we delay in making sure that Ex-Im is fully operational, the more jobs will be lost, the more difficult it will be for companies to compete, and the more money that will be lost to the U.S. Treasury.

So I hope that under the new administration there is more of a willingness on the part of my colleagues to actually approve these nominations and to move government forward so that we can create jobs and we can address the economic challenges that too many people in this country are facing.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JOHN GLENN

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the heroin and prescription drug epidemic that has gripped our country and my State of Ohio. But first, let me just say a word about John Glenn.

I spoke on the floor yesterday about his passing. We lost him yesterday afternoon, at age 95. A true icon, his life was really the life of our country, over the time period from when he joined his fellow Mercury astronauts

and was the first person to orbit the Earth to the time that he served here in the Senate and went on to found the Glenn College at Ohio State University—an amazing life.

Later today we are going to ask the full Senate to vote on a resolution that Senator SHERROD BROWN, my colleague from Ohio, and I are working on. We hope to have that resolution voted on successfully and allow the entire Senate to pay tribute to a remarkable American life—a former colleague of ours and one whose seat I am very humbled and honored to hold today—and that is John Glenn. We will be bringing that up later during the day.

OPIOID ADDICTION EPIDEMIC

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to talk about an issue that this Congress has focused on more in the last few months and to commend the Congress on that but also to continue to raise awareness of it and allow all of us the opportunity to figure out how we can do more—in our own way, in our own communities, in our own homes—to be able to address it. It is now to the point where we have somebody in our great country dying of an overdose every 12 minutes. One American is losing his or her life every 12 minutes. In my own State of Ohio, we have been particularly hard hit by this. We lose one Ohioan every few hours.

The statistics are overwhelming. It is now the No. 1 cause of accidental death in our country. It has been the case in Ohio since 2007. But behind those statistics are faces, families, and communities.

A 4-year-old boy recently came into his bedroom in Cleveland, OH, in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood, and he found his dad dead of an overdose—30 years old. That was just in the news this week.

A few weeks ago, there were two men in Sandusky, OH, who were found unconscious in a parking lot. Somebody was there and recorded both their overdose and the first responders coming. The Sandusky first responders found them barely breathing and brought them back to life with this miracle drug called Narcan, or naloxone. These first responders saved their lives, as they saved 16,000 lives last year in Ohio. This year it will be an even larger number, as we find out after the year closes. But this video is not for the faint of heart. It is now out on the Internet. Some have probably seen it. It has gone viral. But it shows what these first responders and our communities are dealing with every single day.

I have talked to firefighters around the State, and the Sandusky firefighters are no exception. They tell me that they have responded to more overdoses than they have fires over the past year—more overdoses than they have fires. These are firefighters who are, again, saving lives every day.

When I was in Canton, OH, last week, I was told there had been twice as many overdose deaths this year already as last year. Again, the firefighters and other first responders tell me it is their No. 1 focus and concern.

When I talk to county prosecutors and sheriffs around Ohio, they also tell me it is the No. 1 cause of crime in each of their counties in Ohio, whether it is a rural county, an urban county, or a suburban county. It is everywhere. It knows no ZIP Code. This problem is one that, unfortunately, has gripped our country like no other.

I started off working on this issue over 20 years ago, when cocaine, marijuana, and, later, methamphetamines were an issue. Certainly, all those drugs are horrible. Our prevention efforts led to what was called the Drug Free Communities Act, which was passed to be able to help address this issue. Over 2,000 community coalitions have now been formed as a result of that. But this new wave of addiction, in my view, is worse. It is worse in terms of the number of overdoses and deaths. It is worse in terms of the impact on families, tearing them apart. It is worse than the crimes it creates, mostly with people creating more and more crime to be able to feed their habit. It is worse in terms of the ability to get people back on track, to help them with treatment and recovery. It is a very difficult addiction.

The Congress, including this body, has taken action, and I appreciate that. Let me tell you why we need to take action.

I talked about these two men in Sandusky, OH, who were found unconscious and had overdosed. This was something where someone video-recorded the first responders coming and saving their lives. When one of these men was revived, Michael Williams, this is what he said:

I have a problem. If I could get help I would. I need it and I want it.

I believe that if someone needs treatment for addiction and they are willing to get it, we ought to be able to provide it. That is why it is important that Congress be involved, that State legislatures be involved, that we be involved in our communities to ensure that when someone is ready to get that treatment, it is accessible.

I have met with addicts and their families all over our State. I have probably met with several hundred addicts or recovering addicts just in the last couple years alone as we have put together this legislation and tried to work on something that is actually evidence-based and will help. So many of them tell me they are ready.

One grieving father told me his daughter had been in and out of treatment centers. Finally, after several years of trying to deal with her addiction, she acknowledged that she was ready. He personally took her to a

treatment center in Ohio. They told him and told her that they would love to help, but they were fully booked. They didn't have a bed available. They would hope to have one within a couple of weeks. During those 14 days, he found his daughter in her bedroom having overdosed, and she died.

Those stories are heart-wrenching, yet they are stories from every one of our States. So access to treatment is important and access to longer term recovery is important so people can get back on track to lead healthy, productive lives once again.

It is also really important that we do a better job on prevention and education. Ultimately, to keep people out of the funnel of addiction is the most effective way to deal with this issue. We need to redouble our efforts there and to raise awareness, among other things, of the connection between prescription drugs and heroin and these other synthetic heroins, these opioids, because four out of five heroin addicts in your State—you are representing a State here in this body—probably started with prescription drugs and then shifted over to heroin.

There is an opportunity for us to do more about that by raising that awareness, because when people learn more about that connection, they are smarter about the danger that is inherent in taking these often-narcotic painkillers that are sometimes overprescribed.

To raise awareness about this issue, I have come to the floor every week we have been in session since February. This is now our 29th speech about this issue—the opportunity to talk about it, to raise awareness about it. I will say again that over the course of those 29 weeks, a lot of things have happened by raising awareness.

One is, this body passed legislation called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, otherwise known as CARA. We passed it in this Chamber after taking it through committee after 3 years of work—conferences, bringing people in from around the country, experts. The legislation focuses on how to come up with a better way to do prevention, education, treatment, recovery, and to help our first responders with naloxone—this Narcan miracle drug—provide training, help get the prescription drugs off the shelves, drug take-back programs.

All of this resulted in CARA passing this body by a vote of 92 to 2. That never happens around here. It was overwhelming bipartisan support for legislation that is needed. This past summer, late this summer, President Obama signed that legislation into law, and it is now being implemented. I commend the administration for moving as quickly as possible.

There are a couple of programs that are already up and running. We have now provided, for instance, for nurse practitioners and physicians assistants

to be able to help with regard to medication-assisted treatment. That is something that was urgent in my home State of Ohio and other places, the need to have more people able to help recovering addicts get back on track. That is happening right now. That is already being implemented.

Other aspects of the legislation, including some of the prevention programs and the national awareness campaign on connecting prescription drugs to heroin, are still being put into effect. Today, I again urge the administration to move as quickly as possible and for the administration-elect, the new administration, to be prepared to step in to ensure that this legislation moves quickly.

I think the legislation, CARA, is probably the most important anti-drug legislation we have passed in this body in at least two decades. It is evidence-based. It will improve prevention and treatment. It is the first time ever we have put long-term recovery into any legislation, which is incredibly important for success. We talked earlier about the difficulty of getting people out of the grip of addiction and having that longer term recovery aspect. Think of recovery housing and being supported by a supportive group rather than going back to the old neighbor or going back to a family who is suffering from this issue. That longer term recovery really helps to improve the rates of success. That is in our legislation.

It also begins to remove this stigma of addiction. In some respects, I think that may be the most important part of the legislation. It acknowledges that addiction is a disease, and as a disease, it needs to be treated as such. When people come forward to be able to get treatment—and probably 8 out of 10 heroin addicts are not—you obviously see much better results for the person, for the family, and for the community.

For example, think about Ashley from Dayton, OH. At just 32 years old, she died of a heroin overdose recently, leaving her three small children without a mom. After Ashley died, her mom went back and looked at her diary to see what she had said during her last several weeks. She found it, she read it, and what Ashley wrote in her diary will break your heart. It details her daily struggle with addiction. It talks about the pain and the suffering. Here is one passage:

I am so ashamed. . . . I am an addict. I will always be an addict. . . . I know I need help [but] I'm afraid to get it . . . because I know I'll need to go away for it. . . . I'll be away from my kids.

CARA was designed to help women like Ashley. It not only helps erase the stigma of addiction and get women like her to come forward, acknowledge their illness, and get the help they need, but it allows women in recovery to bring their kids with them. You

have family treatment centers and funding available for those kinds of treatment centers and for longer term recovery so we can keep families together.

It authorizes \$181 million in investments in opioid programs every year going forward, and it ensures that taxpayer dollars are spent more wisely and effectively by channeling them to programs that have been tested and that we know, based on evidence, actually work.

Even with these new policies in place under CARA, we are going to have to fight every year for the funding as part of the appropriations process, and we are doing that today. In the most recent continuing resolution, which funds the government until tonight, we were able to get \$37 million in short-term funding to be sure CARA was fully funded during that 4-month period of time.

We will soon be voting on the next 4 months or so of a continuing resolution, and once again, we have fought the good fight on both sides of the aisle. We have asked the Appropriations Committee to include the funding for CARA. We have been successful in doing that. There is full funding in the continuing resolution that will be voted on shortly that provides for the implementation of this legislation. That is very important because if that funding had not been provided for this short term, it would have been difficult to get the programs up and going on prevention, treatment, recovery, and helping first responders with regard to Narcan training and supply. That is important. If we fully fund it and we support getting more people into treatment, we will save lives, there is no question about it. If we fully fund the prevention, we will save lives.

In addition to that funding, under the 21st Century Cures Act, which was just passed by the House and Senate over the past few days, there is additional funding, and it is immediate funding that goes to the States. It allows the States to use their own programs that they have through block grants to help address this crisis we face. I strongly support that. I think this epidemic is such that we need to do both—have the longer term, evidence-based programs in place year after year for the future, but also immediately give our States an infusion of funds to be able to help with their existing programs.

I believe that legislation is critical to my home State of Ohio, and I know how it is going to be used; it will be used well. Our Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services needs it.

That legislation was an authorization in the 21st Century Cures Act. It was 2 years of funding—\$500 million next year, \$500 million the next year—to fund dealing with this crisis immediately. That funding is now shifted

into the continuing resolution. So for this year, under this appropriations bill we are about to vote on, we now have that additional funding of \$500 million. So we had to do the authorization and then the appropriation, and that is part of the CR.

That is something people should think about as they look at this continuing resolution. We know this funding will help because we know prevention keeps people out of this funnel of addiction the most effective way, and the treatment can work. I have met so many people across Ohio who have taken advantage of treatment, of a supportive environment that comes with recovery programs, and have been successful.

There are so many stories of hope. One is the story of Rachel Motil from Columbus, OH. As a teenager, Rachel abused alcohol. She then turned to pills, and then once the pills were too expensive—as we said, all too common—she switched to heroin. She stole from her family, even selling her mother's arthritis medication. She stole jewelry from her boyfriend's parents. She wrote herself checks from her mom's checkbook.

For those who are watching and listening who have members of their family who are suffering from this illness, you know what I am talking about.

She received help, finally. Her help came from Netcare crisis services initially—detoxing and getting into treatment—and then Maryhaven Treatment Center.

I visited Maryhaven in October. I had a chance to meet with some of the recovering addicts who were there and talk to them about what they had been through.

Rachel is an example of a success story. She is now 2 years sober and studying finance at Columbus State Community College. She is a success. If we fully fund CARA and if we get this legislation in place with regard to these Cures appropriations, we will see more success stories like that. We will save lives across our country. For all those who are suffering from the disease of addiction—like Ashley from Dayton, Michael from Sandusky, or Rachel from Northland—let's do the right thing. Let's fight for them. Let's implement CARA quickly. Let's build on this commonsense law. Let's support additional funding now so we can help as many Americans as possible. By doing so, I believe we can begin to turn the tide on this addiction and not only save lives but help some of our constituents lead more productive and full lives.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed, but before I begin, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from California, Mrs.

BOXER, be recognized following my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, this resolution will provide government funding through April 28 at the level prescribed in last year's budget agreement.

I urge the Senate to support the resolution.

It provides funding to continue counterterrorism operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria. It supports our allies through the European Reassurance Initiative. It includes funding for humanitarian assistance and to protect American diplomats.

The resolution also funds important priorities here at home. It appropriates \$872 million to fight opioid abuse and support innovative cancer research. These funds will begin to implement the CURES Act, which the Senate passed earlier this week by a vote of 94 to 5.

The resolution also contains funding to respond to Hurricane Matthew, severe flooding in Louisiana and other recent natural disasters. In total, \$4 billion is available under this bill and will be allocated to recovery programs that benefit 45 of our States.

The resolution also provides funding to help Flint, MI, respond to the contamination of its water supply and to help communities around the country provide safe drinking water.

Mr. President, I urge the adoption of this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator COCHRAN for his courtesy in getting the time for me.

COAL MINER HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AND WRDA

Mr. President, some people may wonder why on a Friday we are still here and we are still arguing and we are still debating. There are several issues that are troubling to many people in the Senate and in the country, and a couple of them have a focus on them today. How this all ends remains to be seen, but I feel it is important for the American people to understand that there are some people here who are willing to take the time to explain why we can't just go home right now. We are no different from any other American. We don't want to have to work on the weekend. We don't want to have to be here when we don't have to be, giving speeches that we don't have to give.

I also want to give a shout-out to my friends who are calling attention to the plight of widows of miners—miners who went into the coal mines knowing full well they risked their lives every day. They knew that if something happened to them, their widows would be taken care of. If we can't take care of widows and children who are left behind because a coal miner risked his or

her life, who are we fighting for and what are we doing here?

Senator MANCHIN, Senator HEITKAMP, Senator CASEY, Senator SCHUMER, Senator WARNER—several of my colleagues—have been very clear. They have been taking to this floor warning the majority, the Republicans, that we want to take care of these widows. The money is there. It is there for them. Instead, my Republican friends want to take it away. You know what? That is not happening without a fight. That is not happening without a fight. If we can't defend widows and orphans, I have news for you, we don't deserve to be here.

Two days ago, I gave what was to be my final major speech on the floor of the Senate. Believe me, I don't want to be here. I don't want to talk on the floor. I wanted to go out with a great big smile on my face after working in politics for 40 years, but instead I am here to explain an issue that is very troubling.

If you asked the average person what troubles them about Congress—they hate Congress. I think we get a 17-, 18-maybe 12-percent rating. It is bad. It is hurtful. One of the things they hate about Congress is when we have a special interest rider dropped on a bill. No one has looked at it, there have been no hearings, and it has nothing to do with the bill. People are then forced into a situation where either they swallow that garbage or they can't vote for the underlying bill, which may be very important to their State, their constituents, and their country. That is what is happening on the continuing resolution to keep the government open. There is a paltry 4-month extension on the health care for the widows of coal miners. What good does that do? They are going to be frightened to death. What if they go to the doctor in that first month and the doctor says: I am watching a lump. It may be cancerous. Come back in 3 months. They don't know if they will even have health care. It is a disgrace. The widows are not protected in the continuing resolution.

What are we facing? Either we shut down the government or fight for the widows. OK. This is what people hate about Congress, and we don't have to do it—not at all. If you believe you have great legislation, then go through the channels, introduce the bill, and have a hearing. If you think the miners' widows deserve only 4 months, let's have a discussion about it.

We have another situation on another bill. The bill is called WRDA. You may have heard about it. What does it stand for? It stands for the Water Resources Development Act. This WRDA bill is a beautiful bill. My committee has worked on it for more than a year. I am proud to be the ranking member on that committee. I was the chairman, but when Republicans

took the Senate back, Senator INHOFE became the chairman. We worked hand in glove. We set aside our differences, we set aside poison pills, and we said we are going to put together a great bill, and we did. It is a great bill. It deals with flood control, ensures there is environmental restoration and that our ports are dredged and can, in fact, support the kind of commerce we need in the greatest country in the world. We have authorization for funding in there for desalination because we know we have droughts in the western States, and we need to work on that. We have authorization for ways to use technology to ensure we can increase our water supply, so we have authorization in there for water recharging and water recycling. It is quite a bill. It has authorization in there to move forward with all of the Army Corps projects that have been looked at up and down and inside out.

What we have in there for my State is incredible. I don't think I have ever had a bill that did more for my State. We have projects in Sacramento, Los Angeles, and the San Francisco area. We have projects from north to south, east to west. We have levee fixes and the Lake Tahoe restoration that Senator FEINSTEIN and I worked on. We have very important ecosystem restoration. We have projects in Orange County and all over the State.

Why do I say this? I say this to make the following point: If Senator BOXER has all of those great things for her State in the WRDA bill, why is she standing here saying, "Vote no"? It isn't easy. It breaks my heart, but I will tell you why. In the middle of the night, coming from the ceiling and airdropped into this bill was a dangerous 98-page rider which will become law with the WRDA bill. What does it do? It attacks the Endangered Species Act head-on. It gives operational instructions on how to move water in my State away from the salmon fisheries and to big agribusiness, regardless of what the science says. If somebody says "Oh, my God, this is terrible; we will lose the salmon fishery," it will take a very long time to have that study, and it will be too late to save the fishery. This isn't just about the salmon; it is about the people who fish. They are distressed about this issue. They represent tens of thousands of families who rely on having enough water for the fishery.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letter signed by this vast array of fishermen and some letters from all of those who rely on salmon fishery be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

GOLDEN GATE SALMON ASSOCIATION,

December 6, 2016.

Re OPPOSE—Anti-Salmon Provisions in WRDA

DEAR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS: I write from the Golden Gate Salmon Association asking that you oppose the California drought language in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill.

This language calls for severe weakening of existing protections for salmon in California's Central Valley. Although those protections are designed primarily to aid ESA-listed winter and spring run salmon and steelhead, they also provide great benefit to unlisted fall run salmon which supplies the west coast fishery.

Tens of thousands of fishing jobs in both California, and Oregon hang in the balance.

The existing protections are based on the best available science, which has been affirmed in multiple court cases up to the Ninth U.S. Court of Appeals as well as through an outside scientific review by the National Research Council requested by Senator Feinstein. The proposed language orders science-based measures to balance water for agriculture, municipal, industrial and fishing industry be tossed out and replaced with a political prescription aimed at rewarding a small group in the western San Joaquin Valley and points south.

California salmon fishermen, both sport and commercial, have suffered from very poor fishing seasons over the last two years. This is primarily due to the effects of drought and poor water management, which have undercut the ability of salmon to reproduce and survive in Central Valley rivers. Now is the time to help these salmon runs recover, not tear them down more.

The economic value of salmon derives not only from commercially caught fish, but also from the hundreds of millions of dollars sport fishermen spend annually to pursue salmon. These dollars breathe life into the not only the California coastal economy, but also inland river communities where recreational salmon fishing is big.

Commercial fishermen have suffered after not only back to back poor salmon seasons but also disruption in their other main income source, the Dungeness crab fishery. Adding more injury is not right especially when there are other, more sustainable ways to address California's water future. The drought bill language would allow far more diversion of northern California water to the massive pumps that send it south, especially at the sensitive time of year when baby salmon are trying to migrate to the ocean. As water is diverted from its natural course, so too are baby salmon which mostly die along the way to the pumps. Those that survive to the pumps usually die shortly thereafter.

The National Marine Fisheries Service, which authored the salmon protections currently in place, has tacitly acknowledged the need to strengthen, not weaken them, by calling for both amending the existing biological opinion as well as formally reinitiating consultation on the opinion. The last thing we need now is political interference in a process best left to fishery scientists and biologists.

Adoption of the Feinstein/McCarthy drought bill language into law would undo some of the progress we've made restoring our salmon runs since 2009, when the existing biop replaced a prior one found to be illegally un-protective of salmon. Under that prior, weak set of regulations, we saw our salmon runs decline to the point where the

ocean fishery was shut for the first time in history in 2008 and 2009. The language being considered now would send us back to a similar desperate situation rapidly. It would almost certainly lead to another steep collapse of Central Valley salmon runs.

Please do what you can to stop this drought proposal from becoming law, including opposing cloture in the Senate. We have new and much better ways to address our water future in California that some old thinkers simply refuse to consider.

Sincerely,

JOHN MCMANUS,
Executive Director,
Golden Gate Salmon Association.

DECEMBER 6, 2016.

SALMON FISHING INDUSTRY OPPOSES
CALIFORNIA DROUGHT RIDER IN WRDA

DEAR HONORABLE MEMBERS: The undersigned commercial fishing industry groups strongly oppose Mr. McCarthy's California water language inserted in the House version of the Water Resources Development Act. King salmon was once the West's most important fishery. It now hangs in the balance, as what should be an infinitely renewable resource has consistently lost political battles in the war over California's water. This last-minute rider is a knife in the gut of the thousands of commercial fishermen and fishery-dependent businesses that harvest and supply local, wild-caught seafood to millions of American consumers.

The language purports to offer drought relief, but in so doing, it picks drought winners and drought losers in California and beyond. The winners are the handful of industrial irrigators of the San Joaquin Valley that stand to benefit from rollbacks of the Endangered Species Act and other salmon protections, and the politically (not scientifically) mandated operation of the federal water system in California. The losers are the fishery-dependent businesses, such as commercial and charter-for-hire fishermen, seafood wholesalers, ice docks, fuel docks, shipwrights, manufacturers, restaurants, hotels and direct-to-consumer seafood purveyors that make a living on the availability of salmon. It's a policy choice to sacrifice a naturally sustainable food system for a food system that requires government subsidies, massive publicly-funded infrastructure projects, and continual litigation. It is the wrong choice for the small businesses and families that harvest this resource on the West Coast.

West Coast salmon fisheries are in crisis. The salmon fishing communities in all three states have requested or are considering the need for fishery disaster declarations for the 2016 due to extremely low productivity. We are a proud community that wants to work, not resort to government handouts. We ask that you do everything in your power to prevent this language from becoming law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mike McCorkle for Southern California Trawlers Association (Santa Barbara), Stephanie Mutz for Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, Bill Ward for Port San Luis Fishermen's Marketing Association, Lori French for Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization, Mike Ricketts for Monterey Fishermen's Marketing Association, Tom McCray for Moss Landing Commercial Fishermen's Association, Joe Stoops for Santa Cruz Fishermen's Marketing Association, Lisa Damrosch for Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association, Larry Collins for San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association, Don Marshall for Small Boat Com-

mercial Salmon Fishermen's Association (at-large), Lorne Edwards for Bodega Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association, Bill Forkner for Salmon Trollers Marketing Association (Ft. Bragg), Dave Bitts for Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association, Tim Sloane for Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Joel Kawahara for Coastal Trollers Association (Washington).

DECEMBER 6, 2016.

DEAR SENATOR: On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to urge you to strip the anti-environmental rider regarding California water from the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) (Subtitle J of Title III of S. 612). This poison pill rider would gut environmental protection in California's Bay-Delta, threatening thousands of salmon fishing jobs and worsening water quality conditions. These provisions are inconsistent with California law and expressly violate the requirements of biological opinions under the Endangered Species Act, and as a result are likely to lead to extensive litigation and undermine progress on long-term solutions. The White House announced today that the Administration opposes this language in WRDA. The broad opposition to this rider demonstrates that its inclusion threatens to scuttle enactment of WRDA.

This rider would not only affect California, but also threatens the thousands of fishing jobs across the West Coast that depend on salmon from California's Bay-Delta watershed. Moreover, the rider would authorize construction of new dams across the 17 Reclamation states, without Congressional review and authorization for these new projects.

Drought, not environmental laws, is the primary cause of low water supplies in California. The state of California is working to protect the environment and the economy by investing in sustainable water supply solutions including water use efficiency, water recycling, urban stormwater capture, and improved groundwater recharge and management. The Federal government should not undermine environmental protections under the guise of drought relief, but should instead complement state investments in sustainable water solutions.

Adding a poison pill rider undermining the Endangered Species Act and threatening thousands of fishing jobs sets up a false choice between clean water in Flint and healthy waterways in California. This is outrageous and unacceptable. The people of Flint have waited too long for safe drinking water to be victimized again by this kind of political backroom dealing.

We urge you to strike this anti-environmental rider from the bill. If this language remains in the bill, we urge you to vote to oppose cloture.

Sincerely,

Natural Resources Defense Council, League of Conservation Voters, Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice, Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, Clean Water Action, Greenpeace.

E2,

December 6, 2016.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: As business leaders focused on policies that promote a growing economy and healthy environment, we ask that you oppose cloture on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) if it contains the recently added language regarding California water.

Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) is a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders

who advocate for smart policies that drive innovation in business while protecting the environment. Our members have founded or funded more than 2,500 companies, created more than 600,000 jobs, and manage more than \$100 billion in venture and private equity capital. In California, E2 has more than 500 members who belong to three regional E2 chapters and who do business across the state.

WRDA is critical legislation that supports dozens of badly needed water infrastructure projects in just as many communities, including emergency funds to help alleviate the crisis in Flint, MI. Moreover, it is unacceptable that this controversial language, which undermines environmental protections for wildlife and threatens the tens of thousands of fishing and recreation jobs that depend on them, was added to the legislation at the eleventh hour.

Water shortages in California are due to a sustained drought, overutilization of resources and a low groundwater table. Unfortunately this newly-added language will not solve any of those issues. What these shortsighted provisions could do, however, is damage the large salmon fishing industry that is fed from the Central Valley, and hurt thousands of fishing and recreational jobs up and down the West Coast.

Though we agree there is an urgent need to address California drought and competing needs in the state, we think that should be done through a comprehensive process in stand-alone legislation that factors in the importance of the fishing industry and other economic issues.

E2 urges you to aid a consensus WRDA bill that solves problems without putting jobs at risk.

Sincerely,

BOB KEEFE,
Executive Director,
Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2).

TROUT UNLIMITED,
December 8, 2016.

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE: Trout Unlimited is opposed to the drought provision that has been added to the WRDA bill being considered by the House, as it undermines an otherwise salutary Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill developed in a bipartisan manner by the House and Senate authorizing committees. We urge Congress to strip this drought provision (Subtitle J—California Water, §§4001–4014) and pass the WRDA bill before it adjourns this month. We urge Congress to renew its efforts to address California and western drought through an open and collaborative process to arrive at solutions which work for all stakeholders.

Trout Unlimited works with agricultural producers, states, counties, communities and other stakeholders throughout the West to find solutions to pernicious drought. Durable and fair drought solutions are best developed through open and collaborative processes with all stakeholders. The Yakima and Klamath pieces of legislation in the Energy bill are two excellent regional examples, but in fact on the ground throughout the West, there are many more local examples of drought solutions which help rivers and fish, producers and communities.

Right now drought is most severe in California. Thus, we understand and appreciate the hard work that Senator Feinstein, Representatives McCarthy, Valadao and others have invested in trying to help interests in California deal with the drought. But, the drought provision added to the House WRDA

bill in recent days is not the result of an open and collaborative legislative process.

Though California is the drought hardship epicenter, drought is prevalent in other areas of the West, and may well be coming soon to many others areas of the country. Congress should reward open and collaborative processes for dealing with drought. All of our interests must face drought challenges together. All of our interests must be included in fair and balanced solutions. Congress should not reward legislation not developed in an open and collaborative process—in California or any other state—that adversely impacts so many stakeholders.

Some sections of the “Subtitle J—California Water” drought provision extend west-wide, and risk upending years of local, watershed-based investment by stakeholders to arrive at water scarcity solutions that meet agricultural, environmental and municipal needs. Section 4007, for example, authorizes the “design, study, and construction or expansion” of new federal dams across the seventeen western states without Congressional oversight. §4007(b)(1). Section 4007(h)(1) also authorizes \$335 million for new dam building. Allowing the Interior Department to authorize federal dams without Congressional oversight breaks with decades of longstanding law and practice.

Even more significantly, unilaterally favoring and underwriting a federal dam sets back local, watershed-based, collaborative efforts to find multi-pronged solutions to drought and water scarcity that benefit all stakeholders: agricultural, environmental, and municipal.

The legislation would directly harm Trout Unlimited members, fishing-related businesses, and the communities that depend on them. Central Valley salmon, when healthy, contribute \$1.4 billion to the economy and support 23,000 jobs. This fishery constitutes 60 percent of Oregon’s coastal salmon catch and part of Washington’s as well. It would be a tragedy to have salmon disappear from the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. The drought has been hard on everyone, but nobody has been harder hit than commercial and recreational fishing businesses.

Finally, Congress should consider that the bill would undermine actions taken under California water law. This will lead to needless litigation, igniting more controversy and threatening the progress that California and the Interior Department has made toward finding sustainable drought solutions. Federal policies should support rather than undermine state water law.

It is never too late in a Congress to renew efforts to find lasting, fair, solutions to drought problems. Many members have worked hard on important provisions of the WRDA bill that deserve passage, including several provisions which will restore watersheds and provide clean drinking water. We hope Congress will not hold those meritorious provisions hostage to an unworkable and unrelated drought measure. We urge the House and the Senate to work together to find a better solution to the California drought, eliminate Subtitle J—California Water, §§4001–4014, from the House WRDA bill, and approve the WRDA bill before adjourning this Congress.

Sincerely,

STEVE MOYER,
Vice President, Government Affairs,
Trout Unlimited.

Mrs. BOXER. I know it is a holiday. God knows I know that. This year Hanukkah and Christmas come at the same time, and my grandkids celebrate

both. I want to go home, but the people who depend on the water to support the salmon fishing industry may not be able to celebrate this year because someone over there named KEVIN MCCARTHY dropped—in the dead of night—a rider on a beautiful bill called WRDA and wrecked it. He never once thought about the people who rely on fishing. It is a disgrace. Who is signing the letter, saying, “Don’t do this, don’t do this, don’t do this”? The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations, the Golden Gate Salmon Association, the Southern California Trawlers Association of Santa Barbara, the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, the Port San Luis Fishermen’s Marketing Association, the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen’s Organization, the Monterey Fishermen’s Marketing Association, the Moss Landing Commercial Fishermen’s Association, the Santa Cruz Fishermen’s Marketing Association, the Half Moon Bay Fishermen’s Marketing Association, the San Francisco Crab Boat Owner’s Association, the Small Boat Salmon Fishermen’s Association, the Fishermen’s Marketing Association of Bodega Bay, the Salmon Trollers Marketing Association, the Humboldt Fishermen’s Marketing Association, the Coastal Trollers Association. I am putting those in the RECORD.

In all of my lifetime serving, I have never seen such an outcry from one industry. There is no disagreement. The water will be taken away for agribusiness regardless of what the scientists think.

You may say: Senator, what was controlling this before this power grab? It is a law. It is a law called the Endangered Species Act.

You may then ask: What liberal politician or President signed that? Let me give you the answer. It was a Republican named Richard Nixon. What breaks my heart more than anything else—and I have said it before—is how the environment has become such a hot-button issue.

I want to talk about the Endangered Species Act. We have landmark laws in our Nation. It makes our Nation great. We have the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Endangered Species Act, the Toxic Control Substances Act, and the Brownfields Law. These are landmark laws beloved by the people.

If you went out on the street or if I asked up in the gallery how many people think we should protect our endangered species, I would be surprised if more than a few disagreed with that. Let me show you why. What has been saved by the Endangered Species Act? How about nothing less than the American bald eagle. This species was on its way to extinction, but because of the Endangered Species Act, we learned that there were only enough left for a few years, and so the endangered spe-

cies law said: No, no, no, no. We have to change what we do and protect this species. The American eagle was protected because Richard Nixon, as well as Democrats and Republicans, believed we needed an Endangered Species Act. That was in the 1960s. Now we have a frontal assault on the Endangered Species Act.

Let me show you what else we have saved under the Endangered Species Act. This is the California condor. It is a magnificent species. It is God’s creation. We talk about our faith here, and I never ever doubt anybody’s faith, but I am saying if you are truly a believer, then you work to protect God’s creations. It is part of our responsibility. Here it is. What would have happened if this Endangered Species Act had been changed to say, “Don’t worry about the science, do whatever you want, and if it is bothering the hunters or fishermen, just throw it out the window”? We wouldn’t have saved these creatures.

I will show some others. This is the Peregrine falcon. Just looking at this magnificent thing makes you smile. Again, it is endangered. If there had been legislation like what was dropped at midnight from KEVIN MCCARTHY on the Endangered Species Act, we might have lost this magnificent creature. So to say that we should just go home to our families, children, and grandchildren without calling attention to what is on the WRDA bill that I love—let me be clear. Personally, I win either way. One way I win is if we stop this bill and take off this horrible rider and pass it clean. That would be the most amazing thing. And if we don’t, I bring home 26 incredible projects to my people. It is not about me.

We have one more to show you. This is the great sea turtle. This beautiful creature was saved by the Endangered Species Act. If we had similar legislation about this magnificent creature and it said that 7 out of 10 people believe it is harming their business, let’s just forget about it, we don’t really need it, we would not have saved this. So when you drop this—I call it a midnight rider—on a beautiful bill and say we are going to violate the Endangered Species Act unless somebody can prove it is really bad, you are destroying the Endangered Species Act. What right does anybody have to do that in the middle of the night, in the darkness, before Christmas, days before government funding runs out?

I say nobody should have the right to do it. Since they did it, I am going to make noise about it. Believe me, I am on the way out the door. Did I want to do this? No. I did my speech. I was so thrilled to do it. My family was up there. I am in the middle of a battle now. Well, I guess that is how it is. You come in fighting, you go out fighting. That is just the way it goes.

A lot of people say: Oh, BARBARA, why do you want to do this? You had

such a beautiful speech. It was a high note. I can't. I am alive. I know what is going on. I am going to tell the truth. The truth is, KEVIN MCCARTHY has been trying to get more water for big agribusiness in his—water in my State is very contentious.

My view about water is that everybody comes to the table. We work it out together. I don't like the water war. He has launched another water war battle for big agribusiness against the salmon fishery. It is ugly. It is wrong. It is going to wind up at the courthouse door anyway. Why are we doing this? It is not right. We don't need to fight about water. All the stakeholders just have to sit down and work together.

I love the fact that my State produces more fruit and vegetables and nuts—it is the breadbasket of the world. Under most measurements, farmers use 80 percent of the water—80 percent of the water. In a drought situation, why would you then hurt the other stakeholders because an almond grower wants to do more almond growing? It takes 1 gallon to produce one almond. I love almonds. Believe me, they are a fabulous food. There is a recent study that they are really healthy for you. I want everyone to eat almonds. But they export a ton of them. We have to preserve the environment in our State and not run these fishermen out.

What has really been interesting is the editorials that have come about as a result of this midnight rider.

I would like to highlight an editorial by the Sacramento Bee on December 7, 2016, titled "Feinstein, McCarthy strike water deal, but war goes on."

This is it. This is what I am reading from.

"The Federal legislation almost surely will result in increased water exports, its basic point, and contains unfortunate language that would allow Federal authorities to override scientists and order water exports that could further damage the delta and fisheries."

What is the delta? The delta is a series of islands through which the natural rainwater runs. The water gets purified. It runs into our rivers and streams. It supports the salmon fishery, and it supports clean drinking water, but if you rip away that water, you are going to have more salt in the water that remains. It is going to be more expensive for the people to get it to drinking quality.

So what you have is a circumstance where you are not only running the salmon fishery out, but you are also destroying the water quality—the drinking water quality—for many users in the area who rely on the delta water and making it far more expensive to clean up the water because it has so much salt in it.

Here is the Sacramento Bee saying that "the unfortunate language would

allow Federal authorities to override scientists and order water exports that could further damage the Delta and fisheries."

I think I have explained to you what that means. It destroys and harms not only the salmon fishery, but it also destroys and harms drinking water. Now, the bill, it says—this is the rider that is on my beautiful WRDA bill that I love so much, that I wrote with JIM INHOFE.

"The bill authorizes additional pumping unless fishery scientists can prove there will be damage to fish, virtually an impossible standard."

So when those who support this say: Oh, don't worry, BARBARA, yes, they will pump at the maximum ability constantly, but there has to be a report. Well, by the time they finish their report, there will be a lot of dead fish or no fish.

It goes on to say: "But no one should kid themselves. This bill will result in damage to the environment. And it won't end California's water wars."

Let me say that again. This is the Sacramento Bee. This is not known for any type of liberal editorializing.

"But no one should kid themselves. This bill will result in damage to the environment. And it won't end California's water wars."

So we put that in the RECORD along with all of the different fishing groups that strongly oppose this. So we are here, and everyone is calling me: Oh, let's go home. Let's go home. I want to go home. I really want to go home because this is the end of my last term, but I can't. Let the clock go. It will run out. But the fact remains, we have to take a stand against these midnight riders that drop from the ceiling that attack Richard Nixon's Endangered Species Act that we all supported forever until now. I guess it is easy to say, I support the Endangered Species Act until someone says: Oh, there is an endangered species. Then you say: Oh, never mind. No. No. No.

You support it because you want to protect God's creatures, and then you keep supporting it. You don't attack it on a rider that was dropped at midnight, never had a hearing on a bill that has nothing to do with the subject matter. What they did belongs in the Energy bill, but they did not want to put it in there. They wanted to put it in WRDA because WRDA is so popular. WRDA is a beautiful bill, a beautiful bill that I worked on that is going to be my legacy bill.

So here I am standing up making a big fuss on my own bill and saying vote no on it. That is really hard. I hope no one in this body ever has to do this. It is a very difficult thing. Now, you may ask: Who really cares about the salmon fishery? Who really cares about the Endangered Species Act?

Well, how about every environmental organization that I know of in the country.

So who are they? They are the Natural Resources Defense Council, that has clearly stated this is a violation of the Endangered Species Act; the League of Conservation Voters, an organization that follows this. They are scoring this vote. They are scoring this vote; Defenders of Wildlife, who are committed to protecting God's creatures; Earth Justice; the Sierra Club; National Audubon Society; Clean Water Action; Greenpeace; Trout Unlimited—that has a huge participation of fishermen, recreational fishermen; Environmental Entrepreneurs.

These are actually business leaders in this country who care about what we do. I will read a little bit of the Trout Unlimited letter.

Trout Unlimited is opposed to the drought provision that has been added to the WRDA bill being considered by the House as it undermines an otherwise salutary Water Resources Development Act bill developed in a bipartisan manner by the House and Senate.

What a beautiful opening sentence. They get it. Trout Unlimited—they are not liberals or conservatives. They just like to go and have a good time with recreational fishing. There will not be a fishery left because of the bill that was dropped from the ceiling at midnight, because someone wanted to take water away from the salmon fishery and give it to agribusiness, disgraceful.

Why don't we work together on getting more water? This is not a drought bill. It is called the California drought bill. It is ridiculous. It has nothing to do with increasing the water. All it does is move water from one place to another, and the additional authorizations on it—on the rider—are already in the underlying WRDA bill.

We don't need this. It calls for desal. It calls for water recharging. It calls for recycling. So this is a phony name of the bill, California drought bill. It does zero, zero, zero to help with the drought. All it does is it attacks the fishing industry. That is it.

Thousands of jobs, because one Congressman over there represents a little district, and he is delivering to agribusiness. It is shameful. We stand here and we decry the fact that the widows of the miners are getting the shaft—and they are. I stand with them. I ask my colleagues to vote no on a bill that contains language that will undo the salmon fisheries on the entire West Coast.

I speak for MARIA CANTWELL, who will also be down here to speak, I speak for RON WYDEN, I speak for JEFF MERKLEY, I speak for PATTY MURRAY. We are apologetic about this. You want to do in the salmon fishery, have the guts to have a hearing on it. Have the guts to look in the faces of those salmon fishery people, have the guts to tell it to their faces. Don't drop this thing at the last minute, Christmastime, and we are all going to be good little girls and boys and say: Oh, we are going to

go home. No, we are not. We are not. It is not right. You know, I grew up, there was right and there was wrong. You can't turn away from wrong, even if it is inconvenient. It is inconvenient.

I have stood alone on this floor. I am not standing alone on this, but I would if I had to.

Let's see what some of these environmentalists have said. How about E2, the environmental business leaders—what do they say?

“As business leaders focused on policies that promote a growing economy and healthy environment, we ask that you vote no on the cloture on Water Resources Development Act if it contains the added language regarding California water.”

They say they are a nonpartisan group of business leaders, and they have funded venture capital and companies. They said that WRDA is critical and that this language will not solve any drought issues. Its shortsighted provisions could damage the large salmon industry that is fed from the Central Valley and hurt thousands of fishing and recreational jobs up and down the west coast.

What I am telling you is the truth.

Here is a bill that is called the California drought bill, and it does nothing—nothing at all—to bring water in because all of the language that would deal with desalinization and high technology is already in the WRDA bill. That is a phony bill, and there is no mandatory funding in it for those purposes. But what is mandatory is that, regardless of the situation, water will be pumped away from the salmon fisheries and toward big agribusiness. There are some who say: Oh, why don't we do this? It will be worse next year. Really? The agribusiness people have already said that this is just a start. So if we allow this to go on without people paying attention, we are opening up the door to more and more attacks.

Mr. President, I would like to discuss an editorial in the San Jose Mercury News on December 8, 2016, titled, “As Boxer retires, Feinstein sells out the Delta.”

This editorial is very strong in favor of the salmon fisheries. They say that this rider sells out to Central Valley water interests. It guts environmental protections. We will have devastating long-term effects on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem. They talk about my stand on this, and they note that I will not be here, and that I am taking a stand on this.

They call this rider, the one that takes the water away from the salmon fisheries and gives it to agribusiness, an “80-page document negotiated behind closed doors [which] allows maximum pumping of water from the Delta to the Central Valley and eliminates”—I am going to talk about this—“important congressional oversight over building dams.”

I am going to take a minute on this. I forgot to mention this. This bill—this rider that was added is called the California drought bill. It is way more than that; it is how to kill the salmon fisheries in the west coast bill because it doesn't only kill them in California, it kills them in Oregon and Washington. It kills thousands and thousands of jobs. That is why we put in the RECORD all the people in the salmon industry who oppose this rider.

It also says—and this is amazing—that in 11 Western States over the next 5 years, the administration coming in will be able to singlehandedly authorize the building of dams, which, as you know, wreak havoc with the natural environment in our rivers and are very expensive.

Congress has always been involved in the authorization of dams because we hold hearings. We ask questions. Why should we do it? Why shouldn't we do it? We bring together all the parties, and we make a decision. This rider takes away the authority from Congress to authorize dams in the 11 Western States.

So I say rhetorically to Mr. MCCARTHY: Do you really distrust your colleagues so much that you no longer trust them to have anything to say about whether a dam should be built or not? Do you really want to take away the authority from your colleagues to call experts together to ask why this dam is needed? What would the pluses be if this is built? What would the minuses be? What would happen to wildlife? What would happen to the environment if it is being built on an earthquake fault? You may laugh at that, but there was a proposal in Northern California to build enormous dams on earthquake faults. The only reason it was stopped was congressional hearings.

Now President-Elect Trump will be able to determine in the 11 Western States that have BLM land whether or not dams can be built, and Congress will have no say.

But the answer to that is: Oh, but they still have to fund it. Well, I have been in that dance before, and I know how that works. Allow just a few dollars in it, and it is on the books. This bill is awful. It is awful, and I am so grateful to these newspapers in California that have called them out on it.

Mr. President, I have a Republican Senator complaining that I am talking too long. What is the situation on the floor? Can Senators speak as long as they wish?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are no limitations.

Mrs. BOXER. So I will continue to speak, and when I am done, I am done. It may be soon because I am getting a little tired, but I will keep talking for a while. I say to everybody that I am sorry, but don't drop a midnight rider on a beautiful bill that I worked on for

2 years with my colleague Senator INHOFE, and then say: I am really annoyed because she is talking too much.

I am sorry. I apologize, but I am going to talk until I am done, and the Senator from Washington is going to talk until she is done.

Don't drop a midnight rider and destroy the fishing industry and say that Congress will no longer have the ability to authorize the building of dams.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, will the Senator from California yield for a question?

Mrs. BOXER. Of course I will.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, to the Senator from California, I thank her for being here in this discussion today about a very important public policy issue.

It is December and most people know that high jinks happen in December around here. People want to go home. People are doing last-minute deals.

I don't know if the Senator from California knows, but the whole deregulation of Enron and the energy markets—that whole thing was a December midnight rider kind of activity.

All of these things happen because they know that Members want to go home. They think it is the last deal and they can throw something in and everybody will go along with it and blame it on, oh, I didn't read the fine print.

There are a couple of things in here that I just wanted to ask the Senator from California about. I am going to talk later. I wanted to get over here and ask her because she is a knowledgeable person on this.

First, this rider that was placed in the WRDA bill—is that in the jurisdiction of your committee?

Mrs. BOXER. Absolutely not, my friend. As you know, it is in the jurisdiction of your committee. It has absolutely nothing to do with mine. I would say there are two pieces added that we have a little jurisdiction on, funding for desal, but that is already in the base WRDA bill. So I can honestly say to my friend that this is a horrible rider in and of itself. One of the other problems with it is it has gone through the wrong committee. That is right. It belongs in the jurisdiction of the committee which is yours and Senator MURKOWSKI'S.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article from the San Francisco Chronicle that says, “Stop Feinstein's water-bill rider.” This is a great article about how it isn't the jurisdiction of this committee and how it is a rider, which is one of the most objectionable parts for our colleagues because regular order wasn't followed and it sets a bad precedent.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From San Francisco Chronicle, Dec. 7, 2016]
STOP FEINSTEIN'S WATER-BILL RIDER
(Editorial)

Sen. Dianne Feinstein calls her rider to a bipartisan water appropriations bill a way to improve efficiencies and capture more supply from “wasted” river flows for California cities, agriculture and the environment. Sen. Barbara Boxer, the author of the bill the rider amends, calls it a “poison pill” and vows to filibuster it to death.

A more temperate read from President Obama's Department of the Interior: Feinstein's drought rider would further complicate already very, very complicated federal water operations in California with no clear gains. The department, and the White House, are opposed, and rightly so.

California's two senators, both Democrats, are expected to battle it out in the Senate after the Water Resources Development Act (S612) with Feinstein's California drought rider sails through the House Thursday. The Senate fight may be Boxer's last salvo before she retires, and it is unclear she can marshal enough votes to block her own bill. The 700-page bill authorizes funding for dozens of water infrastructure projects around the country and emergency aid for Flint, Mich., which has lead-contaminated water.

Feinstein defended her 90-page California drought resolution as a needed defense against an anticipated Republican effort to open up the Environmental Species Act for major revisions next year. This might include allowing water contractors to increase pumping to levels that would benefit agriculture but devastate already threatened native fish and essentially strip away hard-won protections for the environment. She teamed up with House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, to squeeze the package which authorizes \$558 million for desalination, water recycling, and storage (both dams and groundwater) projects, into an end-of-the year bill. “If California is going to grow, we must be able to provide prudent amounts of water to our people, and we can't do that right now,” she said in a telephone interview.

Feinstein said she has drafted 28 versions during the three years she has tried to pass such legislation.

But is the rider a shield against worse legislation action or a blueprint to gut the Environmental Species Act? McCarthy described the rider as a modest package of provisions to ameliorate the effects of California's drought, now in its sixth year.

Feinstein said the rider allows maximum diversions within the legal protections of the Environmental Species Act and the biological opinions (scientific findings) that guide federal water policy. The environmental community and Boxer see it as the first and immediate step of a larger plan to divert more water to San Joaquin Valley farmers and Los Angeles area water users.

Drought and warming temperatures, one of the effects of climate change, are tipping off mass extinction of the species in the San Francisco Bay and its estuary. We have to work to share water among people, farms and the environment of California—not try to benefit one interest with a midnight rider.

Ms. CANTWELL. I would also like to ask the Senator from California if she is aware that in this legislation there is also language—and I am not sure this is in the jurisdiction of your committee either—giving the ability to have dams built in 17 States without initial overview by the U.S. Congress,

without any other discussions. There would be blanket authority given to build dams in 17 States without the input of cities, counties, constituents, interest groups, river constituents, fishermen.

We have several projects we have been discussing in the Pacific Northwest that I have been involved with and have visited with many people to talk about. People go methodically through these issues and discuss them in a collaborative way because there are tradeoffs and every community has a different opinion. So the notion that we would forgo our own State's ability to raise questions here in the U.S. Senate about somebody building a dam in our State—why would any Member want to forgo their ability as a Member of the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives to provide their input on a dam being built on a river in their State? Is the Senator aware of this provision?

Mrs. BOXER. Senator, I was just talking about it briefly, and I actually misstated it, so I am glad I was corrected. This rider, dropped at midnight, going on a bill that is a beautiful bill that I worked on for so long and that the Senator from Washington has worked on—and there are a lot of wonderful things in there. This rider went through the wrong committee. The issue you talk about, the ability of the President of the United States to, by himself, authorize dams in the Western States for the next 5 years anywhere in those States is unheard of, and it is in your committee's jurisdiction. It is in the jurisdiction of the Energy Committee. I hope Senator MURKOWSKI is outraged as well.

The fact is, the Senator is absolutely right. We have a Senator and a Congressman getting together and saying that the Congress should be bypassed and have no say in where dams should be put, whether dams should be built at all, and it is in the jurisdiction of the Energy Committee. It is not in the jurisdiction of Environment and Public Works.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from California for that explanation.

I also ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD another San Francisco story from just yesterday where an attorney, Doug Obegi, basically says, to my colleague's point about the midnight darkness of this, that the densely technical text “explicitly authorize[s] the Trump administration to violate the biological opinions under the Endangered Species Act.”

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From sfgate.com, Dec. 8, 2016]
HOUSE OKS BILL TO INCREASE PUMPING FROM
STATE RIVERS; FISH AT RISK
(By Carolyn Lochhead)

WASHINGTON.—With the help of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., House Republicans moved closer Thursday to achieving their long-sought goal of undermining the Endangered Species Act to deliver more water to California farmers, with the overwhelming passage of a popular water infrastructure bill.

The bill, which moves to the Senate, contains a legislative rider inserted by Feinstein and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, that would allow the incoming Trump administration to increase pumping from the state's rivers by overruling biological opinions from fish and wildlife agencies that protect salmon, smelt and other native fish that are nearing extinction for lack of flowing rivers.

The nearly 100-page rider, filled with dense, technical language dictating operation of California's water system, blindsided retiring Sen. Barbara Boxer, who plans a last-ditch effort in the Senate to block the entire Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, which she co-authored.

Boxer has rounded up support from Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., and other West Coast senators but will need 41 votes to prevent the bill from getting beyond the Senate.

Killing the popular infrastructure bill is an uphill climb, but Boxer said the vote will be close.

On Thursday, the House passed the bill 360-61, with Bay Area Democrats powerless to stop it. It authorizes billions of dollars in water projects across the nation, including a few for lead poisoning for the municipal water system in Flint, Mich., and elsewhere. It also contains a raft of California projects, including rebuilding levees to protect Sacramento from flooding, restoring wetlands to reduce flood risk around San Francisco Bay, and reducing pollution of Lake Tahoe.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., specifically hailed the rider for delivering “much-needed water relief to Californians.” McCarthy said the rider would prevent water front being “sent out to sea” by being left to flow in rivers, and “will increase pumping.”

Feinstein said she introduced the rider to forestall worse legislation under the Trump administration. But McCarthy and other San Joaquin Valley Republicans promised that more such legislation can be expected next year, when it will no longer face a veto from President Obama. President-elect Donald Trump has promised to turn on the taps for the state's farmers.

The rider came out of years of closed-door negotiations between Feinstein and powerful San Joaquin Valley Republicans to address California's five-year drought. These efforts have repeatedly foundered over GOP insistence on weakening protections for endangered salmon, smelt and other fish.

Feinstein and House Republicans insisted that the rider does not violate the Endangered Species Act, because it contains language saying that nothing within the legislation shall violate existing environmental law.

But Boxer and Bay Area Democrats said that such general clauses will not override the bill's direct authorizations that mandate higher water deliveries.

“When an act of Congress specifically supersedes peer-reviewed biological opinions that are the very mechanism of how the Endangered Species Act gets implemented, that is a grave undermining of the act,” said Rep. Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael.

Doug Obegi, a water lawyer with the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group, pointed to three sections of densely technical text that he said “explicitly authorize the Trump administration to violate the biological opinions under the Endangered Species Act.” He said there is no question that if the bill is enacted, “it is going to be headed to court. It is wholly inconsistent with state law.”

Ms. CANTWELL. So in the dark of night—I think that is the part where the States are going to be told: You are just going to have to build a dam. That is it. We decided.

Then everybody calls us and says: Wait a minute, wait a minute, I don’t want to dam the river or I want that stream to produce fish or I want that to flow downstream for people further downstream, not right here. All of that has basically now been given over to someone else.

I would also like to ask the Senator from California if she is aware of provisions of the bill, as people are referring to it, that jilt the taxpayers? I know there are a bunch of groups, Taxpayers for Common Sense and even the Heritage Foundation—all of these people are basically calling out the ridiculous spending aspect of this California provision.

I wonder if the Senator from California is aware that this basically authorizes prepayment on construction obligations that basically are going to take millions of dollars out of the U.S. Treasury. Just by passing this legislation, we would be taking money out of the Treasury, resulting in basically \$1.2 billion in receipts that we would have, but giving us a loss of \$807 million.

This is a provision in the bill that I think has had little discussion, and this sweetheart deal for people is going to rip off the taxpayers, in addition to all of this authorization that is in the legislation.

Is my colleague from California aware of this provision?

Mrs. BOXER. I wish to say to my friend that I was aware of the provision, but I did not know the details of what you just said. My staff confirms that you are absolutely right. Are you saying to me that water contractors will be relieved of certain payments and the Federal Government will be on the hook—Federal taxpayers? Is that what you were saying?

Ms. CANTWELL. What is happening here is that people who are under current contracts on water payments, they would be given a sweetheart deal in deduction of their interest, which would allow them to shortchange our Treasury on revenues we are expecting.

That is a big discussion and if everybody wants to take that kind of money out of the Treasury and basically give a sweetheart deal to people, then we should have that discussion. We should have that discussion and understand that this is what we are doing, bless that, and hear from our appropriators

that this is a worthy thing to do for some reason. I can’t imagine what that reason would be, given that we are shortchanged here, and every day we are talking about how to make ends meet with so little revenue. So I don’t know why we would give a bunch of contractors this ability to cost the Treasury so much money by giving them a sweetheart deal. I will enter something into the RECORD about this. As someone said, it would really cause very substantial headaches for Treasury, OMB, and various agencies.

Again, I think, in the event of somebody thinking it is December and people want to go home for the Christmas holidays, people aren’t going to read the details of this legislation. I hope our colleagues will read this detail because I don’t think we can afford to cost the Treasury this much money.

Mr. President, I also ask my colleague from California: I assume you have had a lot of discussion with our House colleagues about their earmark rules. I think one of the reasons the WRDA bill is something people support is that it is a list of projects that have been approved by various agencies and organizations.

Mrs. BOXER. That is right.

Ms. CANTWELL. Has this project been approved by any of those agencies or organizations?

Mrs. BOXER. Well, not only is it this whole notion of moving water from one interest. I would call the salmon fishery a critical interest—not only in my State. That is why I hate that it is called the California drought. It impacts not only California’s fishing industry, but it impacts Washington’s and Oregon’s. This is why—save one—all of our Senators on the west coast are strongly opposed to this. Don’t call it California water.

But the fact of the matter is that this has not been looked at in any way. Whether it is the money, whether it is what it does to the fishery, no one has really looked. There hasn’t even been a hearing about this specific bill. I know your committee has looked at a lot of ways to help with the drought.

I compliment my friend from Washington, Senator CANTWELL, and Senator MURKOWSKI. You have come up with real ways to work with every stakeholder and not continue these absurd water wars where we take money away from a fishing industry—that is a noble, historic fishing industry and tens of thousands of fishermen who support their families—and giving it over to big agribusiness. That is not the way you want to approach the drought, I say to the Senator. It is not the way I want to approach the drought.

I would never be party to picking a winner and a loser. That is not our job. Our job is A, to make sure there are ways through technology to get more water to the State that needs it—most-

ly California at this point—and for all of us to work together to preserve that salmon fishery. The salmon doesn’t know when it is in California, when it is in Washington, when it is in Oregon. Let’s be clear. We need to protect it.

I am just so grateful to you for being on this floor today because your reasons for being here, first and foremost, are that you are protecting jobs in your State. Second, you are protecting the environment in your State. Third, you are protecting the rights of the States, the tribes, and the municipalities to have something to say over this. You are protecting the Endangered Species Act, which—as I pointed out before you came—was signed by President Richard Nixon, for God’s sake. This is not a partisan thing. These are God’s creatures. I will quickly show you this and then take another question. I showed the bald eagle and several other species. If there had been shenanigans like this, Senator CANTWELL—oh, well, we are not going to listen to the science; we are just going to do what we want to do—we wouldn’t have the bald eagle. We wouldn’t have these creatures I showed.

Senator, the fact is that what you are fighting for is not only your State, not only for jobs, but you are fighting for the larger point—that in the dead of night, you don’t do a sneak attack on one of the landmark laws that you and I so strongly support.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I wish to ask the Senator from California—because there is another element she is alluding to—about how to resolve water issues. While my understanding is your committee is very involved in basically the Federal Government programs that help communities around our country deal with water infrastructure and clean water, the larger issues of how a community settles these disputes about water on Federal land has really been the jurisdiction of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

But my understanding is that this bill is also trying to weigh in on disputes as it relates to the larger Colorado basin. I know my colleague from Arizona is very concerned because his views weren’t heard. I know this is a big fight as a result of the language that is in here on the southern part of our country, where there is also a water dispute, and various States are debating this.

I remember when our former colleague Tom Daschle was here, and there was a whole big fight on a river issue that the Upper Midwest was concerned about. If my understanding is correct, basically what we are trying to do in this legislation is, instead of having the collaborative discussion among these various States to work together to resolve it, they are basically saying: No, no, no, we can just put an earmark rider in and instead make all

the decisions for everybody and choose winners and losers. So it is not just a Pacific Northwest issue—of San Francisco, Oregon, and Washington—but also relates to challenges we have on the Colorado River and challenges in the southeast part of our country.

Basically, it sets up a discussion in the future of why would you ever regionally get together to discuss anything if you could just jam it through in the legislation by, basically—as our colleague ELIZABETH WARREN said—putting a little cherry on top and getting people to say: Oh, this must really be good. Then the consequences of this are that the thorny, thorny issues of water collaboration aren't going to be about the current rules of the road or collaboration. It is going to be about earmarks and riders that Taxpayers for Common Sense, the Heritage Foundation, and all of these people object to as the worst of the worst of Congress.

Mrs. BOXER. Right. I would say this: I did hear, along with my colleague, ELIZABETH WARREN describe it. She described it a little bit like this. You take a beautiful bill like WRDA. For the most part, it is not perfect, but it is a pretty darn good bill. Then you put a pile of dirt on top of it, which I call the McCarthy rider, and then you stick a little Maraschino cherry on top, which is Flint, and a couple of other good things, and you say: OK, eat the dirt. That is another way of explaining it.

My friend is right. What is the message if we don't fight this darn thing, perhaps defeat it, and get it stripped out. We have an amendment to strip it out if we could get to it.

What we are essentially saying to all the people, the stakeholders in the water wars, is this: You know, what is important is to your clout. Give enough money to this person, agribusiness and maybe you can control him, or give enough money to this person and maybe you control her.

The bottom line is we need to bring everybody to the table because my friend and I understand a couple of things. The water wars are not going to be solved unless everyone buys in. There are ways we can do this. We have done this work before. We can reach agreement, because if we don't, what happens? Lawsuits. Let me just be clear. There are going to be lawsuits and lawsuits and lawsuits because this is a clear violation of the Endangered Species Act. Some colleagues say: Oh, no, it isn't. It says in there it is not.

Well, very good, let's say we loaded a weapon and we dropped it on another country, and they said: This is war; you just dropped a bomb on us. We said: No, it isn't. We said we weren't declaring war on you. It is the action that counts, not what you say. A rose is a rose, as William Shakespeare once said—call it any other name.

This is an earmark. This is wrong. This is painful. This violates the En-

dangered Species Act. This is going to lead to the courthouse door. That is why my friend and I are not very popular right now around this joint because we are standing here and people want to go home. They are annoyed. Why is she still talking?

Well, I am still talking. I don't want to.

I say to my colleague, I ask her a question on my time, which is this: Does she think it is really painful for me to have to filibuster my own bill?

Ms. CANTWELL. I thank you for your steadfast leadership in the Senate. As to the fact that you are retiring, you are certainly going to be missed. I am sure you would like to have legislation on the water resources pass. I think you brought up a very important point: Strip out language for which there is bipartisan support asking for it to be stripped out. And there is bipartisan support asking for it to be stripped out because people with true water interests have not been allowed to have their say.

We could get this done today—be done with this and be on our way.

I think, for our colleagues who want us to be done, there is an easy path forward—a very easy path. Just strip out the language on California and send it back.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, since we are kind of reversing things, I ask unanimous consent that my friend control the time right now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BARRASSO. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mrs. BOXER. OK, I will just hold the floor forever. That is fine.

I say to my friend, you have been through these kinds of wars before when you were standing alone trying to stop drilling in the Arctic. I remember all of our colleagues saying: Oh, my God, this is terrible. This drilling in the Arctic is on the military bill. Imagine—drilling in the Arctic. They put it on the national defense bill.

My friend was approached, and she was told: Senator, you are going to bring down the entire defense of this country if you don't back off.

My friend said: I don't think so. All you have to do is strip this Arctic rider, and we are done.

Am I right in my recollection of that?

Ms. CANTWELL. The Senator is correct. It was December and the same kind of scenario. Basically, jamming something onto a must-pass bill was a way that somebody thought this body would just roll over. In the end we didn't. We sent it back to the House, and the Defense bill was passed in very short order.

In fact, it is the exact same scenario. The House had already gone home, and I think they basically opened up for

business again and passed it with two people in the Chamber. So it can be done. It has been done. If people want to resolve this issue and go home, then strip out this earmark rider language and we can be done with it and we can have the WRDA bill and we can be done.

So I think that what my colleague is suggesting—because it isn't really even the authority of the WRDA committee—is that she probably would be glad to get language that is not her jurisdiction off of this bill and communicate to our House colleagues that this is the approach that we should be taking.

So I would like to ask through the Chair if, in fact, the Senator from California understands that that kind of approach on earmarks is something that she has heard a lot about from our House colleagues, about how opposed they are.

Mrs. BOXER. Yes, I have. I wish to say, since our friend is here—I am not doing anything, an attack on anything, and I never would. It is not my way.

I am going to ask unanimous consent right now, Senator CANTWELL, without losing my right to the floor and making sure I get the floor back; is that correct? After I make a unanimous consent request, I assume I would still have the floor under the rules.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It depends on what the unanimous consent request is.

Mrs. BOXER. The request would be to strip the rider out. My colleagues look perplexed. We have been talking about a 98-page rider that was added to the WRDA bill, and we have filed an amendment to do that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is not in order.

Mrs. BOXER. Excuse me?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. This request is not in order.

Mrs. BOXER. A unanimous consent request is not in order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is not in order to strip out House language by unanimous consent.

Mrs. BOXER. Then I would ask through the Chair, what would the appropriate language be to get unanimous consent? Is it to allow an amendment to do that? Would that be the right way to go?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A motion to concur with an amendment.

Mrs. BOXER. So we could ask for that by unanimous consent—to have such an amendment, and I want to make sure that after I make that, I would not lose the right to the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

So on behalf of my friend from Washington and myself, I ask unanimous consent that we be allowed to offer an amendment to strip a rider that was

placed on the bill by KEVIN MCCARTHY in the House, and it is 98 pages, and it is in the House bill. It is called the California draft provision. I ask unanimous consent that we be allowed to have an amendment to strip out that language.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mrs. BOXER. That was a good test.

We can see where this is coming from, I say to my friend from Washington. All we are asking for is to go back to a bill that we worked on for almost 2 years, and now we are looking at a situation where we will be harmed in many ways by this rider.

When I say “we,” I mean our States. We have thousands of salmon fishery jobs that will be lost. We have a frontal attack on the Endangered Species Act, which has been called out by every major environmental group in the country. We have letters from every salmon fishery organization saying that this is dangerous. Yet all we are asking for is a simple amendment to strip out a midnight rider, and the Republicans object.

In that rider, it takes away the right of Congress to approve dams. So whether it is in Colorado or Wyoming or California or Washington or Oregon or Montana—and there are many other Western States—the President-elect will have the right to determine where to put a dam. He will have the ability, for the first time in history, to authorize the building of dams. And the answer comes back from those who support the rider: But Congress has to appropriate.

Well, we know where that goes. I have been here a long time. All you need is a little appropriation every year, and the deal continues.

So we have a circumstance on our hands. I know people in the Senate are really mad at me right now. What a perfect way for me to go out. I was a pain in the neck when I came, and I am a pain in the neck when I go.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I have a question for the Senator from California.

The irony of this situation—first of all, I appreciate the Senator from California, because she is such a stalwart in so many different ways on so many different issues. What people may not know about the colleague we love dearly is that she is greatly theatrical. She has a beautiful voice. She writes music. She obviously lives in L.A. and probably hobnobs with all sorts of people in the entertainment industry. She sang beautifully the other night at our goodbye dinner for the retiring Members.

This reminds me of that movie “Chinatown.” There was a famous

movie that Jack Nicholson was in that was all about the corruption behind water—

Mrs. BOXER. And Faye Dunaway, just so you know.

Ms. CANTWELL. Yes, and Faye Dunaway. So Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway did a movie a long time ago about the water wars in California; am I correct?

Mrs. BOXER. Yes.

Ms. CANTWELL. So it was a movie about the fight between Southern and Northern California about who gets water, and then people found out that there was so much corruption behind the deal that basically people were trying to do a fast one.

So the subject, if I am correct—that is what the subject of the movie is about. This is not a new subject; it is a very old subject. The question is, are people trying to supersede a due process here that consumers—in fact, I would ask—I hope the ratepayers and constituents of the utilities in Los Angeles would be asking the utility: What are they doing lobbying against the Endangered Species Act? My guess is there are a lot of people in Southern California that have no idea that a utility would lobby, spend their public dollars lobbying against a Federal statute by undermining it with a rider in the dark of night.

But I wanted to ask my colleague: This issue is a historic issue in California, correct? And when it is done in the dark of night, as that movie depicts, what happens is that the issues of public interests are ignored and consequently people are shortchanged. Is that the Senator’s understanding?

Mrs. BOXER. Yes. I wish to yield my time to my friend. But here is what I am going to say right now. The Senator from Washington is absolutely right that this issue has been around California for a very long time. So I will yield my time to the Senator from Washington—I yield for a question. I can’t yield the full time; I can yield for a question.

But the answer to the other question is of course the Senator is right. She talks about the movie “Chinatown.” Do you know what year? I think it was the 1980s, a long time ago. I remember it well. It was about the water wars, and it resulted in people dying. It was corruption. It was about who gets the water rights.

Here is the deal: Here we have our beautiful State and, as my friend knows, because of the miracle of nature, Northern California gets the water; Southern California—it has been called a desert. So we have always had a problem.

When I came to the Senate, we had 18 million people, and now we have 40 million people. So we have urban users, suburban users, rural users, farmers, and fishermen. We have to learn to work together. Do we do that? Not the

way KEVIN MCCARTHY did it, which is a grab for big agriculture, which destroys the salmon fishery and is going to bring pain on the people who drink the water from the delta because it is going to have a huge salt content that has to be taken out before they can drink it. So this is the opposite of what ought to happen.

I yield back to my friend for another question.

Ms. CANTWELL. On that point, in the process for discussing these water agreements, the Senator from California is saying they don’t belong in her committee, and they have been controversial over a long period of time, and the best way to do this is not through an earmark, which this is—the notion that the House of Representatives is jamming the U.S. Senate on a half-billion-dollar earmark is just amazing to me because of the water agreements that people have negotiated and that have passed through these committees and that have been agreed to. They are not letting those go, but they are letting this particular earmark go, and sending this over. But the normal process would be for these Federal agencies and communities to work together on a resolution, and then if resources were asked for, they would come through, I believe, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for authorization because we are the ones who deal with the Bureau of Reclamation and the public land issues. Is that the understanding of the Senator from California as well?

Mrs. BOXER. Absolutely. What is such a joke is that my Republican friends, who were just objecting to our having an amendment to take this earmark off, always give big speeches about how Congress is putting all of these earmarks in. Well, this is a clear earmark because it is directing a project to run in a certain way and diverting water to a special interest and taking it away from the fishery. Therefore, by its very nature, it is giving a gift of water to big agribusiness and letting the salmon fishery just go under.

I would say to my friend that the reason she is down here is that this is not just about California. The provision is called California drought. It is not about the drought. It doesn’t cure the drought.

Yes, my friend is right. Every provision, including the one about giving President-Elect Trump the right to decide where a dam will be built and taking it away from Congress, that all belongs in the jurisdiction of the Senator’s committee. I am surprised Senator MURKOWSKI isn’t here because this is a direct run at her as well as the Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I would ask the Senator from California then, the question is on this process of deciding the authorization. I notice we

had a few colleagues here who were—I don't know if they were coming to speak—but in the Senator's region, there is a lot of discussion among the Western States on how to balance issues on water; is that correct? There are a lot of meetings and discussions?

Mrs. BOXER. Well, we have no choice, because, as the Senator from Washington knows, my State gets a lot of water out of the Colorado River. It is under a lot of stress. We have a lot of problems. My heart goes out to every single stakeholder in my State. That is why I am so chagrined at this, because we all have to work together, I say to my friend, in our State.

We are all suffering because we don't have the water we need. But the way to deal with it is not to slam one complete industry called the salmon fishery, which not only impacts my State but the Senator's State of Washington and Oregon as well.

Ms. CANTWELL. I have a question for the Senator from California because some of our colleagues that were here—my understanding is if you can get water from Northern California by just agreeing to kill fish and not meeting those obligations, then Southern California can take some of that water as well. Then, the consequence is these Western States, which might be supporting this bill, have less obligation to make more conservation efforts.

So, in reality, if you are talking about the Colorado River and all the various resources that have to be negotiated, if somebody can be let off the hook because you are just going to kill fish instead, then you have more water. Sure, if you just want to kill fish in streams and give all the money to farmers, of course you have more water. Then, no one in the Colorado discussion has to keep talking about what are we going to do about drought.

I think the Senator from California is going to tell me that drought is not going away; it is a growing issue of concern, and so we actually need more people to discuss this in a collaborative way than in an end-run way.

Am I correct about the partners and all of that discussion?

Mrs. BOXER. My friend is very knowledgeable and very smart. People tend to look at a provision, I say to my friend, in a very narrow way. They say: Oh, what is the difference? It doesn't matter. But my friend is right on the bigger picture. If all the fishery dies and all of the jobs with the fishery die and there is no demand for the water for the fish anymore, my friend is right. That relieves the discussion.

So, yes, you know what it reminds me of, I say to my friend. I don't know if she agrees with this analogy. But I remember once when they said: Let's raise the retirement age for social security because people are working longer and it will help the Social Security trust fund.

Well, if you take that, my friend, to the ultimate, why don't we say people should work until they are 90? Then there won't be any Social Security problem because everyone will die before it kicks in. It is the same analogy here: You kill off all the fish and the entire salmon fishery, then all you have is agriculture demanding water, and then they will try to step on the urban users and suburban users and the rural users and say: We are the only thing that matters. And they are already using, under most analyses, 80 percent of the water in my State.

So you are right. You kill off the fishery, then that is one less stakeholder to care about. You tell people "Don't retire until you are 90," the Social Security trust fund will be very vibrant.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, as the Senator from California knows, one of the States concerned about this is Arizona because they have kind of been left out of that discussion. It also says to people: You don't have to have these discussions amongst everybody together; you can just write it into law. My understanding is that our colleagues from Florida and Alabama also have a similar concern. People are trying to use the legislative process to unbalance the negotiations so they can legislate instead of negotiate. Not only are they trying to legislate instead of negotiate, they are trying to use earmarks to do it and overrule existing law.

So am I correct, to the Senator from California—are we going to get anywhere with getting California more water if, in fact, this ends up in courts and it is stayed, and you really won't get any water in the next few years?

I should make a footnote for my colleague from California. Thank you for your compliment.

I had to chair a 3-hour hearing once on the San Joaquin River settlement. It was about 18 years of dispute on what to do about the San Joaquin water. Because of that, I learned a lot about the fights in California and all of the problems that California had then. This was at the time my colleague Tim Johnson was the chair of that subcommittee and had been stricken ill, and they asked me if I could step in. I had no idea I was going to spend 3 hours hearing about 18 years of litigation. That is right—18 years of litigation on the San Joaquin River. Basically, people came to that hearing that day—which is now probably 10 years ago—to tell me it was not worth the 18 years of litigation. They had determined that while they could sue each other all they wanted, that getting to a resolution about how to move forward on water had to be a much more collaborative solution to the process.

Secondly, I would mention to my colleague from California and see if she knows about this—the same happened

on the Klamath Basin, which is legislation we passed out of committee and tried to pass here. The Klamath Basin basically said: Let's negotiate.

The various people in that dispute had a dispute and actually went to court, and the regional tribe won in the court and basically didn't have to do anything more on water issues but decided that, in the good interest of trying to have a resolution, it was a good idea to come to the table and try this collaborative approach.

I was mentioning my time chairing a 3-hour hearing on the San Joaquin River settlement that people had come to after 18 years of fighting each other in court. They came and they said: Oh, we have a settlement. The point was, we tried to litigate and sue each other for 18 years and we didn't get anywhere, and now we have a settlement and we would like to move forward.

My point is, the best way for us to move forward on water issues is to have everybody at the table and come to agreements because there are a lot of things you can do in the near term while you are working on water in a more aggressive fashion to get to some of the thornier issues. But if you basically try to litigate and legislate instead of negotiate, you end up oftentimes just getting litigation, like what happened with the San Joaquin. So you never get a solution and people don't have the water. You end up not having a resolution, and the whole point is to get people water.

So does the Senator think that is where we are headed if we end up just trying to tell people: You can legislate.

Well, it sounds interesting, and if you get somebody to write an earmark for you, you are in good shape, I guess, if you can get that out of the House of Representatives. But in reality, you are not in good shape if you don't actually get water because you end up in a lawsuit for so many years, like San Joaquin.

Is that where we are going to head on this?

Mrs. BOXER. I say to my friend, she is so smart on this. Of course that is where we are headed. And I encourage this. If this happens and the Senator and I are not successful and this winds up to be the law of the land—a provision added in the dead of night that forces water to be operated in a certain way that violates the biological opinions on fish, that violates the science—I hope they take this to court day one. I don't care; say whatever you want: Oh, this isn't a violation of the Endangered Species Act. Really? Clearly it is.

The Senator is absolutely right. Eighteen years in court over an agreement. That is another reason I am totally stunned at this. But I think it is about what my friend said—who has the most juice, who has the most power to sit down and get someone who is a Senator or a Member of the House to add language? It is a nightmare.

The reason we have been obstreperous, the reason we are standing on our feet, the reason we didn't yield to other people is we are trying to make a simple point. The Senator shows it with her chart.

For all the people who said we shouldn't do earmarks, this is such an incredible earmark, it actually tells the Federal Government how to operate a water project—it is extraordinary—and to walk away from a biological opinion from the science. Of course it is going to wind up in court. I hope it does. What I would rather do is beat it. What I would rather do is get it out because it is only, as my friend said, going to encourage more similar types of legislating, where people have the power and the money and the ear of a Senator to call up and say: You know what. I am having trouble in my agribusiness. I need more water.

It is ridiculous. We are all suffering in this drought, I say to my friend. California is in a drought. There is a lot of rain coming down in the north, very little in the south, and I pray to God it continues. I do. We have been getting a lot of rain so far, but I don't trust it at all.

There are two ways to meet this challenge. One way is to figure out a way to get more water to everyone. That means taking the salt out of water—and we do it. I have toured the desal plants, and it is very encouraging. One way is to take the salt out or put more water in the system. Another way is to recycle. Another way is conservation. Another way is water recharging. We know how to do it. The Senator is an expert. All of this is in her committee, which was bypassed.

The other way to do is the wrong way to do it, which is take the side of one business group—agribusiness—versus a salmon fishery and destroy the salmon fishery. Then, as my friend points out, in years to come: Well, isn't that a shame? There are no more salmon fisheries, so we get all the water. In the meantime, we are eating farmed salmon, and all these people are out of work and their families are devastated after a way of life they have had for a very long time.

So my friend is very prescient on the point, and she talks about the reality. We are here. We are not dreamers. We are realists. We know what happens in the water wars.

I continue to yield to my friend.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I would ask my colleague—again, I don't think this is in the jurisdiction of her committee. That is why I am asking—if we did want to pursue with the Bureau of Reclamation the notion that we should do more underground water storage, again, that would be something we would authorize. That is what I want to ask the Senator, if that is, in fact, the case.

My understanding—because we have to deal with this so much in the Pacific

Northwest. We are a hydro State which has affordable electricity, but we get it out of a snowpack that comes in the wintertime. Now that the climate is changing and it is getting warmer, we don't have a large snowpack, so one of the ways to store that snowpack—which would be great to do—would be to have underground aquifer storage. I think that is an idea Stanford University has signed off on. They basically signed off on it because they said it was the most cost-effective thing for the taxpayer and had the most immediate impact.

What the Senator was just saying about rain—if you get a lot of rain right now—because it is not snowpack. If it is rain, store it, just like we were storing the snowpack, but now store it in aquifers underground, and that would then give us the ability to have more water. Stanford is like: Yes, yes, yes, this is the best thing to do. And this is what I think your State is trying to pursue.

In that regard, I don't even think that is the jurisdiction of the Senator's committee, if I am correct, but is that an idea that you and California would pursue as a way to immediately, in the next few years, start a process for getting water to the Central Valley and to various parts of California?

Mrs. BOXER. Without a doubt. My friend is right. It is not like we are dealing with a subject matter that has no solutions, and science has shown us the various ways to do it. Certainly underground storage is fantastic, recharging. There are all these things we know—recycling, conservation, and desal. These are just some thoughts.

My friend is right: The jurisdiction is mostly in her committee. We may have a few things to do. Wonderful. But that is not the important point. To me, the important point is here we have—and I am going to sum it up and then I will yield the floor and hope my friend will take the floor because I need to run and do 17 things, and then I will be back.

Here is the situation. We have a Water Resources Development Act bill. It passed here with 95 votes. Nothing passes here with 95 votes, even saying "Happy Mother's Day." It is a beautiful bill, my friend. Is it perfect? No. But it was very good. For my State, for the Senator's State, it was very good. Now, it is moving through the House, and in the middle of the night, without anyone even seeing it, this horrible poison pill amendment is added which essentially is a frontal attack on the salmon fishery and all the people who work in it not only in my State, but in the Senator's State and Oregon. So all of the Senators, save one, are apoplectic about what it means to jobs and what it means to tradition and what it means to have wild salmon. It is very important. So it is a frontal assault on the industry; it is a frontal assault on

the ESA; and it is a frontal assault on the notion that there are no more earmarks.

Then it has another provision cutting the Congress out of authorizing new dams in all of the Western States for the next 5 years. This is dropped from the ceiling into the WRDA bill.

Now, I stand as one of the two people who did the most work on that bill saying vote no. It is very difficult for me. But I think it is absolutely a horrible process, a horrible rider. It is going to result in pain and suffering among our fishing families.

With that, I thank my friend, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from California for her steadfast support of doing the right things on clean water and clean air and for focusing on this issue for her State because ultimately she wants water for her State. She knows litigation is not the route to get it. She knows that there are things we can be doing here but that we have to get people to support that. So I thank her for her obligation to making sure her constituents get real results.

This rider is a giveaway to projects that are basically described as deadbeat dams, projects in California that are opposed by tribes and fishermen and sportsmen and environmental communities. Basically, it writes a blank check to them, allowing millions of taxpayer dollars to be used to construct dams throughout the West without any further congressional approval.

That, in and of itself, should cause our colleagues to pause. You are going to go home and have to tell your constituents all of a sudden that someone is building a dam on a beautiful river in your State and you can't do anything about it. I would hope our colleagues in those 17 Western States that would be impacted by this would do something to help tell our colleagues to strip out this controversial provision and send it back to the House in a clean bill.

In addition, as I mentioned, section 4007 authorizes the Secretary to pay up to one-quarter of the cost of State water storage in any of these 17 reclamation States. The Secretary would have to notify Congress within 30 days after deciding to participate.

These issues on our process are going to make it much harder for us in the future to not have the taxpayers paying for projects that are nothing but further litigation in the process. Why is collaboration so important? Collaboration is important because these are thorny issues. There are lots of different national interests at stake and a lot of local interest and a lot of jobs. My colleague from California, probably not in the last hour that we have been discussing this but probably earlier in

the afternoon, mentioned the huge amount of Pacific West Coast fisheries that are also opposed to this bill, and Trout Unlimited which is opposed to this legislation, and various fishing groups and organizations because fishermen want to have rivers that are functioning with clean water and enough stream flow for fish to migrate.

The fishing economy in the Northwest, I can easily say, is worth billions. Anybody who knows anything about the Pacific Northwest—whether you are in Oregon or in Washington, maybe even Alaska—the pride of our region is the Pacific Coast salmon. The Pacific Coast salmon is about having the ability to have good, healthy rivers and stream flow. For us in the Northwest, this is an issue I can easily say we have at least 100 Ph.D.s on; that is to say, the subject is so knowledgeable, so formulated, so battled over, so balanced that it would be like having 100 Ph.D.s in the subject. That is because we have a huge Columbia River basin, and because the Columbia River basin has many tributaries and because the salmon is such an icon, it needs that basin.

We also have a hydrosystem, and we also have an incredible agriculture business in our State. I think we are up to something like—when you take varieties of agricultural products, something like 70 different agricultural products—we, too, have to balance fish, farming, fishermen, and tribes, the whole issues of our environment and recreation and the need for hydro, and balance that all out. We have to do that practically every single day.

It has been these kinds of decisions that have taught us as a region and a State that by collaboration, we can get results and move forward. I and one of my colleagues in the House who was the former leader on the Committee on Natural Resources, Doc Hastings, probably now more than 10-plus years ago, had regional discussions with then-Secretary of the Interior Salazar who came to the Northwest, and we sat down and we asked: What do we do about the Yakima Basin?

It was Sunday morning, and you would think that everybody getting together on Sunday morning, is it that important? Well, it was. There were probably 50 or 60 different interests meeting with us—the Bureau of Rec, the Secretary of the Interior, Congressman Hastings, me, and many other interests, and we talked about what do we want to do with the Yakima Basin.

There has been great pride that I have had to offer legislation, along with my colleague Senator MURRAY, on how to move the Yakima Basin project forward in the U.S. Senate. I say with “pride” because it was a collaborative effort. These are people who do not agree with each other, who have fought each other, who basically probably disagree on the most essential elements of their viewpoint, and yet reached con-

sensus—delighted in their resolve—and came forward with legislation to say this is how you should deal with our water problems in a drought when your State has both farming and fishing needs.

Our Governor got behind it, Governor Inslee. Other people got behind it. I have been at several forums. National organizations, California institutions are holding up the Yakima deal as the example of how water management should be done in the future. Why? Because it was holistic. That means it included everything on the table. It was a regional approach and everybody came to the table, and because it didn't try to solve every single problem up front but came to what we could agree to today and move forward—because it would claim some water that we need now.

The fact that the Yakima project became such a milestone, our colleagues in Klamath, OR, did the same things: They worked together in a collaborative fashion and tried to discuss these issues. I would say, for the most part, all of these issues have been, with these discussions in the past that our colleagues bring legislation to the U.S. Senate, very rarely has somebody brought language without everybody locally working together and agreeing.

I don't know of times when my colleagues have brought legislation where they are basically just trying to stick it to one State or the other—except for now, this seems to be the norm. This seems to be what we are being encouraged to do today. The California project is one in which we wish that they would seek the same kind of collaborative approach to dealing with both fishermen, whose economy is immensely important in California, and farmers who also are important but should not have the ability to supersede these laws that are already on the books.

What they should do is learn from the San Joaquin River proposal. You can battle this for 18 years or you can resolve these differences and move forward. When you can write an earmark and send it over here as a poison pill on a bill, you are hoping that you don't have to sit down at the table and work in a constructive fashion.

It is very disappointing to me that some of the partners in this deal, as we put ideas on the table to give 300,000 acre-feet to the farmers in the Westlands region over the next 2 years, give them 300,000 acre-feet of water over the next 2 years while we are working with them on an aquifer recharge. Their answer back to us was: We want to play our hand here and see if we can jam this through first.

Basically, they don't want to work in a collaborative fashion. They don't want to work with the region to find solutions. They want to legislate something that will lead to litigation. Liti-

gation is not going to lead to more water, it is going to lead to longer delays in getting water to everybody who needs it.

I wouldn't be out here spending this much time with our colleagues if it wasn't for the fact that this issue is just at its beginning. Drought has already cost our Nation billions of dollars, and it is going to cost us more; that is, drought is causing great issues with water, fish, and farming. It is also causing problems with fire. It is making our forests more vulnerable to the type of explosive fires that we have seen in the Pacific Northwest that wiped across 100,000 acres of forest land in just 4 hours. Those are the kind of things that hot and dry weather can do.

Our colleagues need to come together on what would be the process for us dealing with drought. The fact that California has been the tip of the spear is just that; it is just the tip of the spear. Everybody else is going to be dealing with this in Western States. My colleagues who represent hot and dry States already know. They have had to deal with this from a collaborative process.

I hope our colleagues who care greatly about the fact that drought is going to be a persistent problem for the future would come together with us and say: We can get out of town tonight. We can get out of town in the next few hours. All you have to do is accept our offer to strip this poison pill earmark, which is costing taxpayers one-half billion dollars, off the WRDA bill because it is not even part of the WRDA jurisdiction and send back a clean WRDA bill to the House of Representatives.

That is what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want, and that is what we want. The only people who are holding this place up are the people who want to jam somebody in December at the end of a session because it is the way to get poison pill ideas done.

People are taking note. I know the San Francisco Chronicle had a story about the House OKs a bill to increase pumping from our rivers and putting fish at risk. There was a quote about undermining the Endangered Species Act.

There was an editorial as well, I believe, from the same newspaper. I don't know that we have a quote from the editorial here, but I think I submitted that earlier for the RECORD. It basically said: Stop the Feinstein water bill rider. It basically said that we have to work to share water among people, farmers, and the environment, not try to benefit one interest over the other with a midnight rider.

The press is watching. I think there was a story today in the San Jose newspaper as well. I don't know if I have that with me, but we will enter that later into the RECORD. Having other newspapers in California write

editorials on this is most helpful because it is bringing to light the kinds of things that are happening in the U.S. Senate that people all throughout the West need to pay attention to.

We wish that drought could be solved so easily by just giving one interest more resources over the other, but that is not the way we are going to deal with this. If we have colleagues in the House who would rather steal water from fish than fund aquifer recharge, then we should have that debate in the U.S. Senate in the committee of jurisdiction or even here on the floor as it relates to whose jurisdiction and funding it really is. To stick the taxpayer with the bill of paying for dams in 17 States without any further discussion by our colleagues is certainly putting the taxpayers at risk, and that is why taxpayer organizations have opposed this legislation.

If we want to get this done and if we want to get out of here, let's strip this language off and let's be done with it and send to our colleagues a clean WRDA bill and be able to say to people that we did something for water this year, but we didn't kill fish in the process of doing it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

MONTENEGRO MEMBERSHIP INTO NATO

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, we have been running the hotline on the accession of Montenegro as a member of the NATO alliance. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Presiding Officer knows we have held extensive discussions and hearings on NATO and the accession of Montenegro as a member into the NATO alliance.

Quite frankly, this is a very important matter for us to try to complete before we adjourn this session of Congress, and let me say why. Montenegro has taken all of the necessary steps in order to be in full compliance for joining the alliance of NATO. We have very carefully reviewed their commitment in regard to their military, defense budgets, institutional changes they have made, their willingness to take on the responsibilities as a full NATO partner, and quite frankly, they have endured outside interference which has tried to compromise their ability to complete the process.

What do I mean by that? Montenegro recently had parliamentary elections, and Russia tried to interfere with the parliamentary elections to try to instill some instability in that country as an effort to influence not only Montenegro but the international community's—the members of NATO—interest in completing the approval of NATO. Every member state of the alliance must approve any new member and requires votes in all states. Several have already voted to approve the accession of Montenegro into the alliance.

The reason I say this is extremely important to get done now is because Russia does not hold a veto on the accession of new countries and new states into the NATO alliance. They have done everything they could to try to interfere with this process.

I think the clear message is that the Senate is not going to be intimidated by Russia and that we are going to stand by this alliance. We have a chance to do that within the next, I hope, few hours before the Congress completes its work.

I really wanted to underscore the importance of us taking action on the Montenegro issue. The Ambassador to Montenegro has attended our committee meetings frequently and kept us informed on everything that has taken place.

I had a chance to meet with many of our partner states in regard to Montenegro. Many of these countries have already taken action, but quite frankly, it is U.S. action that will be the most significant.

It is important that we speak with a very strong voice. If we don't get it done now, it will not be allowed to come up until the next Congress, and we have a new administration coming in on January 20. I think it is important that we complete this process now. It is strongly supported by the administration and by the Democrats and Republicans. The recommendation passed our committee with unanimous support.

I thank Chairman CORKER for handling this matter in a very expeditious and thorough way. We didn't shortcut anything. We have gone through the full process. It is now time for us to act. If we want to send a clear message that Russia cannot intimidate the actions of the Senate or our partners, then I think the clearest way we can send that message is to vote and make sure we complete action on the accession of Montenegro before Congress adjourns sine die.

I think it is pretty much clear that both the Democratic and Republican hotlines—there have not been any specific objections I am aware of that have been raised by any Member of the U.S. Senate to taking final action on this issue. I know we have other issues interfering with the consideration of some bills. I urge everyone to resolve those issues so this very important matter can be completed.

As the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and again working with Chairman CORKER, I can tell you this is a very important step for us to take in this Congress, and I urge our colleagues to figure out a way that we can bring this to conclusion before Congress adjourns.

As I said, I come to the floor to speak in support of the Senate providing its advice and consent to the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the accession of Montenegro.

I have been a strong supporter of Montenegro's bid to join NATO. It will enhance our security. It will strengthen the alliance. And it will send a strong message of resolve to Russia as it invades its neighbors and seeks to upend the international order. Montenegro may be a small country, but its inclusion in NATO will have positive repercussions across the continent and will send an important message of hope to other aspirant countries.

Republicans need to take the modest steps my colleagues, including Senator MANCHIN of West Virginia and Senator BROWN of Ohio, are asking for to take proper care of coal miners and their families in this country. And then we need to move on the Montenegro NATO resolution—today. I am pleased to say that no one in the Democratic caucus has expressed any concern to me about this resolution, and they are ready to pass it once our coal miners are taken care of.

I stand here today in support of NATO enlargement. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee recently voted by voice vote in support of this bid—unanimously with Republican and Democratic support. And so even if Republicans don't take care of our miners today, and as a result we cannot pass this resolution, I fully expect my colleagues across the aisle, and the President, to fully support this effort in early January. We can get this done. We must get it done.

So what is the case for Montenegro's membership?

Admission of Montenegro would mark another important step towards fully integrating the Balkans into international institutions which have helped to contribute to peace and stability over the years in Europe. Croatia and Albania joined the alliance in 2009 and have been valuable contributors to accomplishing NATO objectives since then, and I hope that Montenegro's admission will help to motivate the reforms necessary in other Balkan countries to join.

Montenegro has made outsized contributions to NATO missions despite not being a full member. I understand that in Afghanistan, Montenegro has rotated 20 percent of its armed forces through the ISAF and Resolute Support missions. It also contributed to the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo and other NATO missions.

This small country has clearly made significant contributions to the alliance's efforts around the world and made necessary internal reforms to address governance, rule of law and corruption issues. I will continue to monitor these issues closely and expect Montenegro to continue with these reforms.

Montenegro has been subject to a wave of anti-NATO and anti-western propaganda emanating from Russia. There are also allegations that a recent

coup plan has Russian ties. Blocking Montenegro's ability to join NATO will have real implications for how NATO is perceived—Russia does not get a veto over the decisions of the alliance. We need to send a strong message of resolve.

No country outside the alliance gets a veto over who gets to join—especially Russia, so we must send a strong signal. I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution as soon as possible and get it to the President so the President can deposit the instrument of ratification at NATO in support for Montenegro's bid.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF AUSTIN TICE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, recently I met with the parents of Austin Tice, a constituent of mine in Texas who unfortunately was abducted in Syria a few years ago. Of course, his parents have been keeping the flame alive, hoping that Austin has survived the situation of his capture.

At their suggestion, last week when I was in Austin, they traveled over from Houston to visit with me about a briefing they had received recently from James C. O'Brien, the Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs.

Earlier today, I had a chance to be briefed by Mr. O'Brien. He delivered some positive yet cautious news about Austin Tice, an American journalist who we know was taken hostage in Syria 4 years ago. Mr. O'Brien and his team informed me that they have high confidence that Austin is alive in Syria, along with other Americans who are being held captive.

While this is certainly positive news, I can't help but think of his parents and what they have had to go through these last 4 years. They are not just counting the months, they are not just counting the days, but they are literally counting the minutes and the seconds since he has been gone and then counting these milestones that we typically observe in our family—birthdays and holidays—that they will never recover.

So today's news should remind us that we cannot give up until we bring Austin Tice home. I renew once again my call for his immediate release by his captors, and I strongly urge the current and future administration to continue to utilize all possible means to secure his safe return. Nothing can bring those years and months back, but we can start the healing process by doing everything possible to find Austin and bring him home and to bring him home now.

WORK BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. President, we have gotten quite a bit done this week, but we are not finished yet. We passed a major medical innovation bill, which contains not only the Cancer Moonshot project advocated by Vice President BIDEN and the President but also other dramatic investments in the research and development of lifesaving drugs. It also contains a very important component of mental health reform.

I was glad to contribute some to that effort, particularly the part that has to do with the intersection of our mental health treatment regime and our criminal justice system. As I have learned and as many of us have learned together, our jails have become the treatment center of last resort for people who are mentally ill, whose condition is not diagnosed. And if not diagnosed, these people tend to get sicker and sicker, until they become a danger not only to themselves but potentially to the communities in which they live.

So we have made good progress, and perhaps thanks to the great leadership of Senator ALEXANDER, Senator MURRAY, Senator MURPHY, Senator CASIDY, TIM MURPHY over in the House, and the leadership there, we can be proud of that accomplishment.

Yesterday we finished up our work on the Defense authorization bill to help our troops both here at home and abroad, to make sure that they not only got a modest pay raise but that they continue to be supplied with the equipment and training they need in order to keep America safe here at home and abroad.

I am hopeful we will continue our work and finish our work, actually, on the continuing resolution, a bill we need to get done today in order to keep the lights on. I know my colleague from Illinois, the Democratic whip, has been working on this. I am hopeful we can get everybody back to a position of voting yes on this continuing resolution and we can complete our work.

There are folks across the aisle who want to keep the continuing resolution from moving forward and literally to shut down the government. I would have hoped we would have learned our lesson the hard way that that is not a way to solve our problems.

Unfortunately, the senior Senator from West Virginia, Mr. MANCHIN, has taken a position that even though we have funded the health care benefit program for the miners whom he cares passionately about—we all certainly understand that—we have done it through the end of the continuing resolution into April. He is not satisfied with the length of that continuing resolution. He said he would like to have it up to a year. But, frankly, I think he is unwilling to take us up on my commitment, for example, to continue to work with him now that we have gotten that short-term extension, to work

on a longer term extension once we get our work done.

The truth is, this bill, the continuing resolution, passed the House yesterday with overwhelming support from both sides of the aisle. It received support of 87 percent of the House Republicans and 77 percent of House Democrats. The House of Representatives has now left town for the holidays, and it is up to the Senate to finish the job. So at this point, working all night and into the weekend will not change the inevitable outcome. Shutting down the government does not help anyone, especially those holding up the process.

So we are not done yet, but we are close. With a little cooperation, we will be able to wrap up this Congress soon and turn our focus to the Nation's priorities.

Let me just mention a couple of other aspects of the continuing resolution because I have heard, just among conversations with my own colleagues, some misunderstanding about what we are doing in terms of, let's say, defense spending, which is one component of it. This continuing resolution funds the defense sector by a \$7.4 billion increase over the continuing resolution we are currently operating under. It is true that it is less than the Defense authorization bill has provided for, but, as we all know, an authorization is not an appropriation. And when you compare an appropriation or spending for defense under the continuing resolution we are currently operating under compared to the one we will pass soon, it represents a \$7.4 billion plus-up for defense.

Now, I am one who believes that is the single most important thing the Federal Government does—providing for the common defense—and I would argue that is probably not an adequate number, but it is a plus-up, and it is the number that was passed by the House, and frankly, the House having left town and gone back home for the holidays, we are left with a choice of either accepting that level or not doing our job on a timely basis.

This funding supports troop levels of up to 8,400 in Afghanistan, \$4.3 billion to support counterterrorism and forward operating missions. This was supported by Chairman THORNBERRY of the House Armed Services Committee. It provides a procedure for waiver for the next Secretary of Defense. This continuing resolution also provides \$872 million in funding for the 21st Century Cures legislation we passed just a few days ago, \$500 million to deal with the scourge of opioid abuse but also to deal with prevention and treatment activities, as well as \$372 million for the National Institutes of Health. It provides emergency flood and natural disaster relief for potentially up to 45 States, including my own—\$4.1 billion in emergency natural disaster relief. As I mentioned earlier, it does provide a short-

term coal miners fix while we work on a longer term solution. So my hope is, again, we can get it done.

NOMINATIONS

Let me turn to what will be the business of the Senate when we return in January. One of the first orders of business when we reconvene next month will be to consider and vote on the new President's nominees to fill his leadership team, the Cabinet nominees we have been hearing a lot about in the last couple of weeks.

Last week, I came to the floor to congratulate my friend and our colleague Senator JEFF SESSIONS on his nomination to be the next Attorney General. He is a man of strong conviction and real character, and I have no doubt whatsoever that he is the right man for the job. I know that many in our conference share my eagerness to start the confirmation process so we can give President Trump the team he needs to hit the ground running.

But I am disappointed, I have to say, in the way some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are already posturing against the President-elect's nominees. Fortunately for us, they telegraph their obstruction in the news media, so we know about some of their nascent plans to obstruct President-elect Trump's Cabinet.

Earlier this week, Politico said that this was the Democratic strategy: "Delay tactics could sap momentum from the President's 100 days" was the headline. The article goes on to cite conversations with several Senate Democrats who have already laid out a plan to slow-walk—because they know they can't block—President-elect Trump's nominees in the new year. It is one thing to obstruct and to slow the Senate down, but it is even a bigger problem when they intentionally try to keep the President-elect from doing his job too. I would ask, for what? Just to delay progress? To dredge up partisan rhetoric and to do all they can to damage the administration of the next President of the United States before it has gotten started? This is absolute nonsense.

I think this is the kind of activity the American people repudiated in the last election on November 8. They are sick and tired of the partisan rhetoric on both sides. They literally want us to get some things done on their behalf for the American people.

Holding up the confirmation process for purely political gain is irresponsible and dangerous, but it is also ironic that some of our Democratic colleagues have changed their tune so much. Here is just one quote from our friend, the Senator from Michigan, part of the Democratic leadership. Senator STABENOW said on April 20, 2015: "When a President wins an election, they have the right to have their team."

You know, one thing I have learned is, if you have been around here long

enough, there is a great danger of being on both sides of an issue, so you have to try to be consistent, even with the temptations to change your position based on who is up and who is down. But I agree with the Senator from Michigan. No matter what side you are on, Donald Trump won the election to the White House. As President, he has the authority to surround himself with whom he sees fit to advise him for our country. For our Democratic colleagues to suggest that keeping the President understaffed is somehow in the best interests of the American people is absolutely ludicrous.

Let me remind my friends on the other side of the aisle what happened when Barack Obama became President in January of 2009. Senate Republicans respected his nominees and gave them quick consideration. Seven Cabinet members were confirmed on his first day of office. Other high-level positions followed just days later.

In other words, we came together, understood that the people had elected a new President, and went to the table ready to cooperate in good faith even though we knew there would be disagreements about policy. That is because we didn't want the President to begin his time in office without the support and the staffing he needed to do his job. But, at least so far, our Democratic colleagues—some of them—don't seem to share this same perspective now that they have lost this last election. I would just ask them to reconsider and to be consistent in the way they asked us to respond when President Obama won and treat the people's choice as the next President of the United States with the respect their vote deserves in terms of making sure he has the Cabinet necessary to get his administration up and running.

The American people really are disgusted by the sideshows of dysfunction and obstruction. They want results, and they deserve results. They made clear, since giving this side of the aisle control of the White House, the House of Representatives, and the Senate, that they really wanted the clear way to making progress on behalf of the American people. But we all know we cannot do this as one party or the other; we have to find ways to work together for the common good.

I hope those on the other side of the aisle who indicated they are determined to obstruct and block the President-elect's new Cabinet members, his nominees, change their tune and reconsider. Keeping the new President from the men and women he has chosen to serve alongside him only makes us less safe, our economy more fragile, and the government less efficient. In short, it doesn't serve their interests well.

We are ready to work with our colleagues across the aisle to roll up our sleeves and get to work next year. I

only hope our Democratic colleagues decide to do the same.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, next to the Senator from Texas, who just spoke, is the Executive Calendar of the U.S. Senate. There are about 30 pages of that calendar on his desk that contain the names of individuals nominated by the Obama administration, then sent to committee, approved by the committee, then sent to the calendar to be approved on the floor of the Senate. The Republican majority in the Senate refuses to call these names.

The plea that is being made by the senior Senator from Texas is, why can't we just get along? Well, I hope we can, but this is a bad place to start, with all of these names sitting right in front of us, waiting patiently—some of them for over a year—to be called for a vote on the floor of the Senate. They all were reported out by committees that have a majority Republican membership.

Of course, there is exhibit A in this, and that is Merrick Garland. Merrick Garland was President Obama's nominee to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court after the death of Antonin Scalia. Since February of this year, the process has been going forward by the President and the White House to send a name to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court. For the first time in the history of the Senate, the Republican majority refused to give the President's Supreme Court nominee a hearing or a vote. It has never—underline that word—never happened before. So we hear the plea from the Senator from Texas for cooperation: We have to get along here. Well, we should. We owe it to the country. But, for goodness' sake, let's be honest about where we stand. There are dozens of names here of men and women who are highly qualified to serve this Nation, who went through the process of being nominated by the administration, of being approved by Republican-majority committees, who have been languishing on the floor of the Senate because of the refusal of the Republican leadership.

Judge Merrick Garland, who was judged "unanimously well-qualified" to serve on the Supreme Court by the American Bar Association, never even got a hearing before this Republican-controlled Senate. In fact, the leader of this Senate and many others said: We will not even meet with him. We won't discuss it with him.

What was their strategy? Well, it is one that paid off, I guess. They felt if they violated what we consider to be the tradition and duty of the Senate and not have a hearing and a vote on a nominee, they might just elect a Republican President. Well, they did. Now they want to fill their vacancies and

they are begging us: Cooperate. Join in with us. Let's be bipartisan.

I am going to try. I am going to give a fair hearing to each of the nominees. They deserve it. There are no guarantees on a final vote; it depends on whether I think they are the right person for the job. But I do hope there will be some reflection in the process about what we have just lived through.

There are over 100 vacancies on Federal courts across the United States. Many of them—30—would have been filled with just the names on this Executive Calendar that have already cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee with a majority of Republican Senators. Yet they sit. They languish. In just a few hours and a few days, they are going to become part of history as we move to the new Senate on January 3. I wanted to make that point for the record.

Mr. President, I also wish to say a word about where we are with the continuing resolution. What is a continuing resolution? Well, we are used to it around here because we have done it so often. Both political parties have done it. Here is what it basically says. Think about your family budget. Let's assume that last year you spent, on average, \$100 a month on your utility bills. What if we said to you: In this next year, we want you to spend \$100 a month.

You say: Well, I don't know if that is what it is going to cost. I hope it is less; it might be more.

Well, the continuing resolution says: Stick with last year's budget, and you can make special provisions and special allowances if it happens to be wrong.

You think, that is a heck of a way to run my family. That is what a continuing resolution does. It takes last year's budget and says: Let's repeat. Well, things change.

I am on the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee. It is the largest subcommittee in terms of the amount of domestic discretionary money that is spent. Things change with our military all the time. You know that. Presidents come forward and say: We need additional money for our troops, to prepare them, to equip them, to make sure they are where they need to be in this world to keep America safe.

What we do with a continuing resolution is we say: Well, we are going to tell you that you have to live within the bounds of last year's budget—a continuing resolution.

The people in the Department of Defense, of course, will do their best. They are not going to spend money this year on things that are finished. They are not going to repeat and keep building if they have already finished their building. They are not going to buy things they have decided are not valuable. But when it comes to making important budget decisions, their hands will be tied by this Congress.

For the second time, we are going to come up with a 3- or 4-month budget resolution as we move forward. It is no way to run a government.

Here is the good news: We didn't have to do that. On this Appropriations subcommittee, Senator THAD COCHRAN of Mississippi and I worked a long time. Our staff worked even longer and prepared a Department of Defense appropriations bill. We are ready—ready to bring it to the floor, ready to debate it. And it is a good one. It keeps our country safe. On a bipartisan basis, we agreed on what it should contain. We can't bring it forward. All of the spending is going to be done under this continuing resolution. We will be halfway through this current fiscal year with continuing resolutions if we ever get around to the appropriations process.

The Presiding Officer is also on the Appropriations Committee and works in a very bipartisan way in the authorizing Appropriations Committee on some critical programs for health and education. We should have brought that before the Senate on the floor, but we did not.

We have this continuing resolution before us, and it has a few things in it that I think the American people should know. One of them relates to retired coal miners and their families.

Coal mining has always been a dangerous job, and it is also a job that has diseases that come with it, such as black lung. So for those who retire from coal mining, health care is critically important.

Senator JOE MANCHIN of West Virginia has a lot of coal miners, and they are worried about a cutoff on the health care benefits for retired coal miners and their surviving widows. He has come before the Senate over and over again begging the Senate to come up with a plan to make sure their health care is funded for this next year and for years to come.

In this continuing resolution, we managed to provide that health care protection for several months, 3 or 4 months—but not any longer. He is worried about it. I have talked to him twice today. He has spoken on this issue countless times on the floor of the Senate. We believe he is making the right fight.

The fight to ensure that coal miners don't lose their benefits has been before Congress for 4 years. It has been through the regular order of committees. It was passed by the Senate Finance Committee with Democrats and Republicans supporting it. Even in the midst of dysfunction of partisanship in the Senate, this is apparently one measure that apparently both parties agree on. Despite all of this, the continuing resolution does not reflect the needs of and it does not provide the resources for these families.

The other day, Majority Leader MCCONNELL came to the floor and he

insisted that the continuing resolution addressed the expiring benefits of retired workers. What he did was extend those benefits for 4 months. There is no indication of what is going to happen beyond that. It requires the United Mine Workers health plan to deplete its reserves to pay for this temporary extension, but then they are broke. There is nothing in the bank when the CR expires in April. It subjects the health plan to a reduction in funding from what they currently receive from the abandoned mine land funds, and it makes no mention of the pension shortfall that these same mining families face.

We are looking for a real solution, and we are hoping to get one soon. Before the end of the day, I think Senator MANCHIN, Senator SHERROD BROWN, Senator CASEY, and others will come to the floor and speak to this specific issue, but it has been one of the things that has held us up.

In Illinois, there are nearly 2,000 coal miners and their families whose health care benefits are in jeopardy, and I have heard from them.

Linda Fleming of Taylorville, IL—that is about 30 miles from where I live. She is afraid her 86-year-old mother will lose the benefits her father, who worked at Peabody coal for 30 years, left for her mother when he passed away 2 years ago. Her husband, who retired from Freeman coal in Central Illinois after 33 years of service, also received notice that he was going to lose his benefits.

Larry Garland, a retired coal miner in Millstadt, IL, worked in the coalfields because it was a good job—a hard job, a dirty job some days, but it had a promise of lifetime health care for him and his family. His wife has MS, and he is wondering how he is going to afford her medical expenses if this isn't funded properly.

Karen Williams, a nurse and daughter of a retired coal miner in Du Quoin, IL, sees firsthand how important these benefits are to retirees like her dad, who has a lung disease directly related to his coal-mining years.

These are just a few of the stories in my State, of the 2,000 affected by this decision, so we take it personally.

There is another provision in here as well. The President-elect has designated General Mattis to be the next Secretary of Defense. James Mattis was the head of U.S. Central Command, an extraordinary general, given some critical assignments by previous Presidents, and every report that I have read is positive about his service to our country and his leadership skills in the Marine Corps. But the appointment of General Mattis is in violation of a basic law. The law, which was passed over 50 years ago, limited the availability of these retired military officers to serve as Secretaries of Defense.

In America, we have always prided ourselves—and particularly since the

reorganization of the military after World War II—on civilian control over the military. It is something that is really built into the American view about the military and the civilian side of the Federal Government.

Here we have General Mattis, who is eminently qualified to lead in many respects, but he is going to be violating that basic law that says there must be 7 years of separation between your military service and your service as Secretary of Defense.

There has only been one exception in history, and that was back in 1950, when President Truman asked GEN George C. Marshall, a five-star general—there aren't many in our history—to come out of retirement. General Marshall had retired as Secretary of State. President Truman asked General Marshall to come out of retirement to serve as Secretary of Defense under the new reorganization plan of our government.

Congress had to change that law. At that time, there was a 10-year separation. Congress had to change the law, and it took some time to do it—to debate it, to make sure the policy decision was the right thing for our country, and to make sure that whatever we did was consistent with this idea that civilians should control the military. They ultimately gave the waiver to GEN George C. Marshall, this hero of our World War II defense, Secretary of State, and a man who won the Nobel Peace Prize, I might add. So he was an extraordinary man.

This bill that we have before us is going to ask us to expedite this decision. At the time it was debated before with General Marshall, the Senate took the time to really consider this. So expediting and changing the rules of the Senate in this bill is something that hasn't been done before.

I worry about the impact it is going to have in the long term. It complicated what should have been a pretty simple and straightforward bill.

Let me speak as well about the impact on the Department of Defense of this continuing resolution. A continuing resolution for defense might be harmful to our Armed Forces, and the longer we live under it, the worse it could get. If Congress were to pass a 3-month continuing resolution for the Department of Defense, they are going to feel it right away. The Pentagon has identified more than 150 programs costing tens of billions of dollars that will be disrupted by a continuing resolution. House Republicans fixed no more than a few of these. There are a lot of others in disarray.

The Defense bill has provided \$600 million, for example, for the Israeli missile defense programs, a substantial increase over last year's funding level of \$487 million. This includes increased funding for the Arrow 3 program, which will protect Israel against new threats

from long-range Iranian missiles. Under a continuing resolution, this new initiative is put on hold until we get around to passing a full-year Defense appropriations bill.

The impacts of the 3-month continuing resolution will also be felt by the defense industrial base. There is a similar story for the Air Force's new B-21 bomber. Funding for this program is planned to nearly double this year to more than \$1.3 billion, in order to design the replacement for the decades-old B-52. The CR makes that difficult, if not impossible.

The Pentagon's R&D efforts have already been hamstrung by continuing resolutions, and there the story gets worse. Important medical research will be postponed in the Department of Defense, and agencies like DARPA, which had planned to award contracts worth \$24 billion, is on hold.

Instead, due to putting defense funding in this continuing resolution on autopilot, less than \$16 billion, instead of \$24 billion, will be awarded. That is going to slow down innovation and impact untold numbers of suppliers for our Department of Defense.

The old adage "time is money" certainly applies to the Pentagon. Every day, every week, every month that defense programs are delayed adds up to more costs to American taxpayers. When the government can't keep up its end of the contract because funding isn't available, costs go up, and taxpayers pay more for things they should pay less for. Every Member of Congress has criticized the Pentagon—I have been in that queue—for spending too much on weapons systems, but every time we do a CR, we raise the cost of weapons systems by delaying these payments.

Our constituents didn't elect us to delay making decisions. They elected us to get things done. Months of bipartisan committee work and weeks of bipartisan negotiation shouldn't be cast aside. Putting government spending on autopilot is not responsible.

Whether you work in a Fortune 500 company or in any agency of the Federal Government, budgets must adapt to innovation, new challenges, and new opportunities. Failure to do so is a waste. We owe it to the American taxpayer and we sure owe it to the men and women in uniform to do more than just kick the budgetary can down the road. We owe it to thousands of retired miners to keep our promise, to respect their years of hard work and give them the benefits they deserve.

Now is not the time to give up and go home. Now is the time to rededicate ourselves to truly working together, as the Appropriations Committee has historically done, use their work product, and pass a bill and an appropriations spending measure that really reflects what is needed for the national defense of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, in just a few hours, funding for the Federal Government will run out. It is going to run out in just a few hours. It looks like we are going to blow through that deadline right here in the Senate.

POLITICO, one of the local newspapers, had an article this morning, and this is what the headline said. They ran an article with this headline: "Democrats push government toward shutdown." Let me repeat that: "Democrats push government toward shutdown."

The article says that Democrats are pushing the government to the brink of a shutdown. They are doing it with "coal country Senate Democrats leading a strategy to oppose a GOP spending bill if their demands are not met for a longer extension of expiring health care benefits for coal miners."

We are talking about a continuing resolution that passed the House with overwhelming numbers, and it has bipartisan support. The vote was 326 to 96—Republicans and Democrats joining together in the House to keep the government open—but not the Senate Democrats.

I have been on this floor time and again with Democrats talking about shutting down the government, and they say that it is the Republicans. The headline today says: "Democrats push government toward shutdown."

Now, the continuing resolution that is being asked to be voted upon actually includes money to help these miners well into the new year—through April—and we are going to be looking at everything in the legislation again when it expires in April. So there is no rush to settle this issue today.

But here we are in the Senate, with Democrats preparing to shut down the Government of the United States.

Our goal should not be to bail out a union health plan—and it is a fund that does have problems. The solution actually ought to be to let coal miners mine coal again. Let them go back to what they know how to do—mine coal. That way they can take care of themselves and take care of their own.

I want to be really clear on this point. The only reason we are in the position we are in today is because the Obama administration and Democrats in Washington have been waging a war on coal for the past 8 years. That is the reason we are in the position we are in today.

In 2008, when Barack Obama was running for President, he promised that this was what he was going to do. He said it. He said that under his policies, “if somebody wants to build a coal-fired powerplant, they can; it’s just that it will bankrupt them.”

The President was very clear. So the Democrats should not be surprised with what we see happening today.

Once he got into office, he did everything he could to keep that promise and bankrupt as many coal companies as possible. That is actually what happened. His administration has pushed out one unnecessary regulation after another on coal producers, on powerplants, and on customers.

The Environmental Protection Agency wrote new regulations on powerplant emissions where the emissions go from one State over to another. The Agency put out extremely stringent rules on emissions from any new powerplants that were built in this country. Then they wrote tough rules on the powerplants that were already in existence—rules, not new laws but rules.

The Obama administration hasn’t just tried to bankrupt anyone who used coal, but they have been doing all they can to make sure the coal never gets out of the ground.

The Bureau of Land Management imposed a moratorium on new mining leases on Federal land. In the Rocky Mountain West, that is a significant amount of the land, and, in many States, it is over half of the land.

The Obama administration has been doing all they can to make sure that American coal can’t be used not just here in America but can’t be used anywhere in the world.

The Department of the Interior wrote a new rule on coal valuation to discourage coal exports.

Now, the Army Corps of Engineers has even delayed or denied permits for new coal export terminals so we could ship a product that is produced in the United States to people who want to buy our product overseas. So Americans can’t sell the product that we have—that coal—overseas.

The Obama administration even worked to get the World Bank—the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund—to stop financing new coal-fired powerplants in developing nations, even though for them, it is the least expensive cost for electricity, for energy, for the people there who don’t have energy and desperately need it. It has been one roadblock after another for the last 8 years.

Layer after layer of redtape, strangling the coal industry and coal miners—the people who go to work every day.

Now, someone wants to say the issue is bailing out one union health plan and pension fund. The Democrats have waged an all-out comprehensive war on

coal. That is why we are in this situation.

During the Presidential campaign, President Obama has said to Americans: Please elect Hillary Clinton. Vote for her to protect the Obama legacy. Well, candidate Hillary Clinton during the election, during the campaign, said that she would put a lot of coal miners out of business. So as to the actual people who work, she wants to put them all out of business.

It has been a war on multiple fronts and a Presidential election all designed in many ways to keep Americans from using coal, from exporting coal, and even from mining coal.

The administration has blocked coal production. They have made it more expensive. Then they have tried to use the smaller market for coal—since you can’t mine it, you can’t sell it, and you can’t export it; so there is a smaller market for coal—as an excuse to impose even more burdens.

The people who are hurt by these policies are hard-working Americans who just want to go to work, make a living, and support their family. That is what the coal miners have been up against by the Obama administration in the last 8 years.

So any attempt by Democrats to blame someone else is just a distraction. They want to hide the simple fact that it is their intentional and intensive campaign against coal that has led us to where we are today—on the brink of a government shutdown tonight.

Health and pension funds can pay benefits for retired workers as long as the mines are actually working and they can mine coal and sell coal and make money. If the money coming in goes down, then the money they need to pay out is not there. That is why we have this problem. Companies can’t meet their obligations, and it is the Democrat’s policies that have caused it. So if the Democrats want to help retired miners, they should let the other miners get back to work. That is the way to help the retired miners, let the other miners get back to work. Well, that is not what they have done. The Obama administration has done all they can to destroy the market for coal, to force mines to cut production and to put miners out of work.

Now, I understand there are people in the home States of these Senators who are very worried, and they have a right to be worried, but let’s just be honest about the real reason these people are hurting: Miners are struggling because President Obama has been standing on their necks for a straight period of 8 years. When Democrats focus on things like health benefits for retirees, they are missing the point entirely, and they are just trying to dodge the responsibility—the responsibility for their own disastrous policies.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, the distinguished Senator has just asked me if I would yield to her; that she has a very short set of remarks, and I am happy to do so.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to use a prop during my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WRDA

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to address a very important choice for this Senate and, frankly, for President-Elect Trump.

The time is now for Donald Trump to take a stand in support of American workers by calling on Republican leadership in Congress to support strong “Buy American” requirements in the Water Resources Development Act, also known as the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act.

Just 1 week ago in Cincinnati, OH, President-Elect Trump said his infrastructure plan would follow two simple rules: “Buy American and hire American.” I support that position, strongly, but unfortunately the Republican establishment in Washington didn’t hear him. They have removed my “Buy American” standard from this very important water infrastructure legislation, and Trump Tower has gone silent on this topic since last Thursday.

I believe the iron and steel used in water infrastructure projects should be made in America and that taxpayer dollars should go to support American jobs and manufacturers, not be spent on Chinese or Russian iron and steel.

My provision to require this was included in the version of the bill that passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support on a vote of 95 to 3. However, Speaker RYAN and House Republicans removed this “Buy American” reform from the Water Infrastructure Improvements Act, and there hasn’t been a peep or a tweet from President-Elect Trump. It is clear to me, and it should be clear to President-Elect Trump as well, that congressional Republicans are allowing corporate lobbyists, working on behalf of companies who import steel from Russia and China, to write the rules in Washington. Importers of cheap foreign steel from China and Russia have sought to eliminate or loosen these rules for their own benefit. According to media reports, including the Wall Street Journal, the importers and their foreign suppliers have hired the Washington, DC, lobbying firm Squire Patton Boggs to lobby the Republican leadership in the House against my “Buy American” standard, which would provide a long-term and solid commitment to American workers.

The firm’s strategy relies upon, oh, that old revolving door—the firm employs former House Speaker John

Boehner and several former top Republican aides—to gain access and influence over Congress. These reports suggest that corporate lobbyists are using their influence over Congress to support clients that do business with Russian and Chinese steel companies at the expense of American workers. That is why I am calling on President-Elect Trump to turn his words in Cincinnati, spoken just a week ago, into action and to join me in demanding that Republican leaders in Congress restore our strong “Buy American” standard in the final water infrastructure bill.

Together, with Senators BROWN and CASEY, we offered an amendment to restore this “Buy American” reform, and today we are demanding a vote. I come to the floor today to ask Majority Leader MCCONNELL for that vote.

American manufacturers and steelworkers, like the men and women at Neenah Foundry in Wisconsin who helped build our Nation’s water infrastructure, support our amendment, and they deserve a vote and a solid commitment from us on a strong “Buy American” standard.

Many people in the United States have seen this iconic symbol. Neenah Foundry—which supports the strong “Buy American” amendment—manufactures, among other things, these manhole covers that we see all over.

Let us not ever see this.

President-Elect Trump has said that we need to “drain the swamp,” and that he will take on lobbyists and special interests that are writing the rules and rigging the game in Washington against American workers. If he is serious about “draining the swamp” and supporting American workers, it is time for him to end his silence and speak out publicly supporting and restoring this “Buy American” standard to the water infrastructure bill that is before the Senate today. It is time for a vote on a “Buy American” standard that respects and rewards American manufacturers and American workers.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, are we going back and forth?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no order at the moment.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. May I ask the Senator—because I thought Democrats had an hour at this time, I agreed to yield to Senator BALDWIN. Senator MCCAIN, do you know how long you will be?

Mr. MCCAIN. About 30 minutes.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Well, you go ahead. I will defer.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank my friend from California, but if she had a shorter time—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. MCCAIN. I say to my dear friend from California, if she had a few minutes she would like to take at this time, I would be happy to yield to her.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Senator, I have about 20 minutes.

Mr. MCCAIN. OK. I take it back.

Mr. President, I understand that, as usual, as we get to the edge of the cliff or the edge of the weekend, that somehow we will have an agreement and we will vote and we will pass a continuing resolution and we will all go home. We will all go home for the holidays and congratulate ourselves on doing such a great job and passing a congressional resolution.

Meanwhile, the 8,000 men and women who are serving in Afghanistan will be having a different kind of next couple of weeks. It will be in combat, it will be in jeopardy, it will be in fighting an implacable enemy that we have been challenging and fighting for the last 12, 14 years. The 5,000 troops who are in Iraq and Syria, with their lives literally in danger—there has been a couple, a few casualties, tragic deaths in recent days. The siege of Aleppo continues and the slaughter continues of innocent men, women, and children. As the exodus, I am told, takes place from Aleppo, the Russians, Iranian Revolutionary Guard, and Bashar al-Assad’s thugs are culling out the young men for special treatment and interrogation. God only knows what that is like. Of course, the flow of refugees continues, now adding to the 6 million. The 500,000 who have been killed, that continues. And we are about to pass an appropriations bill that reduces our ability to help those men and women who are serving our country in uniform get their job done. We are talking about a continuing resolution that is a reduction in spending, that freezes accounts in place, and does not give us the capability to move them around to meet the threats we are facing around the world. I must say to my colleagues, this is disgraceful. This is absolutely disgraceful.

We are going to kick the can down the road because we failed to fund our troops. The fiscal irresponsibility of another continuing resolution will force the Department of Defense to operate for 7 months in the fiscal year without a real budget. Tell me one company or corporation in the world, small or large, that has their budget frozen for 7 months of the year and expects to operate with any kind of efficiency. You can’t. You can’t.

Now, the incoming President of the United States says he wants to spend more money on defense. Are we doing that with this continuing resolution? Of course not. The incoming President of the United States says we don’t have a big enough Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and we are cutting the size of the military.

Meanwhile, the President of the United States gives one of the most bizarre speeches I have ever heard in my life about what a great job he has done, what a fantastic job; and thank God

ISIS does not pose an existential threat to the United States of America—never mind San Bernardino, never mind all the other attacks across the country and Europe. Never mind those. It is not an existential threat. This is the same Barack Obama who said ISIS was the JV and couldn’t carry Kobe’s T-shirt.

So what are we doing? By God, we are going to be out of here. Thank God, we are going to be out of here. And what are we doing? We haven’t passed a defense appropriations bill that funds our troops. Earlier this year we had a defense appropriations bill, approved unanimously by the Appropriations Committee, but Democrats put politics ahead of our troops, filibustered that legislation, and brought the Senate to a halt.

Does anybody wonder about the approval rating of Congress when we will not even appropriate the money to defend this Nation and pay for the men and women in uniform who are sacrificing as we speak? Of course not.

Why haven’t we passed the bill? Now, fresh off an election—the election is over. Republicans won control of the House and the Senate and the White House in part by promising to rebuild our military. Congress is about to cut defense spending again by passing another irresponsible continuing resolution.

Let me be clear, this continuing resolution would cut resources to our troops, delay the cutting-edge equipment they need, and hamper the war in Afghanistan. A lot of my colleagues may not understand, you authorize certain amounts of money for certain programs. With a continuing resolution, you can’t shift that money around. Suppose there is a new product, there is a new weapon, there is a new ability we have. With a continuing resolution, now going on for 7 months, we will do that. Congratulations. Congratulations.

So this is Washington. Democrats filibuster funding for our troops in a political game to extort more funding for pet domestic programs. Republicans feign outrage. Then those same Republicans return months later to negotiate a continuing resolution that gives Democrats the domestic spending increases they always wanted, does so by—guess what. Guess what. There is an increase in this continuing resolution for domestic programs, some of them pork-barrel projects, and cutting funds for defense. I am not making that up. I wonder how many of the 100 Senators who will be voting on this continuing resolution know that this continuing resolution increases domestic spending and decreases defense spending. What a sham. What a fraud. Is there any wonder the American people hold us in such contempt? We are down to paid staff and blood relatives.

There is a lot wrong with this continuing resolution, but let me start

with the rank hypocrisy embedded deep within its pages. Five years ago Congress recognized the need to rein in Federal spending, but instead of addressing the actual drivers of our deficits and debt, in one of the great copouts in history, it settled for a meat-ax approach. Congress passed the Budget Control Act, which cuts spending across the board. No matter how worthwhile, no matter how necessary, treat it all the same and cut it across the board, OK? It is designated to be so terrible, this sequestration—remember, it was 5 years ago—sequestration would be so terrible it would force Republicans and Democrats to negotiate a more reasonable compromise.

We know how that worked out. The Budget Control Act failed to force a grand bargain on the budget, but it was so genuinely terrible that Congress had to negotiate a series of short-term agreements to get out from under it. The latest of these was the Bipartisan Budget Act, which was passed last year and provided small increases for defense and on defense spending.

This agreement was consistent with the principle articulated by many of my Republican and Democratic colleagues—that defense and nondefense were supposed to be treated equally. It does not matter when you see the world on fire, no matter when you see 6 million refugees out of Syria, no matter when you see 500,000 dead, no matter when you see the Chinese asserting control over the Asia-Pacific region, no matter that you see Vladimir Putin dismembering Ukraine and putting pressures of enormity on the Balkan countries, no matter that you see the Russians, now a major power in the Middle East for the first time since Anwar Sadat, threw him out of Egypt in 1973—no matter all that. No matter that we continue to increase because we react to the number of troops and the amount of equipment that we are having to send to Iraq and Syria and other places in the world—treat the EPA the same as the U.S. Marine Corps. Treat the IRS the same as our brave pilots who are now flying in combat in Iraq and Syria. Treat them the same. This was the so-called principle of parity.

For the record, I never believed this trope. Instead, I held fast to another principle—that funding our troops would be based solely on what they need to defend the Nation. Isn't that an unusual sentiment—to fund the troops with what they need to defend the Nation, to give them the very best equipment so that, in the testimony of the uniform service chiefs before the Armed Services committee, who said in unvarnished words—these great military uniformed leaders said: We are putting the lives of the men and women in uniform “at greater risk.”

Is no one in this body embarrassed that we are putting the lives of the

men and women in the military at greater risk? What is happening here?

Many of my colleagues disagreed with me, which was their right. Over the last 2 years as Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, having listened to the testimony of our most senior military commanders about the growing risk to the lives of our servicemembers, I have tried to break the hold of these arbitrary spending limits, increase defense spending, and give our troops the resources they need to defend the Nation.

Let me tell you what is happening to the military today. We have seen the movie before—after the Vietnam war. They have less ability to train. They have less ability to operate. Our pilots in the Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy are flying fewer hours per month than Chinese and Russian pilots are. They are having to rob planes. They have even had to go to the Boneyard in Tucson, AZ, to find parts for their airplanes. They are that short of them.

You know what is going to happen? The pilots of these services are going to get out in droves because the commercial airline pilots who were hired after the Vietnam war are all retiring. All these people want to do is fly airplanes. When they are in Syria and Iraq, yes, they fly a lot. When they get back, they don't fly at all. Why? They don't have the money. When you cut defense, the first thing that suffers is operations, maintenance, and training. Again, it is not as if it is a new phenomenon. We have seen the movie before.

Here we are. We passed a defense bill last year that provided \$38 billion in additional resources to give our servicemembers the modern equipment and advanced training they need. President Obama vetoed that bill because, as his White House explained, he would “not fix defense without fixing nondefense spending.”

Think about that. The President of the United States puts defending this Nation on the same level as domestic programs. I am all for the domestic programs. I am not objecting to them, but to put them on the same level as the defense of the Nation partially explains the disasters over the last 8 years. America has decided to lead from behind, and America is now held without respect or regard throughout the world. We see all kinds of bad things happening, and I will not bother my colleagues because all I have to do is pick up the morning paper or turn on the television.

This year I offered an amendment to the Defense authorization bill on the Senate floor to add \$18 billion to the defense budget, an increase that would have returned defense spending to the level the President himself had requested and for which the Department of Defense had planned. The Senate Democrats and some Republicans voted

against that amendment. One Democratic Senator objected, saying: “If defense funds are increased, funding for domestic agencies must also be increased.”

Got that? “If defense funds are increased, funding for domestic agencies must also be increased.”

Some Republicans, mainly on the Appropriations Committee, argued that the amendment would not adhere to the Bipartisan Budget Act and stall momentum to pass appropriations bills as we consider yet another continuing resolution. We see how well that worked out.

So entrenched was this absurd notion of parity between defense and nondefense spending that when President Obama decided to keep more troops in harm's way in Afghanistan—finally recognizing a little reality—he refused to pay for them unless nondefense spending received an identical funding increase. Let me make that clear. The President of the United States—recognizing that the Taliban was not only not defeated but was gaining ground in parts of Afghanistan, the Afghan military sustaining unsustainable casualty rates—sent more troops to Afghanistan, sent more help to Afghanistan, but wouldn't pay for them unless we increased domestic spending.

Is that some kind of nonsense? So entrenched was this absurd notion of parity between defense and nondefense spending that the bottom line is this: Congress has had multiple opportunities to give our troops the resources they need. Each time, aided and abetted by the President and his administration, we squandered these opportunities because of the so-called principle of parity—that “any increase in funding must be shared equally between defense and nondefense.”

After all that, it turns out that parity was merely politics masquerading as principle. Because, dear friends, now Congress is about to pass a continuing resolution that shatters any notion of parity, breaks the spending limits of the Bipartisan Budget Act, increases nondefense spending at the expense of our troops, and even creates a loophole that allows nondefense spending to skirt the law and avoid sequestration—not defense spending, nondefense spending. It is crazy.

Under this continuing resolution, nondefense spending—get this. I don't know how many of my colleagues know this. Under this continuing resolution, nondefense spending is \$3 billion above the Bipartisan Budget Act. Where does this additional money come from? It was taken from our troops. Under the continuing resolution, defense spending is \$3 billion below the Bipartisan Budget Act.

As a result of increased funding, nondefense spending violates the Bipartisan Budget Act and would face sequestration at the beginning of next

year to bring it back in line with spending levels allowed under the law. Not so fast, my friends—the continuing resolution contains a “get out of jail free” card that allows nondefense spending to break the Bipartisan Budget Act to avoid sequestration.

Here is what we are doing: We are cutting defense spending. We are increasing nondefense spending, even though it breaks the act and we have a provision in there that that is OK. I just hope that everybody knows what they are voting on in this.

Am I missing something? Am I missing something? Do Republicans control the House of Representatives? They are the ones who put this provision in. It is the Republicans who control the House of Representatives. Do Republicans fill the majority of the seats in this Senate? The last time I checked, they do. Did the Republican candidate just win the White House?

What on Earth are we doing here? Why are Republicans who complained for so long about runaway government spending about to vote on a take-it-or-leave-it continuing resolution that increases nondefense spending? Why are Republicans doing that? Why are Republicans who proclaim that ours is the party of strong defense cutting funding for our military to plus up spending on domestic programs? What is going on here?

Why are Republicans who voted down increased funding for our military because of the Bipartisan Budget Act voting for a continuing resolution that allows nondefense spending to exceed that law and creates a loophole to escape sequestration?

Why are Democrats who lectured for years—I got that lecture for hours and hours about the principle of fairness, of parity—who insisted that funding increases must be shared equally between defense and nondefense. Why are those Democrats about to support a continuing resolution that explicitly breaks that principle and that funds increases for nondefense by taking from defense?

Regretfully, as I say about Republicans and Democrats, the answer, and the only answer I can offer is hypocrisy—rank hypocrisy. What is so disheartening about the hypocrisy of this continuing resolution is how unnecessary it is. We can pass an appropriations bill. The appropriations bill was passed out of the Appropriations Committee unanimously. We can pass it. We can do it tomorrow; we can do it tonight. But they don't want to do that. They want this continuing resolution with all this stuff hidden in it, with a lot of legislative things in it that we find out, guess what, 10 hours, 24 hours, maybe even 48 hours before we vote on it. That is when we find out what is in the bill.

I would challenge—I would like to take a poll of my 100 colleagues here.

How many of them have read the continuing resolution? I will bet you the number is zero. With this legislation, Congress has already done the hard work of negotiating a bipartisan compromise for defense spending. The Defense appropriations bill from earlier this year could easily be amended to reflect the compromise, and the Senate could be taking up the bill, but we are not. Instead, we are about to vote on another continuing resolution that would cut \$6 billion from the level authorized by the NDAA.

I want to point out again: Who is being harmed by this? My friends, obviously, as I have stated, absolutely the men and women who are serving. They are the ones who are suffering from this. In the Defense authorization bill, we have a 2.1-percent pay raise for the military. In the continuing resolution, it is not in there. We are not even going to reward our men and women in the military with a pay raise that they have earned.

Some of my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee will argue that this continuing resolution is an increase to defense spending. That is a lie. I don't say this very often, but anyone who says there is an increase in defense spending in this continuing resolution is lying. For those of you who are not familiar with Washington doublespeak, let me explain how cut translates into increase inside the beltway. The new continuing resolution represents a modest increase over the previous continuing resolution passed in September, but that legislation contained a large cut to defense spending. Just as now, Members of this body were asked to go along with this cut with a promise that a Defense appropriations bill would soon follow. None appeared.

In other words, the best we can say about the continuing resolution we are considering today in this body today—and I am sure it will be passed on a Friday night—is that it merely contains a smaller defense cut than its predecessor. Twist the figures all you want, and I guarantee you that somebody on the Budget Committee or the Budget Committee chairman will twist it. The fact is, this continuing resolution is \$6 billion less than what Congress just authorized for defense spending. Yesterday, we passed a Defense authorization bill, and this is \$6 billion less than what we authorized. That is what we should be grading ourselves on because that is what our military has told us they need and what this body has agreed to provide them.

Let me emphasize that we go through weeks and months of hearings, mark-ups, input, and debate, and we come up with a Defense authorization bill and provide this body in the Congress and the Nation with our best judgment of what America needs to defend this Nation and how much it costs. This con-

tinuing resolution will cut that number by \$6 billion. That may not be much money among some, but it is one heck of a lot of money overall.

The hypocrisy of this continuing resolution is nauseating. The defense cut it contains is blind to the needs of our military, but ultimately it is the basic fact that Congress has failed to pass an appropriations bill and will be forced to pass another continuing resolution that will have the most real and immediate consequences for our servicemembers. Our Nation asks a lot of the men and women serving in uniform. As I mentioned, we are going to go home tonight, I am sure, because of the pressures that always take place on a Thursday or Friday, and they will still be out there. They will still be out there on the front line. They will be in Syria, Iraq, and helping the Afghan fighters defend their nation. They won't be going home, but we will. And what will we leave them with? A \$6 billion reduction in their ability to defend this Nation.

The continuing resolution locks our military into last year's budget and last year's priorities. Tell me a company in the world where you have to stick with the priorities from the year before as you approach the coming year as to what you want to do and you are locked into the last year's provisions.

Consider what happened to our counter-ISIL efforts under the continuing resolution that is about to expire. Last week, military leaders had to come to Congress hat in hand seeking relief from the constraints of a continuing resolution in order to keep up the fight against ISIL. Since the beginning of the year, the Defense Department requested money to support local forces in Syria who are fighting to drive ISIL out of Raqqa, but because we are on a continuing resolution, money wasn't there. The Secretary of Defense, the highest civilian leader of our military, had to spend his time searching couch cushions to continue our fight against ISIL. Every day that ISIL remains entrenched in Raqqa is another day they can plot attacks on our homeland. It is another day they can terrorize Syria. It is another day they can call themselves a caliphate. It is another day they can attract foreign fighters to their murderous cause. All of the Defense authorization and appropriations bills included the money to fund Syrians fighting to remove ISIL from its sanctuary, but the continuing resolution did not. If we had done our jobs, this wouldn't be an issue, but it was.

The same thing will happen under a new continuing resolution that does not fully fund the war in Afghanistan. The legislation will force the Department of Defense to pay for urgent requirements to deter Russian aggression in Europe by cannibalizing funds needed to help our Afghan partners take

the fight to our common terrorist enemies. When it comes to national security, robbing Peter to pay Paul is not a strategy; it is a disgrace. This wouldn't be necessary under an appropriations bill, but it is under this continuing resolution, which is blind to the realities of our dangerous world, and the consequences will be felt on the battlefield.

The Department of Defense had requested \$814 million to provide our Afghan partners with the helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft they need to take the fight to the Taliban and ISIL. This continuing resolution contains none of that funding. If there is anything we need in this fight, it is airpower.

General Nicholson, the commander of U.S. and international forces in Afghanistan, sent me a letter yesterday, and he warns that without this funding, "the Afghan security forces risk losing the positive close air support momentum gained over the past year, which proved instrumental in enabling them to thwart the enemy eight separate times in its efforts to seize provincial capitals."

What are we doing here? With the continuing resolution, we are putting the lives of countless Afghans in danger because we are not giving them the air support that they need.

Our failure to do our jobs and pass this bill and this irresponsible continuing resolution will make it even harder to achieve success in our Nation's longest war. This is shameful. A continuing resolution will also make the job of managing the government's largest agency even more difficult and at the worst possible time. The Presidential transition process currently underway is difficult enough on its own, but no incoming President has ever had to inherit a Department of Defense operating under a continuing resolution. I will repeat that: No President has ever had to inherit a Department of Defense operating under a continuing resolution, and this is not the time to break the streak.

Under a continuing resolution of any duration, our military, by law, has to delay 78 new military systems and stall additional production of 89 others. A continuing resolution delays major research and development initiatives. The latest continuing resolution provides DOD relief from these restrictions for the Ohio replacement program, the KC-46 tanker, and the Apache and Black Hawk helicopters, but that is only four programs out of hundreds. Worse still, this leaves DOD with the wrong mix of funding, causing shortfalls in important accounts totaling \$22 billion. Let me repeat: The continuing resolution leaves the Department of Defense with a \$22 billion shortfall across important accounts. Locking in funding at last year's level across all accounts is willful ignorance of the Department's plan to grow nec-

essary programs and cut wasteful ones. This is not wise fiscal stewardship. This is reckless government on autopilot, and here are just a few of the consequences.

The continuing resolution is totally blind to the military readiness crisis that is putting the lives of servicemembers at risk. We are asking our troops to be ready to defend this Nation at a moment's notice. We are asking our troops to be ready to take the fight to ISIL. We are asking our troops to be ready to deter, and if necessary, defeat aggression in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia-Pacific. We are asking them to be ready today, but a continuing resolution would force trade-offs that undermine readiness.

We heard about the readiness crisis all year, but what does it really mean? It means the Navy doesn't have enough money to maintain ships and aircraft. It means that ships that taxpayers spent billions of dollars to buy will be anchored at docks instead of out to sea. It means our Navy and Marine Corps aircraft will be grounded and their pilot skills wasting away. It means the Air Force won't have the funding required to recruit airmen to keep its aircraft maintained and flying.

The NDAA we just passed would have stopped the military from cutting soldiers, sailors, and airmen. But because of this continuing resolution, the Army will begin firing 3,000 qualified captains. That is 3,000 soldiers with families. That is 3,000 soldiers who want to stay in the military and continue to serve their country. That is 3,000 soldiers willing to put their lives on the line for us, but because we refuse to do our jobs, 3,000 soldiers are going to get pink slips. That is shameful. It is madness.

Every senior leader at the Department of Defense has warned Congress about the negative impacts of a continuing resolution on our troops.

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter stated that "a continuing resolution is a straitjacket" that "prevents us from fielding a modern, ready force in a balanced way." A continuing resolution, Secretary Carter said, "undercuts stable planning and efficient use of taxpayer dollars."

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Neller, warned that a long-term continuing resolution "dramatically increases risk to an already strained fiscal environment and disrupts predictability and our ability to properly plan and execute a budget and a 5-year program."

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Goldfein, warned that a continuing resolution would reduce procurement of critical munitions for the ISIL fight, affecting not only the United States but our coalition partners that rely on us to deliver preferred munitions.

The Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Richardson, warned that a continuing resolution would lead to wasted taxpayer dollars. Under a continuing resolution, the Navy would be forced to break up its contract actions into smaller pieces. As a result, Admiral Richardson warned that the Navy would not be able to "take advantage of savings from contractors who could better manage their workload and pass on lower costs to the Navy. These redundant efforts drive additional time and cost into the system, for exactly the same output."

The Chief of Staff of the Army, General Milley, made a similar warning about waste and inefficiency resulting from budget uncertainty, saying, "things like multiyear contracts"—et cetera, et cetera. General Milley is right.

I say to my colleagues: This madness has to end. It is time for Congress to do its job. When it comes to doing our constitutional duty to provide for the common defense, there is no call for lazy shortcuts that shortchange our troops. We passed the Defense authorization bill. Now let's fund it by passing the Defense appropriations bill, which gives our troops the resources, predictability, and flexibility they need and deserve. Next year, with a new President and Congress, let's go to work immediately on ending sequestration once and for all and returning to a strategy-driven defense budget. That is what the American people expect of us, and it is what the men and women who serve and sacrifice on our behalf deserve from us.

As I said, if I know my history—and I have been around here long enough—there will be an agreement. We will have a vote, and then go home and congratulate ourselves. For the next 15 days—or whatever it is—we are going to enjoy the Christmas holidays with our families and friends, pat ourselves on the back, and tell each other what a great job we have done.

We shouldn't do that. There are men and women serving in uniform overseas away from their families and friends and putting their lives in danger. We haven't done our job. We haven't done our job to provide for their security and their defense. What we have done is miserably failed, and this is another—not the first—and maybe the most egregious, given the state of the world today as we watch thousands being slaughtered in Aleppo, as we watch the Syrian refugee crisis, as we watch the Chinese act more aggressively, as we watch a buildup of the military in Kaliningrad, a place most people have not heard of, and we watch the continued aggression and advantage that our enemies and adversaries believe are appropriate action for them in light of our weakness.

What do we do? The message we send to the men and women who are serving

in our military is that we care more about being home for the holidays than we do about you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARASSO). The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, just to ensure that there is no confusion, I ask that I be recognized for such time as I may consume at the conclusion of the remarks of the distinguished senior Senator from California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, before I begin, I wish to say a few words about my colleague from California who is retiring. I very much regret that I was not able to be here for her remarks on the floor. However, I have written a rather extensive statement for the record. I want to say here and now that no one has fought for California or for this country harder. She has had a dedicated and long career of service to our country, and her accomplishments are many.

Those are documented in the record, and I believe they will stand the test of time. So I want to offer my heartiest congratulations to her for 24 years of service to this country. We came to the Senate together. I have very much respected her, her work, and her diligence over these years.

WRDA

Now, Mr. President, I rise to speak about the Water Resources Development Act, which the House passed yesterday afternoon 360 to 61. My colleague Senator BOXER was the author of that bill. I believe it is a good bill. There is a whole litany of excellent projects that benefit the environment as well as the economy of so many of our States.

I want to say something else about my remarkable colleague. We first arrived here in the Senate 24 years ago. She has accomplished a lot in that time, protecting the environment, defending the downtrodden and vulnerable, and fighting for California. She is a tremendous Senator, and I believe her record will withstand the test of time.

Mr. President, I would like to focus on two provisions in this bill, the water infrastructure provisions and funding for Lake Tahoe restoration and protection.

First, this bill includes many vital water infrastructure projects that will limit the risk of flooding, restore critical wildlife habitat and keep our ports running smoothly.

The bill authorizes \$177 million for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline. I have been working on this project for decades, alongside the local sponsors and Army Corps of Engineers.

With nearly 200 square miles of communities in low-lying areas along the

shoreline, some that are more than 13 feet below sea level, this area faces a significant threat of major tidal flooding.

Coupled with the restoration of more than 15,000 acres of wetlands, this project will protect vulnerable communities and improve wildlife refuges and public and private infrastructure valued at more than \$50 billion.

The bill also authorizes the Los Angeles River Project. At a cost of \$1.42 billion, this project will restore 11 miles of the Los Angeles River from Griffith Park to downtown Los Angeles.

The bill also authorizes \$880 million to reduce floods along American and Sacramento Rivers near Sacramento, \$780 million to reduce flooding in West Sacramento, and expands eligibility of an existing Federal program increasing funding for harbor maintenance to include the ports of Hueneme and San Diego.

The bill also includes a piece of legislation that deals with a passion of mine, saving Lake Tahoe.

This summer, more than 7,000 people joined together for the 20th Annual Lake Tahoe Summit.

I proudly shared the stage with Senators REID and BOXER, California Governor Jerry Brown, and President Obama.

This summit was an impressive bookend to Senator REID's efforts to save Lake Tahoe.

In 1997, he invited President Clinton for the first Lake Tahoe Summit to highlight the declining health of the lake and to announce a major Federal restoration effort.

That summit launched an impressive public-private partnership that has since invested \$1.9 billion in restoration projects in Lake Tahoe and the surrounding basin.

This remarkable partnership brought Federal, State, local, tribal, and private interests together to help save the lake.

Their work got a real boost in 2000 when we passed the original Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, which authorized \$300 million over 10 years.

That \$1.9 billion has been invested in nearly 500 completed projects and 120 more that are in the works. These include erosion control on 729 miles of roads, 65,000 acres of hazardous fuels treatment, more than 16,000 acres of wildlife habitat restored, and 1,500 acres of stream environment zones restored. And 2,770 linear feet of shoreline has been added, creating or improving 152 miles of bike and pedestrian routes.

But we still have more work to do.

The Tahoe Environmental Research Center at UC-Davis recently released their annual State of the Lake report.

Their research highlighted several threats to the lake: Climate change and drought are creating increasing

the potential for a catastrophic wildfire in the Tahoe Basin, sedimentation and pollution continue to decrease water quality and the lake's treasured clarity, and invasive species threaten the economy of the region.

The time to act to is now, and the Federal Government must take a leading role—close to 80 percent of the land surrounding Lake Tahoe is public land, primarily in more than 150,000 acres of national forest.

This bill authorizes \$415 million over 10 years to help address those challenges.

This bill authorizes \$150 million for wildfire fuel reduction and forest restoration projects, \$45 million to fight invasive species including a successful boat inspection program, \$113 million for projects to prevent water pollution and help improve water infrastructure that helps to maintain the lake's water clarity, \$80 million for the Environmental Improvement Program which prioritizes the most effective projects for restoration, and \$20 million for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help with the recovery of several native fish species.

The bill also requires an annual report to Congress detailing the status of all projects undertaken to make sure dollars are expended wisely.

We have an opportunity to ensure the future of Lake Tahoe by passing the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 and, thus, passing the Lake Tahoe Bill of 2015.

I want to speak today about the California drought language in this bill, which represents 3 years of effort on my part. I believe these provisions are both necessary and will help our State. I think it is noticeable that both Democrats and Republicans in the California House delegation voted for this bill. In fact, a substantial majority of California House Democrats—21 out of 37—voted yes for the bill.

I particularly want to thank Representatives COSTA and GARAMENDI for their help in this bill throughout this effort. They really made a major effort. Overall, 35 of the 51 California representatives from both parties who voted, from up and down our very big State, voted for this bill and its drought provisions.

California is now entering into our sixth year of drought. Experts have indicated that even if this is the final year of drought, which many doubt, it will take an additional time of 4 years to recover. The effects of the drought have been devastating. In the past 2 years, 35,000 people have lost jobs; \$4.9 billion has been lost to the California economy; 1 million acres of farmland were fallowed in 2015; 69 communities have little or no water; and 2,400 private water wells have gone dry. We had 102 million trees on Federal land die during this period of time. Parts of the Great Central Valley have been seen as

much as 1 foot of land subsidence. That is where the ground actually sinks because of groundwater depletion. This means cracks in canals, bridges, and pipelines. I have seen those photos. We have had 95- and 98-percent salmon mortality in the past 2 years because of problems with cold water temperature valves and probes at Shasta Dam, which provides the cold water to the Sacramento River.

To address the devastating impacts of this drought and to create a long-term new infrastructure that moves away from dams, the bill contains two key parts: short-term provisions and long-term provisions. Before I go into them, I want to say that the drought part of the bill is supported by 218 cities, 6 county governments, 446 water districts, both urban and agricultural.

I ask unanimous consent that that information be printed in the RECORD directly following my remarks.

Those operational provisions are short term. They last just 5 years. They don't contain any mandatory pumping levels. This bill does not say that if the water flow is such and such, the pumps that move that water must pump at X, Y, or Z. There is none of that. Instead, what this bill does is require daily monitoring for fish when water is turbid.

This monitoring also takes place more frequently and closer to the pumps than it does today. Today, it is at 17 miles from the pumps, and the change is 12 miles from the pumps. It also requires agencies to explain their decisions when they reduce pumping. This will bring about transparency, provide solid reasoning for decisions, and, I think, reduce the angst that exists out there about how those systems are controlled.

Those provisions simply require the agencies to use the best available science based on real-time monitoring so that we can save some water from those heavy flows, as you see on the chart next to me. These are the heavy flows that came in February and March, and we were not able to hold this water and use it later in the year.

What we have done here is tracked every single day from the beginning of the year and what the pumping level was and what the water level was. We also talk about the numbers caught, which are very small: adult smelt, 12; juvenile smelt, 8, and winter-run salmon, 56. So this can be improved, and we seek to do that.

We also provide provisions that simply require the agency to use the best available science based on real-time monitoring, so, again, we can save water from the heavy flows, as you have just seen. Even if this sixth year is a bumper crop of water, UCLA predicts that it is going to take 4½ years to recover from the drought.

Other short-term provisions include extending the time period for vol-

untary water transfers by 5 months; ending the winter storm payback requirement, which says: If you save this water, you must put it back into the ocean; allowing a 1-to-1 ratio for voluntary water transfers that can help both fish and farms; and allowing expedited reviews of transfers and construction of barriers to protect water quality.

These water supplies are not for big corporate agriculture, as some would have you think; this water is for the tens of thousands of small farms that have gone bankrupt, like a melon farmer who sat in my office with tears in his eyes and told me how he lost a farm that he had struggled to pay for and that had been part of his family for generations. There are also small towns in the Central Valley, where people are still bathing with bottled water and some 2,500 wells have run dry.

We worked for 2 years with Interior, NOAA fisheries, and the Council on Environmental Quality to make sure there were strong environmental protections, including a very comprehensive savings clause, and we will get to that in a minute.

So the bill in this measure requires agency scientists to review every proposed action. That is right. Scientists must review and approve every proposed action under this bill. These are agency biologists and experts in endangered species. The bill requires them to carefully review every proposal to move water under the provisions of this bill. That is what they do today, and that is what they would do under the bill. That is what the ESA requires, and that is what this bill will require.

The savings clause in this bill also makes clear that the provisions will not override existing environmental law, like the Endangered Species Act and biological opinions.

The bill also makes clear that nothing in this bill will affect water quality. Drinking water will still be available at the same levels of quality as before. The State will have the same ability to regulate water in the delta as it always has had. To make this even clearer, each individual section also requires consistency with the environmental laws and biological opinions.

These protections are referenced in the bill no less than 36 times throughout. In fact, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation wrote on June 27. He wrote about the savings clause: “[The savings clause] leads me to conclude that the directives in this legislation are to be implemented in a manner consistent with the ESA and the current biological opinions for federal and state projects.”

I ask unanimous consent to have this letter and my memo concerning the drought savings clause be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION,
Washington, DC, June 27, 2016.

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: Thank you for your letter of February 24, 2016, addressed to President Barack Obama regarding your legislation entitled the California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act, numbered S. 2533 and H.R. 5247. I apologize for the delay in this response.

As you know, I testified on S. 2533 before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's Water and Power Subcommittee on May 17, 2016. Your legislation authorizes significant new investments in proven water supply and conservation activities that will help make California's water supplies more resilient in the face of drought. Locally supported projects such as water recycling, water efficiency improvements, desalination, groundwater storage, distributed treatment systems and surface water storage are given thoughtful consideration in S. 2533, with allowance for robust non-federal cost-sharing for new projects.

In addition, the bill contains an important savings clause in section 701 which states that the bill shall not be interpreted or implemented in a manner that “overrides, modifies, or amends” the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or the application of the biological opinions governing operations in the Bay Delta. The combination of these provisions leads me to conclude that the directives in this legislation are to be implemented in a manner consistent with the ESA and the current biological opinions for the federal and state projects.

While S. 2533 and H.R. 5247 codify the flexibility Reclamation has exercised in its drought contingency plans over the past several years, I also wish to be clear that there is little, if any, operational flexibility remaining in the biological opinions beyond that already being exercised. Consequently, as indicated by the 2015 Statement of Administration Position on H.R. 2898 (Valadao), the Department would be concerned about, and would likely oppose, any subsequent change in the authorizations contained in S. 2533 or H.R. 5247 that purport to create additional flexibility in the biological opinions by amending those opinions or the ESA itself.

I believe that on balance, S. 2533 is a beneficial piece of legislation and will help California's water supply in the near- and long-term. I appreciate your ongoing efforts to work with Reclamation and the Department on this bill. [intend to continue this partnership moving forward.

Sincerely,

ESTEVAN R. LÓPEZ,
Commissioner.

From the Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein, Dec. 9, 2016

Re Drought language savings clause

SAVINGS LANGUAGE

The drought language included in the Water Resources and Development Act of 2016 contains a comprehensive savings clause. The savings clause states that nothing in this legislation overrides, modifies, or amends, the Endangered Species Act or the relevant provisions of the smelt and salmonid biological opinion that govern the coordinated operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, located in California.

In fact, the Interior Department (responsible for developing and implementing the

smelt biological opinion) and the Commerce Department (responsible for developing and implementing the salmonid biological opinion) drafted sections that govern impacts to these endangered species. The intention behind three years of work with the federal agencies responsible for enforcing the Endangered Species Act was clear: To prohibit any federal agency, under any administration, from taking any action that would violate the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. §§1531–1544 (2012) or the relevant biological opinions.

That the Act is to be implemented in a manner that complies with the protections within the Endangered Species Act is highlighted by a June 27, 2016 letter from the Commissioner of Reclamation. In that letter, the Commissioner states the savings clause and other environmental protections contained in S. 2533 (upon which this savings clause was based) “leads me to conclude that the directives in the legislation are to be implemented in a manner consistent with the ESA and the current biological opinions for the federal and state projects.”

To make clear this legislation’s goal of consistency with the Endangered Species Act and biological opinions, each individual section of the bill likewise requires consistency with the environmental laws and biological opinions. These protections are referenced no less than thirty-six times throughout the bill.

The argument that a savings clause—of the kind that is routinely included in bills passed by Congress—may be rendered ineffective by more specific provisions of an act misses the mark. As a general matter, the Supreme Court has made clear that it will take its guidance from a “common-sense view” of the language of the savings clause itself. And the language here is unmistakable and clear: Nothing in the Act “overrides, modifies, or amends the applicability of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or the application of the smelt and salmonid biological opinions to the operation of the Central Valley Project or the State Water Project.”

In fact, the Supreme Court concluded that language in a savings clause worded almost identically to the clause in S. 2533 did, in fact, govern in the event of conflicts between the act and already-existing legal standards. The statute there made clear that nothing in the act could be construed to “modify, impair, or supersede” the applicability of anti-trust laws and any other federal, state, or local law. That reading led the Court to the logical conclusion that nothing in the act (much like the language here) could be read to alter already-existing standards (the analogue here would be the biological opinions and the ESA).

Moreover, the argument for applying the savings language to each individual provision of the bill is even stronger in this case, because each individual provision repeats the same environmental protections. Rather than conflicting, the savings language and the individual sections reflect the same intent: that any action implementing the bill must be consistent with the environmental laws, including the ESA and the biological opinions.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. In fact, the savings clause here is drafted to be nearly identical to the savings clause in a case called *Verizon Communication v. Trinko*. This is a Supreme Court case in which the Court took a common-sense view of the same clause as we

have in this bill and concluded that clause prevented any modification to existing law.

I also want to talk about process. The bill before you today is the result of 3 years of painstaking and public work. I first introduced a version of this bill in July of 2015. That bill received significant public input, including a Senate energy committee hearing last October. Based on feedback, I revised that bill and then circulated a public discussion draft in December of that year. We incorporated feedback from a variety of stakeholders, including environmentalists, water districts, and State and Federal agencies. We made dozens of changes.

Incorporating all of this, I then introduced a revised bill in February of 2016. That revised bill received a second Senate hearing in the committee in May. The administration testified at that time that the bill complied with the Endangered Species Act and relevant biological opinions.

The short-term operational provisions in this bill are largely the same as the bill I introduced in February. We also made the savings clause and environmental protections even stronger, referencing them no fewer than 36 times. I truly believe the long-term provision, as well as the environmental protections, would not be included in any bill under a Congress that we might expect in the future.

While the short-term provisions will alleviate some suffering, I believe that the most important part of the bill is actually the long-term section. In California, we have depended on a water system that is overallocated and overstressed. I want to explain that.

We have two big water systems. One is the State water system, put forward by Governor Pat Brown in the middle 1960s, when California had 16 million people. The other is the Central Valley Water Project, bonded and paid for by agriculture water contractors. That was put forward in the 1930s.

By census, California today is 39.1 million people, and the number of undocumented in addition to that is estimated to be 2.5 million. I often say, and it is conservative, the State today is 40 million people with a water infrastructure created when we were 16 million people.

To address the demands of a growing population and changing climate, we have long-term provisions that include \$550 million in authorizations for programs, including fish and wildlife protection, desalination, storage, recycling, and water grant programs. Over the course of 3 years of work, we heard the concerns of many people about the loss of salmon. And I’ve been told that the pumps actually were not to blame for the high mortality rates of salmon in the past 2 years. In fact, only 56 out of an allowable 1,017 salmon were caught at these pumps. I said I was dis-

appointed. The word is surprised. The problem has been a malfunctioning cold water valve at Shasta Dam that meant there was not enough cold water for fish in the Sacramento River. According to NOAA Fisheries, these mistakes resulted in a salmon kill of 95 percent in 2014 and a salmon kill of 98 percent in 2015. Of the \$150 million in the energy and water appropriations I have acquired the past two years, we have used some to fix this problem and Shasta, in addition to other infrastructure problems. We also have \$43 million of environmentally beneficial bills, some of which can be used to make sure we avoid a devastating loss to salmon.

Let me tell you what that \$43 million includes: \$15 million for habitat restoration projects, \$15 million for fish passage projects, \$3 million for a long-wanted delta smelt distribution study requested by Fish and Wildlife, and a program to reduce predator fish. Let me tell you what a big problem that is in the delta. People add predator fish such as striped bass to be able to encourage a fishing industry. The smelt go where the turbid waters are. The fishing magazines say if you want to catch fish, go to the turbid water. So fishermen go to the places where the striped bass are feeding on the endangered species. Additionally, in this bill, we have money to eliminate what has been a huge growth of water hyacinth, which drain the nutrients from the water.

I would also say we have about a dozen sewage treatment plants that put millions of gallons of 1.75 million gallons of ammonia per year into the delta. The delta is a troubled place, and let there be no doubt about it. There are a lot of islands, there is farming, and the soil is peat. When the levees leak, the peat soil goes into the delta, throws off trihalomethanes, and pollutes the water further.

We add \$10 million to connect important wildlife refuges to sources of water, and the bill also includes \$515 million that can go to a new kind of water infrastructure for California.

This includes \$30 million for design and construction of desalination plants. These projects actually do work. What I am told is what we need to secure is a third-generation membrane because the energy coefficient of desal has been negative. With a third-generation membrane, you can turn that deficit into a positive coefficient.

The bill also includes \$335 million for storage and groundwater projects. The only way we will be able to weather future droughts is by holding water in wet years for dry years, and that means more storage, including groundwater storage. We have money in there for WaterSMART, and this will help fund water supply and conservation. We have \$50 million included for the

existing Colorado River System Conservation Program. To date, this popular program has resulted in 80,000 acre-feet of water saved throughout the West, including through projects in Arizona, California, Nevada, Colorado, and Wyoming.

I wish to address my colleagues' concerns that this bill will allow the next administration to build dams all over the country without any congressional approval, and this is simply not true. Let me set the record straight about how storage projects work under this bill. The drought language here gives Congress veto authority through control of appropriations for any storage project. This means that reclamation will do the same rigorous studies it has always done, including feasibility studies and environmental impact statements.

Reclamation would then submit a list of recommended projects to Congress, and Congress would decide how to fund them. If Congress has concerns, it doesn't fund the project. It is that simple. This will allow Federal funding to go to qualified, environmentally mitigated, and cost-beneficial projects on the same timeframe as projects funded under the California State water bond. That is just common sense, making sure the Federal Government partners with States such as California to ensure the best projects get funding but only with Congress's approval.

It was said on this floor that groundwater projects are the best solution for California water problems, and this bill helps build those groundwater projects. Again, this proposal made so much sense 1 year ago that my colleague from California cosponsored the measure. Moreover, this is not the Federal Government building projects that States and local governments oppose. To the contrary, the bill sets up a process where the Federal Government can contribute up to 25 percent of the cost of projects built by States or local agencies in collaboration with a broad range of local agencies.

The Federal Government cannot contribute more than 25 percent of the cost. They have to work with the States and local agencies that would fund the rest.

This provision has also been the subject of two public hearings and the Obama administration supported it.

The Obama administration stated the following in relationship to the water storage programs in the bill at the May 26 hearing in the Energy Committee:

We are finding that State and local jurisdictions are developing their own funding for many of these types of projects and would like to have a federal partner but are unable to wait for an authorization for Reclamation to participate in such a project. Consequently, we are of the view that in addition to the traditional Reclamation paradigm for study, authorization, then participation in federal water projects, Congress should revisit a standing authorization that

allows some kind of investment in the state and local projects as contemplated.

I want to talk about the offsets on the bill. On this floor, it has been said that this is a sweetheart deal that would cost the taxpayers billions of dollars, and that is simply flatly untrue.

In fact, the CBO budget office has said that the bill will save Treasury \$558 million, and that is the truth.

As I said, California is home to more than 40 million people and our major water infrastructure hasn't been significantly changed in the past 50 years when we had 16 million. We must modernize the system, both the infrastructure and operational flexibility, or I fear we risk eventually becoming a desert State.

To the best of our ability, we have addressed concerns raised by environmentalists, water districts, Federal and State agencies, and the ag sector. This bill has bipartisan support in both Houses, and I believe these provisions will place California on a long-term path to drought resiliency.

I wish to say thank you. A lot of people have had a very hard time through this drought. It is my hope that we can get this bill passed and then, on a bipartisan basis, this Congress, both Senate and House, can see that we do what we can to abate this drought and also begin to build a new water infrastructure in California.

I thank the Chair.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

California Drought Relief

SUPPORT FOR PROVISION IN WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

SUPPORT FOR DROUGHT PROVISION IN WRDA 2016

Endorsed Bill & Voted for Final Passage

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy,
Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA3),
Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA16),
Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA42),
Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA22),
Rep. David G. Valadao (R-CA21),
Rep. Douglas LaMalfa (R-CA1),
Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA4),
Rep. Darrell E. Issa (R-CA49),
Rep. Mimi Walters (R-CA45),
Rep. Stephen Knight (R-CA25),
Rep. Edward R. Royce (R-CA39),
Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA8),
Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA10),
Rep. Scott H. Peters (D-CA52).

Letters of Support & Press Releases

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California,
Ducks Unlimited,
California Waterfowl Association,
City of Fresno,
City of Pasadena,
Water Infrastructure Network,
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission,

Gateway Cities Council of Governments (list of members available at <http://www.gatewaycog.org/gateway/who-we-are/member-agency-contacts>),

Southern California Association of Governments (list of members available at <https://www.scag.ca.gov/about/Pages/members.aspx>),

Association of California Water Agencies (list of members available at <http://www.acwa.com/membership/directory>).

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I stayed on the floor and listened to all of the remarks of the senior Senator from California. While doing that, we did some checking. My staff informs me that probably this bill has more benefits for the State of California than any bill since I have been here for 22 years so I think it is very important the people understand that if for some reason this bill doesn't pass, none of the things, the provisions the Senator was talking about, will happen so it is very significant.

Since we are going to have a vote on a continuing resolution, I think at this point we need to make sure our government does not shut down. It is very important that it not shut down right in the middle of—arguably, three wars—but that could be as late as 1 a.m. tomorrow morning. After that is when we will be considering the WRDA bill. That is the Water Resources Development Act. It is one of which I am very proud, as the current chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, to be involved in this bill that has been so eloquently described by Senator FEINSTEIN.

For the last several months, our committee has been working to put together the final WRDA package with our counterparts in the House, actually, the House Energy and Commerce, the House T&I Committee, and the Natural Resources Committee of the House. This legislation is truly a win for America. While we just heard of many things that be of benefit for the State of California, there is not one State that doesn't have benefits there. They are long overdue and coming from this legislation.

WRDA authorizes 30 new navigation, flood control, and environmental restoration projects and modifies eight existing projects based on reports submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Army. These projects support our Nation's economic competitiveness and our well-being by deepening nationally significant ports, providing protection from disastrous floodwaters, and restoring valuable ecosystems.

Let me just list a few: the Little Diomed Harbor and Craig Harbor in Alaska, the Upper Ohio River in Pennsylvania, Port Everglades in Florida, and 17 flood control and hurricane protection projects in California, Florida, Mississippi, New Jersey, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Oregon. This bill also includes ecosystem restoration in the Florida Everglades, which will fix Lake Okeechobee and stop algae blooms on the Florida coast.

The bill also includes ongoing flood control and navigation safety in the

Hamilton City project in California, the Rio de Flag project in Arizona, and in critical fixes for the Houston Ship Channel. The bill includes programs to help small and disadvantaged communities provide safe drinking water and will help communities address drinking water emergencies, such as the one facing the city of Flint, MI.

Let's ensure that we all understand that without the authorization of this bill, there will be no Flint relief. That is very important. I want to repeat that. People don't seem to understand. There is a lot of support in this Chamber to try to help out with the problems, the disasters that took place in Flint, MI, so we have a relief package that is included in this bill, but if the bill for some reason doesn't pass, there will be no relief for Flint, MI.

The House has voted to authorize Flint funding in the WRDA bill and spending in the continuing resolution. Both of these bills provide the benefit for Flint, MI, passed by over a three-fourths majority. We could not have worked closer with Senator STABENOW and Senator PETERS to ensure we keep relief for Flint. I appreciate their partnership and their persistence. They were very persistent, because these provisions were in here before, but the relief is delivered. But if for some reason the bill doesn't pass, Flint gets nothing, and people have to understand that. We could not have had a closer working relationship with Senator STABENOW and Senator PETERS, and I really appreciate the fact that we all worked together to accomplish this one thing. There is unanimity, and that is help for Flint, MI.

The bill includes the Gold King Mine spill recovery. This section, championed by Senators GARDNER, BENNET, and UDALL, requires EPA to reduce costs incurred by States, tribes, and local governments to respond to the Gold King Mine spill.

This bill includes rehabilitation of high-hazard potential dams. This section of the bill authorizes FEMA assistance to States to rehabilitate unsafe dams. There are 14,726 high-hazard potential dams in the United States. What that means is—the definition means that if a dam fails, lives are at stake. So the program will prevent loss of lives.

The WRDA bill is bipartisan. It will play a critical role in addressing problems faced by communities, States, and our country as a whole.

Earlier this week, Senator BOXER said that the House Republicans ruined a beautiful bill because some of them "wanted to flex their muscles." I don't know about that, but I do agree with her that this is a beautiful bill because it does things that we haven't had the courage to get done before, so we want to make sure it passes.

The House passed the WRDA bill with the drought provisions by a three-

fourth vote—360 votes. I can't think of another time the House has passed something with 360 votes. But that is the popularity of this WRDA bill and all the work that has gone into it.

However, there is something I don't think anyone has heard. This drought provision was drafted by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Commerce. The savings clause prohibits any Federal agency under any administration from taking any action that would violate any environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act and biological opinions. Don't just take my word for it; ask Senator FEINSTEIN. She articulated this very well. People have to realize that this came from the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce; it was not just stuck in there by the committee.

We have heard claims that these operational provisions would violate environmental laws. Let's look at the actual text. Under this section 4001, any operations to provide additional water supplies can only be implemented if they are consistent with the applicable biological opinions and only if the environmental effects are consistent with effects allowed under the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the California Water Quality Control Act.

Section 4002 and section 4003 reiterate the requirement to comply with the smelt biological opinion and the salmon biological opinion. Senator FEINSTEIN also covered that.

Finally, section 4012 includes a savings clause—a savings clause written by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce—that ensures that the entire subtitle must be implemented in accordance with the Endangered Species Act or the smelt and salmon biological opinions.

So that is significant. I think that documents well enough that all of these environmental provisions are complied with.

How I would rather spend my time on the floor is talking about the positive things in the bill because there is much more to say. Coal ash State permitting is something that has been desired for a long period of time. It is finally allowed in this bill. SPCC—that is, spill relief—for our Nation's small farmers is included thanks to Senator FISCHER. And that provision is not just good for her State, it is certainly good for my State of Oklahoma. To say that this violates environmental law and regulations is simply not the case.

Many Senators have contributed to this piece of legislation, and there is literally crucial infrastructure and accomplishments in every State contained in this bill.

Let me just repeat—it is very important because there has been a lot of discussion about what has happened in Michigan. If the bill is not passed, Flint, MI, gets nothing.

I was going to talk about some of the other provisions in the bill, but since there is some concern expressed by one of the Senators from Washington State, I want to mention—just Washington State; I won't mention anything more about California because Senator FEINSTEIN has already done that. But in Washington State, for the Skokomish River, Mason County, WA, the bill authorizes \$20.26 million to remove a levy, which has the economic benefit of restoring 40 miles for salmon habitat and for the fishing industry. So the fishing industry—for those concerned with the salmon, this is a huge thing for them.

For Puget Sound, the bill authorizes \$461 million to provide refuge habitat for 3 listed species and 10 threatened species, including 5 species of Pacific salmon. The project is part of the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan. It is in this bill for Washington State.

The Columbia River ecosystem restoration. The bill increases the authorization ceiling for ecosystem restoration studies and projects for the lower Columbia River in Oregon and in Washington State, authorized by section 536 of our WRDA bill that we passed in 2000.

Watercraft inspection stations, Columbia River Basin. The bill clarifies that the watercraft inspection stations to protect the Columbia River Basin from invasive species may be located outside the basin if that is necessary to prevent introduction of invasive species. Again, Washington State.

Tribal assistance. This bill authorizes relocation assistance to Indian families displaced due to the construction of the Bonneville Dam and requires a study of Indian families displaced due to the construction of the John Day Dam and the development of a plan to provide relocation assistance associated with that dam.

Additional measures at donor ports and energy transfer ports. This section permanently extends the authority to provide additional funds for donor ports and energy transfer ports.

Harbor deepening. The bill aligns the cost share for construction of harbors with the change in WRDA 2014 modifying the cost-share for maintenance of harbors—a huge thing, and it is certainly of great benefit for the State of Washington.

Implementation guidance. The bill requires the Corps to issue guidance to implement section 2107 of WRDA 2014 relating to maintenance of emerging ports and Great Lakes ports.

Columbia River ecosystem restoration. The bill increases the authorization ceiling for ecosystem restorations studies and projects for the lower Columbia River in Oregon and Washington, authorized in section 536 of WRDA 2014, the last WRDA that we passed.

Watercraft inspection stations, Columbia River Basin. This bill clarifies that the watercraft inspection stations to protect the Columbia River Basin from invasive species may be located outside of the basin if that is necessary to prevent introduction of invasive species.

The oyster aquacultural study requires the GAO to study the different regulatory treatment of oyster hatcheries across the Corps districts.

Everything I have mentioned was in Washington State. I could go State by State, but there certainly isn't the time.

I would remind my colleagues that the next vote that takes place that everyone has been concerned about is going to pass, and it is going to pass to stop us from having to shut down the government. But after that is when we are going to bring up the bill that we have been talking about all day today that the Senator from California was talking about, and it is something that—I know we have only been working on it for about a year, but we have been working on some of the projects in there for as long as 3 years.

This is a chance to get it all done. If something happens and we don't do it, none of the stuff we are talking about is going to take place. Certainly all of the efforts that Senator STABENOW, Senator PETERS, and I have spoken about in Michigan—the problems they are having up there—that is not going to happen; there is no help for Flint, MI. I have no reason to believe it is not going to pass. I believe it is. But I have to stress the significance of this legislation.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COAL MINERS BENEFITS

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to support Senators from both parties and in particular West Virginia Senators JOE MANCHIN and SHELLEY CAPITO in their fight to protect health and retirement benefits for over 100,000 American coal miners and their families.

Seventy years ago, the Federal Government made a simple promise to these union coal miners: America—our country—promised to provide health insurance and retirement benefits to miners who went down in those mines and put their lives at risk to power this great Nation.

We recognize that this was dangerous work, but we believed it was essential to our economic growth and the national security of our country, and be-

cause of that belief, we promised that if these men would go down into the mines, our country would make sure they have some protection in case of injury, disability, or death. We promised that after a lifetime of back-breaking work, they would have a dignified and secure retirement. And we promised that if the worst happened, that their wives, their widows, and their families would still be provided for.

When the American Government made this deal with the United Mine Workers of America 70 years ago, coal generated more than 50 percent of our power. Today, coal generates only about 30 percent of our power. Coal prices have plummeted and other sources of energy, like natural gas, have become cheaper and more prevalent.

Automation has also transformed this industry, and there are critical environmental reasons to transition, but make no mistake, these changes have drastically altered the coal industry and have left thousands of coal miners out of work. Every month there are more reports of coal companies filing for bankruptcy, and the layoffs are never far behind. More than 25,000 miners have lost their jobs in the last 5 years alone.

As a country, we all benefited from the decades of work put in by coal miners. Every Member of Congress and everybody we represent back home, we benefited from the work of the coal miners. We made a deal to keep these men in the mines, and now we must honor the commitments we made.

Congress is on the verge of turning out the lights and going home for the rest of the year, but 100,000 coal miners face a reckoning. If Congress does not act, more than 16,000 mine workers will lose their health insurance by the end of this month, another 2,500 coal miners will lose their coverage by March, by July another 4,000 miners will be without insurance, and on and on and on. This is not right.

Losing health insurance is tough for anyone, but for coal miners it is a killer—literally. Coal miners face far higher rates of cardiopulmonary disease, cancer, black lung, and other injuries than most other Americans. They need their insurance.

Our coal miners knew what they were getting into. They knew they were taking on work that was dangerous and risky to their health. That is why they fought so hard for guaranteed health coverage, and that is why they gave up a portion of their paycheck every month, month after month, year after year, to pay for it.

It is not just health care coverage. About 90,000 miners and their families will also soon lose their guaranteed monthly pension benefits. These benefits aren't some Cadillac deal. The average monthly benefit for these mine

workers is about \$586, about \$7,000 per year for their retirement. Now, that doesn't sound like much, and let's be honest, it isn't much, but for thousands and thousands of retired miners and their families, Social Security and these \$586 payments are all they have to show for a lifetime of going into those mines. We cannot back out on our promises.

There is bipartisan legislation written and ready to go to fix this problem. It would not add a dime to the deficit. We could pass it right now, today. The Senators who serve here come from every corner of the country. We don't agree on everything, and I certainly don't agree on every issue with Senator MANCHIN or Senator CAPITO, but I don't understand how anyone can disagree with this.

A lot has changed in 70 years, but the fact that America makes good on its promises to American workers is one thing that should never change—and we should not leave here until this Congress makes good on America's 70-year-old promise to our miners.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

ATTORNEY GENERAL NOMINATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, before the 114th Congress adjourns, I want to take a moment to put on the record my strong support for the nomination of our distinguished colleague, Senator JEFF SESSIONS of Alabama, to be the next Attorney General of the United States.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote, "The most sacred of the duties of a government [is] to do equal and impartial justice to all its citizens."

This idea was also reflected in the Justice Department's own mission statement, which I have here: "To enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law; to ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic; to provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; to seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior; and to ensure fair and impartial administration for all Americans."

No one believes in this mission more and no one understands better what this mission requires than JEFF SESSIONS.

Unfortunately, the Justice Department has lost its way, becoming partial rather than impartial, political rather than independent, and partisan rather than objective. The Justice Department has enabled the executive branch's campaign to exceed its constitutional power while ignoring Congress's proper and legitimate role of oversight.

This decline undermines the American people's trust in government. According to the Pew Research Center, public trust in government is at a

record low. Fewer than one in five say they trust government most of the time. Reversing this decline and rebuilding this trust will require getting back to the essential ingredients in the Justice Department's mission and its mission statement.

Senator SESSIONS will bring more hands-on experience to the leadership of the Justice Department than any of the 83 men and women who have occupied the post of Attorney General. He was a Federal prosecutor for 18 years, 12 of them as U.S. attorney. He has also served on the Senate Judiciary Committee since he was first elected two decades ago. In other words, he has been directly involved in both the development and implementation of criminal justice policy, a combination unmatched by any Attorney General since the office was created in 1789. His service in this body and on the committee of jurisdiction over the Department is especially important because a respectful and productive working relationship with Congress has never been more important.

No one knows more what the Office of Attorney General requires than those who have actually served in that office. I have a letter signed by 10 former Attorneys General and Deputy Attorneys General who have served over the past three decades. I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

Some of these officials knew and worked with Senator SESSIONS when he was U.S. attorney, others since he joined us in the Senate. They all share the same conclusion: "All of us know him as a person of honesty and integrity, who has held himself to the highest ethical standards throughout his career, and is guided always by a deep and abiding sense of duty to this nation and its founding charter." I think that is really true, and these 10 former leaders have said so. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle whether there is a better description of the kind of person we want in public office, generally, and leading the Justice Department, in particular.

Let me say a word about Senator SESSIONS' work on the Judiciary Committee. I worked with him in that capacity for 20 years, including when he served as the ranking member. We have worked together on dozens of bills to improve forensic science services for law enforcement, to promote community policing, help child abuse victims, and prevent gun crimes. He is a serious legislator who knows that prosecutors and law enforcement need common-sense workable policies from lawmakers to help keep communities safe and protect the rights of all Americans.

I also received a letter from a bipartisan group of eight men and women who have served as Director of Na-

tional Drug Control Policy or as Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration. I ask unanimous consent that this letter appear in the RECORD following leader remarks.

Here is what they say:

His distinguished career as a prosecutor . . . earned him a reputation as a tough, determined professional who has been dedicated to the appropriate enforcement of the rule of law. His exemplary record of service in law enforcement demonstrates that he is the protector of civil rights and defender of crime victims.

Again, I ask my colleagues whether there is a better description of the kind of leader America needs at the Justice Department. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Who would have a better informed, more comprehensive knowledge of Senator SESSIONS' fitness to be Attorney General?

Before I conclude, I want to address what is already shaping up to be an ugly propaganda offensive against this fine nominee—this fine person—whom I know very well and have served with virtually every day for the last 20 years.

I have served in this body under both Republican and Democratic Presidents, under both Republican and Democratic Senate leadership. I have actively participated in the confirmation process for 12 Attorneys General, in both parties, and have seen before the tactics that are already being used in a vain attempt to undermine this nomination.

The critics do not challenge Senator SESSIONS' qualifications. They can't. Instead, they traffic in rumor, innuendo, and—I hate to say it—smear tactics. They take a comment here, a decision there from years or even decades in the past and use their media allies to transform these bits and pieces into what appear to be full-fledged stories—and they are not. They are counting on people not knowing the whole story. Such a cynical, dishonest campaign. It is not about the truth or fairly evaluating the President-elect's nominee to be Attorney General. And it is despicable, and it is beneath the dignity of us here in the U.S. Senate.

To be honest, these tactics are really not about Senator SESSIONS at all but about the power of those who are using these tactics. They have to mark their territory, flex their muscle, and show that they are still a force to be reckoned with. If such things as fairness, integrity, truth, and decency have to be sacrificed in that power struggle, so be it, I guess.

I hope my colleagues will not only resist these tactics but that they will join me in exposing and rejecting them. They degrade the Senate, they mislead our fellow citizens, and they corrode our democracy. Let's stay focused on our role here, which is to evaluate whether the President-elect's nominee is qualified. We know that he is. We know that he is superbly qualified and that he will be a strong and

principled leader for the Justice Department.

In closing, I want to quote from that letter by bipartisan drug policy officials. They say this about Senator SESSIONS:

His prudent and responsible approach is exactly what the Department of Justice needs to enforce the law, restore confidence in the United States' justice system, and keep the American people safe. We support the nomination of Senator Sessions to be Attorney General of the United States, and we ask you to do the same.

I could not have said it better.

I have known JEFF for 20 years now, every year he served here, and I knew him before then. I remember the despicable way he was treated many years ago as a nominee. I don't want to see that repeated, and I personally will hold accountable anybody who tries to repeat it.

JEFF SESSIONS is a wonderful man. He is a good person. Even though any one of us here may have some disagreements from time to time with policy—we do with each other—that doesn't denigrate and shouldn't denigrate him as a decent, honorable man who deserves to be Attorney General of the United States.

I am very proud of Donald Trump doing this, giving this really fine man an opportunity to serve, and I believe he will straighten out the Department of Justice to be the Department that it should be, that we all want it to be. I think it will elevate the Department of Justice in ways that it hasn't been in many of the years I have been in the U.S. Senate. That is not to denigrate everybody who has served in the Department of Justice. But let's face it—it has been used politically by both parties at times for no good reason. I will tell you this: JEFF SESSIONS will make sure that will not be the case, and that will be a pleasant change from what we have had in the past in some administrations, Republican and Democratic.

I have a strong knowledge of his background. I have a strong feeling about JEFF as a person. I believe he will be a great Attorney General, and I hope our colleagues on both sides of the aisle treat him with respect as he goes through this nomination process. If we do, we will be able to walk out of here at least with some sense of pride that we did what was right.

I think you will find, as JEFF serves—and he is going to serve—as he serves in the Justice Department, he will do a very good job, and it will be a job done for everybody in America and not just Republicans and not just for the new administration that is coming in, but for everybody. That is what I think you will find from JEFF SESSIONS. He is a tough guy. He has the ability to stand up. He has the ability do what is right, and he will do it. I have great confidence in JEFF.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DECEMBER 5, 2016.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. DIANNE G. FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY AND RANKING MEMBER FEINSTEIN: The signers of this letter served in the Department of Justice in the positions listed next to their names and, in connection with that service, came to know Senator Jeff Sessions through his oversight of the Department as a member of the Judiciary Committee or in his work as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama. All of us worked with him; several of us testified before him during his service on your Committee. All of us know him as a person of honesty and integrity, who has held himself to the highest ethical standards throughout his career, and is guided always by a deep and abiding sense of duty to this nation and its founding charter.

Based on our collective and extensive experience, we also know him to be a person of unwavering dedication to the mission of the Department—to assure that our country is governed by the fair and even-handed rule of law. For example, Senator Sessions has been intimately involved in assuring that even as the Department combats the scourge of illegal drugs, the penalties imposed on defendants do not unfairly impact minority communities. He has worked diligently to empower the Department to do its part in defending the nation against those intent on destroying our way of life, adhering throughout to bedrock legal principles and common sense.

Senator Sessions' career as a federal prosecutor also has provided him with the necessary institutional knowledge, expertise, and deep familiarity with the issues that confront the Department, insofar as it is an army in the field. As the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, Senator Sessions worked hard to protect vulnerable victims, particularly children. He carried this commitment to the Senate, where he championed legislation to provide the Department with the tools it needs to fight online child pornography, to close rogue internet pharmacies that have contributed to the opioid epidemic, and to end sexual assault in prison.

Senator Sessions' career, both as a United States Attorney and as a Senator, well prepares him for the role of Attorney General. In sum, Senator Sessions is superbly qualified by temperament, intellect, and experience, to serve as this nation's chief law enforcement officer. We urge his swift confirmation.

Sincerely,

John D. Ashcroft, Attorney General, 2001–2005;

Alberto R. Gonzales, Attorney General, 2005–2007;

Michael B. Mukasey, Attorney General, 2007–2009;

Mark R. Filip, Deputy Attorney General, 2008–2009;

Paul J. McNulty, Deputy Attorney General, 2006–2007;

Larry D. Thompson, Deputy Attorney General, 2001–2003;

William P. Barr, Attorney General, 1991–1993, Deputy Attorney General, 1990–1991;

Edwin Meese, III, Attorney General, 1985–1988;

Craig S. Morford, Deputy Attorney General, 2007–2008 (Acting);

George J. Terwilliger III, Deputy Attorney General, 1991–1993.

DECEMBER 5, 2016.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,
Minority Leader, 115th Congress, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Re Nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions to be Attorney General of the United States.

DEAR LEADER MCCONNELL, SENATOR SCHUMER, CHAIRMAN GRASSLEY, AND RANKING MEMBER LEAHY: As you prepare for the upcoming Congress and for the impending nominations of President-elect Trump's Cabinet members, we write to express our strong support for the nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions to be Attorney General of the United States. Senator Sessions' exemplary record during his long career in public service speaks to the leadership and sober dedication he would bring to the Department of Justice.

As former government officials involved in the development and administration of the United States' drug policies, we understand the importance of a Department of Justice that is committed to the just and fair enforcement of the laws that Congress has written. In this respect, Senator Sessions would make an excellent Attorney General. His distinguished career as a prosecutor, including as the Reagan-appointed U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama and as Attorney General of Alabama, earned him a reputation as a tough, determined professional who has been dedicated to the appropriate enforcement of the rule of law. His exemplary record of service in law enforcement demonstrates that he is a protector of civil rights and defender of crime victims.

Senator Sessions brought that same dedication to his service in the Senate. As an example of his fair-minded approach to tough law enforcement, he, together with Senator Durbin, passed the bipartisan Fair Sentencing Act, which increased fairness in sentencing by reducing the disparity in crack cocaine and powder cocaine sentences, while also strengthening penalties for serious drug traffickers. His prudent and responsible approach is exactly what the Department of Justice needs to enforce the law, restore confidence in the United States' justice system, and keep the American people safe. We support the nomination of Senator Sessions to be Attorney General of the United States, and we ask you to do the same.

Respectfully,

William J. Bennett, Director of National Drug Control Policy, March 1989–December 1990;

Robert Martinez, Director of National Drug Control Policy, March 1991–January 1993;

John P. Walters, Director of National Drug Control Policy, December 2001–January 2009;

Peter B. Bensinger, Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, February 1976–July 1981;

John C. Lawn, Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, July 1985–March 1990;

Robert C. Bonner, Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, August 1990–October 1993;

Karen Tandy, Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, July 2003–November 2007;

Michele Leonhart, Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, December 2010–May 2015.

114TH CONGRESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, as we approach the end of the 114th Congress, many here in the Senate have been taking the time to reflect on what we have been able to accomplish and, more importantly, plan for what we hope to be able to accomplish in the near future.

This was a tumultuous 2 years for our country, punctuated by a fierce and unpredictable political campaign and results that were, to some, beyond surprising.

Before the start of the 114th Congress, the Senate had for years been languishing in partisan gridlock. Very little got done around here, and far too often, we spent our time fighting out the political sound bites of the day and voting on whatever partisan issue happened to be grabbing headlines.

While some of my friends on the other side of the aisle have attempted to argue otherwise, the Senate has been remarkably productive during the 114th Congress. And that goes far beyond just a list of bills we have been available to pass. The Senate has changed in ways that numbers really can't quantify. For example, committees in the Senate have functioned more effectively than in the past. The debates on the Senate floor have been fuller and fairer than they were before. And, of course, the focus has returned to actually governing rather than simply adding more noise to the political echo chamber.

Most astonishingly, given the tone of the country's overall political discourse, most of the Senate's accomplishments have been bipartisan. As I have noted on a number of occasions, the Senate Finance Committee, which I have been privileged to chair for the past 2 years, has, to a historic degree, been able to ride this new wave of bipartisan productivity. In this Congress, our committee has reported 41 separate bills, all of them bipartisan. These include priorities throughout the committee's jurisdiction. That is remarkable. These weren't itty-bitty bills; they were very important bills. That is remarkable. Honestly, I wish I could take credit for it, but the success we have enjoyed has been due to the work of every Senator on our committee. To a member, they have all been committed to working on a bipartisan basis to move ideas forward and produce results. We haven't agreed on everything, that is for sure, but we found enough common ground that the desire to work together has remained strong through this Congress.

I want to thank the members of our Finance Committee for their efforts this year. They have all been exemplary colleagues to work with. Even when we disagreed, we have had good discussions.

Today, I want to particularly thank Senator COATS, who is, as we know, retiring at the end of this Congress. We will miss the senior Senator from Indiana's stalwart presence on the Finance Committee and in the Senate as a whole. I wish him the best of luck.

I want to take a moment to delve deeper into the substance of our committee's work. Let me give the highlights or else we will be here all day.

Early on in the 114th Congress, the Senate and the House passed legislation produced in the Finance Committee to repeal and replace the broken Medicare sustainable growth rate, or SGR, formula, putting an end to the ritual of cobbling together the SGR patches at the last minute behind closed doors. This bill was one of the most significant bipartisan reforms enacted in the history of the Medicare Program.

We made once-in-a-generation advancements in U.S. trade policy by renewing and updating trade promotion authority, reauthorizing vital trade preferences programs, and modernizing our trade enforcement and customs laws. All of these are important strides in the ongoing effort to promote U.S. leadership in the world marketplace in order to benefit our workers, our farmers, our ranchers, and inventors, just to mention a few.

We acted decisively to prevent benefit cuts in Social Security disability insurance and put into place the most significant improvements to the Social Security system since the 1980s.

We came up with enough offsets to extend the life of the highway trust fund for 5 years, something nobody thought we could do. That is the longest such extension in nearly two decades. This was accomplished despite the cries of naysayers who said it couldn't be done without a massive tax increase. We did not increase taxes.

We also made serious strides to advance a number of the committee's long-term improvements, including improvements to Medicare benefits for patients dealing with chronic illnesses, overdue reforms to our Nation's foster care system, a series of measures to protect taxpayers from the ever-increasing threat of identity theft and tax refund fraud, and legislation to help more Americans save adequately for retirement.

Not all of these measures have yet been signed into law, but in every case we have been able to move the ball significantly forward.

In addition, we continued the Finance Committee's long tradition of conducting robust and exhaustive oversight. Our bipartisan report on the IRS

targeting scandal, which we released last year, was a great example.

In addition, the committee's work to shine a light on the inept implementation of ObamaCare was second to none. And, of course, we made real progress in the ongoing effort to reform our Nation's Tax Code.

I would like to talk about tax reform in a little more detail because that has been the focus of so much of our efforts in this Congress, and that is not likely to change when we gavel in the 115th Congress.

Among other things, the members of the Finance Committee produced a number of bipartisan reports outlining the key challenges we face with our Tax Code after working together in the tax reform working groups we established last year. Also, the Finance Committee, working with our leadership here in the Senate and our colleagues in the House, drafted and facilitated passage of a massive tax bill that made permanent a number of oft-expiring tax provisions, providing real certainty to businesses and job creators and setting the stage for even more significant reforms in the future. That bill also delayed a number of ObamaCare's burdensome health care taxes.

In addition, I have spent much of the 114th Congress hard at work developing a tax reform proposal to better integrate the corporate and individual tax systems. Under current law, the United States not only has the highest corporate tax rate in the industrialized world, we also subject many of our businesses and the individuals who invest in them to multiple levels of tax on what are essentially the same earnings. This system results in a number of inequities and economic distortions, including undue burdens on U.S. workers and incentives for businesses to finance their operations with debt instead of equity.

These problems have troubled policymakers for years, particularly recently as the combined effects of these misguided policies have resulted in waves of corporate inversions and foreign takeovers of U.S. companies.

This is a serious set of problems. My idea to address this problem was relatively simple: Allow corporations to deduct from their taxable earnings any dividend they distribute to shareholders. Currently, our system taxes a business's earnings once at the company level—at an astronomically high rate, no less—and again when the earnings are distributed to shareholders. My proposal has been to eliminate one level of taxation on these distributed earnings and require only a shareholder-level tax on dividends, which is similar to the way debt is treated. Forms of this proposal have been put forward by Treasury Departments and congressional tax writers from both parties in the past.

In addition to a dividends-paid deduction, in order to bring more balance to the system and eliminate even more distortions, I have looked for ways to equalize the tax treatment of debt and equity under our system. Those monitoring the tax world undoubtedly know that I have spent quite a long time working on this proposal, including a number of months going over the numbers with the Joint Committee on Taxation. At this point, I can say that the feedback I have received from JCT on this matter has been very positive. For example, in its preliminary assessments, JCT indicated that the proposal would increase economic growth and activity relevant to current law. They found that it would increase wages for U.S. workers through increased productivity. Their analysis also showed that the proposal would increase capital investment and reduce effective tax rates for American businesses. Interestingly, JCT also found that the proposal would alleviate some of the pressures that drive corporate inversions and help prevent erosion of the U.S. tax base overall. It sounds pretty good, and it is true.

These concerns—economic growth, wages, and U.S. companies moving offshore or being acquired by foreign companies—have a real-world impact on American workers and employers, and they were at the heart of this year's campaign debates. Thus far, the feedback we have received shows that a dividends-paid deduction, combined with equalized tax treatment for debt and equity, would help address these concerns. And according to JCT, all of this could be done without adding to the deficit or shifting more of the overall tax burden from those with higher incomes to middle and lower income taxpayers.

I know the DC tax community has been speculating on this matter for a while now, and I can attest today that the idea of better integrating the corporate and individual tax systems through a dividends-paid deduction wouldn't just work but could actually work very well. Once again, the numbers we have seen thus far have been quite favorable.

I will note that we have heard some concerns from those in the charitable and nonprofit community as well as retirement security and stakeholders regarding the potential impact of equalizing the treatment of debt and equity. I think my history in the Senate has demonstrated pretty clearly my commitment to both charitable giving and retirement security. I want to make clear that my staff and I are prepared to address these kinds of concerns when this takes legislative form.

I suppose that for most of the people who have been monitoring our efforts on corporate integration, their biggest question is about timing: When will we try to move this for? After any big

election campaign, particularly after the one that was as unpredictable as the one we saw in 2016—although I thought it was predictable, but most people didn't—it is important to acknowledge the realities on the ground.

I remain very interested in the concept of corporate integration and continue to believe it would have a positive impact on our tax system and our economy overall. Let's be honest, after this election, the ground has shifted, and while we don't know how everything will play out in the coming months, it is safe to assume that the tax reform discussion is shifting as well. Right now, we are seeing more momentum for comprehensive tax reform—that is reform that deals with both the individual and business tax systems—than we have seen in a generation or more. If we are going to do right by our economy and the American people, we need to think in those comprehensive terms. At the very least, I think it is fair to say that with the changing circumstances, the assumptions and parameters that have, for some time now, governed the tax reform debate will have to be modified, if not thrown out entirely.

I believe corporate integration can and should be part of the comprehensive tax reform discussion that appears to be on the horizon, but given the current reality, any substantive tax reform proposal will need to be considered and evaluated in the context of what has quickly become a much broader discussion. Let me be clear: I am not walking away from the idea of corporate integration. On the contrary, I am excited to see how the debate over comprehensive tax reform plays out in the near future and where this concept might fit in that broader discussion.

Going forward, we have a real opportunity to make significant, perhaps even fundamental, changes to our entire tax system in order to encourage growth, create more jobs, and improve the lives of individuals and families around our country. As the chairman of the Senate's tax-writing committee, I am very excited for this opportunity, and I am committed to doing all I can to make sure we succeed in this endeavor and that we do it in a bipartisan way. We are working right now, today, in a bipartisan way to try and resolve some of these problems. I have been meeting with every member of our committee, Democrats and Republicans, to see how we can work better together.

This discussion about comprehensive tax reform promises to be one of the big-ticket items in the coming Congress, and I am excited to be a part of it. In addition to tax reform, the Senate and Senate Finance Committee will have a number of other tasks to perform in the early days of the 115th Congress. For example, early on, I expect that we will finally be able to re-

peal ObamaCare and begin a serious process of replacing it with reforms that are more worthy of the American people. We also need to take a serious look at our broken retirement programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. I am sure that simply because I am the Republican who just happened to mention the name of those programs out loud, I will be scorned and labeled a "privatizer" in certain policy and advocacy corners after this speech. However, reductive labels aside, no one seriously disputes the fact that these programs are in fiscal trouble. We need to work toward finding solutions, and they need to be bipartisan solutions.

I have put forward a number of potential solutions to help address the coming entitlement crisis. I hope policymakers in Congress, the incoming administration, and elsewhere will take a look at my ideas. I think they will find they are ideas that will help this country out of the problems and the mess it is in.

On top of tax and health care, we need to consider the future of U.S. trade policy. While this was a matter of some fierce discussion during the campaign, I remain committed to doing all I can to ensure that the United States continues to lead the world in trade, including the establishment of high-standard free-trade agreements.

All of these matters, and many others as well, fall within the jurisdiction of the Senate Finance Committee. Fortunately, I am joined on the committee with a host of capable U.S. Senators from both parties. It is a great committee with great members, and I feel very privileged to be able to lead that committee.

Over the past 2 years, we have demonstrated that by working together, we can overcome some pretty long odds and accomplish a number of difficult tasks. I hope that continues this next year. I am going to do all I can to make sure it does.

With that, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

MINE WORKER HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AND PENSIONS

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise and stand here today fighting for the working men and women each one of us—whether Democrat or Republican, whether you belong to a 100-Member Senate or a 435-Member House—use in our commercials. Every one of us goes out and basically tries to attract working men and women to vote for us because we say: We are coming here to fight for you. We are going to stand up for you. No one is going to walk over you, push you aside, or forget about you. Every one of us has done those ads.

Our 435 House Members had to go home yesterday because it was time for

Christmas. I remind all of my colleagues that we have basically missed 100 working days this year. Do you think we have been overworked? I don't think so, but I guess my House Members did because they had to go home. They never even gave us the courtesy of giving us a 3-day extension. We can work through these problems. We have said that, but that is not even there. I guess they think they want to jam us.

We are here fighting for the United Mine Workers pension, people who have given this country everything they had. These are people who said: I will go down there and get the energy you need to win the war and the energy you need to build this country. I have the industrial might—the middle class. We will build it. We are the middle class. That is who they are. That is all they said. We made commitments to them.

For the first 50 years after they energized this country and won two world wars, they got nothing. My grandfather was one of them. They got nothing—no pension, no health care. They got nothing.

In 1946, they finally got something. We have been fighting ever since then just to keep it, and now all of a sudden it is going to evaporate and nobody will say a word because we have to go home for Christmas. We have to go home for vacation.

Well, we have been working, fighting, and really clawing for this. We have it. If it came to the floor, it would pass, and we know that, but we have some friends on the other side—435 over there—who, for some reason, didn't believe it was of urgency. They said, we are going to give you a 4-month extension on the health care benefits that 16,000 miners lose December 31. We will give you 4 months, and I guess we are supposed to be happy with that. Well, I am not. I am sorry, but I am not.

We fought for the Miners Protection Act. We went through the regular order and we got an 18-to-8 vote out of the Finance Committee at the Senate, and we thought we would be right here having that vote and showing the people we support them and that hopefully the House would take it up, but that never happened.

Where we stand today, right now, is, we are asking what is our pathway forward. Well, we have been working and talking, as you are supposed to. We tried to basically negotiate, we tried to find compromise, and we tried to find a pathway forward. It has been hard for me to see a pathway forward right now.

I am going to have to oppose this CR and oppose, not only the cloture but the passage of the CR for many reasons, and I will give you one example that probably galls me more than anything else that we have done here or over in the House. My Republican colleagues didn't even know about it. It is not from this side. It came from that

side, and what they did was say, not only are we going to add insult to injury and only give you 4 months, we will make you pay for it with your own money. We will make you pay for it with money that has been set aside through bankruptcy courts to give retirement to miners who worked for companies that declared bankruptcy, went through the bankruptcy court, had money set aside so they would at least have health care for a while. The people we are talking about were supposed to have health care until July. Guess what. Because of what we are doing, they lose 3 months. Now, grant you, we have people—16,000—who have health care until December who get 4 months, if you consider that a victory, but how about the couple thousand who were supposed to have it until July are only going to have it now until April? What do you tell them? I am sorry. We fought like the dickens for you, but you lost 3 months. Where I come from that doesn't fly. I can't explain that. I really can't.

I am encouraged, to a certain extent. My friend the majority leader, MITCH MCCONNELL from Kentucky, said he was confident the retirees would not lose benefits next year, including more than 3,000 in his home State of Kentucky. I think it is highly unlikely we will take that away, he said. It has been my intention that the miner benefits not expire at the end of April next year. I believe him. And he pledged: I am going to work with my colleagues to prevent that.

I am ready to go to work. I am not sure if my colleagues on the other side—435 in the House—are as committed. I appreciate the majority leader making this commitment. I do appreciate that very much. Unfortunately, it is not enough because I don't have the commitment from the other side, and I am going to fight for that. For that reason and many more, I am going to be unable to vote for cloture, and I encourage my colleagues not to vote for cloture on this CR.

With that, I yield the floor to my friend from Ohio, Senator BROWN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I thank Senator MANCHIN, Senator WARNER, and Senator CASEY, who all represent a lot of these mine workers. Some of them are in the Gallery. We attended a rally with some of them the other night. Some of them we see in Zanesville, Cambridge, Southwest Pennsylvania, and Southwest Virginia.

I thank Senator MCCASKILL for her work on this.

Let's point out, again, to our colleagues what happened here. Early this year, the Senate majority leader, the Republican leader from Kentucky, said: Before we do this, you have to come up with a bipartisan bill. We came up with a bipartisan bill. We did exactly what

he wanted. We had Senator CAPITO, Senator PORTMAN, Senator TOOMEY, and a lot of support on both sides, even people who didn't sponsor it. That wasn't enough.

Then he moved the goalposts and said: You have to come up with the bill through regular order. We went through regular order in the Finance Committee. Senator WARNER, Senator CASEY, and I in the Finance Committee called Cecil Roberts, the head of the mine workers, people like Norm Skinner from Ohio, Dave Urtest, Dave Dilly, and others came and talked to us. We had testimony. It was brought to a vote and it passed on a bipartisan vote, 18 to 8. Every Democrat voted for it and a handful of Republicans voted for it. We did that, and then the Republican leader moved the goalposts again and said: That is not good enough. You have to do something more. You have to find a way to pay for it. We found a way to pay for it with money out of the abandoned mine fund to pay for this.

This legislation would have permanently taken care of much pensions and health care. It would have meant that mine workers don't have to take valuable time and spend money and come to Washington and lobbyists to talk to us, educate us, and do what they do so well in telling their stories. It would have solved that, but now week after week after week has passed. Before the election, people were talking a good game, now they are not talking such a good game, except for my colleagues with me on the floor today fighting for them.

So what happens now? The majority leader in the Senate is pointing fingers down this hall, blaming the Speaker of the House, and the Speaker of the House back there is pointing fingers at the majority leader saying: Well, I want to do a year. No, I want to do a year.

Well, the fact is, neither of them has offered anything. They could bring this bill up to pass out of the Finance Committee. Senator MCCONNELL tonight could bring this to the Senate floor. We could pass it. We would get how many votes: 75, 80 votes? We would get at least 70, probably 75 or 80. We would get every single Democrat, and we would get probably close to half of the Republicans. They will not do that. They are too busy pointing fingers back and forth.

So I am going to vote no on the continuing resolution because I just don't think that this is the deal we should get. This 4-month deal where the majority leader said he is helping the miners with a 4-month deal—it means that the retired miners and the widows who got a notice in late October, early November that their insurance would run out December 31—if we do this 4-month deal, they are going to get another notice in January or February saying it runs out again.

Particularly if you are sick, particularly if you have a sick husband, can you imagine that you are going to get a notice every 3 or 4 months saying your insurance is going to run out? How do you deal with that? How do you make doctor visits? How do you make appointments? How do you do that? It is just cruel and unusual punishment.

Instead, the other night, we saw our colleagues coming to the floor, offering resolutions. There was one honoring Pearl Harbor victims. Senator MANCHIN and I were on the floor. We were objecting to all this. Of course, I have been on the Veterans' Affairs Committee for a decade, and so has Senator MANCHIN. Of course we are not objecting to honoring Pearl Harbor victims any more than we are objecting to one of the other resolutions that said we feel bad about the people who died in Oakland in that fire; of course we do. But what we were doing and what we will continue to do is fight for those mine workers, both the retirees and the widows.

Next year that is what we are going to do. We will get a good vote today in opposition to this because Democrats—people on this side—and a handful of more courageous Republicans will vote no on the continuing resolution. That should send a message to Senator MCCONNELL on how important it is that come January we vote, not on another 4-months and another 4-months, not even voting for a year, but we vote for a permanent fix on pensions and a permanent fix on health care that is paid for out of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. That needs to be what we do the first of the year.

This place is not going to operate very well if the leadership in this body does not stand up and give us a vote on a bill that protects mine worker retirees, that protects pensioners and health care, that says that we are going to fix this permanently. They should not have to come here month after month after month to lobby us.

This is something we should do. It has been an obligation since Harry Truman. Senator MCCASKILL is always talking about Harry. Harry Truman in the 1940s, seven decades ago, made this pledge, made this promise. We all want to live up to the promise. Presidents of both parties, Members of Congress in both parties were living up to that promise decade after decade. Now they don't want to live up to it.

It is important that we enforce that come January. I am voting no. I want to send that message. This is just too important to back down from.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, at this time, to put things in perspective, because a lot of people don't really know—people say: Why do you even use coal anymore? Why do we even need coal? Let me explain to the 300-plus

million people living in America today that if you are alive today, for most of your life, over 50 percent of your energy that has been given to you has been delivered to you because of coal. So to put it in perspective, what 12 hours of the day do you not want electricity? What 12 hours of the day do you not want heat, air conditioning—anything?

We need to bring attention to the people who have done the work. That is all we have said. They are forgotten heroes. In West Virginia, we feel like a Vietnam returning veteran. We have done everything our country has asked of us, and now you will not even recognize us. You don't even understand what we have done.

Well, that is what we are doing. That is what we are fighting for.

At this time I would like to recognize my good friend from Pennsylvania, Senator BOB CASEY, who comes from the tremendous State of Pennsylvania, which has provided an awful lot of energy for many years. Senator CASEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from West Virginia for his leadership on this issue, going back not just days and weeks but months and even years. I think we should start with the word "promise" tonight. We have a matter that came before the Senate that Senator BROWN indicated was the subject of a bipartisan consensus that went all the way through the Finance Committee, a vote of 18 to 8 earlier this year. The question before the Senate today and the question before the Senate in 2017 will continue to be: Will the Senate—and I would add will the House of Representatives—keep our promise to these coal miners and their families? It is really not more complicated than that. We have to ask ourselves whether we are going to fulfill our promise.

Just to give you a sense of what this means to individuals, I have three letters in my hand. We have all gotten hundreds of them, if not more, maybe thousands at this point. But I have three letters from three different counties from which I will read excerpts.

The first one is from Johnstown, Cambria County, with a great history of coal mining but also a great history of a diverse economy. This individual wrote—actually two; it is a husband and wife writing to me—saying: "We are in our late 70s and desperately need our pension and hospitalization."

Cambria County, PA, alone has 2,483 pensioners. Just that one county has that many pensioners who happen to be families who had a loved one working in the coal mines. This is one of those families who wrote to me. If you look at the health care issue and you look at it county by county, sometimes the numbers are lower, but it is in the hundreds and hundreds in many counties.

The next letter is from an individual in Green County. She is writing about her husband, and she says:

My husband was only retired about 1 year when he found he had cancer. One of the reliefs that he had while battling cancer was knowing he had his pension and good health benefits. So it was one less worry.

Green County is a small county in Pennsylvania, in the deep southwest corner, right on the corner next to West Virginia and Ohio. In Green County, there are 1,436 pensioners and many depending upon the health care promise that our government made.

The third and final letter is from Westmoreland County, from an individual talking about his time in the coal mines. He said:

My 33 years in the mining industry are testimony to the fact that I provided a needed service to my country and my family.

Then, later in the letter, he goes on to say:

Now, thousands face an uncertain future. A promise was made and a promise needs to be kept.

In Westmoreland County, PA, there are 1,067 pensioners. Across our State, just on health care, almost 1,400 Pennsylvanians are affected by health care. Some of them have cancer. Some of them have a family where the husband is dead and the wife has cancer. Some face the kind of health care circumstances that none of us can identify with because everyone who works—every Member of the Senate and the House—we have health care. We don't have to worry about next week or next month or next year.

So the question becomes, as I said, whether we are going to keep our promise to these coal miners. There is no excuse for putting in the continuing resolution as pathetic a proposal as we got this year in this continuing resolution, which basically says: You have health care for just 4 months, and you are supposed to be satisfied with that. In fact, I think there was one Member of the Senate who said, "They should be satisfied with that".

They should not be satisfied; coal miners and their families, retired coal miners, nor should anyone here be satisfied with that. Also at the same time, the proposal—or I should say now the policy in the continuing resolution—has no fix at all for pensions, so these counties, just three counties, that have thousands and thousands of pensioners who earned that pension, who gave up a lot to get that pension, who gave up a lot to get those health benefits—there is no fix in the CR, the continuing resolution, for the pension problem.

We are supposed to be satisfied, and they are supposed to be satisfied, I guess, according to the line of argument from some on the other side—not all, but some who said they should be satisfied. Well, here is a news bulletin. We are not satisfied. These miners and their

families are not satisfied. We are not going to stop fighting on this. We feel so strongly about this issue that many of us, including me, will vote no on cloture on the CR, will vote no on the CR itself because we feel that strongly.

As the presiding officer knows, usually when a continuing resolution comes before the Senate, it gets overwhelming support. This is how outrageous this is for these families. So you are going to see a number of people on the floor here do something they probably have never done before. They are going to register a protest in a very direct and formal way, to say no to the CR tonight.

I know some people will be offended by that. I understand why they might be across the country. But we have to ask ourselves: If it is going to take a no on this resolution to get people to focus on what these miners were promised and what this government has not done to meet that promise, then we are willing to go to that length and to that extent to vote no tonight because we have to keep a focus on this.

We are not going away, so for anyone who thinks that tonight is the end of a chapter, we are just getting warmed up. We are just getting warmed up on this because this is a promise we must keep.

These miners and their families kept their promise. The miners kept their promise to their family that they would work and work in the depths and the darkness of the coal mines, put their lives at risk every single day. That is the first promise they made—and that they would bring a home a paycheck so their family could eat every night and afford a mortgage. So they kept their promise to their family. Many of them kept their promise to their country. They fought in World War II, they fought in Korea, they fought in Vietnam and beyond, in every war we have had in the modern era. So they kept their promise.

It is not too difficult for a Senator or for a House Member to keep their promise. All they have got to do is put their hand up and say aye. I agree with keeping the promise to these miners. It is about time that our government, including everyone here, kept our promise to these coal miners.

So we are doing something that many of us have never done. We are going to vote no on a resolution tonight to make it very clear that we don't agree with what is in this continuing resolution with regard to these miners, No. 1, and the other message we are sending is that we are coming back. We are going to come back week after week, month after month, if not longer, to make sure that they get their health care and they get their pensions.

So, this kind of solidarity, at least on this side of this aisle, will remain intact. It will remain fortified and strong going forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, as you can see, I am extremely proud. I can't tell you how proud I am of my colleagues. This is why we are here. We are standing for the people who work every day to provide a better living for themselves and to provide a better country for all of us to live in.

With that, I am happy to be here with my good friend, my colleague, and my dear friend from Virginia, Senator MARK WARNER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, first of all, let me echo everything that Senator CASEY and Senator BROWN have said. But the reason we are here, beyond the justness of our cause, is the fact that the Senator from West Virginia, Mr. MANCHIN, has been absolutely relentless. He has not let this issue die. For 18 months, he has gone through every hoop that has been put in front of him. It is getting through. The fact is, Senator MANCHIN today reintroduced the Miners Protection Act. In 1 day—in 1 day—he picked up 49 cosponsors of this legislation.

We are going to have a vote later tonight. Let me be clear. I am going to join in that protest. But as somebody who has one heck of a lot of Federal employees, we are not going to shut down the government on this issue. We should not even be thinking about choices where we have to trade off Federal workers and miners. That is not what we are sent here to do. But we are going to make sure that this fight does not end tonight. The 49 who signed up today will be in the 50s and in the 60s when we come back.

Let me just close. I know we have other colleagues, and others have commented. I went through these talking points at other times, but you have to hear the voices of people who are being affected. I got a letter recently from Sharon. Sharon is from a coal miner's family in Dickenson County, not too far from West Virginia and Kentucky.

Sharon wrote:

My father is a retired coal miner. For many years he worked at Clinchfield Coal Company's Moss #2 mine. He gave them his time, sweat, hard work, and even his health. In return, he expected nothing more than a paycheck and a little pension, and health care when he retired. He was promised that. He deserves that.

She went on to talk about the fact that her dad grew up in the Depression:

He grew up in a time when you took care of your things—and he believed that you paid for what you got. He's paid dearly for his pension and his health care. Please don't let that get taken from him.

He's also a man who takes care of his money.

She said he was always tight with his money:

He planned for years for his retirement. He saved and budgeted so that he would have

enough with his pension to be able to support himself through the rest of his years and not be a burden on anyone.

Sharon, her coal miner family, and countless thousands of other Americans are waiting for us to honor our commitments. We are taking a step forward tonight. But echoing what other Senators have said before, this issue will not go away until these miners get their justice.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader, the Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Senator MCCASKILL and my colleagues are waiting.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that immediately after Senator MCCASKILL speaks, I be given 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MANCHIN. We have Senator COONS, Senator MCCASKILL, Senator SCHUMER, and I am going to say something, and we will be finished.

Mr. SCHUMER. Is that OK?

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after MCCASKILL, COONS; after COONS, SCHUMER; and then MANCHIN. It won't take more than 10 to 12 total minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I thank the indulgence of my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, let me make very clear that when we get these benefits for these coal miners and their widows—when that happens, not if but when—make sure no one misunderstands who is responsible for it.

I want the coal miners in West Virginia to know one thing, there is only one person who will be responsible for those coal miners getting their benefits and their promises being kept, and that will be Senator JOE MANCHIN. It won't be President Donald Trump. It won't be the minority leader or the majority leader. It won't be any of us. There is only one man who is responsible for these coal miners getting what they are due, and that is Senator JOE MANCHIN, who has fought.

I am so sick of JOE MANCHIN talking to me about the coal miners. You can't see him in the hall when he doesn't grab you about the coal miners. He feels this in his heart. These are the people he grew up with. These are the people he knows and loves, and he is the one who is going to make this happen.

The other one I am fighting for tonight is a guy named Harry. Every time I open my desk, I get goosebumps because I look in my desk, and I see the name Harry Truman scrawled in my desk.

If you are a student of history and you know anything about Harry Truman, you know that he was very

plainspoken. He got himself in a lot of trouble with his mouth, but, boy, did he believe in keeping his word.

When he was President of the United States—Louie Roberts told me, a man from Willard, MO, who has been in the mines and is a third-generation coal miner and has been in the mines all of his life:

John L. Lewis and Harry Truman—President of the United States of America signed an agreement guaranteeing lifetime medical benefits to UMWA miners. So Mr. & Mrs. Senators & Congressmen would you please keep your Promise.

Would you please keep your promise. Continuing:

We only ask that the Promise be kept that was made in that 1948 agreement.

I am also fighting for the word of Harry Truman. This debate reminds me of a fight we had in Congress a couple of years ago. Back then, Congress had approved a \$1 trillion spending package. Oh, man, the elves get busy around Christmastime. Omnibus package is code for "you have no idea what is in it."

We looked and poked around in it, and we found they were cutting the pensions of thousands of Missourians who drove trucks for a living. We are talking about the people who take a shower after work, not before work. This place is really good at taking care of the people who take a shower before work. We are really good at that.

When they repeal the ACA, they are going to give a big old tax cut to the 1 percent again. We are going to do that. We are going to throw 22 million off of health care. But boy oh boy, we are going to take care of the 1 percent, but we are not so good at taking care of the people who take a shower after work.

That bill allowed those truckdrivers to have their pensions cut. I was the only Member of the Missouri congressional delegation to vote against it. By the way, in the same bill, we gave a car and driver to a Member of Congress. Really? A car and a driver to a Member of Congress and in the same bill we cut the Teamsters' pensions. Now I hear the House Members had to go home.

I don't know how many people who shower after work get 3 weeks off for Christmas, but I am pretty sure there are none. I am pretty sure they are trying to figure out if they have to cover a shift on Christmas. I am pretty sure they have to figure out how they can make ends meet so they can buy Christmas presents. But we have to get out of here so we can have 3 weeks off for Christmas—what nerve, doing that to these coal miners and taking 3 weeks off for Christmas.

On the way out the door, they did another Christmas present. They made sure that the Russian oligarchs get to sell us steel. They took out the "Buy American" provision in the WRDA bill. I think the guy who just won the Presidency said we are going to buy American. Then what did the Republicans in

the House do? They take out the “Buy American” provision less than a week after he said it on his victory tour in Cincinnati.

I just know this. I am proud to vote no on the CR. Frankly, I am probably going to vote no on WRDA because of what they did with “Buy American.” I am sick of the games being played. We are going to fight. We are going to fight until we get this done. We may not win this fight tonight, but I guarantee you we are going to win it. As Harry Truman would say—and I am quoting; so I can’t get in trouble: “Come hell or high water, we are going to get it done.”

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRASSLEY). The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I know there is not a lot of coal mining in Delaware, but we sure do have a lot of friends in Delaware.

I yield to my dear friend, Senator CHRIS COONS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise in support and recognition of the tireless efforts of my friend and colleague from West Virginia. We were sworn in the same day, moments apart, and we were sworn in by a man who held this seat and this desk for 36 years. Born in Scranton, PA, JOE BIDEN, our Vice President, served Delaware for 36 years. I know JOE and I know one of the things he tirelessly fought for, and that was the working men and women of this country—just like my colleague from Missouri, who speaks from the desk long held by Harry Truman and in whose honor she spoke about our keeping our promises that date back to a law passed by this Congress and signed into law by Harry Truman that promised pensions and health care to 100,000 coal miners.

I too have to keep faith with my predecessor in this seat, JOE BIDEN, and our neighboring State to the north, Pennsylvania; my great and good friend, JOE MANCHIN from West Virginia; HEIDI HEITKAMP of North Dakota; and many others who have spoken before me and simply say: I understand that large, complicated appropriations bills never include every item that every Member wants. I wanted a provision that would help a manufacturing company in my State, the 48 ITC provision. The investment tax credit would help keep a company that manufactures fuel cells in my State alive and running. I heard an awful lot of talk in this campaign about saving American manufacturing, about doing the things we need to do to help working people and to help manufacturing. I am as upset as my colleagues about the “Buy American” provision being taken out of WRDA and our not keeping our word to buy American steel.

But what all of us are here to stand for in common today is to keep our promises to the coal miners and their widows, for whom the Senator from West Virginia has fought so tirelessly.

When told that is a provision that can’t be taken care of, that can’t be done, when they were sent back 30 yards, they dropped back and said: Fine, we will work on the Miners Protection Act. They held hearings. They held a markup. They found an offset. They moved through regular order, and they found bipartisan support. It got out of the Finance Committee by 18 to 8.

Yet here we stand, likely on the very last night of this Congress, with a promised path being blocked and a 4-month extension, rather than a permanent solution—seemingly, the only option before us—and 16,000 miners and their families would lose health care this December 31 without a longer extension. Four months—that is all we can do—4 months, when these good Senators worked so hard and so tirelessly to find a bipartisan solution that doesn’t take money out of the Federal checkbook, that has a proper path? This is a sad day when we can’t keep our promises to the widows of coal miners, to folks who did dirty, dangerous, and difficult work for decades, to the people who built this country. I think in some ways this is just a symbol of so many other ways we have failed to keep faith with those who have worked in this Nation for us.

I have not ever voted against a CR. I have always taken, I believe, the responsible path of making sure that we are able to craft a responsible compromise and get it done.

But as an appropriator in this year and in this instance, it was upsetting to me that we were kept completely out of the process of crafting and finalizing this appropriations bill.

So without hesitation, I will vote against it tonight because it is important we send a signal that we and many other Senators are determined to fix this problem. As the Senator from West Virginia said, there are no coal mines in my State, but there are many retired coal miners and their widows.

I have joined as a cosponsor of the Miners Protection Act, and I am determined to support the great and good work of my friend, the Senator from West Virginia, my friend the Senator from North Dakota, and so many others—from my neighboring State of Pennsylvania, Senator CASEY, and from States across the country and regions that are determined to do right by the people who built this Nation for us.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, as you can see, there is a lot of passion here and a lot of passion for people who

have hard-working men and women in their State also. I am so proud to have the incoming leader of our caucus, Senator SCHUMER from New York, who has been a stalwart on this. He has fought. He has stayed with us every step of the way, and he will continue to lead this fight until we are successful. At this time, I wish to make sure Senator SCHUMER gets recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you, Mr. President.

First, let me pay tribute to the steadfastness, the strength, and the courage of my friend from West Virginia. As Senator MCCASKILL said, not a day goes by where he doesn’t remind us of the coal miners and their plight.

Last night, through his good offices, I met with some of these miners. They are not from my State either.

I looked into their eyes—hard-working people, many of them tired, not from the day, not from lobbying here—that is easy work for them—but from working in those mines for so many years. They are America. They are the people we owe so much to.

Having met them, seen them, and looked into their eyes, I understood why my dear friend from West Virginia and my friends from Virginia, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and North Dakota have such passion for these people. It is real.

I hope some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in the next month will be visited by these very miners. Look them in the eye, and tell them you can’t help them? I bet you can’t. I bet you can’t.

We are here to live up to a promise made by Harry Truman, backed up by legislation in this body over and over. I don’t care what your ideology is. I don’t care if you are a big government cutter. This is not the place to cut. This is the place to recognize hard work, a promise, and America, because we say to people: If you work hard, we are going to be there for you. But tonight, we are barely there for you. We are not cutting it off, but we are not doing right by the people I met last night through the auspices of the Senator from West Virginia, fine people who got to my heart.

So we believe deeply in preserving these benefits, and we also believe in not hurting other people to preserve these benefits. So we are not going to shut down the government; we are going to keep it open. That would hurt millions of Americans as well and take millions out of the economy. So we are going to provide the votes to make sure we don’t shut down, although there are so many people who want to stand with the miners. We never intended to shut down the government, but our intention is very real—first, to highlight the seriousness of this issue, not to let people think this is going to

go away because they didn't live up to their promise. And I think we have made our point. I don't care if people don't like being here on a Friday night. I know people have other obligations, but those obligations are nothing compared to our obligation to these miners.

Leader MCCONNELL spoke to Senator MANCHIN a few hours ago and said that he would work hard to make the health benefits for miners not lapse in April. That is good, but it is not close to enough. It is a step forward, but we will go further, hopefully with the majority leader but even without.

We need the finance bill, the Miners Protection Act, a bill that would move money from the Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Fund into a fund to pay for the pension and health care benefits of tens of thousands of coal miners and retirees, not for 3 months, not for 1 year, but permanently. To show how serious we are, every single Democrat within just a few hours cosponsored the miners amendment to the CR, and we did get two Republicans to join us. Welcome. We need more of you. Stand up for the miners.

The fact that we have gotten so many people on this legislation bodes well for our chances of getting something significant done in the new year. So when we return in January, we are going to be looking at every way we can to make sure the miners receive full funding. The sooner the better, the stronger the proposal the better, and we will do it.

Finally, I want to call on President-elect Trump to support our proposal. The President-elect ran on a campaign with explicit, direct promises to coal country, and he won coal country big; that is for sure. He held big rallies with coal workers. He said he would protect them. He talked to the miners and got to know them. So we are simply asking our President-elect to communicate to the people in his party to get on board and live up to the promise we made to miners many years—decades—ago.

Tonight, we are putting our Republican colleagues on notice. We will not rest until we do right by our miners.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues so much. I am so sorry. The patience you have had is appreciated very much. It is an issue, as my colleagues can tell, we are very committed to and very passionate about. So thank you. We are just wrapping up.

I just want to say one thing to put it in perspective. I get to go around to schools in my State and really around the country talking to schoolkids, and I try to give a little history lesson. I always tell them: If you see a person in uniform, if your parent or your grandparent or your aunt or uncle, someone

served in the military, I want you to say thank you because I want you to realize they were willing to take a bullet for you. They were willing to sacrifice their life for the freedom they are providing for you. Don't ever take it for granted.

What we failed to teach in that history lesson is to say thank you to a coal miner who has provided the energy to allow us to be the superpower, the greatest country on Earth. Say thank you.

Thank you to every one of my coal miners for what you do and what you have done for me in my little town of fewer than 500 people. I can't tell you how much I appreciate the life I have had because of the sacrifices and hard work you have given for me.

With that, I want to say to all of my colleagues, God bless each and every one of you. Thank you for the fight. This is the right fight for the right reason for the right people.

We will finish very quickly now with Senator JEFF MERKLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, we heard a tremendous amount over the course of the past year about fighting for workers and working families. What does it take for a working family to thrive? It takes a good living-wage job, access to public education for children, and for those children to be able to pursue their dreams with affordable opportunities and education. It also takes health care.

Take a profession like coal mining—far more dangerous than virtually any profession Members of the Senate have had in the course of their lives. Health care is an essential element both for the miner and for their families. So how is it that we are at this point right now in which many miners don't know if they are going to have health care beyond April of next year? They don't know whether this body is going to stand with them. They are in limbo. They are in a state of anxiety, and it is absolutely unfair.

So we know, as tonight progresses, we are in a situation where we have an extension through April, but, as JOE MANCHIN has said in his fight leading this effort to necessarily secure health care for coal miners and as our incoming Democratic leader has said, this is going to be something that we are going to stand together for in this coming year. We are going to make sure their health care does not expire in April. This benefit has been earned through hard labor, over difficult years, in ways few of us can imagine, and we are going to stand with the coal miners in getting that benefit.

I am proud to sponsor this bill and stand with JOE MANCHIN and CHUCK SCHUMER tonight.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I wanted to indicate how disappointed I am in

the provisions affecting miners that have been included in the continuing resolution. While I will vote for final passage of the CR because we must not shut government down, the provisions contained are really an outrage.

Sixteen thousand three hundred retirees have received a notice that their health benefits will expire at the end of this year. What the majority has included in the CR is to extend those benefits through April. But what was left unsaid is that now, 22,500 retirees will lose health coverage at the end of April 2017, and 4,000 will lose them 3 months earlier than they otherwise would have. This plan also calls for taking money from a fund created to provide health coverage for retired miners whose employers went bankrupt. It ends the responsibility of the coal companies to contribute to this fund. This is a terrible giveaway cloaked in the provisions providing short-term health care for miners and their widows.

The promise that we will deal with those consequences later rings hollow when we have a permanent bipartisan solution before us, the Miners Protection Act. I have supported this and previous versions of this fix since I began my service in the Senate 3 years ago. The majority leader wanted the bill to go through regular order before any floor consideration. Well, this legislation passed the Senate Finance Committee 18-8 and is paid for.

I don't understand why we didn't take a floor vote on this bill months ago. It would receive strong bipartisan backing if it could get a floor vote.

Many of us talk about helping the working men and women of our country, protecting seniors and respecting the dignity of a lifetime of work. Well, many of our constituents have been hard hit by the downturn in the coal industry. We cannot downplay what coal miners have sacrificed to fuel this Nation for over a hundred years—black lung disease, physically disabling accidents, whole communities built around coal mining have vanished or are suffering.

We say we want to support working families and protect seniors. We say we want to help Appalachia. I don't know what we are waiting for.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, a number of us have been waiting for several hours to speak. We understand the concerns of our colleagues across the aisle. We have been patiently waiting. I believe they have finished their remarks.

I would say that there were a lot of remarks directed across the aisle. There are several of us over here who are in support and voted for the issue of the day here. If only our Republican friends could join us, they said, we wouldn't be in this situation.

Several of us have supported this. Given the circumstances here at the

end of the year with making sure we keep funding for government functions and not have it shut down, the agreement that has now been reached is a reasonable agreement that obviously will be taken up again in the next Congress. I won't be here. I supported it this year. I know a number of my colleagues have supported it. Many of us are from coal country and understand the concerns. But the larger issue for us is not to go into another shutdown.

I have served in the Senate for many years, and there has been nothing more disruptive that produces more uncertainty among businesses and individuals and employees throughout this country than the Congress not doing its job and providing funding for them and shutting down the government.

Having said that, I ask unanimous consent that following what we have just heard, Senator GARDNER have the opportunity to speak, I think for a relatively limited time, that I follow him, and I believe Senator SULLIVAN also wishes to come to the floor and speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, there has been a list that has been worked out for both sides. Many of us have been waiting many hours to deliver our speeches, and I believe what the Senator is proposing modifies that considerably.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I have been on the floor here waiting for 2½ hours to deliver my speech on WRDA, and I don't think my colleagues across the aisle have been here for that amount of time. Maybe we should stick to the list that has been worked out on both sides.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, if I could respond to my colleague, many of us have been on the list also, and we also have been waiting hours and hours and hours—patiently waiting. Again, working down through the list was not followed by the opposition.

I am simply saying that what was asked just a few moments ago was not objected to. When Members on the other side of the aisle had their opportunity to speak, we were patiently waiting. They have left the floor. There is no one on their side who has not spoken.

I don't see what the problem is. The Senator from Oregon wants to file a list, but no one on the list on the other side is here. We are going to speak for a limited amount of time, and we have been waiting 3 hours to do so. So I am hoping my colleague would allow us to do that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I believe my colleague makes a persuasive argu-

ment. Many did come to the floor to share in that important dialogue regarding extending health care for our miners, and given that, I take the Senator's point, and I look forward to speaking later.

Mr. COATS. I thank my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Oregon for his accommodation in allowing us to speak, and I thank the Senator from Indiana, whom we will miss in the next Congress. The Senator from Indiana has been a great example for those of us who are new to the Senate in terms of his representation and statesmanship, and I hope and wish the Senator from Indiana nothing but the best for his future.

TRIBUTE TO ALAN LEE FOUTZ

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I rise to honor the retirement and life and work of my dear friend Alan Lee Foutz.

Alan has been a part of my congressional staff for 6 years, representing the eastern planes of Colorado, first in Sterling and now in my hometown of Yuma, CO. His devotion to Coloradans is nothing short of inspiring, and his accomplishments in the field of agriculture and food production are a true testament to his agricultural acumen. But beyond that, it is his passion for serving others, his ability to find the positive in any situation, and his genuine demeanor that make me grateful and honored to call Alan a true friend.

Born on December 29, 1946, and raised in Akron, CO, Alan developed a penchant for agriculture. He was raised on his family farm, where they grew wheat and hay and raised turkeys, hogs, and a dairy herd.

In 1968, Alan graduated from my alma mater, Colorado State University, and earned a master's degree in agronomy in 1970. Alan went on to earn his Ph.D. in agronomy and plant genetics on several innovative projects, such as mapping out the barley genome. He then pursued and followed his passion to California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, where he accepted a job as an associate professor of crops. From there, he was able to impart his passion and expertise to his students, thereby cultivating the next generation of food producers for our Nation.

Without a doubt, it was Alan's enduring spirit and overall amiability that made him the perfect fit to inspire young minds, but it was his love of Colorado that drew him back to his home State and his roots. After 9 years in California, Alan returned home and put his academic credentials to the test by partnering with his dad, Lyle, to operate a 10,000-acre family farm. But even that wasn't enough to satisfy Alan's insatiable appetite to advance Colorado

agriculture. He became heavily involved in the Colorado Farm Bureau and in the year 2000 was elected president of both the Colorado Farm Bureau and the Colorado Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company. From there, his commitment to uphold and ensure Colorado's traditional farming and ranching values was fortified, guaranteeing a lasting impact on the agriculture community.

But Alan's service was not confined to the borders of Colorado, nor to the shorelines of America. He dutifully served on the American Farm Bureau Federation Board for 6 years and made multiple trips overseas to help further U.S. agricultural markets and exports to other nations. Indeed, with this impressive record, it is easy to see how lucky I was to have such an accomplished staffer join my team.

Over the years, while he was employed in my office, Alan demonstrated his tireless work ethic and commitment to Colorado agriculture. He played an influential role in ensuring that farmers and ranchers in the Republican River Basin who chose to conserve their land were being properly compensated by the USDA. Likewise, throughout the 2014 farm bill negotiations, Alan used his lifelong knowledge of agriculture policy to ensure that agriculture stakeholders across the State were being properly represented. And through the casework he does in my office, he has touched so many lives—likely more than he realizes. He has helped families navigate the adoption process to take home a child without a home. He has assisted countless veterans with getting the benefit they deserve and so much more. These are not just cases to Alan; these acts change people's lives, and he does them with humility and because he has a heart that is geared toward the service of others.

Nonetheless, after all of his successes, after all of his degrees, and after all of his accomplishments in and out of my congressional office, it is Alan's devotion and absolute love for his family and his church that is most inspiring.

He married his wife Val in 1966 and raised two children, Paula and Greg. When Al is not working on behalf of Colorado, he and Val enjoy spending time spoiling their grandchildren.

According to Alan, the driving force that propels his ambition and unequivocal success in life is his family. That is the true mark of an honorable man.

He wakes up every Sunday morning and drives almost 2 hours to serve as the only pastor at Kimball Presbyterian Church in Kimball, NE—basically 100 miles one way from his hometown—a small church that relies on his commitment to their community each and every week, a trip he makes for funerals, for weddings, for home visitations, but Alan doesn't just keep his

commitment to his faith within walls of his church, he brings it with him everywhere he goes—whether it is by lending an ear to a young staffer in need of advice or making hospital visits to those in need. Alan is a man that exemplifies true virtue and a devotion to service.

Few people can honestly say they have made a long-lasting and meaningful impact on society. Alan is one of those.

Thank you for your passionate zeal, Alan, you bring to our team day in and day out. Thank you for your dedication to Colorado's farmers and ranchers, and thank you for providing me an opportunity to learn from you and to help move our great State forward.

God bless the Foutz family. I hope your good will, passion, and enduring spirit will continue to flourish.

HONORING COLORADO STATE PATROL TROOPER
CODY DONAHUE

Mr. President, I rise to honor the legacy of Colorado State Patrol Trooper Cody Donahue.

On November 25, 2016, Cody pulled his vehicle over to the side of I-25 in Colorado to investigate and assist with a car accident. Cody was struck by an oncoming vehicle and tragically killed. Cody gave his life while nobly performing his duties as a Colorado State Patrol Trooper, and he—like all who walk the thin blue line—dedicated his life to protecting and serving his community.

Cody was an 11-year veteran of the Colorado State Patrol, a loving husband, devoted father, and a wonderful son and brother. He grew up in Grand Forks, ND, and attended the University of North Dakota, during which time he married the love of his life, Velma, and eventually moved to Denver, where they gave birth to two beautiful girls, Maya and Leila.

Since his passing, it is evident, through the numerous stories shared by families and friends, that Cody was always quick to put others before himself. So it comes as no surprise that Cody joined the State Patrol. His courage, reliability, and selflessness made him a perfect fit for a unit dedicated to the safety of Coloradans.

It is well known within the Colorado State Troopers' family that the badge represents distinct values that each trooper must possess: character, integrity, and honor are to name a few. Cody was, true to form, an embodiment of each one of these values.

Character. Cody was a hard-working and equitable man. His fellow troopers were quick to point out that Cody would always treat each person he met fairly and with great respect and dignity. A true testament to his genuine character.

Integrity. Those closest to Cody knew him as a man of profound honesty who possessed a natural aspiration to lead and serve others. According to

a tribute, Cody "was so honest that he once ticketed his wife!"

Honor. Cody was a genuine teamplayer, and would show up to work every day ready to serve, ensuring that his team was never a man down.

Indeed, Cody's core values as a State Trooper extended beyond the department. He was known as a loving husband and caring father whose adoration for his family knew no bounds. He placed his family on a pedestal and strived to be the best father and husband that he could be.

As we celebrate the holiday spirit with family and friends, we must never forget the tireless efforts undertaken by Cody and all the courageous men and women in blue to uphold the law. Many of these brave officers do not have the luxury to spend holidays with family and friends. Instead, they answer the call to duty. They ensure the safety of those we love most. They are the force that watches over us. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

A hero is defined as someone who is "admired for his or her courage, outstanding achievements, and noble qualities." Through his work and time spent with family and friends, Cody embodied each and every one of these characteristics. So although Cody is gone, his memory will live on. Character, integrity, and honor, these were Cody's core values—values we must strive to emulate, values that will make Colorado and this world a better place.

HONORING DEPUTY DEREK GEER

Mr. President, when I was preparing this speech, I noticed there was a Christmas card on my desk today. I have it right here with me. It says, "Merry Christmas." Inside it says: "Wishing you all the beauty and joy of this peaceful Christmas season," and there was a note in it from David and Sandra Geer. Earlier this year, Derek Geer, their son—a law enforcement official—was also killed.

So while we pay tribute to Cody today, we pay tribute to Derek and so many others who feel like they have been targeted, feel alone, who must know we care for them, must know we love them, and must know we keep them in our prayers, day in and day out. May it not just be this holiday season but every day that they stand on that thin blue line.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, as my time in the Senate winds down, I find myself reflecting on many of the reasons I decided to return to the U.S. Senate.

Without a doubt, one of the main factors for my return was the skyrocketing Federal debt and the harm

Washington's excessive spending will have on future generations, including my children and 10 grandchildren.

The day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10.6 trillion. We are now closing in on \$20 trillion. Clearly, this cannot be sustainable without extraordinarily negative consequences for the future. That debt clock continues to tick along, and we continue to roll into more and more debt as we spend more and more on government programs than the revenue coming in to pay for them.

So when I returned to the Senate in 2011, I sought out opportunities to address this ticking timebomb. I worked with my colleagues, both Republicans and across the aisle with Democrats, on efforts to restrain Federal spending and stabilize our Nation's finances.

There were a number of efforts made. We are all familiar with Simpson-Bowles, a bipartisan effort that tragically did not succeed and was not accepted by the President. The Committee of 6—the Gang of 6, the so-called Gang of 6, three Democrats, three Republicans, seriously, fastidiously worked to try to put together a formula to put us on a path to fiscal responsibility. Then there was the supercommittee, and there were outside groups led by both Republicans and Democrats.

Ultimately, we hoped we were finalizing the efforts when the President, through his own initiative across the aisle, brought several of us into his venue and talked about how we could work together. I was part of that effort. Ultimately, eight of us, spending a considerable amount of time with the President's top people and the President himself, tried to find a solution or at least a step forward in the right direction. I am sorry to say that also did not succeed in the end, when even some of the President's own budget initiatives he had proposed were rejected by him later as part of a package.

When it became clear to me that major reform efforts could not be enacted while the administration occupied the White House, I launched a new initiative which I called the "Waste of the Week." I decided that each week when the Senate was in session, I would speak about documented and certified examples by nonpartisan agencies—those we turn to, to give us the numbers, those inspectors general who have investigated the situation and made recommendations, the Government Accountability Office—and all the material that is provided to us, not on a partisan basis but simply the numbers, just the facts in terms of how taxpayers' money is being spent.

Today marks the 55th and final "Waste of the Week" speech. It may be fittingly so on what looks to be the last day of this session and my last day serving in the United States Senate.

It is a little bit of walking down memory lane in terms of talking about

the “Waste of the Week” and the various items we have proposed. It has been everything from the serious to the ridiculous, which grabs people’s attention: Look, I can understand maybe this particular situation where we overspent, but, come on, clearly, surely, we weren’t using taxpayer dollars for something as ridiculous or embarrassing as that. I will mention a few of my favorite examples here that we have talked about.

Fraudulent double-dipping in Social Security disability insurance and unemployment insurance benefits to the tune of \$5.7 billion that was spent through basic fraud by those who were submitting applications for and receiving payments for both. Look, if you can work but are thrown out of work, unemployment insurance is available to you. If you are disabled and can’t work, Social Security Disability payments are made to you, but you can’t collect both, and people were collecting both, to the tune of \$5.7 billion.

Fraud in the Food Stamp Program. People were fraudulently receiving up to a total of 3 billion documented dollars in that program.

Department of Agriculture payments to dead people resulted in over \$27 million of payments.

These are the things that were presented. We were talking about several hundreds of millions of dollars and even billions of dollars. Something that grabbed the most attention was a study by a National Institutes of Health which was issued in which 18 New Zealand white rabbits received four 30-minute massages a day. The study was conducted at Ohio State University and designed to figure out whether massages can help recovery times after strenuous exercise.

I raised the question: Did we need to bring over 18 white New Zealand rabbits? I don’t know what the cost was, but I think we probably could have found some rabbits in the United States at much less cost. Nevertheless, the study went forward, and, guess what. The results were that after four massages a day after strenuous exercise, they felt better than if they didn’t get the massages. I wanted to apply for that process there, but I learned they euthanized the rabbits after the study was done. So I thought, well, it is a good thing I didn’t join that effort.

Nevertheless, I was thinking, couldn’t they just ask the Ohio State football team after a practice: Hey, guys, we are going to divide you in two categories. This category over here is not going to get massages after our strenuous practice sessions and this half is going to get the massages and we will see if the guys who get the massages feel better than the guys who didn’t. I think they would have saved the taxpayers a considerable amount of money. I don’t see why the National Institutes of Health can come to the

conclusion that a grant request for massaging rabbits is a good use of taxpayer money.

That is just 4 out of the 54 I have talked about. That is my walk down memory lane, but the total amount of the waste identified through these 54 examples adds up to more than \$350 billion.

We are down here arguing now about payments on a program, and we are talking about—well, we can’t fund this, we can’t fund that, that is an essential program, the Defense Department needs more money, the National Institutes of Health needs more money for cancer research, but we don’t have any more money to give them.

Why not take actions to stop this waste, fraud, and abuse or, better yet, why not, not ask the taxpayer for this money in the first place? Why should the taxpayer be sending money to Washington to see that the accomplishment is waste, fraud, or abuse?

I am pleased to note we have actually had some success in addressing some of this wasteful spending highlighted in these speeches. Last year, the Congress approved legislation that will finally—finally—phase out the so-called temporary tax credit for wind energy—a credit that was supposed to expire over 20 years ago. We were promised that this is a study to get it started and see if it works to get enough wind energy at a cost that the public could afford and see this as a way of providing alternative energy, but, boy, once something is on the books, it gets reauthorized and reauthorized over and over. And for 20 years it is: Oh, we just need it 1 more year. We just need it one more time. On and on it goes.

Finally—finally—we have seen action taken by the Congress to complete this phaseout program, which will essentially save taxpayers billions of dollars and reduce the government’s involvement in picking winners and losers through tax policy.

Congress also approved a measure I introduced to improve compliance in higher education tax benefits. By simply adding language to require proof of eligibility for certain tuition tax credits, we saved taxpayers over half a billion dollars in improper payments.

Recent Defense authorization bills have included provisions to reform the defense contracting process, which will help cut down on billions of waste. Of course, more work is still needed in this area, as a recent report identified as much as \$125 billion in wasteful spending at the Department of Defense. I am a strong proponent of a strong national defense, but when we find that well over \$100 billion has been misspent, we are compromising our national security, and we are not giving our soldiers, sailors, marines, Coast Guard, and others all the resources they need to provide for our national security the way it needs to be provided for.

Today I am here for my 55th and final “Waste of the Week.” I want to talk about relatively modest—it is amazing you can say this. Only here in this Chamber, only in Washington is \$48 million called “modest” because we talk in billions and trillions. Anyway, \$48 million in Medicaid funding for drugs to treat hair loss—not hair loss for therapeutic reasons, not hair loss as a result of cancer treatments, but for cosmetic purposes. Medicaid is paying out \$48 million to provide for measures that will help reduce hair loss.

I want to stress that Medicaid is part of our Nation’s safety net, to help those in need. That is all the more reason we have to ensure that Medicaid is run effectively and efficiently to have the financial resources to help low-income families gain access to medical care. This also means we have to protect Medicaid by ensuring that its finances are not used for medically unnecessary services.

There are certain medical services that all State Medicaid plans are mandated to provide, and then there are a number of additional services that are optional for States to cover. One of these services includes drugs to treat cosmetic hair loss. This is not hair loss due to an underlying medical issue, as I mentioned; this is hair loss that just happens, often as we age. The treatments paid by Medicaid are for cosmetic purposes only.

I think all of us would love to have a full head of hair, and I speak as one who falls in that category. As I look around the Senate Chamber, I see others who have joined me in watching the hair fall off their head and looking in the mirror and saying: How many hairs did I lose last night, and when is this going to end?

Losing your hair is not always fun, but I promise you, as someone who has been through all of this—and you are not alone—soon enough you will simply accept the fact that while you won’t make the finals in the 50 Most Beautiful People in America, life will go on.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the Federal Government could save \$48 million over 10 years by not paying for this cosmetic hair loss treatment. While this may seem like a small amount of money compared to our nearly \$20 trillion national debt, it is yet another example of unnecessary use of hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

Fortunately, the Senate recently passed legislation that included a provision to end the Federal reimbursement for cosmetic hair loss, and that bill, fortunately, is on the way to the President for signature into law. By bringing attention to some of these issues, we have been able to take legislative action to try to address and keep unnecessary spending off the charts.

To conclude, while today marks the end of the “Waste of the Week,” I want

to implore my colleagues in the House and Senate to keep going, to keep fighting to stop wasteful spending.

I also want to acknowledge that my staff over the period of time, at different times, as they were working on this project, provided to me the examples, and they dug in and did their research so that I could come to the floor to make these points and hopefully, hopefully save the taxpayer hard-earned dollars that shouldn't have been sent to Washington in the first place but were not used wisely and efficiently when they came here. I particularly want to thank the following members of my staff: Paige Hanson, Ansley Rhyne, Aaron Smith, Amy Timmerman, Kristine Michalson, Matt Lahr, and Viraj Mirani.

Our former Governor, my friend Mitch Daniels—former Governor of Indiana and the current president of Purdue University—famously said: “You’d be amazed at how much government you’ll never miss.” Indiana has set the example with significant cuts and reforms in spending to take our State from a deficit to a \$2.4 billion surplus. There were significant cuts in many agencies through the growing of bureaucracy that took place, and we have yet to find what parts of government we miss.

There are so many programs and so many ridiculous things that the government funds—like rabbit massages and cosmetic hair loss treatment—that most Americans don’t even know about and have never heard of, and while I no longer will be here, I am hopeful that the next President and the next Congress will work in tandem to achieve these goals. They could use my 55 “Waste of the Week” examples as a starting point, and they can continue because we have just scratched the surface.

Today, I would like to add \$48 million to our total. And just in this cycle of the Senate alone, we have come up with a grand total of \$351,635,239,536—money that can be used for a better purpose.

With that, my final words addressed to my colleagues in this extraordinary experience I have been privileged to enjoy, I, for the last time, yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks recognition?

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, under the unanimous consent, Senator SULLIVAN was up. I notice the leader is on the floor, and I am sure he would yield to the leader for his leadership purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me give everyone the state of play. First, I will be offering a consent request to set the continuing resolution votes at 10 o’clock.

Having said that, I ask unanimous consent that not withstanding the pro-

visions of rule XXII, at 10 p.m., the Senate vote on the cloture motion with respect to the House message to accompany H.R. 2028. I further ask that if cloture is invoked, all time postcloture be considered expired and Senator MCCAIN or his designee be recognized to offer a budget point of order, and that if the point of order is raised, the motion to waive be considered made and the Senate vote on the motion to waive without any intervening action or debate. I further ask that if the motion to waive is agreed to, the motion to concur with further amendment then be withdrawn and the Senate vote on the motion to concur in the House amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me explain before my colleague, the Democratic leader, addresses the matter. What this does is set up votes in connection with the CR at 10 p.m., but then I want everybody to understand that if we can’t get an agreement to move the WRDA votes up to that series of votes, they will occur 3 hours later, at 1 a.m. Failure to consent to including WRDA will only delay the Senate until 1 a.m. in the morning.

Let me go over that again. At the moment, I understand there is an objection to adding the WRDA votes to the stack that we just agreed to. So without consent, we will be here another 3 hours or so, voting at 1 a.m. Everybody should understand we are going to finish all of these votes tonight, and that is the schedule for the rest of the evening.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have now three hours until 10 o’clock. I hope that during that period of time, people will do whatever they need to do to make sure they get anything they want in, whatever they are trying to get.

The reason I say that is that we are going to continue, as the leader has indicated, working on a way to get out of here tonight. If not, we will get out of here tomorrow. I hope that—if someone has something they want to talk to me about, I will be happy to carry that message to anyone, including the Republican leader, but I think right now we have 3 hours to sit around, stand around, and talk about this and find out if there is anything more that can be done.

I hope that at 10 o’clock, we will be in a position to let everybody know if we are going to have a vote before 1 o’clock in the morning because these votes will take at least an hour, the three votes that are scheduled, so that means 11 o’clock. By waiting around, you are delaying things by a couple of hours at a fairly late time at night. I think by now everyone has a pretty good idea of how they are going to vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, my colleagues have been very gracious and have gotten a little bit out of the queue, so I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to address the body for 5 minutes; following me, Senator SULLIVAN will address the Senate for 10 minutes; and following him, Senator COONS will address the Senate for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

WRDA

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise to voice my opposition to the Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation Act. In my view, Senator BOXER and Senator INHOFE have done a lot of good, bipartisan work on this legislation. Infrastructure is hugely important to our country. I constantly say you cannot have a big-league quality of life with a little-league infrastructure, and this legislation in particular has some very important provisions that I and Senator MERKLEY have worked on for our home State. It includes assistance to help build homes for displaced Native American families, it provides funding to help restore fish and wildlife habitat in our rivers, and it particularly includes assistance for small ports in Oregon and across the country.

The fact is that small ports provide crucial access to commercial and recreation fishing. They are home to ocean science and research vessels. In our part of the world, they are the gateway to the global economy.

Year after year, these ports have faced uncertain funding that threatens good-paying jobs. I worked with other Members to make sure the WRDA bill includes stable, permanent funding—over \$100 million annually—for small ports in Oregon and across the Nation.

I highlight this to say what this legislation does for a number of crucial areas—to the economy and our quality of life. Senator BOXER and Senator INHOFE have done very good work, but my big concern is about the rider that was added on California drought, which threatens the west coast fishing industry and has put every single good provision in this legislation at risk.

Water issues have never been easy, and I want to compliment my colleague from California for her hard and long work to get a deal on drought that addresses California’s serious and ongoing issues. Oregon is no stranger to water challenges, but there has to be a collaborative, stakeholder-driven process, and this rider is not a product of the kind of compromise you get with a true collaborative effort. In effect, an entire west coast industry feels left out of the discussions. Fisheries and hard-working families in coastal communities that depend on a healthy stock of salmon stand to lose the most, and

these stakeholders have told us they have had no meaningful seat at the table.

The rider is not just about water and agriculture in California; it threatens the health and sustainability of the salmon fishing industry up and down the Pacific coast. The drought provision, in my view, also threatens to undermine bedrock environmental laws, such as the Endangered Species Act, and it certainly would create the prospect of the new administration having power of its own volition to override critical environmental protections.

I and my Pacific Northwest Senate colleagues have heard from concerned west coast fishery groups and coastal businesses for days. My constituents are concerned about the implication of pumping water out of the Bay Delta to support a small number—a handful—of very large agribusinesses in California. They believe that hard-working men and women in the fishing industry and coastal businesses are going to pick up the tab for this break for the large agribusinesses. That is not the way to manage water in the West for the long term.

The water infrastructure bill, which is meant to provide support for water-dependent communities, doesn't do a whole lot of good if there are no fish in the ocean. If there are no fish in the ocean and no fishing families or fishing boats in the ports and no fish at the dinner table, the water infrastructure bill is going to be something that we regret. I believe we will regret it in this form.

At a time when coastal communities need as much help as they can get, this provision threatens to do the opposite. As long as the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act includes this California drought rider, I think it would be a mistake to go forward.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

REMEMBERING MIKE KELLY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, yesterday my State lost a great leader in a tragic plane crash. Mike Kelly was a former State legislator from Fairbanks. He was the patriarch of a wonderful interior Alaska family. He leaves behind a long and accomplished legacy of public service, leadership to his community, to the interior, and to our great State, which he loved so much. He also leaves behind a wonderful wife, siblings, and children who have also played and continue to play such an important role in Alaska. He will be sorely missed by all of us.

Rest in peace, Mike.

SUPPORTING ALASKA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY AND HONORING SERGEANT ALLEN BRANDT

Mr. President, the holidays are nearly upon us. It is the time when Christ-

mas cheer descends on us, when hearts open and we reach out to our neighbors, friends, and even strangers, particularly those who are in need.

Today I want to reach out to the police force in Alaska. These men and women put their lives on the line every day for us, and anyone who has seen the news in these past few months knows it has been a particularly difficult time for police officers all across the country, who have faced unprecedented levels of violence—deliberate attacks. Across our great Nation, our men and women who get up every morning with the mission to protect us are having their lives taken. As of December 5, there have been 134 fatalities against police officers this year alone. That is up by more than 20 percent from last year. Let's face it—they are being targeted. Some of them are even being ambushed.

Just a few minutes ago, right here on the floor, the Presiding Officer gave some very eloquent remarks about what has happened in Colorado. These kinds of acts are happening all across the country—Iowa, Massachusetts, Texas, California, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and unfortunately more than once in recent weeks in my home State of Alaska.

One brave Anchorage police officer, Arn Salao, was a victim of a cowardly ambush in Alaska, but thankfully he survived. The incident resulted in the arrest and the killing of an accused murderer who has now been accused of killing five others in Anchorage.

Unfortunately, another officer involved in a shooting in Alaska—this time in Fairbanks—wasn't so fortunate. On the morning of October 16, Sergeant Allen Brandt, an 11-year veteran of the Fairbanks Police Department, responded to reports of shots being fired. After pulling his vehicle over to question a suspect, Sergeant Brandt was shot five times. After being treated for several days, Sergeant Brandt was expected to survive. He even came to testify in a remarkable act of courage in front of the Fairbanks City Council on October 21. His testimony was riveting, but in a devastating turn of events on October 28, just a few days later, Alaskans learned that Sergeant Brandt had succumbed to the complications related to his injuries in recovery. The hopes of our entire State were crushed upon hearing that this brave, young public servant had passed away. Alaskans from every corner of our State held vigils and continue to mourn his loss.

There was a memorial service in Fairbanks attended by thousands. I happened to attend that with my fellow Alaskans. It was one of the most moving services I have ever attended. At the memorial service, Sergeant Brandt's testimony from just a few days earlier in front of the Fairbanks City Council was played. There, he was

speaking to all of us on these important issues. It was so powerful and so moving to see this young man so articulately speak about issues that don't just impact Fairbanks, AK, or Alaska, but the whole country.

Sergeant Brandt left behind his wife Natasha and their four young children under the age of 8.

I have talked about his testimony that he gave in Fairbanks that was played at his memorial service, which was so powerful. Only a few days earlier, he had been shot. He gave his testimony, and then unfortunately he passed away. I wish to read several excerpts from his testimony because I think it reflects not only the importance of this issue, but it shows this young man speaking on something that impacts the whole country.

Here is the testimony he gave at the Fairbanks City Council. There was thunderous applause, of course, when he walked in—a man who had been shot five times just a few days earlier. He stated:

I am humbled by the honor, and I'm no exception to the rule. We have many fine officers that are far greater and have done better things than I have. I do appreciate the community's support and I know sometimes it's hard for officers to see whether or not the city supports us, but I've always said that by-and-large, the city does support its police officers. And you know we're never going to have the support of the criminals . . . and to tell you the truth, they don't have my support either. However, I do support their constitutional rights and their free exercise of them.

He continued:

I've seen the hand of the Lord in my situation. Can you believe I was shot five times through the legs and I walked into this room. There's a bullet, it's almost healed up, but right here over my heart where my vest certainly saved my life there.

I appreciate the support of the community, the Fairbanks Police Department, the Anchorage Police Department, the Alaska State Troopers, and other officers. But our officers do a very hard job, and they need your support. Unfortunately, when an officer gets shot or something bad happens, it's just human nature—we don't think about things that we need until something bad happens. I don't blame anyone for that. But, you know, think about our officers. I've worked for the city for 12 years, probably ten of those years I worked weekends when my friends are off. I work at night and sleep during the day. I don't sleep with my wife. And the other officers, too. I was never called a racist until I put the uniform on. You know, once you put a police uniform on, you're a racist. I can't ever let my guard down, not at Fred Myer and not at my house. I travel everywhere armed. Always vigilant. Always watching. And the other officers over there, they're the same way. So, we need your support. Not just when bad things happen. But the officers over there do a hard job. And most of the time it's thankless. And we've really appreciated the outpouring of support that's comes from this.

He concluded his testimony. He called out to one of his buddies:

I think Sergeant Barnett's here, and I want to thank him. Sergeant Barnett was the first

one on the scene, and until he got that tourniquet on my leg, I didn't think I was going to survive because I was bleeding a lot.

But let me leave you with this last story that he told his fellow Fairbanksians: The night I was shot, I had my four kids and my wife on my bed. I read them a story like I always do. After the story, I told them, I think I am going to get shot tonight.

Can you imagine saying that to your kids? He continued: And it happened. In the middle of the gun battle, that is all I could think about.

He concluded by saying this: Can you imagine telling your kids before you go to work that you are going to get shot? Well, that is what our police officers deal with every day. I am not complaining, but I just want you to know what it is like, the life of a police officer.

Then he looked at the audience and said: But we appreciate your support.

That was his testimony. Only a few days later, he passed away. As I read that testimony again, I am struck by Sergeant Brandt's extraordinary selflessness. At the same time community members were applauding his bravery, Sergeant Brandt sought to remind us of the bravery of his brothers and sisters in blue, the unsung heroes who face the same dangers he did but without public fanfare or an outpouring of support.

Having met with first responders all over my great State, I know that Sergeant Brandt's extraordinary selflessness is not an outlier, and it is not an exception; it is a hallmark of our police force and the fire department. They wake up each morning knowing that today may be the last day they get their kids ready for school, the last day they kiss their spouse goodbye. Today they may be asked to lay down their life to save another. That is a heavy burden. It is a burden that is shared by the spouses and children who have seen too many sleepless nights, praying for the safety of their mom and dad.

In conclusion, over the holidays we are all going to come together with family and friends to celebrate the holidays. We are going to remember our troops overseas. But let's keep in mind the sacrifices being made by our brave officers, as well as their families, who will be on the beat during the holidays just like our members of the military, protecting us.

On behalf of my fellow Alaskans, I want to express my profound gratitude and thanks to our proud law enforcement community for all they do to keep our communities safe.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the continuing resolution that is the business before the Senate. We are here once again

today, as we have too often been in the 6 years that I have served here in the Senate, working at the last minute to avoid shutting down our Federal Government later tonight.

As we have before, to avoid a shut-down we appear likely to pass yet another continuing resolution. As an appropriator, as someone who is on the committee that is responsible for putting together all the provisions that will help keep this government moving forward, it is a real disappointment to me that this continuing resolution fails to address issues of real concern to folks all over this country.

Earlier this evening, I joined a number of my colleagues to draw attention to coal miners and their widows and the concerns we have about extending their health care through the adoption of the Miners Protection Act. Although that is an issue that dozens of Senators are concerned about, I wanted to speak tonight about another unacceptable omission in this legislation.

This continuing resolution does not include a lesser known but, to me, no less important provision, one that my senior Senator TOM CARPER and I have fought tirelessly for and one that is important to a manufacturing company in my home State of Delaware and dozens of companies in dozens of States. Last year, when Congress passed at the end of the year the omnibus spending package, we left on the cutting room floor, through an inadvertent staff error, provisions to extend a series of clean energy tax incentives known as the 48C investment tax credit, or ITC—not all of them, just for a few narrow and defined areas and, in a case that I care most about, for fuel cells. Those incentives have bipartisan support and have already proved successful at creating new technologies and good manufacturing jobs in this country.

We have heard a lot of talk in the last campaign about bearing in and fighting hard to save manufacturing jobs here in the United States. Well, extending the ITC is exactly the chance we had here today—we have had in the past year—to do just that. There are tens of thousands of jobs and hundreds, likely thousands, of companies across our country that rely on this ITC. In my home State, Bloom Energy, a company that manufactures in a number of States, has a significant presence. Built on the site of a former Chrysler plant, it was taken down when Chrysler closed its facility.

Bloom Energy offers real promise for the hundreds of Delawareans who work there in a cutting-edge clean energy business that was growing. But without the benefit of that section 48 investment tax credit, they are not growing. They may even have to lay people off. In my home State and in States all over this country, that is a concern I wish we had worked together to address.

These are incentives that have been proven to bring good jobs to the United States. If we don't extend section 48, as I think is very unlikely to happen tonight, tens of thousands of jobs across our country and dozens, at least in my home State, are at risk.

All over the country, we have heard in writing from hundreds of companies in 48 different states that support this extension. These companies want to invest in the research and development, the scaling up of new clean energy technology. They require long-term certainty and stability. But the extension of those credits has been pushed into next year sometime, after a year in which it was promised over and over this would get addressed.

The fault here lies predominately in the other Chamber, in the House, which did not respond to requests from the leadership of this Chamber for this to be addressed. Republicans in the House are trying to push this issue, this extension, into a tax reform package planned for next year. But tax reform has been on the agenda here for year after year after year, and these credits expire this year, December 31.

With countless jobs at stake across the country, punting this to next year after a year in which it failed to be brought up and addressed has real world implications in my State and States across the country. So, after mistakenly, admittedly by error, dropping this extension a year ago, leaders promised that this issue would be addressed. A year later, it has not been. So on the stack of reasons why I will cast an unprecedented no vote on the CR tonight, this is just one more reason—a failure to fulfill a longstanding promise that these tax credits would be extended.

Companies can't invest and grow if they can't have a predictable path forward for investment and know about what is the possibility for their incremental investment in R&D and manufacturing. Real American businesses today, like Bloom Energy in my State and hundreds of others, need this reliability. There is no reason this could not have gotten done. There is no reason promises made could not have been kept. There is no reason this could not have been resolved.

So with real disappointment and regret, I am going to vote no for the first time on a continuing resolution that puts at risk keeping this government open because of a whole series of missed opportunities in this year's bill. It is my hope, it is my prayer, that next year, with a new Congress and with a new President, we will renew an attempt to find a bipartisan consensus around what it is we have to do to be competitive as a country, to sustain an all-of-the-above energy strategy, and to work together to find solutions that will grow manufacturing in our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

COAL INDUSTRY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, a number of my colleagues were down on the floor a little bit ago, talking passionately about the challenges our coal miners in the United States face. I want to mention Senator MANCHIN from West Virginia, in particular, who is someone who speaks with a lot of passion on this issue as was mentioned—so much so that I cosponsored the bill that he has been advocating, largely on the basis of his strong advocacy and, to be perfectly honest, the great respect I have for Senator MANCHIN.

I do find it a bit ironic that what we have not heard from any of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, when talking about coal miners' challenges, is that we have just had an 8-year war against the coal industry and coal miners, waged by the President of the United States Barack Obama, and all of his Federal agencies—8 years—unprecedented, illegal from my perspective.

Where is the outrage? There have been a number of us who have been trying to fight this war against coal miners for the last 8 years. Where is the outrage about that? The war on coal is what has hurt many of these miners. I am confident and hopeful that the incoming Trump administration will help those miners with real jobs, not continue to purposefully put them out of work as the Obama administration has done.

So when we talk about coal miners, taking care of them, we also need to talk about who has been waging that war and who has been fighting against it. That is what we really need to do to protect coal miners.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, first I wish to associate myself with Members who came to the floor this evening to talk about the CR. I will be voting against it. This isn't about shutting the government down. This is about the House putting forward a bill really without consultation with Senate Democrats—there was some, but at first there was none—and then leaving town. I feel that we could easily do a very short-term CR to hash out a few of these matters—the health care for miners and their widows being foremost in my mind. That easily could have been done. It is not as if we worked in this body too many days this year, and I think we could have worked next week to iron this out, to hash this

out. I will be voting no because if we really care about the working people in this country, we really ought to be protecting their pensions and their health care.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN LUIS MONTALVAN

Mr. President, I rise today to honor a very special man and friend of mine, CPT Luis Montalvan, one of my personal heroes.

On Monday I received the news that Luis had died last Friday. This has been a difficult week, and I am grieving Luis's death. Luis deserves to be honored because he dedicated his life to helping other veterans cope with the same struggles he faced after returning from war. I hope to do him justice because his story deserves to be told.

I met Luis in January of 2009 at an IAVA event—Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. Luis was there with Tuesday, his service dog. I love dogs, and so I immediately went to Luis and to Tuesday. He told me that he could not have been there if it weren't for Tuesday. I asked him what Tuesday did for him. He told me he had severe PTSD, and he had been an agoraphobic, which is why he couldn't have been there without Tuesday. I asked him what Tuesday did for him. He said Tuesday could anticipate when he was going to have a panic attack by the smell of his perspiration or changes in his breathing pattern and that Tuesday would nuzzle him, and he wouldn't have the panic attack.

Luis talked about how he had debilitating nightmares. If he started thrashing in his bed, Tuesday would jump on the bed, wake him up, and he wouldn't have to endure a debilitating nightmare.

He said he was agoraphobic, so he didn't go out. He got Tuesday as a service dog. He had been drinking very heavily, alcoholically, and he was offered this opportunity—this chance to have a service dog, to be paired with this service dog. He was trained with Tuesday. Tuesday had been trained a couple of years beforehand, including by a prisoner who had been serving a sentence for second-degree murder and had been a big part of Tuesday's training. That man was released from prison and now trains dogs for a living. He has a business doing it.

He brought Tuesday back to his apartment in Brooklyn, a small apartment that he couldn't leave. He said he learned something about having a dog. You have to take a dog out at least twice a day. He learned something else, which is that people don't go up to scruffy-looking wounded vets—he walked with a cane because of part of his wounds in Iraq—but they will go up to a scruffy-looking wounded vet with a beautiful dog. Having Tuesday broke his isolation. He got out of his apartment, into life, and starting attending Columbia University School of Journalism.

I was so inspired by meeting Luis and Tuesday that, while I was waiting for my election to the Senate to be resolved in 2009, which took about 6 more months—I met him in January of 2009—I spent a lot of that time during my recount and then the legal actions after that researching service dogs and the benefits they bring to their owners.

When I got to the Senate, the first piece of legislation I introduced was quickly passed into law. JOHNNY ISAKSON of Georgia was my lead cosponsor. The bill was designed to increase the number of service dogs for veterans. Luis inspired that.

In 2011, after graduating from journalism school, Luis turned his story into a book entitled: "Until Tuesday: A Wounded Warrior and the Dog Who Saved Him," which chronicled his journey after returning from Iraq. It was a very candid and deeply moving account of his struggle. I have always admired the bravery it took for Luis to share his story. In the year since the book came out, he had been traveling around the country, sharing his story with lots of people, giving speeches and interviews about his experience. He even had the chance to appear on the David Letterman Show with Tuesday. It was something I know Luis really enjoyed.

Luis wrote two children's books about Tuesday. His book "Tuesday Takes Me There: The Healing Journey of a Veteran and his Service Dog" is one of my grandson Joe's favorite books. Luis wrote these children's books so kids could learn about how Tuesday changed his life and helped him by helping him through his daily activities.

This year had been a difficult year for Luis. Despite Tuesday's steadying presence, Luis was still feeling pain in his leg when he walked. Sometimes that made it difficult to get around. To ease the pain, he had his leg amputated a few months ago, and he was in an intensive therapy program to relearn to walk with a prosthetic.

He had other physical difficulties though. I talked to Luis's parents this week to call them and tell them how sorry I was for their profound loss, and they told me that among other health difficulties, he was suffering from very severe heart problems. So he was going through a difficult period.

I wish to celebrate the legacy he leaves behind, his legacy of helping veterans cope with life after combat. Because of Luis, more veterans are now able to access service dogs.

Let me tell you something about these amazing dogs. Obviously, a service dog can't do everything, but they do a lot to help. Service dogs raise their master's sense of well-being. They help reduce depression. They ward off panic attacks—as they did with Luis. They assist when their owner needs help standing back up after falling. They do so many things—

and not just for veterans. They do it for diabetics. They can smell when the blood sugar is too low. They can be companions for autistic kids. The parents had told me that they could take their child to the mall now because they won't act out because they are taking care of their service dog while their service dog is taking care of them.

For veterans living with service-related injuries, these dogs can make a tremendous difference between veterans having a very good life—a decent life—and a very difficult one. My bill was a step in the direction to make sure that all veterans who need a service dog are able to get one.

Still, we must realize that so many of our veterans still struggle mightily, sometimes years and decades after they come home. The hard truth is that in many ways we are family—our vets.

The VA estimates that upwards of 20 percent of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan suffer from PTSD. Twelve percent of Gulf veterans and 30 percent of Vietnam veterans have suffered PTSDs during their lifetime.

These statistics should serve as a sobering reminder of the pain that so many veterans live with. It should remind us that unless you yourself have seen combat—which I have not—there is really no way to ever fully understand what they have gone through. I know I certainly don't, but I do know that these men and women put themselves in harm's way in service to our country, and it is our obligation to do everything we can to help them when they come back.

As Members of Congress, it is our responsibility—more than anyone else's in this country—to do right by them. I certainly do not have all of the answers, but I do know we can do better.

Luis was my friend. He was a good man who loved his country and wanted nothing more than to help ease the pain that so many of his fellow veterans experienced. I don't have the words to describe the sadness I feel knowing Luis is gone.

There is a lot to learn from Luis's book about what these men and women endure when they come back from war, but learning about the relationship between Luis and Tuesday is really one of my favorite parts.

Here is one of my favorite passages. And remember that one of the things Tuesday could do for Luis is anticipate panic attacks. Here is the quote, and this is from his book.

Tuesday quietly crossed our apartment as I read a book and, after a nudge against my arm, put his head on my lap. As always, I immediately checked my mental state, trying to assess what was wrong. I knew a change in my biorhythms had brought Tuesday over, because he was always monitoring me, but I couldn't figure out what it was. Breathing? Okay. Pulse? Normal. Was I glazed or dis-

tracted? Was I lost in Iraq? Was a dark period descending? I didn't think so, but I knew something must be wrong, and I was starting to worry . . . until I looked into Tuesday's eyes. They were staring at me softly from under those big eyebrows, and there was nothing in them but love.

Luis, I want you to know that while you are not with us anymore, I am so proud of you. I am so proud that you were brave enough to serve your country for 17 years, and then brave enough to share the story of the hardship you faced afterward. I am so proud of you for giving hope to other veterans who faced the same struggles you did. Your book sits on my Senate desk still and always will. It will stay there as a reminder of the man I am proud to have called my friend.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

BLACKFEET WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT BILL

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today the Senate can make history in Montana. The Senate has the opportunity to send the Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act to the President for his signature with the passage of this WRDA bill, an issue I have been working on since I first came to Congress.

Modern efforts to settle the Blackfeet tribe's water rights date back to 1979. After long negotiations and after being introduced four times in the Congress since 2010, this year, the compact passed the Senate for the very first time, and with the passage of this bill, it will finally become law. The Blackfeet Tribe has waited long enough. It is time to get this compact across the finish line, and we are very, very close.

This compact will not only establish the tribe's water rights but irrigation for neighboring farmlands. We call that area Montana's Golden Triangle. It is some of the most productive farmland in our State. In fact, it is where my great-great-grandmother homesteaded.

Today is a historic day for the Blackfeet Tribe, for Montana farmers, and for Montana families. The Blackfeet water compact will update decades-old infrastructure, and it will strengthen irrigation for agriculture, while also protecting habitat.

I want to commend the Blackfeet Tribe and its chairman, Harry Barnes, who have been diligent and patient in seeing this settlement forward. I commend our State for its commitment to the Blackfeet Tribe and Indian Country in Montana. I urge the support of my colleagues in passage of this WRDA bill.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today the Senate will vote to put the government on autopilot for the next 4 and a half months. Coupled with the continuing resolution we are currently under, that is 7 months of fiscal year 2017 priorities funded—or not—under the terms of the fiscal year 2016 omnibus bill. Freezing

in place an earlier year's priorities—ignoring the many hearings and the committee work and the debates and the oversight that the Appropriations Committees have invested in genuine, full-year funding bills for next year—by definition means this stop-gap bill is chock-full of great mismatches between our current priorities and those set long ago for an earlier fiscal year. By definition it means wasted diversion of funds to past priorities and giving short shrift to changing circumstances, needs and priorities.

What does that mean to Vermonters? It means cuts to food assistance needs. It means halted homeland security preparedness grants. It means uncertainty for affordable housing developers and transportation planners. It means we here in Congress didn't get our job done.

What makes the vote on this continuing resolution all the more frustrating is the fact that we didn't need to be in this predicament today. The Senate Appropriations Committee carefully considered 12 individual appropriations bills. All but one were reported with broad if not unanimous support. Through September, October, and into November, we negotiated in good faith and in a productive way with our counterparts in the House of Representatives. That is until the order came to stand down. The word was that the President-elect didn't want us to pass a responsible, full-year budget. The word was that he wanted Congress once again to kick the can further down the road. Then Democrats in both the Senate and House were shut out of the process—no consultation and no negotiations.

In the absence of what could have been an achievable omnibus appropriations bill, this continuing resolution does fulfill a few key priorities. It avoids a government shutdown, just before the holiday season. It provides the millions of dollars authorized earlier this week in the 21st Century Cures Act to fight opioid abuse and cancer. It rejects the National Defense Authorization Act's proposal to increase base defense spending through an increase in overseas contingency operations funds. It provides billions of dollars in emergency disaster assistance for recent natural disasters. It supports additional funds to care for unaccompanied children from Central America and Mexico. And at long last, it provides overdue funds—fully offset through the Water Resources Development Act authorization—to address the shameful lead contamination crisis in Flint, MI. The people of Flint have waited far too long, while Congress has dragged its feet, to finally have access to the needed resources for the children and families suffering there.

These are, surely, all reasons to support this continuing resolution. But, as with most things, there is another side to this story.

The continuing resolution extends, without desperately needed reforms, the EB-5 immigrant visa program. I opposed the current continuing resolution for this same extension. As I have said numerous times, the EB-5 program has become mired in fraud and abuse. Almost everyone agrees it is broken. It is time we fix it. If EB-5 cannot be reformed due to a paralysis of leadership, the time has come for it to end, not be extended, without debate, in a continuing resolution.

This continuing resolution—again, negotiated behind closed doors by Senate and House Republicans—does nothing to resolve the questions about how to sustain health care for miners and miners' widows. The Senate Finance Committee approved legislation in September to address this crisis in a bipartisan vote of 18 to 8. The Republican leadership has chosen—chosen—to not bring that legislation forward. Instead, now mine workers will be forced to spend the last dollars in their multiemployer health plan to cover this 4-month extension. What promises do we have that there will be a real commitment to provide for these men and women come next May? None. These mineworkers cannot afford thousands of dollars in monthly health care bills on the small pension payments they receive.

Further, the continuing resolution includes a troubling, precedent-setting provision to expedite consideration of waiver legislation for the President-elect's announced nominee to serve as Secretary of Defense. The Framers of the Constitution provided that the Senate should provide advice and consent in the appointment of such Cabinet nominees. Congress subsequently sought to implement limitations on who could serve as Secretary of Defense, thereby ensuring that America's military would remain under civilian control. Circumventing these limitations requires an act of Congress. It has been done just once before and not with any deal of levity. This continuing resolution, however, seeks to truncate the Senate's debate over granting, for only the second time in history, such a waiver. My opposition to the inclusion of this language stands apart from the nominee himself, as well as the legislation granting such a waiver, each of which should be debated fully. I oppose limiting the Senate's debate over the granting of such a waiver. That is what this language does. The Senate is the most deliberative body in the world. With this provision, we cede that designation, at least a bit, and pave the way for further erosions.

Nonetheless, we face what is ironically both a complicated and straightforward decision: allow for a government shutdown, 2 weeks before the winter holidays, or approve this continuing resolution that casts aside

Congress's responsibility to enact meaningful appropriations bills for the fiscal year. As the incoming vice chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I don't take this decision lightly. I want the record to be clear. To Senate Republican leaders and Republican leaders in the House; to the President-elect and the Vice President-elect: Democrats will not rubberstamp a partisan agenda in the 115th Congress. We will not tolerate being shut out of negotiations about how our taxpayers' dollars are spent. And we will not allow Congress to continue to buck its constitutional duties to quite simply do its job.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I had hoped to offer two amendments to the continuing resolution, CR, we are considering to fund government operations through April 28, 2017. I want to say from the outset that I am disappointed the Republican majority has decided to consider another CR rather than pass full appropriations bills.

This is an abdication of our responsibility to govern, and there are real negative effects for the American people. As vice chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I can tell you that 4 more months of a CR poses significant funding issues for the Department of Defense, DOD.

Given the thousands of funding lines that make up the DOD budget and the changing needs from one fiscal year to the next, it does not work to simply continue spending from year to year. For example, rolling the fiscal year 2016 DOD budget into fiscal year 2017 means that procurement accounts are overfunded by \$6 billion, while operations and maintenance accounts—those primarily concerned with maintaining military readiness—are underfunded by \$12 billion. This is not the support our men and women in uniform deserve.

To mitigate the worst of these effects, the bill before us contains a very small number of changes to particular funding needs, so-called anomalies. The two amendments I filed today suggest two more such changes, to ensure that important DOD medical research efforts and significant increases in spending for Israeli missile defense programs move forward.

Just this summer, during the consideration of the fiscal year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, the Senate voted in a strong, bipartisan fashion to maintain a comprehensive DOD medical research program. We debated at great length the important contributions DOD medical research continues to make for our Active Duty personnel and their families, as well as our military retirees, veterans, and the American public.

Under a CR, because the bulk of DOD research dollars—over \$1 billion—are added by Congress, much of this work will stop cold. No new projects will be

funded, with impacts on fiscal year 2016 research projects as well. Passing this amendment will ensure that this critical work and medical advances for our soldiers, airmen, sailors, and marines are not delayed by allowing \$1.8 billion contained in the fiscal year 2017 Defense Appropriations bill to be spent.

At the same time, over the last decade, Congress has overwhelmingly supported significant increases for Israeli missile defense programs, including Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow. The fiscal year 2017 Defense Appropriations bill includes a \$113 million increase for these programs—totaling \$600.7 million—and this spending is necessary to get new technologies into the field in a timely manner.

I think we can all agree that 7-month CRs are not the way we should be funding our government. While we should be considering all of our appropriations bills, passing both of these amendments would enable important programs to maximize their impacts in fiscal year 2017.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to speak, once again, about how critically important it is to pass legislation that will finally help the people of Flint repair their devastated drinking water system. We have before us a water resources bill that was identified a long time ago as the vehicle to assist Flint during their still-ongoing water crisis. We have been working for months and months on this. We have had strong commitments from leaders in both parties and on both sides of the Hill.

The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, formerly known as the WRDA bill, includes funding authorizations for communities that have had a drinking water emergency, as well as language authorizing increases in health funding and lead exposure prevention. But the actual appropriations funding for these provisions are contained in the Continuing Resolution.

The bottom line is this: For Flint and any other future communities with drinking water emergencies to receive money, this body must pass both the water resources bill and the continuing resolution. This may be the last, best chance to secure the long-overdue assistance that the people of Flint deserve.

The families in Flint have suffered through unspeakable hardships over the last couple years. To this day, many are still using bottled water to drink, cook, wash their dishes, and even take sponge baths. After Thanksgiving, it broke my heart to see the famous "Little Miss Flint" post on social media about how it took 144 bottles of water to prepare Thanksgiving dinner.

Can you imagine having to open 144 bottles of water simply just to cook your Thanksgiving meal? These same people have heard promise after promise that they will get the help that

they need to put new pipes in the ground. Some of that work has started, and the water quality is slowly starting to improve. Still, the fact remains that Flint residents still cannot access clean drinking water directly from their taps.

We shouldn't forget that the Flint provisions in the water resources and the CR also contains language to set up nationally significant programs and policies to help prevent and respond to any future emergencies that are similar to the Flint water crisis. The bills include money for a lead monitoring registry and an associated expert advisory committee, as well as for a childhood lead prevention and a better public notification process.

The water resources legislation also has nationally significant, bipartisan provisions to restore some of our Nation's great bodies of water, such as the Great Lakes, Everglades, Lake Tahoe, the Delaware River Basin, and more. Not to mention this bill contains critical projects for reducing the risk of flood damage, as well as maintaining our navigational waterways and harbors. But I must recognize that this bill is flawed and imperfect. I was very disappointed to see last-minute changes to provisions that threatened the bill's strong, bipartisan support.

The WRDA bill passed the Senate by a vote of 95-3 just a few months ago, but these new changes to the text threaten to dismantle that support. We must make tough decisions in Congress, and the vote on this compromise bill will certainly be a hard choice for several of my colleagues. But I would ask you think hard about the balance of this bill and measure all the benefits of the many positive provisions. And I would ask you to think about our responsibility to care for communities in crisis.

We will soon have a chance to deliver on a long-standing promise for some unbelievably resilient and strong people. I urge you to follow through on that promise by voting in support of the water resources bill and continuing resolution. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 290

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I wish to call to the attention of my colleagues S. 290. S. 290 is a piece of legislation passed unanimously by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. It is a bipartisan bill that was crafted by the ranking member, the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and me, and it deals with accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This legislation has a number of components, but the one I wish to focus on this evening is one that has a consequence to those in senior executive positions at the Department of Veterans Affairs who commit felonies in the scope of their employment at the

Department of Veterans Affairs. This legislation, S. 290, would eliminate their pension if convicted of a felony in a court of law and only that portion of their pension that was accrued after the conduct that resulted in the felony conviction.

That is the circumstance that was approved by the Veterans' Affairs Committee a year ago this month. That bill has yet to come to the Senate floor. During that time in which we have been waiting for consideration of this legislation, certain terribly unfortunate events occurred at the VA hospital at Leavenworth, KS.

I have been on the Senate floor speaking to this issue previously, but the basic facts are that a physician's assistant committed sexual acts with his patients—veterans who came to the VA hospital at Leavenworth, KS, for care and treatment, and we learned of this reprehensible conduct from newspaper reports in 2015.

That conduct has affected many veterans in Kansas and in Missouri who sought the care and treatment of a physician's assistant and who relied upon the VA to provide that care for them. In fact, Mr. Wisner was never discharged from the VA; he resigned a month after the conduct was reported to the inspector general. Veterans have now sued Mr. Wisner in court, and at least a dozen veterans are seeking redress, and criminal proceedings are pending in the District Court of Leavenworth County, KS, against Mr. Wisner.

One of the things the veterans who have called our office to talk about this circumstance—and we believe there are many other veterans who have suffered the consequence of this sexual abuse by a VA employee who is a health care provider—one of the consequences has been phone calls to our office asking for our help. One of the common conversations is: It is so difficult for me to get my pension, my benefits from the VA. Why would Mr. Wisner, if convicted of these crimes, receive his?

So I have authored an amendment to S. 290 that would add an additional category of Department of Veterans Affairs employees who also would suffer the loss of their pension should they be convicted in a court of law for conduct they committed in caring for patients at the VA, and that reduction in pension would occur from the point of time of the conduct that resulted in the felony conviction of that VA employee.

What we are talking about is adding positions such as physicians, dentists, podiatrist, chiropractors, optometrists, registered nurses, and physicians assistants to the language; the theory being if it is appropriate to remove the pension benefits of a member of the upper echelon—the executive team at the VA for conviction of felony con-

duct—why would it not be appropriate to also add those who can do even more damage to a veteran by felony conduct against them while seeking care and comfort and treatment from the VA?

So what we now present to the Senate—in fact, we have asked for unanimous consent on two previous occasions for this to be considered. We have hotlined this legislation. It has cleared the Republican side twice but has yet to clear the Democratic side of the Senate. So the request soon will be that S. 290, as amended by a Moran amendment, the language of which was negotiated between me and the ranking member, Senator BLUMENTHAL of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, be added to the original S. 290, the bill that Senator BLUMENTHAL and I created to create accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 290 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; I further ask that the Moran substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, we have to be back here in 2 hours anyway. I would ask my friend if he would be willing to come to the floor at about 10 minutes to 10 again to renew his request. I have a few calls I need to make to make sure the matter about which this side has raised a concern is valid.

So if Senator MORAN would be willing to come back in a couple of hours, we can take a look at it.

Mr. MORAN. I appreciate the remarks of the distinguished leader, and I am happy to accommodate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request?

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, based upon the conversation and dialogue that occurred with the Senator from Nevada, I withdraw my unanimous consent request. I will renew my request later and look forward to the majority leader being present at that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The request is withdrawn.

The Senator from Colorado.

UNITED STATES ENERGY

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, over the past several years, we have heard from our allies around the globe about the need for U.S. energy. The fact that the United States can produce abundant and affordable energy is the envy of the world, and allies from Eastern Europe to Asia look at the United States as a place where they can achieve and get that abundant, affordable energy supply they need to help

grow their economy so our allies aren't dependent on countries in the Middle East that aren't necessarily friendly to them for their energy supply and energy sources.

When it comes to energy production, we know across this country the shale revolution has created hundreds of thousands of jobs. In my home State of Colorado alone, it has created over 100,000 jobs. It is an incredible opportunity that we have to gain North American energy independence and security.

We also know we have an overabundance of natural gas supplies right now. At the very same time that our allies are asking for American energy supplies, we have an abundance of American energy. Especially in the Rockies, we have the potential for an asset to become stranded—an asset that we can produce a lot of but lack the markets to send it to.

As energy developments have occurred in the Northeastern part of the United States, we have seen that Northeastern States are now able to get their energy resources, natural gas, and others, from right in their backyard instead of relying on the Western United States. Those of us in the West have urged the construction of LNG terminals in the gulf along the west coast so we can export that natural gas through LNG terminals to our allies who desperately need it.

That not only gives our allies the energy they desire, but it also makes sure we can continue producing energy in Colorado and the West and not result in a stranded product that can no longer go east but has an outlet to the west. Because of this demand by our allies and because of the incredible success we have had producing that energy, the Jordan Cove LNG terminal has been proposed for construction in Oregon. Jordan Cove would provide an outlet for Colorado and other States' energy productions to have an outlet to Asia.

I am chairman of the East Asia Subcommittee on Foreign Relations. When I visited across and throughout the region, one of the key conversations I have had with leaders, government leaders, and business leaders in those nations is the conversation surrounding energy, and they talk about what we can do to expedite and to increase energy exports from the United States.

This Senate has made great progress, this Congress has made great progress when it comes to exporting energy. In fact, earlier this year, we allowed for the export of crude oil for the first time since Jimmy Carter made it impossible decades ago. We also know we continued to work on LNG Exports expediting the permanent approval process for LNG terminals. Legislation that was included in the Energy bill would have allowed those approvals, required

those permits to be approved in an expedited fashion. Unfortunately, the Energy bill did not get approved. It does not look like it is going to move at the end of this Congress, but I certainly hope it will next year, and I certainly hope we will get language expediting LNG terminals.

One of the most clear outrages, though, of this administration's policies over the last year—8 years has been its outright hostility to energy development. Unfortunately, many of our commissions and agencies in our government continue to reflect that hostility toward the development of our energy resources.

Let's just take a decision that was announced mere hours ago as it relates to Jordan Cove. Once again, FERC denied the application of Jordan Cove to exports, shutting down their pipeline, preventing them from getting the resources they need to open the facility to be able to export to our allies in Asia.

They claim that Jordan Cove has not demonstrated a market. They don't have enough of a market proven to approve the pipeline necessary to feed the terminal to export to LNG. Jordan Cove has substantial customer base in Asia. They have proven it to FERC. This is nothing but the continuation of a denial in March that FERC made to shut down exports of LNG, to shut down our ability to get energy out of the Rockies and send it to our allies in the West.

Over the next several years, luckily we will be asked to confirm a number of nominees from commissions and agencies across the government, including FERC. It is my hope this body, as it looks to these nominations and approvals, will start asking some very difficult questions to those people who are going to be filling these commissions about whether we are serious about energy production in the United States and whether we are serious about allowing States such as Colorado the ability to produce energy and then to export it to our allies around the globe.

If people—like FERC right now—have their way, their answer is, no, shut it down, keep it in the ground. That is extreme and an activist point of view, and it is an outrage. It is denying the people of Colorado economic opportunity. It is denying the people in the West economic opportunity, and it is letting the government decide what is right and wrong in the marketplace.

FERC, this government shouldn't be in the business of picking winners and losers. Yet that is what it continues to do. Jordan Cove has tremendous bipartisan support. Republicans and Democrats alike believe that facility is important to Japan, that facility is important to opportunities in Korea, that facility is important to our allies throughout Asia, throughout the West,

and it is my hope that as this process moves forward, we can get a deep expression and understanding from FERC about why they continue to deny these jobs, deny these opportunities.

The demand is there. The need is there. The economics are there, and we certainly need the jobs there in Colorado with the approval of this pipeline and that facility at Jordan Cove.

I thank you for the time this evening, and I certainly hope we can at least make some progress over the next few years with people in agencies and people in commissions who believe in the American economy instead of the American bureaucracy.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, as we approach the end of this Congress, I rise to discuss not only what we have accomplished in this Chamber but also specifically what we have accomplished for the State of Nevada. I am especially proud that many of my priorities have been able to move forward to help Nevadans thrive—from veterans to health care, to infrastructure.

These accomplishments prove that this majority was prepared to work and produce lasting results. I look forward to advancing even more priorities that benefit Nevada in the 115th Congress. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have been proud to advocate on behalf of Nevada's brave heroes. My focus has always been on issues impacting Nevada's veterans most. I will give you some examples: guaranteeing our veterans have access to care, ensuring they receive care quickly, working to hire more VA doctors, providing health care for rural veterans, and addressing the disability claims backlog we have been working on for years.

In this Congress, there has been a lot of progress. As a cochair of the Senate VA Backlog Working Group, I have been holding the VA's feet to the fire on the disability claims backlog. The VA has adopted many of the working group's policy recommendations, and this pressure has helped reduce the backlogs from 405,000 claims in 2014 to 92,000 today.

Although, clearly, there is much more room for improvement, Nevada's veterans are far better off submitting a claim to our Nevada VA Regional Office today than they were 2 years ago. Nevada was once the worst in the Nation and now it is in the top 25 percent for performance.

Another issue plaguing veterans in Nevada and nationwide is VA doctor shortages. It is hard for VA to recruit and retain medical professionals, and that impacts how quickly our veterans can get their care.

I have asked the Government Accountability Office to examine the

VA's current policies for recruitment and retention and report back to me on what improvements can be made. I look forward to receiving that report next year and enacting to ensure we address this issue that affects urban areas, such as Las Vegas, and our rural veterans in Elko, Ely, and Winnemucca.

When it comes to bringing high-quality care to Nevada, I am also proud that the VA finally opened a brandnew VA clinic in Pahrump. While there have been many positive steps forward for Nevada's veteran community, clearly there is more to accomplish in the next Congress.

In fact, I am working to pass legislation through the Senate right now that would bring greater accountability to the VA by reporting each year on bonuses awarded to critical positions like VA hospital directors.

We still have a 20-percent disability claims backlog and a growing appeals backlog. The VA Choice Program must be revisited in 2017 for reauthorization and improvements. The VA still struggles to fire employees who are poorly performing. Rural veterans still struggle to find doctors to serve in their area. These are priorities for Nevada's veterans that I am committed to advancing every day that I am in the U.S. Senate.

I am also particularly proud of the work we have done in the 114th Congress on infrastructure. Those efforts yielded major results for the State of Nevada. Last year, we enacted the first long-term highway bill in nearly a decade called the Fixing Americans Surface Transportation Act, or better known as the FAST Act.

This 5-year bill provides States with resources and the tools to advance high-priority projects, such as the new Interstate 11 connecting Phoenix to Las Vegas, the Carson City freeway, and the widening of the Las Vegas busiest freeway, Interstate 15 in Las Vegas.

The bill also included in my top infrastructure priorities the expansion of Interstate 11 to Northern Nevada. I have been working for years to improve mobility from Las Vegas to Reno. Surface transportation projects like these spur economic development opportunities. It reduces congestion and increases safety—the recipe for creating short-term jobs and long-term economic growth.

In July, the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act was enacted into law. This important legislation implemented important reforms that make U.S. air travel safer, more efficient, essential to tourism destinations, such as Las Vegas, Reno, and Lake Tahoe.

Again tonight, we will debate yet another important infrastructure bill—the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. Included in that package is a bill I sponsored and

have been working on with my Nevada and California colleagues for nearly a decade—the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act. This initiative will reduce wildfire threats, jump-start transportation and infrastructure projects, combat evasive species at Lake Tahoe, and ensure the jewel of the Sierras is preserved for generations to come.

It also includes a provision I crafted with Senator HEINRICH that improves the water security of rural western communities. I hope my colleagues will agree to quickly take up and pass this critical, important legislation for my State, sending it to the President's desk before the end of the year.

With a new majority in the Senate, we were also able to make good on a number of promises to the American people on the health care front. First and foremost was being able to be send an ObamaCare repeal bill to the President's desk within the first year of our new majority. One of my top priorities in our ObamaCare repeal efforts was to repeal the 40-percent excise tax on employee health benefits.

In Nevada, 1.3 million workers who have employer-sponsored health insurance plans will be hit by the Cadillac tax. I knew the devastating impact this tax would have on Nevadans, but I also knew that in order to get anything done, we needed a bipartisan effort. My friend Senator HEINRICH from New Mexico and I teamed up to successfully include a delay of the Cadillac tax in the omnibus bill at the end of last year. Rest assured, I will continue to fight for a full repeal in the next Congress.

This week, we were able to pass the 21st Century Cures Act, which has a 2-year process to work in a bipartisan way to advance medical research and clear out government redtape at the Food and Drug Administration. I was very pleased two of my bills that focus on mental health and protecting seniors' Medicare benefits were included in this health care package.

First, my bill, Bringing Postpartum Depression Out of the Shadows Act, was included in the mental health title of the bill. After working with mental health care providers in my home State, I learned that Nevadans lack access to the appropriate treatment, screenings, and community support needed to provide effective care for new mothers struggling with postpartum depression.

I worked with Senator GILLIBRAND and HELP Committee Chairman ALEXANDER on this important piece of legislation, which builds upon existing State and local efforts by providing targeted Federal grants to assist States in developing programs to better screen and treat maternal depression.

Another bill we were able to pass as part of the Cures Act was my legislation, the Medicare Advantage Coverage

Transparency Act. This legislation requires more transparency of the Medicare Advantage and prescription drug benefits enjoyed by seniors throughout the State.

It will also ensure that these benefits continue to provide meaningful coverage to seniors and will help us protect important health care benefits for current and future retirees.

More than 30 percent of Nevada's seniors enjoy their Medicare Advantage benefits, and enrollment continues to grow in my State. Successfully passing a number of health care bills will surely set the tone early next year when the united Republican government finally repeals ObamaCare.

I am optimistic that with a willing partner in the White House, we can build on these successes. I plan on using my role on the Senate Finance Committee; Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee; and the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs to tackle the challenges facing Nevadans across the State.

I know we will do everything in our power to protect our constituents' access to care as we transition out of ObamaCare and into a new era of a 21st century care system that works for patients.

I know we will honor our veterans by improving the quality of care and benefits they have earned.

We will invest in roads, bridges, clean water, a modern and reliable electricity grid, telecommunications, and other pressing domestic infrastructure needs.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the U.S. Senate on these important priorities in the coming year.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3394

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I will take just a few minutes. I rise to call up for consideration H.R. 3394, the CAPTIVE Act. I have long advocated for the Senate to pass the CAPTIVE Act, which passed the House by unanimous consent in July.

In 2003, a group of Department of Defense contractors were on a counter-narcotics mission in Colombia when their plane crash-landed. These Americans were captured by members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which we know as FARC, which is a violent guerrilla group that is heavily involved in drug trafficking.

My fellow Alabamian Thomas J. Janis, the pilot of the plane, tragically lost his life at the hands of these terrorists on February 13, 2003. The three other Americans abroad the flight were kidnapped, held hostage, and tortured for more than 5 years until they were finally rescued by the Colombia military. These heroes are now seeking justice for themselves and their families against those who carried out unthinkable acts of violence.

The CAPTIVE Act is simple. It would make it easier for all U.S. victims of terrorism to recover court-awarded damages. I believe that the family of Tom Janis and all of the victims of terror deserve nothing less than for the Senate to swiftly pass the CAPTIVE Act. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting that.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3394, which was received from the House; I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Is there objection?

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I share Senator SHELBY's and other colleagues' strong desire to ensure that this small group of Americans who suffered such violence at the hands of FARC is compensated for their ordeal. Earlier this week, at the behest of Senator NELSON and others, I met with some of those former hostages. I heard of their suffering firsthand. I have read about it. I have talked to them. I cannot imagine what they went through. While the victims have already received a portion of the compensation awarded them by Federal courts—around \$16 million so far—out of a total of \$318 million awarded, they still have a long way to go.

The administration, including the Treasury Department, which overseas our efforts to combat the narcotics trafficking that is having such a devastating impact on our country and others around the world, has expressed serious concerns that the CAPTIVE Act would undermine our successful anti-narcotics efforts.

I want to help these victims. It is terrible what happened to them. They were trying to serve our country—they were serving our country when this happened. But I have serious concerns about this legislation written in this way, how it would undermine successful anti-narcotics efforts.

Since the administration's concerns and the risk to our anti-narcotics efforts have not been addressed—and I think we can address them, I hope early in January once we have coordinated and gotten this information in a way to present it back to Congress in

another piece of legislation that preserves these anti-narcotics efforts and at the same time fulfills our commitment to compensation. But because of all of that, I must object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WRDA

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I rise to share a few thoughts on the Water Resources Development Act, or, as it is referred to, the WRDA Act. This is a bill which has a tremendous number of water projects across America that in general will work to make many communities' economies work far better. These are widely distributed across the country, and they are widely needed. It was worked out through a tremendous amount of effort on the Senate side and on the House side. There are certainly projects there I have fought for that will be of assistance on the Columbia River and to the tribes who were affected by the dams on the Columbia River and on the WIFIA, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act—a vision I have been working on for years to put in place.

All of that is very good, but I have real concerns about a provision that was airdropped into the conference. This is not just a little one-sentence rider; this is 90 pages called the California Drought Act.

Picture the big vision here. For years, the Central Valley of California has been a massive consumer of water for agriculture. We have had years of drought. During those years that the Central Valley was a massive consumer of water, they planted a lot of crops that consume a lot of water. Crops like almonds—it takes a gallon of water for every almond. There are crops like rice, where you have to flood the paddies of rice and there is massive loss to evaporation. But the agricultural community there wants to continue growing the same crops even throughout the drought, and so they are looking for ways to pull more water out of the Northern California rivers and ship it to the Central Valley.

Why is this a concern? This is a concern because these rivers in the northern part of the State are key rivers for salmon. If you drain these rivers to fulfill the water needs of the Central Valley, you will do enormous harm to the salmon and to the salmon fishermen.

When salmon go downstream and head out to sea for 5 or 6 years, they

swim north. They have a huge impact and role to play off the Oregon coast and off the Washington coast. That is why during the course of this debate you have seen two Senators from Washington State, MARIA CANTWELL and PATTY MURRAY, talk about how concerned they are and why you have seen my colleague from Oregon, RON WYDEN, talk about how concerned he is—because we have at play here a battle between the salmon fishermen and that industry and its iconic species and all it provides to the Northwest and the agricultural growers of the Central Valley.

It isn't as if the growers in the Central Valley haven't benefited from taking water from north California—from the northern rivers; they have been doing it for decades. They have been increasing the amount of water for decades. Now they are asking to use this drought, through this California drought bill, to give them authority to take even more water despite a negative impact on the salmon.

That is why I am troubled, and there are some key provisions that I thought are worth talking about specifically because some folks have come to this floor and said: Don't worry, be happy. Nothing in here is going to change the provisions and applications of the biological opinions that control how we make sure we sustain a healthy environment for the fish. Others have come and said: Don't worry, there is nothing that changes the application of the Endangered Species Act. But unfortunately that is just not accurate. I thought I would give some insight into how this works.

Section 4001 in the bill provides an opportunity to bypass biological opinions by setting up a pilot project and then studying the outcome of the pilot project. It uses the pilot project as a way to do an end run around the biological opinions and the Endangered Species Act.

Just to share a little bit of the language, quoting directly from the bill, "[T]he California Department of Water Resources . . . [will] implement a pilot project to test and evaluate the ability to operate the Delta cross-channel gates daily or as otherwise may be appropriate to keep them open to the greatest extent practicable . . . and maximize Central Valley Project and State Water Project pumping."

Here is the thing. What you have is a river coming down, and salmon that are coming back from the ocean swim up that river in order to spawn. But along the way are these gates that control water that can move into the delta toward the Central Valley. If those gates are opened, the salmon, instead of going upstream to spawn, get diverted, and it has a big impact on the species, so those gates are kept closed in order to protect the success of the spawning salmon.

This basically says: Do a pilot project and open the gates. Then it proceeds to say that what we will do about that is to collect data on its impact. I will quote again:

[W]ith respect to the operation of the Delta cross-channel gates described in (1), collect data on the impact of that operation on . . . species listed as threatened or endangered.

So it is a direct impact on the Endangered Species Act. It gives permission through this so-called pilot project to open the gates and then to collect data on how much harm it does to the fish. That is very unlike the information that has been presented by some on this floor.

Here is another provision within the 4001 section. It instructs adoption of "a 1:1 inflow to export ratio for the increment of increased flow," and it gives a bunch of details about that, and it says this must happen "unless the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Commerce determine in writing that a 1:1 inflow to export ratio for that increment of increased flow will cause additional adverse effects."

It doesn't say you can do this 1:1 flow unless it causes adverse effects; it says you can't do this 1:1 flow unless the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Commerce say it will cause bad effects. So essentially here is another end run around the biological opinion and around the Endangered Species Act by just giving the Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of the Interior of the incoming administration the power to just let this water be diverted unless they act. That is not something that can be challenged in court because there is no standard being applied for violating the biological opinion, no standard being applied for violating the Endangered Species Act, except the opinion of the Secretary of the Interior and the opinion of the Secretary of Commerce.

Those two things are in section 4001. Let's turn to section 4002.

Section 4002 says essentially there is a range at which a biological opinion allows you to drain a river. When you normally think of water being taken out of a river, you picture the river flowing down, and maybe there is a place where some of that water is pulled out of the river, but the rest of the river keeps flowing on down. But in this case, the amount of water taken out is called a negative flow because it actually ends the river. It pulls the water back. That is very dramatic.

This bill has specific instructions, and in that range of possibilities that might be considered within a biological opinion, they are instructed to pump at the maximum rate, a rate that will not be less negative "than the most negative reverse flow"—I am reading from this bill—"the most negative reverse flow rate prescribed by the . . . biological opinion."

So they are instructed specifically not to find the right space within the judgment of the scientists and the biological opinion, but if there has been an estimate—as it could be from here to here—to take the very maximum rate, and this rate is so high that it causes this negative flow of water, which is why they talk about rivers running backward to feed water to the Central Valley.

So that is a precise instruction that changes the normal application and work of scientists who are evaluating the effect, under all the various conditions, of how much water to pull out, and so it very much affects the biological opinion and very much affects the Endangered Species Act.

There is a way that this can be overriden recent, but not by challenging it in court—the only way it can be overriden is if the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce shall document in writing that it is going to go have a very bad impact. So, again, this is giving no recourse to those who see enormous damage to the fish because they have no power. All the power is given to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce.

Let's go to another section, 4003. The language itself essentially says that the Central Valley projects and the State water projects should take the absolute maximum flow rate that is allowed and then go beyond that.

In section 4002, it was like: Here is the range. Take the top end of the range. Don't use your scientific judgment about where you should really be to protect the fish and the salmon industry. This one says: Here is the range from here to here, but you have to go further, take even more. This is almost unbelievable. I have never seen anything like it.

I will quote: "authorize the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, combined, to operate at levels that result in OMR flows more negative than the most negative reverse flow rate prescribed by the . . . biological opinion."

So when some of my colleagues have come to this floor and said this doesn't affect the biological opinion a bit, yes it does. It says it in plain language. Here is the opinion; you have to be between here and here. And the law, if passed, if adopted, says: No, no, no. Go further, go beyond the range of the biological opinion.

This language is unambiguously inconsistent with the requirements of the biological opinion. It just says in plain, straight language: Ignore it. Go beyond it.

It also says that these transfers through delta water for the State water project can occur even if they violate the 1992 Central Valley Improvement Act—even if they violate it.

So what is in that section (a)(1)(H) of the Central Valley Improvement Act

that can be violated? I pulled up that language. Let's just check this out. It refers to contractual obligations or fish and wildlife obligations under this title.

So, in other words, this bill says you can ignore the obligations related to fish and wildlife. So, once again, we see a provision aimed at ignoring the impact upon fish or upon wildlife and authorizing the raiding of water from Northern California for more almonds in the Central Valley.

Now, 20,000 people work in the salmon industry, and a huge part of this are the salmon that come out of these streams—streams that are already compromised. So the reason there is such a profound objection from Senator BOXER of California, from Senator MURRAY of Washington, from Senator CANTWELL of Washington, from Senator WYDEN of Oregon, and from me is that this is a blueprint for running over the top of carefully crafted biological opinions designed to prevent the extinction of key species. In this case, it is not just the extinction. It is also a key commercial enterprise—the salmon industry.

So I am offended that this overrun of the salmon, this permission slip to drain the rivers of the north to feed the Central Valley, is being presented as having no impact on the biological opinions for the Endangered Species Act. It is a full-fledged bulldozer running over the top of the poor protections for the salmon.

This is a terrible precedent for Congress because each time an industry is threatened, there will be those who will point to this precedent and say: Look, when the almond farmers were threatened because they didn't have enough water in the Central Valley, we gave them permission to destroy the salmon. So when something else is threatened, let's give permission to run over some other aspect of the Endangered Species Act or some other aspect of the biological opinion. This is an unacceptable precedent for anyone who cares about the balance between our commerce and the diversity of species in our States and other competing industries. This is not just almonds against the survival of a species; it is almonds against 20,000 fishermen who depend upon the salmon runs that will be so grievously impacted by this bill.

So I encourage folks to read it. Read the fact that it lays out specific instructions that require the maximizing of water beyond the highest levels already existing within a biological opinion. This is wrong.

I will be opposing closing debate on this bill because this air-dropped provision did not go through the House side, and it did not go through the Senate side. It sets a precedent that should be fully debated in committee. The American people should have a chance to respond and know about this air-dropped

provision—an attack on the Pacific salmon—before this Chamber votes on this bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE 114TH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the day after the election I said that we had two main priorities for this postelection session of the Senate: Pass the 21st Century Cures bill and fund the government.

We passed the Cures bill already, and we will be voting shortly to keep the government running. Soon after that vote, we will pass the bipartisan water resources bill, which directs assistance to families in Flint and supports important waterways projects in nearly every one of our States. It is testament to the hard work of so many and Chairman INHOFE, in particular.

Under the leadership of Chairman MCCAIN, this week we also passed the Defense authorization conference report, which addresses many of the national security challenges facing our country. I would also like to point out that the Cures bill, which passed earlier this week, simply would not have happened without Chairman LAMAR ALEXANDER. And it is impossible to overlook the unending, unyielding work of Senator MURKOWSKI on the Energy bill, as well, or our indispensable Finance Committee chairman, Senator HATCH, who has been involved in almost every bill from the doc fix to the tax extenders that come through this Chamber.

I would like to note the great work of the Appropriations Committee, specifically for its efforts to ensure that individual bills and an omnibus were prepared for consideration. We know they have been putting in long hours, especially this week, and for that we are certainly thankful.

This Congress, the Senate has passed nearly 300 bills, and nearly 200 of those are now law. But what really matters isn't the number of bills passed; it is what we can achieve on behalf of the American people, and by that standard, I am incredibly proud of what we have been able to accomplish for our country.

Over the past week I have had the opportunity to pay tribute to many colleagues who have made such a lasting impact on the Senate during their tenure. But as the 114th Congress comes to a close, I would like to take a moment to recognize another set of individuals whose work makes the business of the Senate possible in the first place.

It goes without saying that keeping the Capitol running is a vast undertaking. It requires a passion for service, round-the-clock work, and great sacrifice by everyone employed. The legislative process simply wouldn't be possible without the dedicated work of so many. On behalf of the Senate, I would like to acknowledge their efforts and say thank you to the following:

To my leadership team for their wise counsel; to our committee chairs and ranking members for so much great work over the past 2 years; to the many, many colleagues in both parties for working so hard to make this Senate a success; and, to those we are saying farewell to—Senators COATS, BOXER, MIKULSKI, REID, VITTER, KIRK, and AYOTTE—for your service to our country, I say thank you.

To my chiefs of staff, Sharon Soderstrom and Brian McGuire, for their indisputable talent and for leading a team that is second to none, every member of which I would thank individually if I could, I say thank you.

To the floor staff, Laura Dove and Gary Myrick and their teams, for keeping the floor running, for running it smoothly, and for making it look effortless every single time—even though we know it is anything but; to the Parliamentarians and clerks who sit on the dais whenever the Senate is in session, making sure our operations are smooth and by the book; to the Secretary of the Senate and her team for protecting the rich history of this body and for overseeing so many different legislative and administrative operations, I say thank you to all of these folks.

Off the Senate floor there are so many more to thank too: the Capitol Police, for putting themselves in harm's way to protect everyone who works in or visits this institution; the Sergeant at Arms staff for overseeing a dizzying range of efforts—from setting up rooms and enacting security protocols to preparing for next year's inauguration; the Architect of the Capitol staff, which is always hard at work making the Capitol the best it can be—from the conservation of these illustrious hallways to the extensive restoration of the Capitol dome; and to literally countless others: the doorkeepers, the legal counsels, the committees and their staff, the pages, and all those whom I have not mentioned, we appreciate what you do. Please know that your service and your dedication does not go unnoticed.

Let me also again recognize the Democratic leader for his more than three decades of service. As I said yesterday, HARRY and I clearly have had some different views on many things throughout the years, but we have shared similar responsibilities as the leaders of our respective parties, and I think we can both agree that none of this would have been possible without

the support of our staff. I want to recognize HARRY's team, past and present, and thank them for many years of partnership with my office.

We now turn the page on one Congress and get ready to write a new story in a different one.

I am proud of the work this Republican-led Senate has done the past 2 years. My colleagues should be proud of their work as well. It has been incredible to see what we have been able to achieve already. We know our work doesn't end here, though, and I know each of us is eager to get started in the 115th Congress. For now, I want to thank my colleagues for a productive Congress, and I want to wish each of you a happy holiday season and a happy New Year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise for a final time as the vice chair of the Appropriations Committee. Tonight, as we get ready to vote, these will be the last votes I will cast in the U.S. Senate. The ones we do today and possibly tomorrow will write my final chapter as a voting Member of the U.S. Senate.

I am very proud to be the first woman and the first Marylander to chair the Appropriations Committee. I am going to thank my fellow members of the Appropriations Committee and especially Chairman COCHRAN, who has been my friend and ally on moving these bills forward.

I wish to also express a special thanks to my colleague and partner on the Commerce-Justice Subcommittee, Chairman RICHARD SHELBY, for his steadfast advocacy for the important needs facing this country.

The Appropriations Committee is a problem-solving committee. Our markups are vigorous and rigorous, but at the end of the day, we do try to find compromise without capitulating on our principles. That is why I wish I was standing here today presenting the Senate with a full-year funding bill instead of a temporary bill through April 28.

Throughout the year, I have come to the floor seeking additional funding for fighting heroin and opioid abuse, helping the people of Flint, MI, and also dealing with the Zika response treatment. I am happy to report to my colleagues the Zika bill did pass in September, and this continuing resolution would have done all three.

This bill includes important needs for our country. First of all, it meets our national security needs. There is funding in here for our troops overseas and money to enhance humanitarian relief and also very crucial needs related to embassy security. There are also other needs facing the people, and this goes to the disaster relief for victims of floods and Hurricane Matthew. While we are looking at the disasters of

floods and hurricanes, there is also help for Flint, MI—\$170 million, subject to authorization.

We also looked at the other challenges facing our communities. One of the things we see is the big challenge of opioid abuse. I have heard it in my State and from my Republican Governor. I know the Presiding Officer has heard it in the great State of Iowa, and this terrible scourge and challenge knows no party, nor any geography, and we have an important downpayment in fighting that with \$500 million.

Also in the Cures Act, there is money to deal with the dreaded “c” word, cancer. With the advocacy of the Vice President and again working across the aisle and across the dome, we have come up with something called the Cancer Moonshot. In other words, if we could send someone to the Moon and return them safely, as our beloved John Glenn pioneered, then we can also have a Moonshot to find a cure for cancer. I am so pleased that as we wrap up our time here that that is there, although I am disappointed the funding for Flint is subject to authorization in the Water Resources Development Act and that the extension of the miners’ health benefit lasts only through April 30. I believe promises made should be promises kept, and the miners deserve permanent extension of these benefits. I also support Senator MANCHIN’s efforts on his behalf.

I am disappointed our Republican colleagues wrote the CR behind closed doors and that we began to have to fight between coal miners versus Flint, MI, and others, pitting one group against another. I hope we can have a different approach in the next Congress. I will not be here, but I am here now as we try to finish this work.

We hear a lot of Washington words, words that people don’t understand—CR, stopgap, shutdown. I want to talk about what appropriations are, not in the technical bills but saying that we fund government doesn’t mean anything. It means that we tried to find solutions, we tried to make sure we stood up for national security, that we promoted economic growth, and that we met compelling human needs and invested in what we as a nation value.

This appropriations bill does pay for our troops in the field and the people back home to make sure they have the equipment and supplies they need to do their job. It also supports diplomacy, our Foreign Service Officers, and also our foreign aid to make sure we meet compelling human needs in our own country and around the world.

It does fund the Homeland Security, while at the same time looking out for our Coast Guard, clearing the ice and keeping our ports open. It is the FBI, and here we make a downpayment on the new, much needed FBI facility to meet the new changes they have—fighting domestic terrorism and cyber security.

We all want to put people back to work. That is why the Appropriations Committee does make investments in transportation because we know transportation not only moves goods and cargo, but it provides good jobs today: airports, seaports, roads, bridges, transit, and rail.

To develop new ideas, we need to continue to lead the way. That is why we have made major efforts in innovation: in energy, agriculture, weather, climate, and astronomy. I am not going to sound like an accountant. I am ready to give an accounting to the people of Maryland, to this Nation about how we are spending their money. We want to spend the money to give the people of Flint safe drinking water, give people treatment to kick their prescription drug habit, to find cures for disease from cancer, Alzheimer’s, and I am proud of the resources we provide to make our communities better and safer.

I am proud of my service as the Democratic leader of the Appropriations Committee. I am proud to have worked with my colleagues. I have the best subcommittee chairs or rankings that anyone could have. We have an excellent staff, and we have all tried to work together.

Today, as I bring this bill—the continuing resolution before the Senate—I say to you, I ask you to vote for the continuing resolution. It has parity for defense and nondefense. It doesn’t have poison pill riders, and it has additional money for Flint, heroin, and opioid abuse. This continuing resolution accomplishes the goals we set out for this year. I am sorry that it only funds the government to April.

This is my last set of votes. I hope you vote for the continuing resolution, and I hope in March, with the good work of Senator LEAHY, who will then be the Democratic vice chair of the Appropriations Committee, working with Senator COCHRAN, who is so able and so skilled and yet such a man of principle, you will be able to arrive at a full-year funding for the Appropriations Committee.

I do hope in the next Congress we do return to regular order. This committee is capable of it if the Senate is capable of it. In other battles, I have always said to my colleagues, and you know this when I have said to the women of the Senate: Let’s put our lipstick on, square our shoulders, and get out there and fight.

As we get here to vote on this continuing resolution, my final sets of votes, I want the people of Maryland to know and the people of America to know, I have my lipstick on, my shoulders are squared, and I am ready to get out there and vote, and although this will be my last fight in the U.S. Senate, it will not be my last fight to help America be the great country it is.

God bless you, God bless this honorable body, and God bless the United States of America.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I yield back time on our side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the time is yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to Calendar No. 96, H.R. 2028, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Roger F. Wicker, Orrin G. Hatch, Johnny Isakson, John Cornyn, Thad Cochran, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Bill Cassidy, John Hoeven, John Barrasso, Thom Tillis, John Boozman, John Thune, Daniel Coats, Marco Rubio, Roy Blunt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2028 shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 61, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 160 Leg.]

YEAS—61

Alexander	Enzi	Moran
Ayotte	Ernst	Murkowski
Baldwin	Feinstein	Murray
Barrasso	Fischer	Nelson
Bennet	Flake	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Peters
Boozman	Grassley	Reed
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Cardin	Heinrich	Roberts
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rounds
Coats	Inhofe	Rubio
Cochran	Isakson	Scott
Collins	Johnson	Sessions
Corker	King	Shaheen
Cornyn	Kirk	Shelby
Crapo	Leahy	Stabenow
Daines	McConnell	Sullivan
Donnelly	Mikulski	Tester

Thune
Tillis
Toomey

Udall
Vitter
Whitehouse

Wicker

NAYS—38

Blumenthal
Booker
Boxer
Brown
Cantwell
Capito
Carper
Casey
Coons
Cruz
Durbin
Franken
Gillibrand

Graham
Heitkamp
Heller
Hirono
Kaine
Klobuchar
Lankford
Lee
Manchin
Markey
McCain
McCaskill
Menendez

Merkley
Murphy
Paul
Portman
Reid
Sanders
Sasse
Schatz
Schumer
Warner
Warren
Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Cotton

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 61, the nays are 38.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Cloture having been invoked, the motion to refer falls.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 5139

WITHDRAWN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the motion to concur with further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that there now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided before a vote on adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, what we are doing here is we are cutting defense spending, we are increasing nondefense spending, and we are locking in the legitimacy of the nondefense spending according to the Budget Control Act. So what we are doing by passing a continuing resolution is putting in sequestration again, while even reducing defense spending.

In the words of the four uniformed chiefs of our military, you are—and I quote them directly—“putting the lives of the men and women serving this Nation in uniform at greater risk”—at greater risk. You are putting the lives of the men and women who are serving in the military at greater risk because we want to get out of here for Christmas. Shame on you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. For tonight's schedule, we hope to have the WRDA vote around midnight, and we will seek to get a limited time agreement during the vote that is about to occur.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the motion to concur in the House

amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2028.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 63, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 161 Leg.]

YEAS—63

Alexander
Ayotte
Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blumenthal
Blunt
Boozman
Burr
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Cassidy
Coats
Cochran
Collins
Cornyn
Daines
Donnelly
Enzi
Ernst

Feinstein
Fischer
Gardner
Grassley
Hatch
Heinrich
Hoeven
Inhofe
Isakson
Johnson
Kaine
King
Kirk
Klobuchar
Markey
McConnell
Mikulski
Moran
Murkowski
Murphy
Murray

Nelson
Peters
Portman
Reed
Roberts
Rounds
Rubio
Scott
Sessions
Shaheen
Shelby
Stabenow
Sullivan
Tester
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Udall
Vitter
Whitehouse
Wicker

NAYS—36

Booker
Boxer
Brown
Carper
Casey
Coons
Corker
Crapo
Cruz
Durbin
Flake
Franken

Gillibrand
Graham
Heitkamp
Heller
Hirono
Lankford
Leahy
Lee
Manchin
McCain
McCaskill
Menendez

Merkley
Paul
Perdue
Reid
Risch
Sanders
Sasse
Schatz
Schumer
Warner
Warren
Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Cotton

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. For the information of all colleagues, I think we are headed toward completion here. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that there now be 80 minutes of debate on the House message to accompany S. 612; that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the cloture motion with respect to the House message. I further ask that if cloture is invoked, all time postcloture be considered expired, the motion to concur with further amendment then be withdrawn, and the Senate vote on the motion to concur in the House amendment. I further ask that following adoption of the House message, H. Con. Res. 183 be considered and

agreed to. Further, I ask that 60 minutes be under the control of Senator BOXER or her designee and that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Reserving the right to object, I am not going to object, but you said 80 minutes. Who has the other—the reason I am asking is, I didn't know if I needed to yield time to the other side, which I prefer not to since you have your own time, right? That is fine with me.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I modify that to designate 20 minutes under the control of Senator INHOFE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Let me say that hopefully the 80 minutes will not be used. Hopefully, much of it will be yielded back. A lot has already been said. The night is late, but if all the time is used, it is going to occur around 12:30 a.m.

GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany S. 612, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany S. 612, a bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse.”

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill.

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with McConnell amendment No. 5144, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5145 (to amendment No. 5144), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 5146, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5147 (the instructions (amendment No. 5146) of the motion to refer), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 5148 (to amendment No. 5147), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I want to say to my friends, this is my last moment on the floor of the U.S. Senate. I already gave my farewell, and I thought that was the end of it. I find myself filibustering my own bill, which is really a bizarre way to end my career here. As I said, I always came in defending the environment, and I guess I will go out the door in the same way. I feel that this is something I have to do.

The Water Resources Development Act is a beautiful bill. We are going to be voting on it. But, very sadly, at the last minute, a midnight rider was added in the House by KEVIN MCCARTHY, which essentially, according to every fishing group in my State—and I mean every single fishing group and every single fishing group on the west coast, and that covers Oregon, Washington, California—is a major threat to their livelihood, to their future.

As everybody talks about the message of this election being the protection of hard-working people, here we have a rider that is slipped in. No one even saw it but 2 hours before, and it turns out that the water the fishermen need to have a thriving business is going to be diverted away from them and done in such a way that it goes against the Endangered Species Act.

You will hear people stand up and say: No, it is not true. There is a savings clause; we say no way. The fact is, when you dictate what kind of operations you are going to have in terms of moving water and you say you shall move this water and the other side has to prove it is dangerous, everybody knows where this is going. Everybody knows it is going to be impossible to save the salmon.

Here we have the salmon fisheries on the west coast up in arms. Here we have a rider that doesn't even belong in the Environment and Public Works Committee. It should have been discussed with the Energy Committee. It is out of order.

The question is, Are we going to vote for a beautiful bill? I just said today that I got more things in here for California than I probably should even talk about because I got so much. There are 26 different provisions for my State, from Lake Tahoe to the Salton Sea, from the L.A. River to the Sacramento Flood Control, to Orange County, to the Inland Empire.

The entire State benefits from this bill, and here I stand saying to vote no, but it is because I think we have no right to put this kind of language in at the last minute and destroy an entire industry. It is not right.

In addition, this particular rider takes away the right of Congress to authorize dams in all of the Western States. So, people, understand what this does. KEVIN MCCARTHY, I guess, doesn't trust the Members of Congress to authorize new dams and says the President—whoever it is because this bill lasts 5 years—can determine where to put a dam. I don't get it. Don't we trust each other to hold hearings and decide these issues?

This is what the rider does; it is devastating to the fishery. Every environmental group that I know of is strongly against it. This vote is being rated by the League of Conservation Voters, and there are chills running up and down the spine of the fishing industry.

I have never seen so many editorials against any rider. They have asked me: Please, please bring this down.

I am not naive, and I know votes. I know how cynical this whole thing is. Here we have a rider that does not belong on this bill. The jurisdiction was the Energy Committee. They weren't consulted. This rider never had a hearing, never saw the light of day, and was stuck on a bill that I have worked on for about 2 years. It is a beautiful bill, a terrible rider.

For me to stand here, in the last breath as a Senator—not in life, I feel very strong, but as a Senator—to say to people that I worked so hard on this bill with Senator INHOFE, it is a beautiful bill; vote no on cloture. It is almost like an out-of-body experience for me, but still, I am asking you to do that.

What is going to happen next year? What are they going to hold hostage next year? The people of Flint? No one worked harder for the people of Flint than MARIA CANTWELL and BARBARA BOXER. We held up our bills until they were taken care of.

We have a beautiful WRDA bill. It is not perfect, I admit it, but it is excellent. It will create a lot of jobs, and it will make sure that our water infrastructure is up to date. It has ecosystem restoration. By the way, it has a lot of drought-related, important authorizations for desalination, water recharging, water recycling, high technology to bring more water to really take care of the drought. It has it in the base bill. All of that is in the base bill.

And in the dead of night comes a midnight rider, and there it sits. It is wrong. It is absolutely wrong.

It is very late. We are all very tired. I am very grateful that MARIA CANTWELL and I, JEFF MERKLEY and RON WYDEN were able to have some time earlier in the day to present the facts, but we wanted to go over it one more time. I know Senator CANTWELL has laryngitis and is struggling with her voice, but at this time I would like to yield to her as much time as she might consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, as my colleague said, I definitely have a voice challenge so I am not going to speak long. I do want to join my colleague in urging Members of the Senate to vote no on this legislation.

As she just described, it is a bill that has some great attributes, but it has one major fatal flaw, and that fatal flaw is that the U.S. Senate is being asked tonight to negotiate and decide a water settlement for the State of California that has been fought over, litigated, and is still in discussion of how to resolve it in a balanced way among all of the interests, not just in California but in the region. Oh, no, be-

cause someone has a mighty pen and can in the House of Representatives drop an earmark of over half a billion dollars into a bill as a poison pill—I think the newspapers had it right: Stop the midnight rider. How ironic that it is almost midnight, and we are going to be voting on such legislation.

My colleagues who bring us decided-upon water agreements that have been worked out and want us to bless them so that the agencies can fund them—I have no problems with that. We have tried to move similar legislation in regular order, but this is usurping the individuals who are trying to balance water and fish and river rights and community issues and regional issues and saying that we are going to kill fish as a way to balance the water and drought of the future. If we are going to decide to kill fish tonight for California, for Delta almond growers, are you going to show up tomorrow and say let's kill northwest salmon because someone else in California wants our water? I can tell you the answer to that is hell no; we are not going to let you attack northwest salmon for California water. It is not going to happen.

To our colleagues who are facing the same issue in Arizona, which didn't get a fair hearing, or our colleagues from Florida, Alabama, or in a dispute with Georgia, tonight is about whether you are going to say we are going to have collaborative stewardship to solve our water issues or whether we are going to let the interest of political groups come and lobby here and have us decide based on poison pill riders.

Our colleagues over here are frustrated that the other side of the aisle would never live up to a Flint agreement, and the consequence is they are cynical enough to put Flint in this bill as a way to get votes for something they know they should not bring to the floor of the U.S. Senate. And to boot, they think the only bill I could come up with to get this deal passed is one in which individual Members have individual projects that are important to clean water in their States, and that is how they are going to get this poison pill rider passed.

It is no surprise that within 24 hours of this passing the House, the L.A. Times editorialized it as a bad deal. The San Jose Mercury News calls it a sellout. The San Francisco Chronicle says stop the rider. Do not think for 1 second that people are not watching because they are watching. The unfortunate situation for everyone involved who wants water is this. You are going to get litigation. You are going to get litigation because you cannot do water deals this way.

For the San Joaquin, which argued and litigated for 18 years and then came to the table, this is the same situation. You are not going to get water for your growers, you are going to get litigation. As a country that has already spent billions of dollars dealing

with drought—and I have news for you, we are going to be spending more because the climate is going to continue to change. This is an issue whose day has come to the United States Senate. It is not going to go away.

We can deal with it in regular order, we can deal with it without jamming people with earmarks, and we can deal with it without giving away a sweetheart deal to the builders of dams. Oh, yes. I forgot to mention, the bill authorizes dams to be built in 17 States without any further action by us as a body. I hope you don't have a river in your State where you would like to see the wild and scenic nature of it or go trout fishing because it may not be there if it is all dammed up due to this legislation.

I hope our colleagues realize the way to solve our drought problems is to work together in a fair and open manner, a manner in which everyone can see the transparency and not the dark of night at midnight right before we adjourn for the rest of the year. We will not solve these problems nor will we provide the collaborative stewardship this issue needs. Instead, we are going to put a cynical stamp of a political gamesmanship on an issue that is important to every community in the West.

I thank the Presiding Officer and the Senator from California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, how much time do we have remaining on our inside?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 45 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I call on Senator MERKLEY for as much time as he wishes.

Before MARIA CANTWELL leaves the floor, who is suffering mightily from laryngitis, I have another editorial hot off the press from the Los Angeles Times: "A water deal that's bad for California's environment." I can't tell you how proud this makes me because this means, essentially, every major paper in my State that has really stayed out of this is going in. This is a very long editorial. I will save my comments on it until later.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have the Los Angeles Times editorial printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[Dec. 9, 2016]

A WATER DEAL THAT'S BAD FOR CALIFORNIA'S ENVIRONMENT

(By the LA Times Editorial Board)

There is much for Southern Californians to like in departing U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer's final bill—to authorize federal water projects—including funding to restore the Los Angeles River and to pay for various water storage and groundwater efforts.

And then there are the provisions Boxer's colleague and fellow California Democrat,

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, negotiated with Republicans and their supporters in San Joaquin Valley's agriculture industry to squeeze more usable water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for farmers in drought years.

At issue in the delta and the rivers that feed it are the rules that govern when and how much water can be diverted for farms and homes instead of being allowed to keep flowing through rivers and into the delta to protect endangered salmon.

California's two senators have long approached water issues from different angles but generally managed to agree. Not this time. When Feinstein and Republicans inserted their provisions in Boxer's bill late last week, Boxer threatened to scuttle the whole package. She said the delta provisions would undermine the Endangered Species Act and could irreparably damage the state's salmon and the thousands of jobs that depend on the Pacific salmon fishery, not just off California's coast, but off Oregon's and Washington's as well.

Environmentalists have balked at the Feinstein proposal, just as they opposed a drought bill she proposed earlier this year. That measure also was aimed at making delta rules more flexible to keep water flowing to farms during periods in which it arguably wasn't needed for fish. Notwithstanding the concerns, that bill was a prudent compromise and might have been acceptable had it been an end-point—part of a grand bargain between the various factions to end the long-running California water wars.

So the question now is whether the new provisions that Feinstein has brokered with Republicans are appreciably different from her earlier version, or whether circumstances have changed enough to warrant endangering the entire bill and all the funding it allocates to badly needed water projects.

Circumstances certainly changed with the election of Donald Trump and the climate-change-denying, environmentally challenged cabinet members he is considering or has already appointed. Although the bill's rules governing when delta pumps can operate and how water must be managed are technical and subject to interpretation, they grant Trump's secretaries of Commerce and Interior an important role in determining when to divert less and leave more for endangered fish and the environment. That sort of discretion might have been tolerable if entrusted to cabinet members of an environmentally responsible administration, but it must be seen in a different light with a White House with a decidedly different approach to the environment.

An internal memo from the current White House also notes that since Feinstein's earlier bill, populations of endangered salmon and smelt have significantly declined. Even the current program of scientific findings may be insufficient to protect the fish as required under the Endangered Species Act.

The regrettable conclusion must be that the so-called drought provisions are unacceptable. The proposed drought-year legislation would appear to be directly at odds with current, laudable efforts by the State Water Resources Control Board to ensure the presence of enough water in the lower San Joaquin River—close to the delta pumps—to sustain migrating salmon, which are not merely another fish but integral to California's ecology, culture and history.

All that aside, Feinstein's effort to add some flexibility to delta rules to provide more water for farms and urban areas in

times of drought—despite serious concerns that they could weaken species protection—might still be worth the risk if they were part of a final compact between environmental and agricultural interests on delta water.

But there is still no final compact, no grand bargain, and in fact the recent election has only emboldened Republicans who are targeting the Endangered Species Act. House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield and other members of Congress who represent the San Joaquin Valley have made it clear that they intend to press further to divert more Sacramento and San Joaquin river water to agricultural use rather than letting it flow into the sea to sustain the state's increasingly fragile environment. The drought language, negotiated in private and inserted into Boxer's bill at close to the last minute, would embolden them further if adopted. Let's hope that Kamala Harris, Boxer's successor, has been paying attention and is prepared to stand up for California's increasingly fragile environment.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I yield such time as he may consume to Senator MERKLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, what is at issue here? The core issue is whether we raid the waters of Northern California to provide additional water to the farmers of the Central Valley and in so doing whether we wipe out the salmon which provides jobs for 20,000 fishermen. It is a powerful piece of our economy, a piece of our history, and a piece of our soul. That is what is at issue here—whether we drain these rivers.

It has been said there is nothing in this bill that changes how the biological opinions will be applied or the Endangered Species Act will be applied, and that simply is not the case. I will walk you through the three core provisions that are in this bill.

The first is section 4001. What it does is set up a pilot project, and that pilot project allows circumvention to biological opinions to open up the delta cross-channel gates. What does that mean? It means when the salmon are returning from the ocean to spawn, these gates are kept closed so the salmon do spawn and continue the cycle of life and productivity, but instead this says no and this pilot project will open the gates and then the salmon get diverted from going up the river. They don't spawn, it doesn't continue, and then it says, we will go ahead and study the impact on the salmon. That is measure No. 1 that bypasses the Endangered Species Act.

The second provision, 4002, says the Bill Jones and Harvey Banks Southern Delta Pumping Plants must operate at the very highest level of the spectrum of the biological opinion. The way these biological opinions work is they say we need to operate somewhere between here and here, and then as the scientists observe what is going on, the amount is adjusted. What this section says is, no, we are not going to operate

the normal way, we are going to insist in this bill that you must operate at the highest level, disregarding the scientific information on the impact on the salmon and on the smelt. That is provision No. 2. Then they get to the one that is really the biggest shocker, 4003. This says the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Commerce, through an operations plan, may operate at levels—get this—that result in the Old and Middle River flows more negative than the most negative reverse flow prescribed by biological opinion.

Have you ever heard of negative river flow? What does that mean? It means water doesn't flow downstream. It means so much water is drained that the remaining water in the river kind of flows upstream at the point it is being diverted. This says that in the range that is allowed by the biological opinion, the Secretary of Commerce or Interior can take even more, way outside the ban authorized by biological opinion.

Mrs. BOXER. The Senate is not in order. I can't hear.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in order.

Mr. MERKLEY. This is clearly a provision that goes completely against the normal framework of a biological opinion, and, indeed, that is not the whole part of 4003. It goes on to say that this section shall not affect the biological opinion unless the Secretary of Commerce finds such applicable requirements may be adjusted. It basically says the Secretary of Commerce can violate the biological opinion. How clear can that get? Then it continues even further, and it says: Water transfers exclusively through the State water project are not required to be consistent with section (a)(1)(H) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

Well, of course you are wondering what that part of the act is, and that part of the act is one that says you can't violate the fish and wildlife obligations in the process of pumping water. OK. That is wiped out by this. Clearly, case after case after case, this bill is a raid on the water of Northern California to basically pump it through in violation of biological opinions and in violation of the Endangered Species Act, and it is an assault on 20,000 fishermen and fisherwomen. That is what is wrong with this airdropped provision that never went through the committee in the Senate, and it didn't get to the floor of the Senate. We didn't have it offered as an amendment on the floor and have a vote and debate on this floor. It didn't go through the House. It wasn't debated there. It was airdropped in on a conference committee.

Water is a precious resource, and this pits the salmon industry against the Central Valley farmers and says we are

ruling for one over the other by violating the biological opinions necessary for the salmon and the smelt to survive. That is just wrong.

It says something else. It says the power of this body to authorize dams is being wiped out because no authorization is needed anymore by this body. Now, a colleague came to the floor and said, well, not really because the Senate would still have to provide some funds in an appropriations bill, but we all know how appropriation bills work. They are massive. They come out of conference at the last second. There are little things tucked in there. Taking away the process of an authorization debate on the merits of a dam nullifies the role of this body in implementing smart decisions about whether dams make sense or don't make sense under a particular set of conditions. Some make sense, some don't, and that is why we come through and we have an authorizing discussion. This guts that.

This is a terrible precedent for legislation that will come in the future, and it is terrible at this moment for the damage to the water in these upper rivers that actually flow backward and is authorized by this bill. It is a terrible provision for the salmon that 20,000 fishermen and fisherwomen depend on, and it is a terrible precedent for every other ecological discussion. That is why every major newspaper in California has written an editorial saying: Don't do this. Don't do this, says the Mercury News editorial board. They proceed to say it "would gut environmental protections and have devastating long-term effects on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta's ecosystem." It says this last-minute, closed-door provision "allows maximum pumping of water from the Delta to the Central Valley and eliminates important congressional oversight over building dams . . . dramatically roll back the Endangered Species Act . . . perhaps paving the way for its repeal . . . or gutting." It says: "We're not sure whether the Republican sweep in November means Americans no longer care about clean air and water, but we're about to find out. In the interim, the Senate and if necessary president need to protect the Delta. . . ."

That is what the Mercury said.

The Los Angeles Times editorial says: "A water deal that's bad for California's environment," and it goes on. It says: "The regrettable conclusion must be that the so-called drought provisions are unacceptable." It notes that "the proposed drought-year legislation would appear to be directly at odds with current, laudable efforts by the State Water Resources Control Board to ensure the presence of enough water in the lower San Joaquin River—close to the delta pumps—to sustain migrating salmon, which are not merely another fish but integral to Califor-

nia's ecology, culture, and history" and certainly to Oregon's ecology, culture, and history.

We have the San Francisco Chronicle, which is simply entitled: "Stop . . . water-bill rider." It proceeds to conclude, after a couple of extensive analyses, it says:

Drought and warming temperatures . . . are tipping off mass extinction of the species in the San Francisco Bay and its estuary. We have to work to share water among people, farms and the environment of California—not try to benefit one interest with a midnight rider.

Here we are 15 minutes from midnight. Multiple provisions raid the water, changing the status quo that has been carefully worked out with biological opinions. Multiple newspapers say it is just wrong so let's take a moment and say let's cut this provision out of this bill.

Let's put this bill on hold until it is gotten rid of because it is wrong to have an airdropped provision on a challenge of maintaining a viable salmon industry debated on a midnight rider.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I want to thank the Senator from Oregon very much. He gets it. We are united on this. We hope our colleagues hear our plea that if we can get rid of this rider, we will have a magnificent bill that was worked on by so many: my friend JIM INHOFE, myself, Senator MERKLEY in the committee, Senator FISCHER—a beautiful bill. Why? Because we worked together. The bill had hearings, saw the light of day. Then literally, literally at the last second, a special interest rider was added. I know this was not the work of the Senate. I love my colleagues here. They did not want this done. It was done. Once it was done, we have to make a decision.

You know, before I yield to RON WYDEN, what I want to say is, if you ask people on the street "Why do you give Congress such low marks?" people don't like us here. I personally think this is a noble profession. I am so blessed to have a chance to make life better for people. All of us feel that way. But why don't people really appreciate our work? One of the reasons is they put unrelated matters on at the last second, as MARIA CANTWELL said, simply because they can.

This is a bill which is so wonderful for the country. Now they make it so controversial and so difficult for Members to choose. Look at my situation. I have 26 provisions in here for my State. It is magnificent for my people. But yet and still, this rider threatens the entire fishing industry of my State and thousands of jobs all up and down the west coast.

For people like my friends from Michigan—they know how hard I worked. They know how hard MARIA CANTWELL worked to fix the problem in

Flint, to replace those pipes. Yet it is in this bill. So it makes it even more cynical that such a thing was added at the end and force people to choose between helping the people of Flint and preserving the tens of thousand of fisherman jobs. This is not right. This is ridiculous and not necessary.

If Mr. MCCARTHY is so powerful, why does he just not introduce the bill as freestanding legislation next year and let it go? But, no, it had to be done on this bill. Why? Because he could do it. I tell you, if he reads the newspaper articles and op-eds that are in every paper in my State, from Republican areas, from Democratic areas, he is not that well thought of for this. It was a big mistake.

At this time, I want to yield to my colleague and friend, who, with Senator MERKLEY, has been an outstanding voice protecting the fishing industry in his State and the beauty of his State, RON WYDEN.

Mr. WYDEN. I thank my colleague. I would be happy to yield to our colleague from Oklahoma.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTIONS OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NOS. 114-13, 114-14, AND 114-15

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaties transmitted to the Senate on December 9, 2016, by the President of the United States: The Treaties with the Republic of Kiribati and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia on the Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries, Treaty Document No. 114-13; the Arms Trade Treaty, Treaty Document No. 114-14; and United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-Based Investor-State Arbitration, Treaty Document No. 114-15. I further ask that the treaties be considered as having been read the first time; that they be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's messages be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The messages of the President are as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to their ratification, two bilateral maritime boundary treaties: the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kiribati on the Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries, signed at Majuro on September 6, 2013; and the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia on the Delimitation of a Mari-

time Boundary, signed at Koror on August 1, 2014. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the treaties.

The purpose of the treaties is to establish our maritime boundaries in the South Pacific Ocean with two neighboring countries. The treaty with Kiribati establishes three maritime boundaries totaling approximately 1,260 nautical miles in length between Kiribati and the United States islands of Palmyra Atoll, Kingman Reef, Jarvis Island, and Baker Island. The treaty with the Federated States of Micronesia establishes a single maritime boundary of approximately 447 nautical miles in length between the Micronesian islands and the United States territory of Guam. The boundaries define the limit within which each country may exercise maritime jurisdiction with respect to its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf.

I believe these treaties to be fully in the interest of the United States. They reflect the tradition of cooperation and close ties with Kiribati and with the Federated States of Micronesia in this region. These boundaries have never been disputed, and the delimitation in the treaties conforms closely to the limits the United States has long asserted for our exclusive economic zone in the relevant areas.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the treaties, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 9, 2016.

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, subject to certain declarations and understandings set forth in the enclosed report, I transmit herewith the Arms Trade Treaty, done at New York on April 2, 2013, and signed by the United States on September 25, 2013. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Secretary of State with respect to the Treaty, which contains a detailed article-by-article analysis of the Treaty.

The Treaty is designed to regulate the international trade in conventional arms—including small arms, tanks, combat aircraft, and warships—and to reduce the risk that international arms transfers will be used to commit atrocities, without impeding the legitimate arms trade. It will contribute to international peace and security, will strengthen the legitimate international trade in conventional arms, and is fully consistent with rights of U.S. citizens (including those secured by the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution). United States national control systems and practices to regulate the international transfer of conventional arms already meet or exceed

the requirements of the Treaty, and no further legislation is necessary to comply with the Treaty. A key goal of the Treaty is to persuade other States to adopt national control systems for the international transfer of conventional arms that are closer to our own high standards.

By providing a basis for insisting that other countries improve national control systems for the international transfer of conventional arms, the Treaty will help reduce the risk that international transfers of specific conventional arms and items will be abused to carry out the world's worst crimes, including genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. It will be an important foundational tool in ongoing efforts to prevent the illicit proliferation of conventional weapons around the world, which creates instability and supports some of the world's most violent regimes, terrorists, and criminals. The Treaty commits States Parties to establish and maintain a national system for the international transfer of conventional arms and to implement provisions of the Treaty that establish common international standards for conducting the international trade in conventional arms in a responsible manner. The Treaty is an important first step in bringing other countries up towards our own high national standards that already meet or exceed those of the Treaty.

The Treaty will strengthen our security without undermining legitimate international trade in conventional arms. The Treaty reflects the realities of the global nature of the defense supply chain in today's world. It will benefit U.S. companies by requiring States Parties to apply a common set of standards in regulating the defense trade, which establishes a more level playing field for U.S. industry. Industry also will benefit from the international transparency required by the Treaty, allowing U.S. industry to be better informed in advance of the national regulations of countries with which it is engaged in trade. This will provide U.S. industry with a clearer view of the international trading arena, fostering its ability to make more competitive and responsible business decisions based on more refined strategic analyses of the risks, including risks of possible diversion or potential gaps in accountability for international arms transfers, and the associated mitigation measures to reduce such risks in a given market.

The Treaty explicitly reaffirms the sovereign right of each country to decide for itself, pursuant to its own constitutional and legal system, how to deal with conventional arms that are traded exclusively within its borders. It also recognizes that legitimate purposes and interests exist for both individuals and governments to own, transfer, and use conventional arms. The

Treaty is fully consistent with the domestic rights of U.S. citizens, including those guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, and that it give its advice and consent to ratification of the Treaty, subject to the understandings and declarations set forth in the accompanying report.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, December 9, 2016.

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, subject to certain reservations, I transmit herewith the United Nations Convention on Transparency in Treaty-Based Investor-State Arbitration (Convention), done at New York on December 10, 2014. The report of the Secretary of State, which includes an overview of the Convention, is enclosed for the information of the Senate.

The Convention requires the application of the modern transparency measures contained in the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Transparency Rules to certain investor-state arbitrations occurring under international investment agreements concluded before April 2014, including under the investment chapters of U.S. free trade agreements and U.S. bilateral investment treaties. These transparency measures include publication of various key documents from the arbitration proceeding, opening of hearings to the public, and permitting non-disputing parties and other interested third persons to make submissions to the tribunal. As the UNCITRAL Transparency Rules by their terms automatically apply to arbitrations commenced under international investment agreements concluded on or after April 1, 2014, and that use the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules (unless the parties to such agreements agree otherwise), there is no need for the Convention to apply to international investment agreements concluded after that date.

Transparency in investor-state arbitration is vital, given that governmental measures of interest to the broader public can be the subject matter of the proceedings. The United States has long been a leader in promoting transparency in investor-state arbitration, and the 11 most recently concluded U.S. international investment agreements that contain investor-state arbitration already provide for modern transparency measures similar to those made applicable by the Convention. However, 41 older U.S. international investment agreements lack all or some of the transparency measures. Should the United States become a party, the Convention would require the transparency measures to apply to arbitrations under U.S. inter-

national investment agreements concluded before April 2014, to the extent that other parties to those agreements also join the Convention and to the extent the United States and such other parties do not take reservations regarding such arbitrations. The Convention would also require the transparency measures to apply in investor-state arbitrations under those agreements when the United States is the respondent and the claimants consent to their application, even if the claimants are not from a party to the Convention.

The United States was a central participant in the negotiation of the Convention in the UNCITRAL. Ratification by the United States can be expected to encourage other countries to become parties to the Convention. The Convention would not require any implementing legislation.

I recommend, therefore, that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Convention and give its advice and consent to ratification by the United States, subject to certain reservations.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, December 9, 2016.

GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL
BUILDING AND UNITED STATES
COURTHOUSE—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, reclaiming my time, I can't help but note the irony that Senator BOXER, who has done so much to protect special places in California and around our country and who at the same time has consistently worked with our colleague from Oklahoma, Senator INHOFE, on infrastructure—that here they are, after once again coming together—and everybody practically slaps their forehead: How in the world can Senator BOXER and Senator INHOFE keep coming together on all of these kinds of issues? It is because they are real legislators. They are people who don't just throw out press releases, they write legislation. It is hard. It is a heavy lift.

This bill was not easy. To think that Senator BOXER is here on the last night of her time in public service, after she has protected all of these special places and then worked with Senator INHOFE on infrastructure, and we are still faced with this one last hurdle. I have seen a lot of ironies in the Senate. This is just about as dramatic an irony as I have seen.

To me, we have had wonderful statements. My colleague from Oregon laid out very clearly how this rider would compromise good science. That is what this is about. Senator MERKLEY, who knows much more about these subjects, frankly, than I do, went through the biological opinions one by one, the key sections. But the bottom line is, it is compromising good science.

For us in Oregon, you have a water infrastructure bill that is designed to provide support to places like the beautiful Oregon coast. My wife and I were married at Haystack Rock, right in front of the rock, one of the prettiest places on the Oregon coast. Our friend from Michigan has visited the Oregon coast. This is one of the great American treasures, the Oregon coast and Haystack Rock.

Senator BOXER and Senator INHOFE came up with this terrific bill to provide support to places such as the Oregon coast, where my wife and I were married. You have to say: What is a bill that is designed to provide support for special places really mean when it does not do a whole lot of good if there is no salmon in the ocean, no fishing families or fishing boats in the ports, and no fish at the dinner table? That, colleagues, is what this is really all about.

Now, as far as the infrastructure is concerned, Senator MERKLEY has led this in Oregon and has done terrific work to protect the displaced tribes to ensure that they would have a better quality of life.

I think I have already summed it up. You can't have big-league quality of life with little-league infrastructure. So this legislation ensures that we are going to have that kind of infrastructure. Particularly in rural and coastal Oregon, it would be a huge benefit. But at a time when the Oregon coastal communities need as much help as they can get, the provision that my colleagues—Senator BOXER, Senator CANTWELL, and Merkley—have been talking about deals with drought and really threatens to do just the opposite of providing the help these communities need.

I think that the provision my colleagues have been talking about in effect threatens the very viability of the west coast fishing industry and has literally put so many of the good provisions in this bill at risk.

Senator MERKLEY went into a fair amount of detail—and very eloquently—about the specifics in the drought provisions, so what I would like to do is just highlight a little bit of what I have heard from fishing families on the Oregon coast and what they are concerned about.

Their big concern is that this drought provision basically maximizes water delivery to agribusiness without adequate safeguards for the fisheries that depend on that water. By preauthorizing a number of dams across the entire west coast without additional Congressional oversight, it basically turns years of policy with respect to dams on its head.

We know those issues are tough. We have been dealing with them as west-erners for years. But the way we deal with them is collaboratively. That is how Senator BOXER has managed to

protect all of these special places. That is how she has managed to work with Senator INHOFE to promote infrastructure at the same time—because we work collaboratively.

That is sure not the case here because all of these small fisheries and the fishing families don't feel they have been consulted. They make a very good case that this really gives the upcoming administration the authority to determine whether or not salmon is being harmed by maximizing water delivery to big agribusiness.

Water issues for us in the West are never a walk in the park; I think we all understand that. I want to commend our other colleague from California for her hard work. She has put in a tremendous amount of time. I can tell colleagues that she has spoken with me again and again on this issue in order to get an agreement on drought that helps California.

Suffice it to say that Senator MERKLEY and I know our State is no stranger to water challenges, if you just think about the amount of time we spent on the Klamath and the whole host of issues around our State. But, as I touched on, you have to have everybody at the table. It has to be collaborative.

This rider we have been discussing is not a product of compromise. A small west coast industry has been left out of the discussions because the deck was stacked in favor of these very large agribusinesses. Even though those hard-working families in small coastal communities know that a healthy stock of salmon is a lifeline, these stakeholders in the debate not only got short shrift, their voice really was not heard much at all.

So I am going to close by way of saying that we don't think this rider is just about water and agriculture in California; this is going to put at risk the salmon fishing industry up and down the Pacific coast. The drought provision, in my view, threatens to undermine bedrock environment laws like the Endangered Species Act. We have already touched on the power it would give the new administration to override critical environmental laws.

But if you are not from the Northwest, we have talked—Senator CANTWELL has described so thoughtfully what the stakes are. They are enormous for us in the Pacific Northwest. But no matter how many times the sponsors say they don't think this sets a precedent, I think this is going to be pointed too often in the days ahead as we go forward in this present form as an argument for doing the same sort of thing elsewhere.

I and my northwest colleagues have heard a lot from concerned west coast fishery groups and coastal business owners over the last few days. I am very hopeful—I know we are going to vote here in a bit—that the position

my colleagues have outlined against this proposal in its current form is supported here in the Senate.

I thank my colleague for her terrific work on this. We have been in public life now a pretty good stretch of time in both the Senate and the House. This is an area, particularly, where Senator BOXER has shown something that I think is going to stand the test of time—the ability to protect special places, the treasures we want our kids and our grandkids to go to. Scarlett Willa Wyden, not 4, is my daughter. We are older parents. She has the brightest red hair on the planet. She is going to be able to enjoy some special places because of the work Senator BOXER has done. She has protected those special places while at the same time defying most of what the political observers thought was impossible by teaming up with Senator INHOFE on infrastructure projects that have paid off so tremendously in terms of jobs and quality of life. So it is possible to do this right, but this drought provision doesn't do it. I am very hopeful that the work my colleagues have done will be supported in the Senate.

I thank my colleague for our years and years of friendship.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank my friend so much. Madam President, how much time remains for us?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 20 minutes remaining.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I am going to speak for a little while and then reserve the remainder.

I say to Senator WYDEN, thank you for your words.

I also wish to explain why it was important to take the time at this late hour. We are all exhausted. We must make this case, and I will tell you why—not only for the history books, but for the courthouse.

There is no way that this position is not going to be litigated. That is the tragedy of it, because as my friends know and has been said by all of us, when it comes to water, you need to have everybody around the table.

This provision doesn't do a thing to end the doubt. Let's be clear. All it does is take water away from the fishermen and give it to agribusiness. You know, that doesn't help add any water.

My colleague from California who has worked so hard on this has had some very good language in there about desalinization and about water recharging, but we have that in the base bill. It is already in the base bill.

For the first time, Senator INHOFE and I—and, oh, how I will miss him—made sure we had provisions in the bill that dealt with the drought. We reauthorized the desal program in the United States of America. We have a new program to give funds for new technologies.

We have talked about conservation, water recharging, and underground

storage, which my friend Maria talked about. It is in the base bill. So to call this rider about the drought is a misnomer. It is about killing off the fishing industry so ag can have more water. That is not doing anything to help.

I think a lot of what this election was about, as we look at it, was which candidate really spoke to the hopes and dreams of people who work every day.

If we really care about the miners, then we vote against the continuing resolution that turns its back on the miners' widows, and a lot of us did.

On this, it breaks my heart to say this, but filibustering against my own bill is ridiculous. It is an out-of-body experience. It is kind of Shakespearean. I don't know if it is tragedy, comedy, or what, but it is unbelievable. What a situation. My last moments in the Senate I am spending against a bill that I carry in my heart. It is a beautiful bill.

Yet when are we going to stand up against this kind of blackmail. I don't care whether it comes from a Democrat or a Republican, frankly, and it was not the work of anyone in the Senate.

I say to my friends on the Republican side: I don't blame you for this in any way, shape, or form. You did not do this to me, to us, and to the salmon fisherman. You did not. It was done by a House Member who represents Big Agriculture, and he did it because he could.

When are we going to stand up and say no?

My colleague ELIZABETH WARREN was speaking about this, and she said something to the effect—I am not quoting her exactly right: You take a beautiful piece of legislation, you add a pile of dirt on it, and then you stick a little Maraschino cherry on the top—whether it is Flint, or whatever it is. Then you put people in a horrible position.

So I know this vote may not go the way we want. I have hope that it would. But I understand why it might not. But when are we going to stand and say this is wrong? We have a chance to do it tonight and send a message to everyone. This isn't the way to legislate. This is why people can't stand Congress, with 17 percent approval. If you ask them, do you think it is right to add an unrelated rider in the middle of the night on a bill that has been worked on for 2 years—and, by the way, it is not even in the jurisdiction, Senator INHOFE, of our committee. It is in the jurisdiction of the Energy Committee of Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator CANTWELL. It is awful.

I say to everyone who is in a Western State—not just west coast but Western States, between 11 and 17 States, depending on how you look at it: The next President of the United States and the one after will have the ability to say: We are building a dam right over here and cut out Congress.

Congress has no authority to stop it. It is just incredible. Why would that be done? Why is there that insult to the Members of Congress to take that away? We already don't do earmarks. That is a whole other issue. We are not supposed to anyway. But this is another way to say: Oh, just give it to the executive branch. They will decide where to put dams. I don't know about your experience, but we have had proposals in our State where people wanted to put dams right on an earthquake fault. It took a series of hearings to bring that point to light.

Now there won't be any hearings because President Trump and whoever the next President is—because this bill lasts 5 years—will say: You know what, my business interests think it will be good to build a dam right over here, and who cares about the consequences.

Look, we know where the people are, the people in my State who really care. Every single major newspaper, every fishery organization—they are frightened. Then when they run them out, they will have more water, and they won't have to fight with them—Big Ag. They will just take the water. That is not right.

I represent all of the people, and I have said for a long time that we must resolve these issues together. It is essential. I am going to call on Senator MURRAY, but I want to say that every environmental group in the country opposes this. The League of Conservation Voters is scoring this, and the Defenders of Wildlife. Trout Unlimited is not a partisan organization. They are recreational fishermen. They are going: Wait a minute; this is a disaster. Environmental entrepreneurs, business people, and very successful business leaders say: Don't do this.

I am sad. My consolation is that if we lose this, my State is going to get a lot of provisions. Good for them. I am happy. I worked hard for it. But you know what, this is wrong.

The reason I wanted to make this record and why I asked my colleagues to please speak is that I want this record to show up in court. This definitely is going to wind up in court, and I want them to hear that Senator BOXER said this was clearly a special interest provision and at the last minute to simply destroy the fishing industry—the jobs—so that Big Ag could get what they wanted. This is not right, and it is a frontal assault on the Endangered Species Act, just overriding every position. We all know that under the Endangered Species Act, we saved the American bald eagle, the great sea turtle, and the California condor—the most magnificent creatures of God. We never would have been able to save them if we had similar language that said that regardless of whether the scientists say there are only three or four pairs of these creatures left, we have decided it is a prob-

lem for the economy. We are going to just not worry about them. We never would have saved any of these—God's creatures.

We talk a lot here about God, of our commitment to all of humankind and all of God's creations. We don't have the right to do this. That is why I wanted the time. It wasn't just to hear myself talk. I already gave my farewell speech. That was long enough. I already gave my second speech today. I didn't expect to. Now this is my last one.

Madam President, how much time do we have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 10 minutes remaining.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I yield to Senator MURRAY for 7 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. I thank my colleague.

Madam President, I thank my colleagues from the west coast for the amazing job of pointing out the egregious nature of this poison pill amendment that was added to this very critical bill. We are here tonight after midnight talking about the Water Resources Development Act. It is a bill that addresses water resource projects and policies that are very important to our economic development and the environmental welfare of communities in my State and across the Nation. I was proud to work closely with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to craft this bipartisan WRDA bill. I thank the Senator from California for her tremendous work, listening to all of us, incorporating our ideas and making sure this reflected all of the needs of our States. I personally fought for critical provisions in this bill important to Washington State, making sure our Columbia Basin tribes have an opportunity to give their descendants—the ancient ones—a proper burial and a final resting place. I thank my colleague for putting that in this bill and for keeping our ports competitive, which is extremely important in the Pacific Northwest in our global maritime economy, and making sure our workforce is strong. I am proud it addresses the needs of Flint, MI—and I see my colleagues from Michigan here tonight—communities that have been dealing with lead in their drinking water. This was a good bill. It was a good bill.

But as you have heard, at the last minute, a poison pill rider concerning California water management, in the face of a long-running drought, turned another bipartisan bill into a very—as you have heard—contentious, divisive bill. It is a bill that is especially problematic for our west coast States.

I thank my colleague from Washington, Senator CANTWELL, who has fought diligently, worked hard to get us to where we are, and now has had to

turn against this bill because she knows the long-term consequences of this. This was a provision that was added very late. There were no hearings. There was no agreement. It wasn't included in either the House or Senate versions of this bill, and then there was this backroom deal that set new precedent and undermined the Endangered Species Act. It reduces congressional oversight of water projects in our Western States and could harm our commercial, our recreational, and our tribal salmon fisheries along the entire west coast.

Environmental and conservation groups and west coast industries are very opposed to this last-minute backroom deal. I wanted to be here tonight to stand with my colleagues from the west coast. I will vote against this bill tonight because of the inclusion of this last-minute rider, and I urge our colleagues to stand with us as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I retain the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I have listened to the words from the other side. I have respect for them and their thoughts. I don't agree with them. But I wish to share a couple of things with the Senate.

First of all, people need to understand what we went through on this bill. There were 2 years of work. It has been a long, involved time for all of us. Particularly, we had Mr. Jackson, Mr. Herrgott, Susan Bodine. These are experts in different areas. She is the water expert. Charles Brittingham has been crucial to this becoming law; he knows that end of it. The Corps operations—Charles Brittingham knows more about the Corps operations and worked tirelessly. These guys worked for several hours on this thing for many, many weeks. Byron Brown negotiated the coal ash. The coal ash issue is a huge issue. The States have been wanting this for a long period of time. It was a compromise, and everyone was happy with it.

I wish to thank Jennie Wright, Andrew Neely, Andrew Harding, Carter Vella, Amanda Hall, Devin Barrett, and Joe Brown. And from Senator BOXER's staff, I don't think we could have gotten this done without the long hours of Jason Albritton and others from her staff, like Ted Ilston. The CBO staff came in and they worked very hard on this. Aurora Swanson was always available. I thank the Senate legislative counsel, including Deanna Edwards, Maureen Contreni, and Gary Endicott.

We have a lot of people involved in this. I don't want people to think this is just another bill that came along and it is time for it to be considered.

We could have done this a long time ago. We weren't quite ready. It took time for all of us to get together, and I think it is important. We have heard others talk about one major provision in the bill, and I wish to address that in a moment, but we should stop and think about what is in this.

We have 30 new navigation, flood control, and environmental restoration projects and modify 8 existing projects based on reports submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Army. These projects support our Nation's economic competitiveness and well-being by deepening nationally significant ports. Everyone here knows which ones we are talking about.

The bill also includes ecosystem restoration in the Florida Everglades, which will fix Lake Okeechobee and stop the algae blooms on the Florida coasts.

The bill includes ongoing flood control and navigation safety in the Hamilton City project—that is in California—and the Rio de Flag project in Arizona.

It includes programs that will help small and disadvantaged communities provide safe drinking water and will help communities address drinking water emergencies like the one facing the city of Flint, MI.

The bill includes the Gold King Mine. The people in California, and certainly Senators GARDNER, BENNET, and UDALL, spent a lot of time on it. It is in this bill.

The bill includes the rehabilitation of high hazard potential dams. This section of the bill authorizes FEMA assistance to States to rehabilitate the unsafe dams. This is significant. There are 14,724 what they call high hazard potential dams in the United States. That means that if a dam fails, lives are at stake. The program will prevent loss of lives. We have talked about this on the floor. That is significant—14,726.

The WRDA bill is bipartisan and will play a critical role in addressing problems facing the communities.

I want to make sure everybody understands how long we have been talking about the Flint, MI, tragedy. We have been talking about it for a long time. It is in here. The solution is in here. The bill we just passed, that is an appropriation, but the authorization has to be there. I would say this: Since I am looking across at the two Senators from Michigan, I know they are concerned with this. We have to understand that without this authorization, this bill, there would be no Flint relief, none whatsoever.

I will yield some time to either of the two Senators from Michigan—Senator STABENOW—for any comments she wants to make about this. But I hope she understands, as I yield time that she would be requesting, that without this bill, there is nothing for Flint.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Thank you very much. First, I wish to thank the chairman of EPW for his very hard work on behalf of the 100,000 people in the city of Flint and his incredible staff, all of his staff who have been following this.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a list of all of the staff. I want to make sure they are in the RECORD so we can properly thank all of them.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Approps Vice Chair Barbara Mikulski: Chuck Kieffer, Staff Director, Melissa Zimmerman, Interior Approps; EPW Ranking Member Barbara Boxer: Bettina Poirier, Staff Director, Jason Albritton, Senior Advisor; EPW Chair Inhofe: Alex Hergott, Deputy Staff Director, Susan Bodine, Chief Counsel; Gary Peters: David Wineburg, LD, Bentley Johnson, LA; Chuck Schumer: Gerry Petrella; Debbie Stabenow: Matt VanKuiken, Kim Corbin, Aaron Suntag.

Ms. STABENOW. This is, on the one hand, a very important time where we finally are saying to the people we have been fighting for, for over a year: We see you, we hear you, and we are going to be able to get something done so you can turn the faucet on and actually have clean, safe water come out of the faucet. We all take that for granted.

I have to say it is also bittersweet, though, when I look to my colleagues, Senator BOXER and Senator CANTWELL, who have spent more time working than anyone else I have worked with, other than working with Senator INHOFE and his staff. They have worked so hard to help us get to this point, only to find us in this situation because of what the House did, where we can't all be unified. It is something I feel very sad about and regret deeply.

Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator CANTWELL were very instrumental in spending hours and hours early on in the year trying to get something done as it related to the Energy bill. I regret that the Energy bill is not part of what is being done by the end of this year. The Democratic leader, the majority leader, certainly Senator PETERS, and I have been fighting together for a year and beyond in terms of what the people of Flint need.

But I want to say just one thing to really focus on this. There are many needs, there are many issues, but there are people whose health is literally permanently damaged; 9,000 children under the age of 6 who have been so exposed to lead that they may not have the opportunity to have a healthy, full life, where they can focus in the future as they otherwise would, because of developmental concerns. So we have people who are in a crisis situation. This bill needs to get passed for them. They have waited and waited while other things have been done the entire year. It is time for them to stop having to wait.

This is the opportunity for us to actually take an entire city—no place else in the country is there an entire city that has not been able to use their water system because of fear of lead poisoning. That is what is happening in this community. And this bill authorizes funding to be able to fix that and give them the dignity we all take for granted of safe drinking water.

Thank you.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, reclaiming my time, let me just say that I saw the other Senator from Michigan nodding with approval and agreement.

So this can happen, and that is why it is in here. I have to say to both Senators from Michigan—and we on this side worked very closely together to make this happen. That wasn't really easy. But now there is an agreement, and I think that is a very important part of this.

Let me mention one of the things the Senator from Oregon made some comments about, about Senator BOXER and me, the things we have done together, and we have. It does show, though, that we can disagree, but that doesn't change my feelings about Senator BOXER.

I want to conclude just by saying something that I don't think people have heard. They talk about the drought provision as if something evil put that together. Well, the White House put it together. It was drafted by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The savings clause—we have spoken about that. According to the White House, the savings clause prohibits any Federal agency under any administration from taking any action that would violate any environmental law, including the Endangered Species Act and the biological opinions. Don't take my word for it; just ask Senator FEINSTEIN. We talked about this on the floor.

This was put together by those Departments, and the savings clause that is there is strong. And according to them—not to me; I actually don't know that much about it, but they do because this is their area of specialty—they say this prevents any type of action.

With that, I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator there California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I love my colleague. However, the White House strongly opposes this rider, and we have it in clear writing. They issued that notice. They didn't issue a veto because, as Senator STABENOW points out, they are torn.

But let's be clear. All we have to do is strip this poison pill and we have a gorgeous bill that saves Flint, that helps us all, where we can smile and I can leave here with a really nice lift in my step rather than leaving here sad that we are threatening a magnificent

historical industry called the fishing industry, where people go out and work for their families on little boats, some of them big boats. So what we are saying is we have no choice; we have to swallow this poison pill and, thank God, help the people of Flint, thank the Lord. God, we should have done that a long time ago. Oh my Lord, thank you, JIM INHOFE, for your work on that. Thank you, DEBBIE and GARY and all the staff. But now we have a circumstance where we are saying yes to that and no to our entire industry on the entire west coast. And every single editorial in California, where—as my friend points out, the underlying bill—I have never gotten as much for California; I almost don't want to say it—26 provisions, everything from Lake Tahoe to the Salton Sea, from the Sacramento River to the San Francisco Bay, to Orange County, the Inland Empire, Republican parts of my State, Democratic parts of my State, amazing work that was done.

Yet, as we pass this, which we may because of the situation, I want everyone here to understand that there are people who are shivering and shaking because they know the water they need to support their livelihood is going to be diverted away. This isn't a drought provision; this is taking water from one group that desperately needs it to sustain their business—the salmon fishery—and giving it to Big Agriculture.

We all need to come together. I represent all of those interests, including urban users and rural users and suburban users and farmers and the fishery. As my friend MARIA CANTWELL pointed out when she had a voice this afternoon—she said: Can you really think about the long-range issue here, which is if you drive out the salmon fishermen, they are gone, and then all the water can be taken away, and they won't be there? It is so sad to do such a thing without a hearing—without a hearing.

By the way, you can say anything. You can say you are saving anything. You can say it; it doesn't mean it is true. So let me say for the court record—because this is going to go to a lawsuit immediately—if you are listening and you are reading this, you can say anything. If you send a bomb over to another country and bomb the heck out of them and they say “Wait a minute, this is an act of war,” you can say “No, it isn't. We said it wasn't an act of war; we are just trying to teach you a lesson.” You can say anything. It is what you do that matters. And when you have operations language that says you must use so much water, the maximum water, even though the biological opinion says that it will destroy the fishery, this is a real problem.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mr. INHOFE. I would inquire as to how much time remains.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma has 9 minutes remaining; the Senator from California has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. INHOFE. Well, I just consulted with my staff.

I know you believe in this or you wouldn't have said it, but the administration cannot be opposed to this. As a matter of fact, the administration drafted this. Everyone liked the underlying bill before the change was made, but then the Department of—and I will repeat this.

“Section 4012 includes a savings clause—a savings clause written by the U.S. Department of Interior and Commerce”—that is the White House—“that ensures that the entire subtitle must be implemented in accordance with the Endangered Species Act, or the smelt and salmon biological opinions.”

So I would just say, in response, they are the ones who drafted that.

Here is a bill that everybody talked about—my friend from California and myself included and more than half the people. Then, when that provision was put in by those two departments, all of a sudden it is a bad bill. That is what I don't understand and I don't agree with. They are very emphatic in their paper that they wrote, with their opinions, putting this provision in.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I did not say this was a bad bill. I said this is a beautiful bill with a bad rider dropped on us. That was what I was talking about, the bill that was placed on top of WRDA. It is awful. The White House said: We do not support the kinds of proposals that have been put forward to address the water resource issues in California right now.

For every major newspaper in my State to come out—I don't think we ever argue about this because it is a California issue, it is a west coast issue. If it doesn't bother you, fine, but the bottom line is, a beautiful bill was hijacked, and it is going to result in the loss of the fishing industry. I can assure my friend, if you had a proposal—and you have had some—that threatened your oil industry, you are down there and I say: Fine, that is your job. It is my job to defend my fishing industry.

So there is nothing anyone can tell me that changes my mind, even though this puts me in a tough, tough, tough spot because the rest of the bill is beautiful and I greatly enjoyed working on it. But I know this stuff. Every single fishery organization opposes it. It is opposed strongly. Even Trout Unlimited—you know those folks. They don't get involved that often. Every single major newspaper opposes it, every single environmental organization. The White House said: We do not support the kinds of proposals that

have been put forward to address some of the water resource issues.

Those are the facts. They are not subject to interpretation.

So let's be fair. We have a beautiful bill called WRDA. Standing on its own, it is one of my proudest accomplishments that I share with my chairman, but this rider did not belong in it.

Our position is, bring this bill down, strip the rider. You will have agreement, you will have the bill, and we can all go home happily. I know that is a very heavy lift, but that is the rationale. I hope when this thing gets to court—and it will get to court—that our words will be entered into the court record here. We know what we are talking about because we are from the West Coast.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mrs. BOXER. All right.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I am about to yield back my time, except to make one last comment.

Everyone agrees it is a beautiful bill. They talk about the rider, but the rider came, not from someone else, it came from the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior, and that is the administration. So they are the ones that, I guess, made it into a bad bill, but nonetheless it is a good bill. It is one we all want, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Madam President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to Calendar No. 65, S. 612, an act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse.”

James M. Inhofe, Roger F. Wicker, Orrin G. Hatch, Johnny Isakson, John Cornyn, Thad Cochran, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Bill Cassidy, John Hoeven, John Barrasso, Thom Tillis, John Boozman, John Thune, Daniel Coats, Marco Rubio, Mitch McConnell.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 612 shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 69, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 162 Leg.]

YEAS—69

Alexander	Enzi	Mikulski
Ayotte	Ernst	Moran
Barrasso	Feinstein	Murphy
Bennet	Fischer	Nelson
Blumenthal	Franken	Perdue
Blunt	Gardner	Peters
Booker	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Capito	Heitkamp	Rounds
Carper	Heller	Rubio
Casey	Hoeven	Schatz
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott
Coats	Isakson	Shaheen
Cochran	Johnson	Stabenow
Collins	Kaine	Sullivan
Coons	Kirk	Tester
Corker	Klobuchar	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Leahy	Toomey
Cruz	Manchin	Vitter
Daines	McConnell	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Wicker

NAYS—30

Baldwin	King	Reid
Boxer	Lee	Sanders
Brown	Markey	Sasse
Cantwell	McCain	Schumer
Cardin	McCaskill	Sessions
Durbin	Merkley	Shelby
Flake	Murkowski	Udall
Gillibrand	Murray	Warren
Heinrich	Paul	Whitehouse
Hirono	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Cotton

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 69, the nays are 30.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The motion to refer falls.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 5144
WITHDRAWN

Under the previous order, the motion to concur with an amendment is withdrawn.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR

Under the previous order, the question occurs on agreeing to the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 612.

Mr. RISCH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 163 Leg.]

YEAS—78

Alexander	Enzi	Menendez
Ayotte	Ernst	Mikulski
Baldwin	Feinstein	Moran
Barrasso	Fischer	Murkowski
Bennet	Franken	Murphy
Blumenthal	Gardner	Nelson
Blunt	Graham	Perdue
Booker	Grassley	Peters
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Brown	Heinrich	Risch
Burr	Heitkamp	Roberts
Capito	Heller	Rounds
Cardin	Hoeven	Rubio
Carper	Inhofe	Schatz
Casey	Isakson	Scott
Cassidy	Johnson	Shaheen
Coats	Kaine	Stabenow
Cochran	King	Sullivan
Collins	Kirk	Tester
Coons	Klobuchar	Thune
Corker	Lankford	Tillis
Cornyn	Leahy	Toomey
Crapo	Manchin	Udall
Cruz	Markey	Vitter
Daines	McCaskill	Warner
Donnelly	McConnell	Wicker

NAYS—21

Boxer	McCain	Sasse
Cantwell	Merkeley	Schumer
Durbin	Murray	Sessions
Flake	Paul	Shelby
Gillibrand	Reed	Warren
Hirono	Reid	Whitehouse
Lee	Sanders	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Cotton

The motion was agreed to.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL S. 612

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report H. Con. Res. 183.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 183) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill S. 612.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 183, is considered and agreed to.

The Senator from Arkansas.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

JASTA

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to share some of my thoughts on an issue relating to the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act.

Few dispute the noble goal of ensuring that justice is done for the families of the victims of September 11. Time

after time, this body has acted to honor the memories of the fallen from that terrible day, just as it should. But in acting to honor the victims of September 11 and the grieving families they left behind, we cannot lose sight of other crucial policy goals that enjoy broad bipartisan support, such as preserving important legal principles that protect the members of our Armed Forces and perpetuate strong relations with important allies.

As an article in the December 6 edition of the New York Times explains, there are ample concerns that individual citizens of a close U.S. ally have funded terrorist activities and may have assisted those who carried out the September 11 attacks.

Despite the claim that this ally has taken any official action to support the September 11 attackers remains far from proven and, in fact, has been of great and instrumental assistance that this ally has provided in prosecuting the war on terrorism, questions do remain.

In response, the families of numerous September 11 victims looked to resolve these questions through the courts. Specifically, they sought a change to the law that greatly expands the ability of a private individual to bring a suit in federal court against a sovereign nation. Heeding the calls for justice from victims' families, we recently enacted the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act law, and as a result, the scope of the legal principle known as sovereign immunity—here, the immunity of a foreign government from a civil suit in our Federal courts—has been distinctly reduced.

Again, there is nothing wrong with September 11 families seeking justice; in fact, I laud them for their commitment and perseverance, which is why I supported the passage of this legislation at the time and still strongly support its goals. Nevertheless, one of the consequences of the exact language of the new statute is that our important ally now faces the prospect of going through the extensive and intrusive discovery process in federal court. As a result, one of our closest partners in the war on terrorism could be ordered by a Federal judge to turn over some of their most sensitive documents in order to show that their official governments actions did not directly support the September 11 attackers. Indeed, nothing in the recently declassified portions of the September 11 Commission Report suggests that our ally's government leadership had any role in the attack.

We must consider how the technical features of this change in the law will affect our national security. If we allow such lawsuits to proceed under the particulars of the newly enacted statutory language here in the United States, we undermine the central premise of our objection to other countries that might seek to modify their

sovereign immunity laws by permitting lawsuits against the United States. We could easily find ourselves at the mercy of a foreign justice system—one far different than our own—if someone filed suit in a foreign nation against the United States and demanded that our government turn over highly classified documents. If our government refused, that foreign court could potentially exact serious consequences, such as freezing American assets overseas. Worse yet, if other nations change their sovereign immunity laws, foreign courts could potentially begin to hold U.S. service members personally liable, both civilly and criminally, for actions they have based upon the lawful orders of their superiors.

In sum, once we begin to unravel sovereign immunity at home, we risk creating a cascade of unintended consequences abroad.

These concerns are widely shared. In a recent op-ed in the Wall Street Journal, former Attorney General Michael Mukasey and Ambassador John Bolton made those very same arguments. They also point out that the new law “shifts authority for a huge component of national security from the politically accountable branches—the President and the Congress—to the Judiciary, the branch least competent to deal with international matters of life and death.

In fact, I was particularly struck by the fact that the editorial boards of the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, and Bloomberg have all raised serious and substantial concerns regarding the particulars of the new legislation. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that some of these editorials be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

Not only do these editorial boards believe this is not in the best interest of the United States, but so do our closest allies as well. Specifically, officials from the European Union, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands have all written public messages or passed resolutions echoing these arguments. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter from the government of the Netherlands be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

Nevertheless, I do believe a solution can be found that provides justice for the September 11 families while enhancing our national security. My optimism stems in no small part from the leaders involved. I understand Senators MCCAIN and GRAHAM are working on just such a compromise, and I fully support their efforts to achieve a just resolution of this issue. Furthermore, we all owe Senator CORNYN a debt of gratitude for his leadership in ensuring that justice is done. I am also greatly encouraged that Senator SCHUMER is leading the Democratic efforts on this matter.

The role of the Senate is to resolve the great issues facing our Nation by forging lasting consensus. We have numerous such challenges in the past, and I fervently believe that building such a solution is possible. I urge all my colleagues to help us move toward this goal.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Sept. 28, 2016]

THE RISKS OF SUING THE SAUDIS FOR 9/11

(By the Editorial Board)

The Senate and the House are expected to vote this week on whether to override President Obama's veto of a bill that would allow families of the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks to sue Saudi Arabia for any role it had in the terrorist operations. The lawmakers should let the veto stand.

The legislation, called the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, would expand an exception to sovereign immunity, the legal principle that protects foreign countries and their diplomats from lawsuits in the American legal system. While the aim—to give the families their day in court—is compassionate, the bill complicates the United States' relationship with Saudi Arabia and could expose the American government, citizens and corporations to lawsuits abroad. Moreover, legal experts like Stephen Vladeck of the University of Texas School of Law and Jack Goldsmith of Harvard Law School doubt that the legislation would actually achieve its goal.

Co-sponsored by Senator Chuck Schumer, Democrat of New York, and Senator John Cornyn, Republican of Texas, the measure is intended to overcome a series of court rulings that have blocked all lawsuits filed by the 9/11 families against the Saudi government. The Senate passed the bill unanimously in May, and the House gave its approval this month.

The legislation would, among other things, amend a 1976 law that grants other countries broad immunity from American lawsuits—unless the country is on the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism (Iran, Sudan and Syria) or is alleged to have committed a terrorist attack that killed Americans on United States soil. The new bill would clarify that foreign governments can be held liable for aiding terrorist groups, even if that conduct occurred overseas.

Advocates say the measure is narrowly drawn, but administration officials argue that it would apply much more broadly and result in retaliatory actions by other nations. The European Union has warned that if the bill becomes law, other countries could adopt similar legislation defining their own exemptions to sovereign immunity. Because no country is more engaged in the world than the United States—with military bases, drone operations, intelligence missions and training programs—the Obama administration fears that Americans could be subject to legal actions abroad.

The legislation is motivated by a belief among the 9/11 families that Saudi Arabia played a role in the attacks, because 15 of the 19 hijackers, who were members of Al Qaeda, were Saudis. But the independent American commission that investigated the attacks found no evidence that the Saudi government or senior Saudi officials financed the terrorists.

Proponents of the legislation cite two assassination cases in which legal claims were

allowed against Chile and Taiwan. Administration officials, however, say that those cases alleged the direct involvement of foreign government agents operating in the United States.

The current debate is complicated by the fact that Saudi Arabia is a difficult ally, at odds with the United States over the Iran nuclear deal, a Saudi-led war in Yemen and the war in Syria. It is home of the fundamentalist strand of Islam known as Wahhabism, which has inspired many of the extremists the United States is trying to defeat. But it is also a partner in combating terrorism. The legislation could damage this fraught relationship. Riyadh has already threatened to withdraw billions of dollars in American-based assets to protect them from court action.

The desire to assist the Sept. 11 families is understandable, and the bill is expected to become law. The question is, at what cost?

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 28, 2016]

CONGRESS OVERRIDES OBAMA—TOO BAD IT'S ON A BILL THAT WILL HURT U.S. INTERESTS

Wouldn't you know that Congress finally challenges President Obama on foreign policy, and it's in a bad cause that will harm U.S. interests. Too bad the President did so little to stop it.

On Wednesday the Senate (97-1) and House (348-77) overrode Mr. Obama's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (Jasta) that will let victims of terrorism sue foreign governments linked to such attacks. Mr. Obama's veto message rightly noted that this break from the diplomatic principle of sovereign immunity will take “consequential decisions” about terrorism from Presidents and hand them to courts and private litigants.

The law is supposed to help the families of those killed on 9/11 to pursue Saudi Arabia, the ultimate deep-pocket target. Never mind that there is no hard proof the Saudi government was complicit in those attacks. Or that Americans can already sue nations that are officially designated as state sponsors of terror.

This bill has no such limit, so all it takes is a trial lawyer to persuade a judge that a foreign government is liable and we're off to the races. Lawyers will have endless fun subpoenaing documents and testimony from the U.S. and foreign governments that will complicate American diplomacy and security.

Supporters of the bill rejected any compromise, including language that would limit lawsuits to 9/11 victims, which shows that the real game is to enrich the trial bar. The Saudis may now move to liquidate at least some of their U.S. holdings so they don't become hostage to lawsuits, and some countries might retaliate against U.S. officials.

The blame is bipartisan. Democrats want another income stream for their trial-lawyer campaign funders, while Republicans stampered because no one wants to be seen as defending Saudi Arabia in an election year. We hope Republicans appreciate their hapless cynicism. They get the votes to override Mr. Obama for the first time, and it's on a bill that could help make New York Democrat Chuck Schumer Senate Majority Leader.

These are the same dime-store Metternichs who denounce Donald Trump for being reckless, though Mr. Trump also endorsed the veto override. So did Hillary Clinton, who as a former Secretary of State knows better.

The current Commander in Chief didn't do much to help. While he vetoed the measure

in the end, he did almost nothing along the way to rally opposition. Harry Reid was the only Senate Democrat to support the veto, and he's not running for re-election. Mr. Obama expected the same Republicans he routinely portrays as evil to rescue him even as Mr. Schumer was waiting to ambush any Republicans who supported the Democratic President.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest called the Senate vote "the single most embarrassing thing" it has done in decades and said it was "an abdication of their basic responsibilities." But not nearly as embarrassing as the junior-varsity effort by his boss, who made it easy for Congress to trample him.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 15, 2016]

SHOULD WE LET 9/11 VICTIMS SUE SAUDI ARABIA? NOT SO FAST.

(By Editorial Board)

A BASIC precept of international law is that sovereign nations, or their government officials, should not be liable for official actions in the civil courts of other sovereign nations. Sovereign immunity has stood the test of time because it makes practical sense. And it makes practical sense because the international deeds and misdeeds of governments are more equitably dealt with through state-to-state negotiations than by hauling one country's officials in front of the judges and juries of another.

Alas, the Senate and the House have unanimously voted to weaken this principle in the noble-sounding cause of justice for American victims of alleged state-sponsored acts of terrorism. The legislation, sparked by much-ballyhooed but so-far-unsubstantiated claims of official Saudi collusion in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, would permit victims of acts of terrorism in the United States to sue alleged state sponsors for monetary damages in federal court. Under current law, such suits are permissible only against governments that the State Department has already designated as sponsors of terrorism: Iran, Syria and Sudan. The bill would enable private individuals and their lawyers to add oil-rich Saudi Arabia, perhaps the ultimate deep-pocketed defendant, to that list. Someday, other countries could find themselves in the dock, too.

Proponents describe the bill as a "narrow" adjustment to existing law, and, to be sure, they have watered down more sweeping earlier versions in the face of veto threats from President Obama and criticism from international-law and national-security experts. The revised bill allows the executive branch to freeze any given suit for 180 days, by certifying to a court that it is engaged in good-faith negotiations to resolve the plaintiff's claims with the defendant nation. Such a stay could be extended for as long as the State Department certifies that the negotiations are still ongoing. As long as an administration is willing to jump through these hoops, it could probably block an objectionable lawsuit indefinitely, which makes one wonder what the point of the bill is anymore.

Note, however, that this would require the executive branch to conduct negotiations so it could make the certification, even if it didn't think such talks were warranted. And the bill leaves it up to a court whether to grant the initial stay. This is still too much power to give unelected, inexperienced judges over a core function of the political branches.

In short, to the extent the revised bill isn't merely symbolic, it's mischievous. Mr. Obama has repeatedly called it a precedent other countries could easily turn against the

United States. It is not a far-fetched concern, given this country's global use of intelligence agents, Special Operations forces and drones, all of which could be construed as state-sponsored "terrorism" when convenient. Even if a future administration did succeed in blocking a lawsuit, the mere filing of it could irritate the target country or countries. Members of Congress have repeatedly claimed enough votes to override Mr. Obama's veto threat, and they may be right. Mr. Obama should carry it out anyway. If long-standing principles of law and policy are to be discarded so lightly, at least let it be done without his approval.

[From the Los Angeles Times]

ALLOWING AMERICANS TO SUE FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS OVER TERRORIST ACTS MAY SOUND LIKE A GOOD IDEA. IT'S NOT

(By LA Times Editorial Board)

From an emotional standpoint, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act has some appeal. The bill, which is still being finalized, aims to open U.S. courts to civil lawsuits by Americans against foreign governments tied to terror attacks in the United States. Though it would be written broadly enough to encompass all the countries in the world, the bill has a clear target: Saudi Arabia. Proponents say they want to allow families of the nearly 3,000 victims of the 9/11 attacks seek damages in court if proof emerges that the Saudi government supported the 19 al Qaeda hijackers, 15 of whom were Saudis. It may sound good, but it's a bad idea.

Saudi Arabia isn't the most embraceable of U.S. allies. It executes people with abandon, including 47 in one day in January on charges ranging from involvement in terror attacks to disloyalty. The royal family's repression of women—from its draconian dress codes to its requirement that women be accompanied by male chaperones when leaving the house—offends basic concepts of human rights and equality, as does its practice of imprisoning dissidents. The government embraces public flogging as punishment for some crimes, a judgment facing Palestinian poet Ashraf Fayadh, who has been sentenced to eight years in prison and 800 lashes. His offense? Apostasy, based on poems that the government said embraced atheism and spread "some destructive thoughts into society."

What's more, the Saudis have close ties to deeply unsavory organizations. The bill currently making its way through Congress was prompted, in part, by investigations showing that leading Saudis helped bankroll Al Qaeda, though the reports that have been released so far have stopped short of linking Osama bin Laden's terror group to the Saudi royal family or government. Speculation continues to swirl around 28 pages of an 838-page congressional report on the 9/11 attacks that were withheld as classified when the rest of the report was released in 2002. The Saudi government has denied any complicity in the attacks. The pages were ordered classified by President George W. Bush, who said he feared their release would divulge sensitive investigative techniques.

The Obama administration has been reviewing the 28 pages and reportedly will soon declassify some of them. It ought to release all of them.

But regardless of the Saudi role in 9/11, it would be a big mistake to pass the bill, which would badly undercut the legal principle of "sovereign immunity." Rooted in international law, sovereign immunity protects governments from being held to account in the courts of another country (with

some narrow exceptions). Obviously, the downside of this is that it sometimes protects bad governments from being punished for their policies and actions. But on the other hand, it also serves as needed protection against trumped up or politicized prosecutions in courts around the world. And be warned: If Congress strips governments everywhere of their protection in U.S. courts, those countries will almost certainly adopt similar policies against the U.S.

That would lead to a mish-mash of legal challenges, claims of damages, and complicated international relations. Given the U.S. government's disproportionate role in foreign affairs, the potential exposure such a measure would bring to the U.S. is inestimable. Expect to see civil claims by victims of collateral damage in military attacks, lawsuits by people caught up in the nation's post-9/11 detention policies, including Guantanamo Bay, and challenges over atrocities committed by U.S.-backed Syrian rebels. Pretty much anywhere that U.S. policies have led to damages, those who suffered could potentially seek redress in their own courts, jeopardizing American assets overseas, where the rule of law sometimes is solid, but in other cases is a tool wielded for political purposes.

Fearing its exposure in American courts, Saudi Arabia has already threatened to sell \$750 billion in U.S. assets that it says would be at-risk if the proposed law goes into effect.

The 9/11 attacks were horrific, and the losses suffered by the victims' families are incalculable. But the solution is not to open this Pandora's Box. If the Saudi government is found to have supported the attacks, a resolution should be reached through diplomacy, nation to nation, not through individual claims in civil courts.

[From Bloomberg, May 24, 2016]

SUING THE SAUDIS WOULD MAKE THE U.S. A LEGAL TARGET

(By the Editorial Board)

It's not easy to defend an obscure legal doctrine against claims for justice from the victims of the worst terrorist attack ever to take place on U.S. soil. But doing so has become a necessity, since Congress has decided to rewrite U.S. law on sovereign immunity.

Last week the Senate unanimously passed the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, which authorizes U.S. courts to hear civil claims for monetary damages against a foreign state accused of direct involvement in a terrorist act harming an American citizen in the U.S. Under current law, almost all foreign nations are immune from lawsuits in U.S. courts.

While the bill doesn't name any particular country, it would enable the 9/11 families to sue Saudi Arabia. Fifteen of the 19 hijackers were Saudi citizens, and some officials and members of the royal family have long been accused of involvement in the plot. Despite its wide support, President Barack Obama has promised to veto the bill.

A veto would be well deserved, and before members of Congress try to override it, they might want to consider the value of sovereign immunity—and the nation that benefits from it the most. (Hint: They represent it.)

If other nations follow the Senate's lead, no country would be a bigger, better, richer target for lawsuits than the U.S. In Cuba and Iran, in fact, courts have already issued billions of dollars in judgments against Washington. Changing U.S. law might give them and other nations so inclined a chance to actually collect on such rulings.

This potential legal liability would hang over the U.S. fight against global terrorism, and leave the government liable for actions by U.S. troops in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and elsewhere. U.S. aid to Israel, for example, could leave it open to suits from Palestinians injured by Israeli troops. The entirety of U.S. foreign policy could be put on trial under the guise of seeking monetary justice.

Acknowledging the importance of sovereign immunity does not require overlooking the Saudis' role in the rise of Muslim extremism: They have spent decades and billions of dollars exporting their extremist Wahhabi version of Islam. Many Saudi charities and individuals have directly supported violent groups such as al-Qaeda.

But the response to this activity properly resides in the realm of diplomacy and trade policy, not in court. It is a slow, uneven process, but change is possible—and there are signs that the Saudi ruling family realizes this.

No one can deny the right of the 9/11 families to truth and justice. They have already received billions from the victim compensation fund established by Congress, and two separate government investigations spent years producing the 9/11 Commission report.

A more productive exercise of congressional authority would focus on that report—specifically, the so-called “28 pages” from the initial 9/11 investigation that remain under seal. Many of the victims' families, as well as other Americans, want to know what is in those pages.

Some lawmakers who have seen them say there is nothing damaging to national security in them and they should be released. Others, including members of the 9/11 Commission staff, say they are filled with hearsay implicating prominent Saudi citizens.

A compromise is not hard to envision: Release the pages, along with an explanation from the commission as to why the allegations don't hold up. Such an agreement would also serve the cause of truth and justice—without jeopardizing America's moral and legal standing in the rest of the world.

[From The Hill, Sept. 21, 2016]

EU EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER 9/11 BILL

The European Union on Wednesday expressed concern about the possible adoption by Congress of a bill that would allow U.S. citizens to sue Saudi Arabia over the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA), which has bipartisan support and passed both houses of Congress, would amend the federal criminal code to permit lawsuits against foreign states and officials believed to be involved in terrorist attacks.

The White House is expected to veto it this week, arguing that the bill would lead to reciprocal lawsuits against U.S. citizens, but Congress is expected to attempt to override the veto. In a letter dated Sept. 19 obtained by The Hill, the EU said “the possible adoption and implementation of the JASTA would be in conflict with fundamental principles of international law and in particular the principle of State sovereign immunity.”

“State immunity is a central pillar of the international legal order. Any derogation from the principle of immunity bears the inherent danger of causing reciprocal action by other states and an erosion of the principle as such. The latter would put a burden on bilateral relations between states as well as on the international order,” the EU said.

The passage of JASTA came after suspicions that Saudi Arabia supported four

the 9/11 hijackers. Saudi Arabia has denied any support of the attack.

[From The Telegraph, June 2016]

WHY A U.S. LAW TO LET 9/11 FAMILIES SUE SAUDI ARABIA IS A THREAT TO BRITAIN AND ITS INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES

(By Tom Tugendhatp)

The Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (Jasta) that is making its way through Congress is not intended as an attack on MI5 or MI6, services that work so closely with the U.S. intelligence community. The law was written with the intention of allowing U.S. victims of terrorism to bring lawsuits in American courts against the government of Saudi Arabia and other nations whose state bodies could be accused of offering a blind eye—and even a helping hand—to sponsors of terror. The Senate has already passed it, leading the Saudi government to threaten to sell the \$750 billion in assets it holds in the U.S.

Under the bill, U.S. citizens might sue the British government claiming a negligent lack of effort to tackle Islamic radicalism in earlier decades. Some in the U.S. already accuse Britain of tolerating radical preachers in “Londonistan” during the Nineties, an approach they say spawned terrorism. Saudi Arabia may be the target of the law, but it could also have serious unintended consequences for Britain.

The act would expose the British government to the possibility of revealing the secrets of intelligence operations in open court, or paying damages over alleged failures to prevent terrorist attacks. Either outcome would put the special relationship under severe strain.

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Such critics cite cases such as the 2001 failed attack on an aircraft by Richard Reid, the shoe bomber. A petty criminal from Bromley and a Muslim convert, he was radicalised at the Finsbury Park Mosque which was known to the police and MI5 as a base for extremist preachers.

A lawsuit brought under Jasta might force the UK government to reveal intelligence about the plot, why it failed to act and its reasons for doing so. Alternatively, Britain would have to agree a financial settlement. Either way, Britain's reputation would be severely damaged.

Modern diplomacy is based on an old concept, sovereign immunity, which Britain adopted in 1648. It prevents the courts of any nation being used to harass government officials. The bill before Congress would see the U.S. abandon that principle. Foreign governments, even friendly ones, would be exposed to the U.S. courts and the prospect of judicial extortion to avoid revealing secret intelligence. That can only lead to a cooling of relations and isolate the U.S.

Dismissing cases brought under the new law would be harder, since the act also undermines the power of U.S. authorities to halt trials. Federal courts would no longer be able to rule on sovereign immunity protections during a trial's “motion to dismiss” stage. That would allow U.S. lawyers to either force foreign states to disclose sensitive information and extort settlements.

There is a way to prevent the most damaging of cases. The U.S. president can invoke a state secrets privilege to bar certain “dis-

coveries” of sensitive information, even in private litigation. Under the current administration, that may prove adequate protection for an ally such as Britain. But given his disregard for international co-operation it seems reasonable to wonder whether a President Trump would ever invoke that legal privilege, even on behalf of an allied nation. The decision would be completely at his discretion. Such is the power of the presidency.

The Obama White House and the State Department are strongly opposed to Jasta. They can see the potential for diplomatic damage. They also realise the potential for revenge prosecutions in foreign jurisdictions. The international banking system means that most of the world's financial transactions are routed through computer servers in the U.S. If the U.S. allows lawsuits against foreign governments for complicity in terrorism, how long before a foreign court allows, case against the U.S. for negligence over terrorist financing?

The Senate was mistaken to pass this bill and the House of Representatives should reject it. Sadly though, both Mr Trump and Hillary Clinton have said they would sign it. Doing so would weaken the U.S. and damage the special relationship. The world needs U.S. leadership and partnership. Jasta would only leave us all more isolated.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY REID

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pray tribute to a selfless public servant, a committed leader, and a dear friend: Senator HARRY REID.

Growing up in the small town of Searchlight, NV, Senator REID was no stranger to hardship. His father suffered from severe depression and his mother worked long hours as a laundress to help support their struggling family. The Reids lived in a tiny tin shack with no toilet or telephone. They had limited access to schools, healthcare, and the basic comforts of modern life.

From his hardscrabble youth, HARRY developed a fighting spirit that would later define his career in public service. That spirit was cultivated by his high school boxing coach, Mike O'Callaghan, who would later become Nevada's 23rd Governor. More than a coach, O'Callaghan was a mentor. He taught Senator REID his first lessons in civics and raised HARRY's vision of what he could accomplish, encouraging him to pursue higher education and a life in politics.

Senator REID graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science from Utah State University and would later earn a law degree from George Washington University. While still a law student, Senator REID worked nights as a U.S. Capitol Police officer to pay his way through school. Shortly after finishing his law degree, he returned to Nevada where he began climbing the ladder of State politics. Senator REID served as a city attorney, a State assemblyman, a Lieutenant Governor, a gaming commissioner, and a Congressman before being elected to the Senate in 1986.

Here in the Senate, HARRY distinguished himself as a no-nonsense legislator whose unmatched work ethic and fiery commitment to principle stood out among his peers. As a young boxer, HARRY was renowned for being tough and tenacious in the ring; as a rising Senator, he was equally steadfast and determined.

Having spearheaded the passage of several high-profile pieces of legislation, HARRY quickly won the respect of his colleagues and earned a spot on the Democratic leadership team. He served for many years as the Senate Democratic leader. But regardless of the ranks he has achieved, HARRY's first and foremost commitment has always been to the people of Nevada.

Despite his years in Washington, HARRY never actually left Searchlight; he simply carries it with him wherever he goes. He holds close to his heart the painful memory of growing up in a dusty mining town with little hope and limited opportunity. He embraces the harsh experiences of a childhood spent living in poverty and draws upon them to fuel his work in the Senate today. In his decades-long effort to empower society's most vulnerable, he has never forgotten where he came from or whom he fights for. He has never forgotten Searchlight.

Perhaps this is why he eschews the trappings of public office and frequently skips the galas, gaudy dinners, and other extravagant affairs that are part and parcel of the Washington social scene. Perhaps this is why he avoids television interviews and rarely ever spends more than 10 minutes at a political fundraiser—because, at the end of the day, no matter the titles he receives or the awards he is given, he will always be that little boy from Searchlight.

Senator REID is among the most grounded of legislators. I have always had the deepest admiration for his humility, kindness, and compassion. Although he and I have often disagreed on the issues, we have always agreed on the values that make life worth living: namely, God, family, and service to country. Over many decades in the Senate, he has served our Nation exceptionally well. Although he will be missed in this Chamber, he has earned well-deserved golden years in his beloved home State of Nevada. I wish HARRY, his wonderful wife, Landra, and all the Reid family the very best.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to BARBARA MIKULSKI, who is retiring from the Senate this year, having spent 40 years serving the people of Maryland in Congress.

Senator MIKULSKI has been a trailblazer all her life. She grew up in east Baltimore and attended Mount Saint Agnes College and the University of

Maryland School of Social Work. She began her career as a social worker and community organizer before being elected to the Baltimore City Council in 1971. In 1976, Senator MIKULSKI won election to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she served for 10 years before winning election to the Senate in 1986.

At the time Senator MIKULSKI began her Senate service, she was one of only two female Senators. Today there are 20 female Senators. Next Congress there will be 21. Senator MIKULSKI has served as a role model and mentor for many of these leaders. She is the longest serving woman in the history of the U.S. Congress and retires as an icon for many young women who dream of serving their country in elected office.

Senator MIKULSKI has been a leader for many years on health care, education, and veterans' issues. She is the first woman and first Marylander to chair the Senate Appropriations Committee, one of the most influential committees in Congress. Senator MIKULSKI has been a strong supporter of our Nation's space program throughout her time in Congress and was instrumental in the creation and launch of the Hubble and Webb space telescopes. She even has a supernova named after her—Supernova Mikulski.

Senator MIKULSKI has fought long and hard for the people of Maryland and for the issues she believes in. She is tenacious and dedicated and knows how to get things done. I wish her the very best as she moves on to her next endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID VITTER

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the senior Senator from Louisiana, my friend DAVID Vitter. Over more than a decade, I have had the privilege to get to know DAVID as a colleague and a friend. When he retires in January, he will be greatly missed.

DAVID is a New Orleans man, born and raised. In his younger years, he achieved impressive academic feats, graduating from Harvard and earning a Rhodes scholarship to study at Oxford. As he is fond of telling, after his time in England, he applied to three law schools—Harvard, Yale, and Tulane—and chose to attend the best of the three: Tulane.

Just a few years later, he won a seat in the Louisiana House of Representatives. There, he earned a reputation as an ethics crusader—a reputation that has stuck with him throughout his career. Many observers credit him in no small part with the transformation of his home state's politics—once famously dominated by colorful but ethically questionable characters—and he should be rightfully pleased at the fruits his efforts bore for the State he loves. In Washington, his work to strengthen ethics laws at the Federal

level may not have always made him the most popular among his colleagues, but they reflect the same spirit of reform and willingness to stand up for what he believes in that have been the hallmarks of DAVID's career.

On the legislative front, DAVID has been a champion for his conservative values and his beloved Louisiana. Taking office in 2005, he almost immediately was faced with one of the greatest crises any senator in my tenure has had to confront: Hurricane Katrina. As his State has faced Katrina's devastation and other natural disasters, Louisianans could always count on DAVID to deliver for them, no matter what. Throughout, DAVID mastered the skill of fighting as hard as anyone when the situation called for it—as he did as the top Republican on the Environment and Public Works Committee, pushing back against the overreach of the EPA—and then turning right around and making partners of those who were his most entrenched opponents—as he did by working with liberal Democrats to update the Nation's water infrastructure and pass a once-in-a-generation reform of the Nation's toxic chemical laws.

DAVID's work in the Senate has produced an impressive legacy for him and for Louisiana. As he embarks on his next chapter, I send my best wishes to him, his accomplished and lovely wife, Wendy, and his four children.

TRIBUTE TO MARK KIRK

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the junior Senator from Illinois, my good friend MARK KIRK. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in expressing gratitude of his service on behalf of our Nation. When he leaves us in January, we will miss him dearly.

Senator KIRK was born in Champaign, IL, in 1959 and attended Cornell University, where he graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in history. He would later earn a master's degree from the London School of Economics and a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center. His academic background in law and history prepared him for a life in public service.

Senator KIRK first came to Capitol Hill as a staffer, working for Congressman John Porter of Illinois. He quickly rose through the staff ranks to become Congressman Porter's chief of staff before leaving to take a post at the World Bank and, later, at the State Department.

While still working on Capitol Hill, MARK also pursued military service, joining the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1989 as an intelligence officer. He was an active member of the Navy Reserve for the next 24 years, retiring from the military with the rank of commander. As a Navy officer, MARK's duties took him to conflict zones across the

world—from the forests of former Yugoslavia to the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan. For more than a decade, MARK continued military service while simultaneously working as a Congressman in the House of Representatives.

While in the House of Representatives, MARK distinguished himself as a prudent member of the Appropriations Committee and an expert on foreign policy issues. In 2010, he was elected to the Senate and quickly set to work the following year championing infrastructure reform that was critical to his home State of Illinois. In 2012, MARK faced perhaps his most significant challenge yet when he unexpectedly suffered a stroke that nearly took his life and left the left side of his body severely impaired. Rather than be defeated, MARK channeled all of his energies in working towards recovery, spending countless hours working with physical therapists to regain his ability to walk.

What motivated MARK most during this difficult period was the desire to continue serving the people of Illinois. Thanks to MARK's unrelenting efforts and the heartfelt prayers of family and friends—including all of his colleagues in the Senate—MARK miraculously recovered and was able to return to his work in the Senate, where he has served out the remainder of his term with the utmost honor and distinction. Senator KIRK offers all of us an unparalleled example of courage amid hardship and grace amid suffering.

Through his decades of dedicated service to our Nation, both here in Congress and in the military, Senator KIRK represents the very best this Nation has to offer. His integrity, determination, and fortitude in the face of adversity embody the very pinnacle of American virtue. Today I would like to thank him for his courage, his commitment, and his sacrifice. I wish MARK and his family all the best, and I hope that he will continue his service to our Nation in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DAN COATS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my friend DAN Coats. DAN has twice served the people of Indiana as Senator, first in the late 1980s and 1990s, and again for the past 6 years. DAN is a man of integrity and a leader in the fight against government waste. He will be missed.

Senator COATS was born in Jackson, MI, in 1943 and attended Wheaton College in Illinois and Indiana University School of Law. He served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968, during which time he deepened his lifelong love of our country.

DAN began his career in politics in 1976 when he went to work for future Vice President Dan Quayle, who at the time was serving in the House as a

Representative from Indiana. When Representative Quayle decided to run for the Senate in 1980, DAN ran for and won Quayle's House seat.

DAN served four terms in the House before being appointed to the Senate in 1989 to fill the remainder of Senator Quayle's term after Quayle was elected Vice President. DAN served in the Senate until 1999. He was a leader in tax and entitlement reform and provided unwavering support to our Armed Forces.

After Senator COATS retired from the Senate, President George W. Bush appointed him Ambassador to Germany, where he developed a close working relationship with future Chancellor Angela Merkel and oversaw construction of a new embassy near the Brandenburg Gate.

But DAN soon felt the pull of the Senate again and decided to return to this body in 2010, winning election to his old seat. Over the past 6 years, Senator COATS has again been a leader in tax and entitlement reform and has become well known for his "Waste of the Week" speeches, in which he comes to the floor to highlight particularly egregious examples of government waste and abuse.

Senator COATS has served the people of Indiana well. He has served our country well. He has led the fight against wasteful spending and helped keep our government accountable. I wish him, his wife, Marsha, and their family the very best.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY AYOTTE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, in the U.S. Senate, seniority is the typical route to influence. As Senators serve longer, they typically acquire more powerful positions, more knowledge of how to work the levers of power, and more sway over their colleagues. Over the course of my time in the Senate, I have had the privilege to serve with 352 other Senators. While in my experience the longest serving ones on average do indeed tend to make the greatest impact, I have always been most impressed by the rare colleague that leaves an indelible mark after only a relatively short time in this body. KELLY AYOTTE is such a standout.

KELLY came to this body well prepared to make a difference. As New Hampshire's first—and, so far, only—female attorney general, she left her mark across a wide swath of law and policy, from prosecuting the infamous Dartmouth College murderers to successfully defending New Hampshire's parental consent law before the U.S. Supreme Court.

As soon as she arrived here in 2011, the Senator from New Hampshire began to make her mark. Within a short period of time, publications like the New York Times and Politico began consistently referring to her as a

rising star, and in 2012, her name perennially surfaced as a contender for the Republican Vice Presidential nomination.

How did KELLY gain such recognition so quickly? The answer is simple: through good old-fashioned hard work. From her first day in the Senate, she hit the ground running. The wife of an Air Force combat veteran, she joined the Armed Services Committee and poured her heart and soul into its work. It took little time for her to become one of the most powerful voices on the committee. On issues as wide ranging as protecting our servicemembers from sexual assault to keeping dangerous terrorists detained at Guantanamo, she made a real difference, enhancing our national security and advocating for our men and women in uniform.

While defense and security policy has proven her signature issue, KELLY's influence extends across the board. From creating jobs to protecting our environment, she has proven an enormously effective advocate for families in New Hampshire and across America, willing to work across the aisle and buck her own party to do what she thinks is right for her State and the Nation. Her work to combat the opioid crisis merits particular praise. Both New Hampshire and Utah have been particularly hard hit by the rise in this dangerous trend of substance abuse, which has wreaked havoc in the lives of so many. KELLY made it her mission to do everything in her power to confront this challenge, resulting in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. This landmark legislation will make a real difference in the lives of so many in New Hampshire and across the Nation, and it will go down as one of the crown jewels of her legacy here in the Senate.

While I am deeply saddened that KELLY will no longer be with us here in the Senate come January, I am comforted by the fact that her best years of service to her State and Nation lie ahead. After some well-deserved rest with her family, it is my sincerest hope that she will continue her public service. In whatever capacity she chooses to serve, she will always have a devoted supporter in me.

WRDA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to highlight several provisions I worked to secure in the water resources bill that will be a great benefit to Kentucky and to my constituents. Included in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act is a provision I have worked on with Paducah Mayor Gayle Kaler, Paducah city manager Jeff Pederson, and Paducah city engineer Rick Murphy that will advance a critical and comprehensive flood wall infrastructure project to

better protect residents and businesses in Paducah from flooding.

The bill also includes an important provision that directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to transfer certain inoperable lock and dam infrastructure along the Green and Barren Rivers in Kentucky to State and local entities. My Green and Barren Rivers provision will allow communities to remove certain aging infrastructure in an effort to enhance river-based recreation and tourism. This language also allows the Rochester Dam Regional Water Commission to take control of the Rochester Dam—a critical water source for citizens and employers in six counties—so the dam can be repaired and better maintained. In this effort, I would like to thank David Phemister and Mike Hensley with the Kentucky Nature Conservancy, as well as members and supporters of the Rochester Dam Regional Water Commission, including Butler County Judge Executive David Fields, Walt Beasley with the Ohio County Water District, Damon Talley, and Gary Larimore with the Kentucky Rural Water Association.

GUN VIOLENCE IN CHICAGO

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, more than 4,100 people have been shot this year in Chicago. And there have been over 700 homicides in the city this year, the vast majority of them due to gun violence. This is unconscionable. The American Medical Association has declared that gun violence is a public health crisis in our nation. And it is.

Every day in America, around 300 men, women, and children are shot. And every day about 90 of those shooting victims die. Gun violence touches nearly every community in America. But no community has suffered more than Chicago.

The stories of Chicago's shooting victims are heartbreaking. Here is one of them.

On November 18, Javon Wilson, the 15-year-old grandson of my friend Congressman DANNY DAVIS was shot and killed in a dispute over a pair of basketball shoes. It is hard to imagine a more senseless and tragic killing. Congressman DAVIS said of his grandson, "He was a typical 15-year-old. He liked basketball. If you listened to him he was a basketball star, but he liked basketball and music." Congressman DAVIS went on to say that Javon's grades had improved in school and that "his father had just told me about how proud of him that he was because he was catching on and realizing that all his life was in front of him." The two suspects charged with Javon's murder are a 16-year-old boy and a 17-year-old girl. It was a dispute between kids that turned into a deadly tragedy because of easy access to guns.

My heart goes out to Congressman DAVIS and his family. But thoughts and

prayers are not enough when it comes to reducing this epidemic of gun violence. We have had too many funerals, too many families who now have to face an empty seat at the dinner table or walk past an empty bedroom, too many children who suffer the physical trauma of gunshot wounds or the mental trauma of witnessing a shooting. We have had too many of our fellow Americans getting shot while they are sitting on their porches or walking on their sidewalks.

So many of these shootings could have been prevented. But there are loopholes in our gun laws that make it too easy for dangerous people to get their hands on guns. It is absurd that we have not closed the loopholes in our background check system—a step that 90 percent of Americans support. And we have had enough of the gun traffickers and straw purchasers who are able to buy guns out of State and sell them out of the trunks of their cars in Chicago.

At Javon's funeral, Congressman DAVIS said this: "Not only Javon, but thousands and perhaps millions of other young people cannot exist on a regular, daily basis without the fear of not making it through the day. Somehow, with all the technology that we have, with all the know-how, all the things that we as a nation have been able to do, somehow or another we have not had the will to stop the flow of guns through inner cities."

Well, we have a new President-Elect who said during his campaign that he was concerned about the shootings in cities like Chicago. If President-Elect Trump really wants to help Chicago, he can work to stop the flood of guns coming in to the city from States with weak background check laws. He could work with the Vice President-Elect, the governor of Indiana, to stop letting people buy guns without background checks at gun shows in Northwest Indiana. Hundreds of crimes in Chicago are being committed with guns that are brought into the city from Indiana.

America has had enough of politicians who are too scared of the gun lobby to stand up and fix our laws so we can keep guns out of the wrong hands.

We also need to address the crisis of poverty that affects many of our Nation's most violent neighborhoods. We need to provide our young men and women in these neighborhoods with economic opportunity and a path to a brighter future. This is going to require a sustained commitment of resources and investment at every level of government. But it is an investment that will pay off. It will save lives and avoid the devastating costs of violence to our communities.

I will do all I can to make sure that the Federal Government does its part to help create growth and economic opportunity in our most depressed neigh-

borhoods. But as we head into a year when the White House and Congress will be controlled by the Republican Party, it will require cooperation from the other side of the aisle. It is a moral imperative, and it is an investment worth making.

I am angry about the shootings that injure and kill so many people in our Nation. I will not be silent about the need for action and reform. But I am also hopeful. Even in the neighborhoods of Chicago where the violence has been the worst, everywhere you look you will find determination and resilience. You will find mothers and fathers and teachers and faith leaders and many others who are going the extra mile to bring their children up safely and to provide them with love, faith, and hope for their future. They aren't going to quit. And neither can we.

There is a lot of work we need to do to address the public health crisis of gun violence. But we owe it to the memory of Javon Wilson and so many others to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

KATHARINE "KAPPY" SCATES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I want to say a few words about one of the most admired members of my staff, Katharine "Kappy" Scates. Kappy is retiring at the end of the year. I don't know what we will do without her. Oftentimes, public servants are in it for the accolades—not Kappy. She, in her own quiet way, just wanted to make a difference in people's lives.

Since 1996, when I first ran for the U.S. Senate, Kappy has been my eyes and ears in southern Illinois. She is a retired elementary school teacher and a friend of my predecessor and mentor Senator Paul Simon. Kappy joined our campaign as a volunteer, and we all fell in love with her. She not only knew everybody, she was happy to drive the wheels off her car to be everywhere. In 1999, Kappy came to work for us in our Marion, IL, offices. She quickly became indispensable.

When it comes to southern Illinois, Kappy is a human rolodex. From Carmi to Cairo, Kappy Scates is a household name. On my behalf, Kappy met with countless people. She listened to their ideas and concerns—and did her best to help solve problems. And whatever the task, there isn't a town in southern Illinois that Kappy can't recruit a few folks to pitch in and help. People know that when you are on Kappy's side, you are on the right side.

Let me give just one example. In Ridgway, IL, Kappy helped a dental clinic. It wasn't easy; there were hurdles every step of the way. But Kappy would not take no for an answer. She got all the equipment and convinced hygienists and a part-time dentist to help out in this severely underserved

community. I got the credit, but it was Kappy's vision, hard work, and determination that made it happen.

I could go on about all those Kappy has helped, but let me tell just one story—about a housekeeper at a motel where I often stay. Years ago, at 62 years old, she told me that she had never in her life had health insurance—not for a single day. She had worked as a cook, waitress, and housekeeper, but had never known the security of having health insurance. She hadn't even seen a doctor in over 20 years. Enter Kappy Scates. Kappy spent hours meeting with her and helping her figure out a solution. Finally, because of the Affordable Care Act and Kappy's help signing her up—she was able to afford health insurance for the first time in her life. But that is not the end of the story.

You see, after my friend saw a doctor for the first time in more than two decades, she was told she was diabetic. Fortunately, Kappy had stayed in touch. She drove her to doctor appointments and helped get the critical medications she needed. It probably saved her life. That is who Kappy is—always going above and beyond the call of duty. She has a great heart and pours it into everything she does.

I want to thank Steve—Kappy's husband of more than 56 years—their children: Steve, Carole, Tim, Susie, and 18 grandchildren—for sharing so much of their wife, mother, and grandmother with the community. I also want to thank the entire Scates family, who have lived in the Shawneetown area since the early 1800s. You can't set foot in southern Illinois without running into a member of the Scates family. They are the heartbeat of one of the best parts of our State. The Scates family farm is a well-known and respected family operation. In fact, it is not only one of the largest family farms in Illinois, it is known as one of the best. Throughout the years, the Scates family support and generosity have meant more that I can express in words.

I will close with this. I believe in the role of public service to make a difference. Kappy's years of service reflect that, too. Our Nation needs more people like Kappy Scates. I couldn't be more proud of the work she has done—and the person she is. I am honored to congratulate her on a job well done, and I am lucky to count her as a friend. I wish Kappy, Steve, and her family all the best.

NOMINATION OF MERRICK GARLAND

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have served in this Chamber for 42 years and served as chairman or ranking member of the Judiciary Committee for nearly two decades. I have seen a lot of debates, even contentious ones, and good-

faith disagreements between Senators. But what Senate Republicans did this year to shut down Chief Judge Merrick Garland's nomination to the Supreme Court—well, it might be the most outrageous act of obstruction and irresponsibility that I have seen in my entire time in the Senate. It is a dangerous step toward politicizing our highest Court, in a judicial system that long has been the envy of the world.

Now that there is a Republican President about to be sworn in, I predict that all of a sudden we will hear Republicans talking about the importance of the Supreme Court having its full nine Justices. But make no mistake, these will be the same Senators who turned their backs on the Court and the American people for nearly a year by refusing to fill the vacancy since February.

Senate Republicans cared more about preserving that vacancy for a Republican president than they did about an independent Supreme Court. The result was that they blocked one of the most qualified Supreme Court nominees in this Nation's history. Chief Judge Garland is an exceptional jurist with a stellar record and impeccable credentials. He has the most Federal judicial experience of any Supreme Court nominee ever. Republicans and Democrats alike have recognized Chief Judge Garland as a brilliant and impartial judge with unwavering fidelity to the rule of law. In this day and age, he was as much of a consensus Supreme Court nominee as one could find. The senior Republican Senator from Utah and former chairman of the Judiciary Committee has previously noted that he would be confirmed easily. It is not hard to see why Chief Judge Garland has received significant bipartisan support in the past. When the American Bar Association reviewed his nomination, it unanimously awarded him its highest rating of "Well-Qualified." To reach that rating, lawyers from across the country assessed his integrity, professional competence, and temperament. One said, "Garland is the best that there is. He is the finest judge I have ever met." Another said "He is a judge's judge, with a very high standard and legal craftsmanship, a fine sense of fairness to all parties, a measured and dignified judicial temperament, and the highest respect for law and reasoned argument." One even said that Chief Judge Garland "may be the perfect human being."

And yet Republicans have refused to provide him with any process whatsoever—no hearing, no vote. The result is that Chief Judge Garland is now the longest pending Supreme Court nominee in history. No Supreme Court nominee has ever been treated this way. Republicans set a new standard this year. It is the American people who have been harmed and spurned by this unprecedented blockade.

Until this year, Senate Judiciary Committee members had always taken their responsibility seriously. Ever since the Judiciary Committee started holding public confirmation hearings of Supreme Court nominees more than a century ago, the Senate has never denied a Supreme Court nominee a hearing and a vote.

Even when a majority of the committee has not supported a Supreme Court nominee, the committee has still sent the nomination to the floor so that all 100 Senators can fulfill their constitutional role of providing advice and consent on Supreme Court nominees. When I became chairman of the Judiciary Committee in 2001 during the Bush administration, I and Senator Hatch—who was then the ranking member—memorialized in a letter this longstanding tradition regarding Supreme Court nominees. The current Republican leadership has broken with this century of practice to make its own shameful history. But Senate Republicans have spent 8 years insisting on a different set of rules for President Obama.

Republicans rolled the dice this year, subjecting the Supreme Court and the American people to their purely political gamble. They will tell us they have won. But there is no victor—for their partisan game, this body, the Supreme Court, and the American people all suffered. As we go forward under the new President-elect, I urge those Republicans to think carefully about their own words about the voice of the American people. I remind those Republicans that, in last month's election, Secretary Clinton received over 2.5 million more votes from the American people than the President-elect. That is hardly a mandate for any Supreme Court nominee who would turn back the clock on the rights of women, LGBT Americans, or minorities; or a nominee who would undermine safety net programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, or the Civil Rights Act, the Fair Housing Act, or the Voting Rights Act.

President Obama made the best possible choice for a Supreme Court nominee, and any other Supreme Court nominee will face a difficult comparison to Chief Judge Garland's experience, brilliance, integrity, and support from across the political spectrum. Chief Judge Garland is an honorable, decent man and a model of public service. What Senate Republicans have done to him is unfair and unwarranted, and it is an insult, not just to him, but to all Americans who expect all of us to do our jobs and uphold our oath to the Constitution.

As the Republican leadership brings the 114th Congress to a close, they do so having established another record for inaction on judicial nominations. Despite the fact that there are dozens of qualified, consensus nominees pending on the Senate floor right now, we

will finish this Congress having confirmed just 22 judicial nominees in 2 years. That is the lowest number since Harry Truman was president. There are currently 30 judicial nominees awaiting a vote, all with the support of their home State Senators and bipartisan support from the Judiciary Committee. We have not had a single confirmation vote on a judicial nominee since July. Because the Republican leadership shutdown judicial confirmations, the number of judicial vacancies in our Federal courts will increase to over 100 for the first time in almost 6 years, a vacancy rate of nearly 12 percent. And of those, the number of judicial emergency vacancies will exceed 40.

This did not happen overnight. It is the result of a sustained effort that the Republican leadership chose. If we had just followed regular order, like them majority leader promised time and again, all of these nominees would have been confirmed months ago. Republicans cannot claim that President Obama has not made enough nominations to solve this crisis. They cannot say that he has not worked with them to find consensus nominees. Of the nominees awaiting a vote, 13 have the support of either one or two home State Republican Senators, and 28 were reported by voice vote.

The majority leader has repeatedly come to the floor to justify his obstruction by claiming he has treated "President Obama fairly with respect to his judicial nominations" in comparison to President Bush. That is not even close to accurate. Even more to the point, our constitutional duty of advice and consent is not about comparing one President to another. It is to ensure our Federal courts have the judges they need in order to provide Americans the speedy justice the Constitution promises. And right now, that is not the case when one of every nine judgeships across the country is vacant. Currently, there are 13 judicial emergency vacancies in Texas alone.

Compare the record of the Republican Senate today to that of Senate Democrats in 2008, when I was chairman of the Judiciary Committee during the last 2 years of the George W. Bush administration. Senate Democrats confirmed 68 judicial nominees, accounting for two-thirds of all of the judicial nominations President Bush made in those 2 years. In contrast, since last January when Republicans took the majority, they have confirmed just 22 judicial nominees—barely one-quarter of the nominations President Obama has made during this Congress. To reach parity with President Bush, this Senate would need to confirm an additional 31 nominees. We could make that happen right now by voting on the nominees currently pending on the Senate floor.

During the final year of the Bush administration, Senate Democrats con-

firmed 28 circuit and district nominees, all of whom the Judiciary Committee reported to the floor that year. This year, Republicans have allowed confirmations of just nine circuit and district nominees, each of whom the Judiciary Committee reported last year. So the majority leader has failed to even begin this year's work on nominees.

When the Senate operated under regular order, consensus nominees like the ones we have pending on the floor were confirmed before long recesses and at the end of the year. Instead, the Republicans' standard operating procedure has been to refuse votes on consensus nominees. At the end of 2009, they refused to vote on 10 judicial nominees. At the end of 2010 and again in 2011, they left 19 judicial nominees pending, almost all of whom were consensus nominees. At the end of 2012, they blocked votes on 11 judicial nominees pending. After blocking 10 nominees at the end of 2013 and then 6 in 2014, Senate Republicans once again blocked 19 nominees at the end of last year. This year, they set a new record by leaving 30 judicial nominees pending. All 30 are qualified and have bipartisan support, and there is no good reason we should not have voted on them already or before we adjourn this month.

The vacancy crisis has happened because 8 years ago, rather than adhering to regular order, Republican leadership granted the wishes of rightwing legal groups who lobbied them to engage in "unprecedented" obstruction of President Obama's nominees. They have proven again that pure partisanship matters more to them than ensuring our courts have the resources they need to uphold the rule of law and provide justice for all Americans. Republicans have set a new standard for judicial nominees: it involves confirming only 11 nominees per year, routinely holding nominees over in Committee, and routine cloture votes and roll call votes on every district nominee. That is the way to ensure the President-elect's nominees are treated as "fairly" as President Obama's nominees.

In the President's second full month in office, Senate Republicans wrote to him, demanding that he consult with them on judicial nominations. The President did just that. His first nominee was David Hamilton of Indiana to the Seventh Circuit, a nomination made in consultation with, and with the support of the most senior Republican Senator, Richard Lugar. Senate Republicans nonetheless filibustered the nomination. These were the same Republicans who used to claim that the filibustering judicial nominations was unconstitutional.

Since then, Senate Republicans have obstructed and delayed just about every circuit nominee of this President. They filibustered Robert Bacharach's nomination to the 10th Circuit, even though he had the sup-

port of his two home State Republican Senators. That was the first time a circuit nominee had been successfully filibustered after receiving bipartisan support in Committee. That filibuster meant that his confirmation was needlessly delayed for 8 months, after which he was confirmed unanimously.

When George W. Bush was President, the average circuit nominee spent just 18 days waiting for a vote on the Senate floor. The average circuit nominee of President Obama's waited exactly 100 days longer than that. There is no good reason these nominees should have had to wait six and a half times as long for a vote.

Senate Republicans delayed confirmation of Judge Patty Shwartz of New Jersey to the Third Circuit for 13 months. They delayed confirmation of Judge Richard Taranto to the Federal circuit for a full year. They delayed confirmation of Judge Albert Diaz of North Carolina to the Fourth Circuit for 11 months. They delayed confirmation of Judge Jane Stranch of Tennessee to the Sixth Circuit and Judge William Kayatta to the First Circuit for 10 months. They delayed confirmation of Judge Ray Lohier of New York to the Second Circuit for 7 months. They delayed confirmation of Judge Scott Matheson of Utah to the Tenth Circuit, Judge Felipe Restrepo of Pennsylvania to the Third Circuit, and Judge James Wynn, Jr., of North Carolina to the Fourth Circuit for 6 months. They delayed confirmation of Judge Andre Davis of Maryland to the Fourth Circuit, Judge Henry Floyd of South Carolina to the Fourth Circuit, Judge Stephanie Thacker of West Virginia to the Fourth Circuit, and Judge Jacqueline Nguyen of California to the Ninth Circuit for 5 months. They delayed confirmation of Judge Adalberto Jordan of Florida to the 11th Circuit, Judge Beverly Martin of Georgia to the 11th Circuit, Judge Mary Murguia of Arizona to the Ninth Circuit, Judge Bernice Donald of Tennessee to the Sixth Circuit, Judge Barbara Keenan of Virginia to the Fourth Circuit, Judge Thomas Vanaskie of Pennsylvania to the Third Circuit, Judge Joseph Greenaway of New Jersey to the Third Circuit, Judge Denny Chin of New York to the Second Circuit, Judge Chris Droney of Connecticut to the Second Circuit, Judge David Barron of Massachusetts to the First Circuit, and Judge Carolyn McHugh of Utah to the 10th Circuit for 4 months. They delayed confirmation of Judge Paul Watford of California to the Ninth Circuit, Judge Andrew Hurwitz of Arizona to the Ninth Circuit, Judge Michelle Friedland of California to the Ninth Circuit, Judge Morgan Christen of Alaska to the Ninth Circuit, Judge Nancy Moritz of Kansas to the 10th Circuit, Judge Stephen Higginson of Louisiana to the Fifth Circuit, Judge Gerard Lynch of New York to the Second

Circuit, Judge Susan Carney of Connecticut to the Second Circuit, Judge Cheryl Krause of New Jersey to the Third Circuit, Judge Jill Pryor of Georgia to the 11th Circuit, and Judge Kathleen O'Malley of Ohio to the Federal circuit for 3 months. Even though they have been approved by the Republican-led Judiciary Committee, the three circuit nominees currently awaiting votes have been pending for months, too. Donald Schott of Wisconsin, nominated to the Seventh Circuit, has been waiting for 6 months. Jennifer Puhl of North Dakota, nominated to the Eighth Circuit, has been waiting for 5 months. Judge Lucy Koh, of California, nominated to the Ninth Circuit, has been waiting for 3 months.

And then there was the unprecedented blockade of the D.C. Circuit, when Senate Republicans refused to allow President Obama to fill any of three vacancies that still existed in 2013. Republicans tried to suggest that filling vacancies was "court packing" and tried to eliminate three seats from that court. This unfortunate tactic was pioneered by one Senator 20 years ago to prevent President Clinton from appointing an African-American judge to the Fourth Circuit, ultimately forcing President Clinton to recess appoint Judge Roger Gregory as the first African-American judge on that court. The filibuster, even as Senate Republicans abused it again and again, had traditionally been reserved for "extraordinary circumstances" and extending debates about the merits of individual nominees. President Obama made three excellent, highly respected nominations to the D.C. Circuit, but Senate Republicans did not focus debate on their qualifications or their records. Rather they claimed President Obama should be denied the ability to make nominations under his constitutional authority. I said at the time that some called this blockade "nullification," as Republicans tried to thwart the will of the majority of Americans who elected President Obama in 2008 and again in 2012. Little did the American people know that this blockade would be a precursor to what they would do with his next Supreme Court nominee.

Republican obstruction and abuse of the filibuster also extended to district court nominees under President Obama. It is particularly troubling that many of these nominees were targeted on the basis of actions they took on behalf of clients. I remember what Chief Justice Roberts said at his confirmation hearing: "[I]t's a tradition of the American Bar that goes back before the founding of the country that lawyers are not identified with the positions of their clients. The most famous example probably was John Adams, who represented the British soldiers charged in the Boston Massacre. He did that for a reason, because he wanted to show that the Revolution

in which he was involved was not about overturning the rule of law, it was about vindicating the rule of law. "Our Founders thought that they were not being given their rights under the British system to which they were entitled, and by representing the British soldiers, he helped show that what they were about was defending the rule of law, not undermining it, and that principle, that you don't identify the lawyer with the particular views of the client, or the views that the lawyer advances on behalf of the client, is critical to the fair administration of justice."

To attack a judicial nominee on the basis of work they did for a client is to denigrate the rule of law and strike at the very foundations of the American legal system. It was wrong to filibuster Caitlin Halligan because special interests disliked a position she argued at the direction of New York's attorney general when she was that State's solicitor general. It was wrong to attack Edward Chen because he had worked at the ACLU and accuse him of having an "ACLU gene." And it was appalling to filibuster John McConnell because of his work on litigation against tobacco companies. Nor was this limited to judicial nominations—the same shameful playbook was used against Debo Adebile, an honorable and distinguished public servant who was nominated to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division in the Department of Justice. It should concern all of us that one of the leaders of this effort to undermine the adversarial system might be our next Attorney General.

Until Barack Obama was elected President, we had a different standard. In all but the most extreme circumstances, we deferred to home State Senators and their work with the President to find the right nominee for their state. In 8 years, I cast votes against just two of President Bush's district court nominees. Early in President Obama's first term, 37 Senate Republicans voted against two of his district court nominees in 1 day. In my 42 years in the Senate, I have opposed cloture on a single district court nominee. I did so because of his personal involvement with efforts to intimidate African-American voters.

One important Senate tradition has remained intact: the Judiciary Committee blue slip, which represents Senators' important role in providing advice and consent for the President's nominees. During the almost 20 years that I have served as chairman or ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, I have steadfastly protected the rights of the minority through both Republican and Democratic administrations—and I have done so despite criticism from Democrats. I have only proceeded with judicial nominations supported by both home State

Senators. I will put my record of consistent fairness up against that of any chairman. Chairman Grassley has stated that he will continue the practice of requiring both blue slips before proceeding with a nomination, and I applaud him for that commitment. I hope he will continue to honor that commitment, despite the criticism he might receive.

The blue slip matters because it protects the Senate's constitutional role in providing advice and consent on nominations. The Judiciary Committee and the Senate are not rubberstamps; we are a check on Presidential power, and we have a meaningful role in making recommendations to the President and then evaluating nominees on their individual merits. A fair and thorough confirmation process is how we give meaning to the checks and balances in the Constitution.

Our Federal judiciary is also strengthened when it better reflects the Nation it serves. I commend President Obama for having nominated such a diverse group of qualified judges. In his first term alone, President Obama appointed as many women judges as President Bush did during his entire 8 years in office. In just those first 4 years, President Obama also nominated more African Americans, more Asian Americans, and more openly gay Americans than his predecessor did in 8 years. This progress continued in President Obama's second term, and even without additional confirmations, he has appointed nearly twice as many women judges, more than two and a half times as many African-American judges, and more than five times as many Asian American judges as President Bush. All Americans can be proud of the Senate and the President's efforts to have the Federal judiciary better reflect the public it serves.

Despite unrelenting Republican obstruction, President Obama worked hard with home State Senators to find judicial nominees who were qualified, in the mainstream, and who helped ensure the Federal judiciary reflects all Americans. President Obama's nominees included Judge Christina Reiss, the first woman to serve on the District of Vermont; Judge Andre Davis, just the third African American to serve on the Fourth Circuit; Judge Irene Berger, the first African-American Federal judge in West Virginia; Judge Abdul Kallon, the third African-American district judge in Alabama, whose nomination to be the first African American from Alabama to serve on a Federal appeals court is being blocked by that State's Senators; Judge Jacqueline Nguyen, the first Vietnamese American to serve as a Federal district judge and now the first Asian Pacific American woman to serve as a Federal circuit judge as well; Judge Dolly Gee, the first Chinese American woman to serve as a Federal

judge; Judge Rosanna Peterson, the first woman to serve on the Eastern District of Washington; Judge Nancy Freudenthal, the first female Federal judge in Wyoming; Judge Benita Pearson, the first African-American Federal judge in Ohio; Judge Kimberly Mueller, the first woman to serve on the Eastern District of California; Judge Edmond Chang, the first Asian American Federal judge in Illinois; Judge Carlton Reeves, the second African-American district judge in Mississippi; Judge William Martinez, the second Hispanic to serve on the District of Colorado; Judge J. Michelle Childs, the second African-American woman to serve on the District of South Carolina; Judge Tanya Pratt, the first African-American Federal judge in Indiana; Judge Lucy Koh, the first Korean American woman to serve as a Federal judge; Judge Gloria Navarro, then the only woman and only Hispanic on the District of Nevada; Judge Barbara Keenan, the first woman from Virginia to serve on the Fourth Circuit; Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson, the first African-American and just the second woman to serve on the First Circuit; Judge Albert Diaz, the first Latino to serve on the Fourth Circuit; Judge Mary Murguia, the first Hispanic and the second woman from Arizona to serve on the Ninth Circuit; Judge Denny Chin, who upon confirmation to the Second Circuit became the only active Asian Pacific American judge on our circuit courts; Judge Marco Hernandez, the first Latino to serve as a Federal judge in Oregon; Judge James Graves, the first African-American from Mississippi to serve on the Fifth Circuit; Judge James Shadid, the first Arab American Federal judge in Illinois; Judge Mae D'Agostino, the only woman on the Northern District of New York; Judge Jimmie Reyna, the first Latino on the Federal circuit; Judge Edward Chen, just the second Asian Pacific American to serve on the Northern District of California; Judge Arenda Wright Allen, the first African-American woman to serve as a Federal district judge in Virginia; Judge J. Paul Oetken, the first openly gay man confirmed to be a district judge; Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona, the first indigenous person to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge in the Northern Mariana Islands; Judge Bernice Donald, the first African-American woman to serve on the Sixth Circuit; Judge Cathy Bissoon, the first woman of color to serve on the Western District of Pennsylvania; Judge Sharon Gleason, the first woman to serve on the District of Alaska; Judge Morgan Christen, the first woman from Alaska to serve on the Ninth Circuit; Judge Nannette Brown, the first African-American woman to serve as a Federal district judge in Louisiana; Judge Nancy Torresen, the first woman to serve on the District of Maine; Judge

Steve Jones, who became one of only two active African-American Federal judges in Georgia; Judge Paul Watford, who is one of only two African-Americans serving on the Ninth Circuit; Judge Adalberto Jordan, the first Cuban-born judge on the 11th Circuit; Judge Stephanie Thacker, the first woman from West Virginia to serve on the Fourth Circuit; Judge Shelley Dick, the first woman to serve on the Middle District of Louisiana; Judge Landya McCafferty, the first woman to serve on the District of New Hampshire; Judge Susan Watters, the first woman to serve on the District of Montana; Judge Elizabeth Wolford, the first woman to serve on the Western District of New York; Judge Debra Brown, the first African-American woman to serve as a Federal judge in Mississippi; and Judge Diane Humetewa, the first Native American woman to serve as a Federal judge. We can all be proud that our Federal bench today better reflects the broad diversity of our Nation and represents the best of the legal profession.

However, the nominees that are being obstructed on the floor today include Armando Bonilla, who would be the first Hispanic judge to ever serve on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims; Stephanie Finley, who would be the first African-American judge to serve on the Western District of Louisiana; Lucy Koh, who would be the first Korean American woman to be a circuit court judge; and Florence Pan, who would be the first Asian American woman on the district court in DC. I am also disappointed that we have not moved forward on the nomination of African-American Judge Richard Boulware to serve on the U.S. Sentencing Commission. The Sentencing Commission currently does not have a single person of color serving as a commissioner—yet it impacts criminal justice issues that deeply affect communities of color.

In the 20 years that I have been chairman or ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, I have worked with Republicans and Democrats to ensure that our committee has provided a fair and thorough process for judicial nominees. Our power of advice and consent is a critical check on any President, and by protecting the independence of the third branch, we uphold our Constitution. The late Chief Justice Rehnquist referred to our independent judiciary as the crown jewel of our democracy, and he was absolutely right. I have worked to protect and strengthen that crown jewel during my time as chairman and ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and I will continue to do so in the years ahead.

ATTORNEYS GENERAL IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Northern Triangle countries of Central

America—El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala—face many similar challenges: poverty, gangs, violence, corruption, and organized crime. Another one of these challenges is weak judicial systems.

For as long as anyone can remember, judges in these countries, no matter how unqualified, have been selected through opaque processes which have benefited those with personal or political connections or the ability to curry favor. Attorneys general have often turned out to be corrupt and in cahoots with organized crime, or they have been harassed and threatened to the point that they have declined to pursue cases against powerful elites or have left the country out of fear for their own safety or that of their families.

But there are some signs that things are changing for the better. Today, each of these countries has an attorney general who is working to end the history of impunity that has enabled almost anyone, including members of the police and armed forces, to get away with the most heinous crimes.

In Guatemala, Attorney General Thelma Aldana Hernandez; in El Salvador, Attorney General Douglas Melendez Ruiz; and in Honduras, Attorney General Oscar Fernando Chinchilla Banegas have each shown that they take seriously their responsibility to act with professionalism and impartiality in pursuit of justice. For doing so, they have each faced attempts to thwart their efforts through intimidation and threats.

In the U.S. Congress we recognize the challenges and dangers they face, and we strongly support them. No democracy can survive without a justice system that has the confidence and respect of the people. There is nothing more fundamental to a credible justice system than an independent judiciary and professionally trained prosecutors who are trustworthy. Equal access to justice is a necessity for all people, regardless of economic status, race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or political affiliation.

It is in the interest of each of these attorneys general to share best practices; to collectively reinforce the importance of investing in stronger judicial institutions; to develop a joint strategy for using their offices to help promote economic and social development and the rule of law; and to establish a regional mechanism for collecting and sharing information to support crime prevention, investigations, and prosecutions.

It is also critically important that they continue to work cooperatively with regional independent judicial institutions, like the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala, the Mission to Support the Fight Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Before I was a Senator, I was a prosecutor. I know the challenges of the job and that there is nothing more important for a prosecutor than having the respect, the trust, and the support of the people.

As a Senator, I have long served as either the chairman or ranking member of our Judiciary Committee. I have strongly defended the principle of independence of the judiciary as a cornerstone of a democratic system of government. Judges should be selected transparently on the basis of professional qualifications, temperament, and integrity.

And as the chairman or ranking member of the Appropriations subcommittee that funds our foreign assistance programs I will continue to support attorneys general who, like the three I have mentioned, have courageously demonstrated a commitment to upholding the rule of law.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, BBEDCA, establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits, while sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allow the chairman of the Budget Committee to

establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments. The Senate is considering the Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017, the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2028, which provides for continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017 and full-year appropriations related to U.S. national security and disaster relief and recovery efforts.

Sections 185–192 of this legislation provides emergency funding for disaster relief and recovery efforts. In total, these provisions provide \$2,704 million in revised nonsecurity budget authority that produce \$480 million in outlays in fiscal year 2017. This legislation includes language that designates these provisions as emergency funding pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of BBEDCA. The inclusion of these designations makes this spending eligible for an adjustment under the Congressional Budget Act.

Section 192 of the legislation also provides funding for disaster relief and recovery efforts, but designates the provision as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of BBEDCA. This designation makes the spending associated with this provision, \$1,416 million in revised nonsecurity budget authority and \$25 million in outlays, eligible for an adjustment under the Congressional Budget Act.

Finally, Division B provides funding for the Department of Defense and U.S. international affairs entities for counterterrorism and other national security efforts. These provisions are designated as being for overseas contingency operations/global war on terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of BBEDCA. These designations make the spending associated with the division, \$5,775 million in revised security budget authority, \$4,300 million in revised nonsecurity budget authority, and \$4,387 million in outlays, eligible for an adjustment under the Congressional Budget Act.

As a result, I am increasing the budgetary aggregate for fiscal year 2017 by \$14,195 million in budget authority and outlays by \$4,892 million. Further, I am revising the budget authority and outlay allocations to the Committee on Appropriations by increasing revised nonsecurity budget authority by \$8,420 million, revised security budget authority by \$5,775 million, and increasing outlays by \$4,892 million in fiscal year 2017.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES

(Pursuant to Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 102 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015)

	\$ in Millions	2017
Current Spending Aggregates:		
Budget Authority		3,212,522
Outlays		3,219,513
Adjustments:		
Budget Authority		14,195
Outlays		4,892
Revised Spending Aggregates:		
Budget Authority		3,226,717
Outlays		3,224,405

REVISION TO SPENDING ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

(Pursuant to Sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

	\$ in Millions					2017
Current Allocation:						
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority						551,240
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority						518,531
General Purpose Outlays						1,182,122
Adjustments:						
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority						5,775
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority						8,420
General Purpose Outlays						4,892
Revised Allocation:						
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority						557,015
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority						526,951
General Purpose Outlays						1,187,014
Memorandum: Detail of Adjustments Made Above	OCO	Program Integrity	Disaster Relief	Emergency	Total	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority	5,775	0	0	0	5,775	
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	4,300	0	1,416	2,704	8,420	
General Purpose Outlays	4,387	0	25	480	4,892	

WRDA

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize today as a historic day for Montana and the Blackfeet people. With the passage of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, the Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act is ready to be sent to the President's desk. We thank Chairman BARRASSO, Chairman INHOFE, Ranking Member BOXER, Leader MCCONNELL, and Leader REID and their counterparts in the House of Representatives for working with the Montana delegation throughout this process to enact this long-awaited water settlement.

The Blackfeet tribe has been working for better access to quality water and a better livelihood for decades. In 1989, the tribe initiated negotiations with the Montana Compact Commission. Shortly thereafter in 1990, the Department of the Interior appointed a Federal negotiation team to assist in achieving a negotiated settlement of the tribe's reserved water rights claims. The State of Montana and the tribe then reached an agreement in 2007 in the form of a compact which settled the tribe's water rights to avoid costly litigation, allow the tribe to build and repair much-needed water infrastructure, and protect access to water for neighboring communities like Birch Creek water users off the reservation.

On March 16, 2009, the Montana State House passed the agreement by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 87-12, and on March 20, 2009, the Montana State Senate passed the agreement by a nearly unanimous vote of 48-2. Critical to ensuring strong bipartisan support in the State legislature was ensuring potential impacts to all water users could be adequately mitigated pursuant to the Birch Creek Agreement. Federal legislation to authorize the Compact was first introduced in 2010 and has been reintroduced every Congress since, including in the 114th Congress by Senator TESTER and myself and Representative ZINKE. Since its initial introduction, the administration has been negotiating with the tribe and the State to resolve important Federal concerns relating to cost, cost sharing, Federal interests, and Federal responsibilities. On February 3, 2016, the legislation passed the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs for the first time, marking the first committee vote on Indian water rights legislation in more than 5 years. On May 24, 2016, the House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing on the legislation, and on July 22, 2016, the Department of the Interior and Justice issued a letter to House Natural Resources Committee Chairman ROB BISHOP certifying that enacting the much needed Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement Act was a net benefit for the American taxpayer.

On November 15, 2016, through the diligence of the entire Montana delega-

tion, the House Committee on Natural Resources passed the legislation out of committee, and on September 15, 2016, the Senate passed the legislation as part of the Water Resources Development Act. Today's action, final passage of S. 612, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, marks the first time legislation authorizing the water rights settlement has passed both Chambers of Congress. Indeed, it has been a long road for this water compact. I am proud to get it over the finish line today.

The Blackfeet water settlement will not only establish the tribe's water rights but will also facilitate real, tangible benefits for the Blackfeet and surrounding communities. The bill will improve six significant drainages and several Federal water structures that are some of the oldest and most in need of repair in the country. The compact will also keep wildlife and fish habitat healthier and municipal water supplies cleaner. Furthermore, it upholds agreements by the State that will strengthen irrigation for neighboring farmlands called Montana's golden triangle for its wheat, barley, and hay production.

In order to ensure nearby productive farmlands remain productive well into the future, early drafts of the Federal legislation provided funding for the Four Horns infrastructure and for a mitigation fund for Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Company, PCCRC, and other water users on Birch Creek. As farming investment decisions require certainty for the long-term, these funds remain necessary to ensure neighboring families have the certainty necessary to mitigate any impacts if the tribe's ability to exercise its Birch Creek water rights impact communities' access to water.

In 2015, the State, tribe, and PCCRC agreed to additional changes to the legislation to address the Department of the Interior's position that the Federal Government should not provide mitigation funds as a matter of Federal policy, and as a result, Federal mitigation funding was eliminated from the Federal legislation.

I appreciate the State of Montana's commitment to ensure that potential impacts to Birch Creek water users will be fully mitigated by the State as called for by the Birch Creek Agreement and the Blackfeet Water Compact. I trust that the State of Montana will uphold this commitment, as doing so remains an important aspect of the passage and implementation of the Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement.

I also recognize that Blackfeet Nation is not the only Indian tribe to hold reserved water rights in the Milk River Basin. The Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community have long awaited settlement of their water rights as well. This bill includes language to protect the ability for the two Tribes

to reach an agreement regarding each Tribe's rights on the Milk River, and I look forward to working with stakeholders on an agreement moving forward.

I commend the Blackfeet Tribe and Chairman Harry Barnes, who have been diligent and patient in seeing this settlement forward. I commend our State for its commitment to the Blackfeet tribe and Indian Country in Montana.

I am thrilled to get this through Congress and look forward to the President's signature and to working with the tribe and local community next year to finally put it into action, starting with securing the Federal funding necessary to ensure much-needed water infrastructure authorized in this settlement becomes a reality.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I wish to applaud the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act. This week, the Senate overwhelmingly passed the NDAA Conference Report, and I am proud that the final bill includes my Fairness for Veterans provision.

We have far too many servicemembers who are suffering from trauma related conditions like posttraumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury. Unfortunately, many of these servicemembers have received a less-than-honorable discharge, instead of the help and assistance they have earned. Last year, I introduced the Fairness for Veterans Act. I am proud to say that a modified version of that bill was included as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act.

The Peters provision ensures liberal consideration will be given to petitions for changes in characterization of service related to PTSD or TBI before discharge review boards. It also clarifies that PTSD or TBI claims that are related to military sexual trauma should also receive liberal consideration.

I would like to thank my colleagues—Senators DAINES, TILLIS, and GILLIBRAND—for joining me in leading the charge on this very important issue. In addition to being a bipartisan effort, this has also been a bicameral effort. I would like to thank Representatives MIKE COFFMAN of Colorado and TIM WALZ of Minnesota who introduced the companion bill in the House and have supported the NDAA provision.

Additionally, I would like to thank the many veteran service organizations that advocated tirelessly on behalf of this legislation. These organizations knocked on doors, wrote letters, held press conferences—whatever it took to have their voices heard.

I would like to recognize Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Disabled Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America, the

American Legion, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, United Soldiers and Sailors of America, and Swords to Plowshares.

Finally, I would like to thank one veteran in particular: Kristopher Goldsmith. After serving his country, Kris faced his own struggles with PTSD after serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Determined, Kris has channeled his personal struggles into advocacy on behalf of his fellow veterans. He was relentless in his quest to ensure that former servicemembers looking to get a change in service characterization had a fair shot. I thank Kris for his service, as well as for his determination.

Servicemembers who are coping with invisible wounds inflicted during their service and receive a related bad paper discharge should not lose access to benefits they have rightfully earned. That is why we must ensure all veterans get the fair process they deserve when petitioning for a change in characterization of their discharge. Fairness for Veterans will do just that.

While I am proud that the final NDAA bill includes Fairness for Veterans—make no mistake—there is still a great deal more work to be done. I will continue working with the Defense Department to ensure that discharge review boards are providing the appropriate consideration when reviewing PTSD and TBI related appeals.

I applaud the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act, and I intend to continue fighting on behalf of our Nation's veterans. Thank you.

LEGISLATION OBJECTION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in accordance with my policy to put a notice in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD whenever I place a hold on legislation, I object to any unanimous consent request to pass H.R. 6438, a bill to extend the waiver of limitations with respect to excluding from gross income amounts received by wrongfully incarcerated individuals. I object not because I disagree with the policy underlying this proposal—in fact, I support it—but because the Senate cannot pass this singular bill ignore the long list of other tax proposals that are outstanding or expiring at end of this Congress; among them clean energy and infrastructure incentives that create good-paying jobs, an education incentive that makes a college degree more affordable, provisions to make homes more affordable to the middle class and protect struggling homeowners from a tax bill if they negotiate mortgage debt relief.

DACA

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish today to speak about the need to

protect undocumented young people, commonly referred to as DREAMers, from deportation by preserving the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, or DACA.

President-Elect Trump has threatened to eliminate the program, which would have serious consequences for families and communities across the United States, particularly those in California.

That is why I join my colleagues in the Senate to urge that President-Elect Trump allow young people to continue to study, work, and live in our country.

The DACA program was announced by President Obama in 2012. It temporarily halts the threat of deportation for undocumented young people who were brought to the United States as children before their 16th birthday.

DACA also provides the opportunity to obtain work permits and the documents often required to enroll in college.

Around 750,000 young people have been admitted to the program, allowing them to come out of the shadows and make incredible contributions to their communities.

Nearly half of DREAMers—370,000—live, work and are educated in California. They are an essential part of the fabric of our communities and it is so important for people and the President-Elect to know the very real, human side to this issue.

I would like to begin with the story of one talented and ambitious Californian who has taken full advantage of the opportunity she had been given by the DACA program.

Denisse Rojas arrived in the United States when she was just 10 months old, brought here from Mexico. Like many of our immigrant ancestors, her parents wanted to make a better life for her and her siblings.

Denisse's family is similar to many undocumented families in California. After arriving in Fremont, CA, her father worked full-time in a restaurant while pursuing his high school diploma at night.

Her mother attended community college part-time for 7 years to earn her nursing degree. Denisse excelled in high school, graduating with a 4.3 GPA. She attended U.C. Berkeley, one of the top public universities in the Nation, to study biology and sociology.

Denisse dreamed of going to medical school, driven in part by a family member's early death from cancer. The disease was diagnosed at a late stage because the family's immigration status made it impossible to afford health insurance.

Denisse worked as a waitress and commuted an hour each way to classes because she couldn't afford to live on campus. After graduation, she volunteered at San Francisco General Hospital.

Today, Denisse is attending medical school in New York at one of the country's top programs, and she is on track to earn her degree in 2019. To help other students navigate the admissions process and pursue careers in health and medicine, Denisse cofounded a national nonprofit organization called Pre-Health Dreamers.

Pre-Health Dreamers has connected an incredible network of students, and I would like to introduce you to just a couple of them: Oscar Hernandez is a medical student at U.C. Irvine. He grew up in San Diego's Barrio Logan neighborhood and received his bachelor's degree in physiology and neuroscience from U.C. San Diego. Oscar is being specially trained to address the unique challenges in providing health care to California's Latino communities—a growing need in our State.

Seung Lee is a medical student at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. His family immigrated to the United States from South Korea in 1998. Seung is also pursuing a career in medicine because he wants to help reduce inequality by increasing access to health care in his community.

Through Pre-Health Dreamers, Denisse has helped bring Oscar, Seung, and many other students together as they work toward their goals.

After graduation, Denisse intends to specialize in emergency medicine and work in low-income communities to provide health care to families like her own that too often go without needed treatment. Parts of California, particularly our rural communities, are very short on doctors. We desperately need people like Denisse who want to work in communities most in need of skilled health care professionals.

Without the DACA program, Denisse wouldn't be able to obtain the license required to practice medicine. She would not have the proper work authorization or accompanying documents. And our country would be denied a highly qualified, motivated doctor.

DREAMers are also working in classrooms across the country. Jaime Ballesteros came to the United States from the Philippines when he was 11 years old.

He excelled in school but knew that being undocumented would make it much harder to go to college.

Jaime's English teacher encouraged him to pursue private scholarships, and he enrolled in Drew University, a top school for teachers.

Jamie was admitted into the DACA program during his junior year of college. He obtained a work permit and said filing his taxes for the first time was "one of the happiest days of my life."

Jamie wanted to give back to students facing the same challenges he did, and he joined Teach for America. Today he serves as a 7th grade science

teacher at KIPP Academy of Innovation, a STEM charter middle school in east Los Angeles.

Now, I would like to explain the application process these young people go through. They need to pay a nearly \$500 application fee and provide a wide range of documents to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services showing their identity; proof they came to the United States before their 16th birthday; proof that they were present in United States on June 15, 2012; proof that they have continuously lived in United States since June 15, 2007; and confirmation that they are or have been students or honorably discharged military veterans. Potential DACA recipients must also undergo a criminal background check, during which fingerprints and photographs may be collected. Those with felony convictions or three or more misdemeanors are ineligible for the program. Once approved, DREAMers must reapply every 2 years. The renewal process allows the Department of Homeland Security to ensure young people still meet the program's requirements.

Despite the program's success, exemplified by young people like Denisse, Oscar, Seung, Jamie, and many others, President-Elect Trump has threatened to immediately rescind the program. There is a very real fear that DREAMers and their families could be targeted for deportation under his administration. The fear is compounded because DREAMers trusted the government with their home and work addresses, school information, family details, and other personally identifiable information.

My office has received hundreds of calls and emails from Californians who have been admitted to the program, their families and friends, as well as others who support DACA because they have seen the benefit to their communities. I would like to share just some of the feedback I have received. A professor from the University of San Francisco shared that a student sobbed in her arms in the first class after Election Day. And a wife from Forest Lake feared that her husband's status would be revoked and their family could be separated.

She wrote, "Under a Trump presidency, I, a U.S. citizen, may need to leave my home and start a new life in Mexico. Family is family, and where my husband goes, I go."

This is unacceptable and not the America I know. We can't allow whole communities in this country to live in fear.

Upon his election, President-Elect Trump said he wants to be the President for all Americans. I would urge him to meet some of these young people. He would see that DREAMers are fiercely patriotic.

He would see that, in every way that matters, DREAMers are Americans.

They were educated here, they work here, they pay taxes, and they contribute to communities across America.

And he would see that they want to be accepted and integrated into American society.

Unequivocally stating that he will not overturn DACA and will not target DREAMers for deportation would send a strong message that President-Elect Trump is serious about turning the page from the toxic campaign rhetoric and being a President for all Americans.

In the event that President-Elect Trump doesn't change course, Senators DICK DURBIN and LINDSEY GRAHAM have committed to introducing legislation to extend deferred action status for those who currently have it.

I will join this effort. I want to be crystal clear: this Senator will not sit by and do nothing if these young people are targeted for deportation.

We have a moral obligation to do all we can to shield the DREAMers from deportation and keep their families together. This is not a matter of politics. This is about what is right as Americans and human beings.

Denisse, Oscar, and Seung deserve the opportunity to earn their medical degrees. Jamie deserves the opportunity to continue teaching. They and other DREAMers deserve the opportunity to give back to their country—the United States of America—and I pledge that I will work to give them that opportunity.

NOMINATION OF MARY MCELROY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I join with my fellow Senator from the State of Rhode Island, Senator WHITEHOUSE, to urge this body to confirm Mary McElroy to the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

Ms. McElroy is an eminently qualified and dedicated public servant whose nomination was reported unanimously to this body by the Judiciary Committee in January of this year. She, along with 20 other district court nominees from States represented by Members from both sides of the aisle, has undergone the required rigorous vetting process and passed through committee only to have her nomination stalled on the floor of this body. We should confirm all of these nominees right now before the 114th Congress draws to a close.

I have been proud to support Mary's nomination at every step of this process. Her legal career has spanned more than 20 years from her time as a paralegal in the Rhode Island Attorney General's office while attending law school at night, clerking for Associate Justice Donald F. Shea of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, private practice, and her work in the State and Federal public defender offices. Throughout her

career, she has shown the highest levels of integrity and professionalism and earned the respect and support of Rhode Island's law enforcement community.

It is a shame that this Congress may come to a close before Mary can receive what I am sure would be a very strong floor vote in favor of her confirmation. Mary has the full support of her home State and the legal community to assume this role and no assertion to the contrary has been made at any time since her nomination by the President. Should we not take up and pass her nomination this week, as we should have for all these intervening months since the action by the Judiciary Committee, it is my hope that her nomination returns to this body and is given a fair hearing swiftly in the new year.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I would like to associate myself with all of the comments made by Senator REED. With 90 judicial vacancies in our Article III courts and 32 judicial emergencies, there is no excuse for failing to confirm nominees who have been reported to the Senate floor.

Mary McElroy has undergone the nomination and committee processes with grace and dignity. These processes are intense and time-consuming. She, her husband, Bob, and their two children, have put their lives on hold in order for her to accept this responsibility as a public servant. Mary and the 20 other district court nominees awaiting a floor vote—many of whom have waited for over than a year—should be confirmed immediately.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY REID

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the service of my friend, the Senator from Nevada, and the Democratic leader, HARRY REID. Senator REID's career on Capitol Hill began long before any of us.

Back in 1961, Senator REID came to work at the U.S. Capitol for the first time, though not as a Member.

While Senator REID was working his way through Law School, he spent his nights as an officer for the U.S. Capitol Police, the force that protects the U.S. Congress, in order to support his family.

Senator REID is an inspiration to us all and an incredible fighter.

By the way, I do mean that literally. We all know about his early career as a boxer.

In fact, two champion "Boxers" in the Senate are retiring at the end of this session, and we are going to miss both of them.

I also mean that HARRY REID never gives up.

When he was in high school, he walked 40 miles twice a week so he could get an education.

When he and his wife Landra fell in love—he was told by her family that

they could never be together. They have had a lifelong love affair and are so proud of their five children and now their grandchildren.

From the beginning in public service, Senator REID has fought for the best interests of the people of Nevada and the American people.

In the Nevada State Assembly, he wrote Nevada's first air pollution legislation and worked on issues like consumer protection and public land usage.

As chair of the Nevada Gaming Commission, he ignored threats and cleaned up the gaming industry.

Since being elected in the Senate in 1987, Senator REID's accomplishments are almost too numerous to count. The list goes on and on. Through it all, he has never ever given up. He has fought to defend the environment of his beautiful home State.

He made strides in combatting ALS—writing legislation creating a registry that provides researchers with the critical knowledge they need to combat that terrible disease.

He has shepherded some of the most critical legislative accomplishments in the past 8 years through the Senate.

He led the effort to create and pass the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, saving millions of jobs. He helped our economy begin to recover.

He was responsible for making sure the ACA passed in 2010. So many people have gotten the care they have needed, their lives have been saved, by the work that he has done.

As leader of the Caucus, he has been responsible for bringing so many of us into this Chamber.

He said it himself: "You have to stand up, even when you think you're not gonna win, if you think something's right."

He stood up. He fought the good fight. He fought for all of us. I know that he still has so much to give.

Senator, thank you for your incredible service. Thank you for being such a generous and wonderful friend to me and to my family. I wish you, Landra, and your family many more years of happiness and good work. We will all miss you dearly.

TRIBUTES TO BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a dear friend and colleague, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, as she retires after three decades in the U.S. Senate.

Senator MIKULSKI has been serving the people of Maryland in one form or another for more than 50 years.

From her time as a social worker helping at-risk children and seniors, to the Baltimore City Council, to her four decades of service in the United States Congress, Senator MIKULSKI has always been a strong champion for women, for working families, and for Maryland.

On the rare occasion I have found myself on the other side of an issue from Senator MIKULSKI, as we in Virginia occasionally have been, I actually find myself wishing Maryland had a little bit less of a tenacious advocate in the Senate than BARBARA MIKULSKI.

But luckily for me, I have much more often had the good fortune to be standing side-by-side with Senator MIKULSKI.

I have been proud to work with her and learn from her on a great many issues which will remain her legacies even after she leaves the Senate.

In her position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, for instance, Senator MIKULSKI has been instrumental in making sure the Federal Government abides by its commitments to Metro, and we have worked together to improve oversight of the system's safety.

In an environment where they are more often treated as political punching bags than like the dedicated public servants they are, Federal employees have always known that they can count on Senator MIKULSKI to have their backs.

Senator MIKULSKI might occasionally have trouble reaching the microphones—but when it comes to the issues affecting women, children, working families, and Maryland, Senator MIKULSKI's voice is nearly always the loudest voice in the room.

Today there are more students in school, more women in the workforce, and fewer seniors living in poverty as a result of her determination and her leadership.

It is well known in this body that Senator MIKULSKI is a force of nature, with a wit to match.

Her signature one-liners aren't just funny—though they usually are—but she also has a way of cutting to the heart of the issue and speaking directly to people that I know will be greatly missed by both her colleagues and her constituents.

It is no surprise that the people of Maryland have chosen, over and over again, to send this extraordinary leader back to the Senate on their behalf.

Today there are 20 women Senators, but when BARBARA MIKULSKI first decided to "suit up" and run for the Senate, women in public office at any level were a rarity indeed—rarer still in this body.

Thirty years after President Reagan, campaigning for her opponent in that first Senate race, predicted that BARBARA MIKULSKI would go the way of other short-lived fads like the "Edsel, the hula hoop, and the all-asparagus diet," Senator MIKULSKI retires from the Senate as the longest serving woman in Congressional history.

So while she may be leaving us here in the Senate, one of Senator BARB's greatest legacies may be inspiring generations of American women to follow in her footsteps.

Senator MIKULSKI, thank you for your service and your friendship.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the many accomplishments of my colleague Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, the dean of the Senate women. When she took office during the 100th Congress in 1987, BARBARA was the first Democratic woman Senator elected in her own right. There were only two women Senators at the time, BARBARA and Nancy Kassebaum. Certain expectations that we could consider arcane, such as women were expected to wear skirts or dresses on the floor, were still in place. In 1993, BARBARA, Nancy, and their staffs mounted a simple protest—they wore trousers on the Senate floor.

"The Senate parliamentarian had looked at the rules to see if it was okay," she recounted. "So, I walk on that day and you would have thought I was walking on the moon. It caused a big stir."

As someone who rarely wears skirts and only wears pantsuits on the Senate floor, I and many others are grateful. This simple act of commonsense defiance, if you will, in a body steeped in tradition, exemplifies BARBARA's approach to getting things done and getting on with the important matters of the day. That she is a trailblazer goes without saying.

Throughout her time in the Senate, BARBARA has fought for equal pay for equal work. The gender pay gap costs women hundreds of thousands of dollars over their lifetime. She led the charge in the Senate to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, and I am proud to stand with her in calling for the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act and other equal pay proposals.

As our dean, usually over dinner, we get to know each other on a personal level. In a body where these opportunities are rare, it matters. During the summer of 2014, it was my turn to host our gathering. I greeted each Senator with a lei, served local food from Hawaii, and hosted a hula performance. The Aloha spirit was definitely present.

The next day, BARBARA told me that the dinner was very special and gave her a better understanding about what it must be like to be in Hawaii. It meant a lot to me for BARBARA to make that observation because Hawaii truly is a special place where embracing and caring for others, our ohana, is how we aspire to live.

BARBARA has shown her Aloha spirit to me and so many others throughout her time in public service. I will miss her wit, leadership, drive, and compassion.

Aloha, BARBARA, and a hui hou, "until we meet again."

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the contributions of

my colleague and friend, Senator BARBARA BOXER. While her distinguished time in the House and Senate comes to a close at the end of the 114th Congress, she will continue to be engaged and serve her community.

During her more than 30 years in the House and Senate, BARBARA worked tirelessly to create a better future for all Americans. When she first announced that she would run for the Senate in 1990, BARBARA declared, "I will be running based on issues of the environment, a world of peace, economic prosperity, individual freedom of choice and freedom of the arts."

This declaration defined her time in Congress.

Becoming the first woman to chair the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works reflected her decades of dedication to protecting the environment. BARBARA was unafraid to take on big oil, and fought to block oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. She also led the effort in the Senate to invest in the development of clean energy technology and to strengthen protections for our oceans.

BARBARA knew that, for many, achieving "economic prosperity" meant attaining a college education. But the soaring cost of college keeps them from attaining a degree. Each year, BARBARA was one of the strongest leaders to ensure that college students have access to Pell grants, which nearly half of college students in our country depend upon. BARBARA's advocacy moved the ball forward, and I was proud to join her in crafting a caucus-wide bill that included our provisions to strengthen and protect Pell grants, and lower interest rates on student debt.

BARBARA also never forgot her promise to protect "freedom of choice." She authored the Freedom of Choice Act of 2004, which would have affirmed that "every woman has the fundamental right" to make her own reproductive health decisions. Without fail, BARBARA leads us each and every time that access to reproductive health care comes under attack.

While BARBARA's departure leaves the Senate without one of its strongest champions for the environment, college affordability, and reproductive rights, we will continue to fight for these core priorities as she would have done.

It has been a privilege to serve alongside a steadfast champion like BARBARA.

She has served Maryland with utter conviction, and I know she will continue to be a progressive force in this new chapter of her life.

Aloha, BARBARA, and a hui hou, "until we meet again."

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, much of the time here in the Senate, we are en-

gaged in pretty fierce partisan battles. I would like to take a break from that for a moment and talk about the four Republican Senators who will not be back when the 115th Congress convenes next month. While we may have different political philosophies and policy prescriptions, I respect and admire each of them, and I will miss working with all of them.

KELLY AYOTTE

Mr. President, Senator AYOTTE and I serve together on the Small Business Committee. I have seen firsthand her commitment to helping small businesses in New Hampshire and across the Nation. She is like so many other Senators, past and present, from New England States: pragmatic and willing to reach across the aisle to get things done.

Prior to her election to the Senate, Senator AYOTTE served as the chief of New Hampshire's Homicide Unit and deputy attorney general before she became the State's first female attorney general in 2004. She was appointed to that position by a Republican Governor, but she was reappointed twice by a Democratic Governor.

In the short span of one Senate term, Senator AYOTTE has become a respected voice on national security issues while serving on the Armed Services Committee and the Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee. Foreign Policy magazine listed Senator AYOTTE as one of the top 50 Republicans on international affairs.

Senator AYOTTE comes from a military family and is married to an Iraq War veteran—Lieutenant Colonel Joe Daley—so she has been a staunch supporter of our men and women in uniform and their families.

Senator AYOTTE has worked hard to give New Hampshire veterans more choices when it comes to health care since the State does not have a full-service Veterans Administration, VA, medical facility. To help veterans in New Hampshire's North Country access care closer to home, she successfully pushed for the opening of VA clinics in Colebrook and Berlin.

Senator AYOTTE has been a leader in the fight against opioid abuse and addiction, helping Congress to pass the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, CARA, to improve prevention and treatment, support those in recovery, and ensure first responders have the tools they need. She helped to pass legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, crack down on sexual assault in the military, make college campuses safer, and improve mental health first aid training and suicide prevention programs.

Senator AYOTTE has followed in the footsteps of other Republican Senators from New England, such as Robert Stafford of Vermont and John Chafee of Rhode Island, who are true conservatives when it comes to the environ-

ment. She crossed party lines to vote for Federal clean air rules that protect New Hampshire's air and water from cross-State pollution and to deploy the best available technology to reduce pollution from energy production. She helped pass the Better Buildings Act to encourage greater energy efficiency in commercial buildings, and she has been a strong supporter of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has helped protect thousands of acres in New Hampshire.

I have enjoyed working with Senator AYOTTE and send my best wishes to her and her husband, Joe, and their children Katherine and Jacob.

DAN COATS

Mr. President, there is a famous quote attributed to the American author F. Scott Fitzgerald: "There are no second acts in American lives." We all know that to be untrue and, as it turns out, so did Fitzgerald, who was quintessentially American. What he actually wrote, in an essay called "My Lost City," is this: "I once thought that were no second acts in American lives."

If we want to see a successful "second act" we need to look no further than to the senior Senator from Indiana, Mr. COATS. He is actually on about his fourth act.

Senator COATS graduated from Wheaton College and then began his long service to our Nation by enlisting in the U.S. Army. Following his military service, he attended the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. He excelled academically, becoming associate editor of the Indiana Law Review, and earned his juris doctor degree.

Senator COATS served as a district representative to then-Representative Dan Quayle. When Dan Quayle was elected to the Senate in 1980, DAN COATS won his House seat and was re-elected four times, never receiving less than 60 percent of the vote. When Dan Quayle was elected Vice President in 1988, DAN COATS was appointed to the Senate seat being vacated and then won elections in 1990 and 1992.

During what I will call Senator COATS' "first" congressional career, he focused on cutting taxes and government spending and reforming entitlement programs. In 1998, he honored a term limit pledge he had made to his Hoosier constituents and did not run for reelection to the Senate.

For many people, 18 years in Congress might be enough, but Senator COATS was just getting started. After he left the Senate, he joined the prestigious law firm of Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand. In 2001, then-President Bush nominated Senator COATS to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. He arrived in Germany just 3 days before the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. In the aftermath of 9/11, Ambassador

Coats established excellent relations with then-opposition leader and future German Chancellor Angela Merkel—a crucial ally—and managed the construction of a new U.S. Embassy in the heart of Berlin, next to the Brandenburg Gate.

Senator COATS served honorably as Ambassador for 3 and one-half years and then returned to practicing law at another “blue chip” law firm, King & Spalding. But he also served as president of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and on the boards of many civic and volunteer organizations, including the Center for Jewish and Christian Values, which he cochaired with Senator Joe Lieberman. And Senator COATS and his wife, Marsha, formed the Foundation For American Renewal to continue their engagement in faith-based initiatives.

Senator COATS began his “second” congressional career by running successfully for his old Senate seat in 2010. During Senator COATS’ second stint, I have had the pleasure of serving with him on the Finance Committee, where we worked together to help charities receive timely notice on issues related to their tax-exempt status. I appreciate Senator COATS’ calm and steady demeanor, the diligence he applies to his work, and the civility he extends to his colleagues.

Senator COATS may be retiring from the Senate, but I have a hunch there will be yet another successful act in his long, distinguished career. While we may have policy disagreements, I have no doubt that Senator COATS is committed to the common good and will find new ways to serve. I anticipate, however, that he will also seek to spend more time with his wife, Marsha, whom he met in college, their three children, and their 10 grandchildren.

MARK KIRK

Mr. President, John Kennedy wrote “Profiles in Courage” nearly 50 years ago. But for the last 6 years, we have had yet another profile in courage here in the Senate: the junior Senator from Illinois, Mr. KIRK. In 2012, he suffered a devastating ischemic stroke. He had to relearn how to do basic things, like walking. It took a year of intensive physical therapy at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago—physical therapy that has been likened to boot camp. When he returned on January 3, 2013, and climbed the 45 steps of the Capitol Building to reenter the Senate, it was a truly inspirational moment none of us will forget.

Senator KIRK is an Illinois native, from Champaign. He received his B.A. in history from Cornell University, graduating cum laude. He went on to earn a master’s degree from the London School of Economics and a law degree from Georgetown University. While he practiced law at the law firm of Baker & McKenzie, most of his adult life has been spent in public service.

Senator KIRK joined the U.S. Navy Reserve as a direct commission officer in the intelligence career field in 1989. He was recalled to Active Duty for the 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia; participated in Operation Northern Watch in Iraq, which enforced the no-fly zone, in 2000; and later served three reserve deployments in Afghanistan. He retired from the Navy Reserve with the rank of commander.

Senator KIRK worked for Representative John Porter and at the World Bank and the State Department. He came back to the Hill to serve as a counsel to the House International Relations Committee, as it was known at the time. When Representative Porter retired, he successfully ran for the seat of his former boss and went on to win reelection four times. I had the pleasure of serving with both Representative Porter and then-Representative KIRK while I was in the House. And then he was elected to the Senate in 2010, to the seat President Obama previously held.

During Senator KIRK’s 16-year congressional career, he has demonstrated that he puts country above party, most notably by supporting the common-sense assault weapon ban. More recently, he was the first Republican Senator to meet with President Obama’s Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland. And he was the first Republican Senator to call for hearings and a vote on this superbly qualified individual, a position applauded by Crain’s Chicago Business journal.

Senator KIRK is a staunch supporter of Israel and has been at the forefront of efforts to ensure that a robust sanctions regime remains in place against Iran if it fails to comply with the terms of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Act, JCPOA. I have been pleased to work with Senator KIRK on S. 1882, the Nepal Recovery Act. That bill is on the legislative calendar; it would be a fitting tribute to Senator KIRK if the Senate can pass it before the end of the 114th Congress.

I know that Senator KIRK is justifiably proud of chairing the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies. Under his stewardship, Congress is poised to pass record health care funding for our veterans. He serves as the cochair of the bipartisan Senate Great Lakes Task Force, which promotes the economic vitality and environmental health of the Great Lakes, which provide drinking water to 40 million Americans and Canadians. He authored the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative authorization bill and helped to secure \$300 million in funding to implement it.

During the 112th and 113th Congresses, Senator KIRK had an awesome responsibility all Senators appreciate: his desk on the Senate Floor—Desk No. 95—was the “candy desk.” He kept the

desk stocked with sweets made in Illinois such as Mars, Milky Way, Jelly Belly, and Snickers, helping to support an industry that employs over 3,000 people in his home State.

Senator KIRK suffered a life-threatening stroke. It temporarily slowed him down, but he returned to the Senate where his courage, grace, dignity, collegiality, and resolve will continue to inspire all of us long after he departs next month for his next great endeavor. I wish him well.

DAVID VITTER

Mr. President, Senator VITTER is probably one of the most conservative Senators and yet has a long record of bipartisan accomplishments on behalf of his home State and the Nation. I have enjoyed serving on the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, which he has chaired for the past 2 years. During that time, the committee has reported nearly 30 bills, 8 of which have been signed into law so far. One of those bills, Senator VITTER’s Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act—the RISE After Disaster Act—will help small businesses recover from disasters more rapidly. Considering that small businesses are major employers and the lynchpins of their communities, helping them to recover is crucial.

Senator VITTER is a Louisiana native, born in New Orleans. He was an excellent student and went on to earn his A.B. from Harvard. He attended Oxford University as a Rhodes scholar, earning a B.A., and then he earned his law degree from Tulane. He was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1992; in 1999, he won a special election to succeed then-Representative Bob Livingston to represent the State’s First Congressional District. He was reelected in 2000 and 2002 with more than 80 percent of the vote in each instance. In 2004, he won the Senate seat being vacated by John Breaux. That election was historic; he became the first Republican in Louisiana to be popularly elected as a U.S. Senator. The State’s last Republican Senator, William Pitt Kellogg, was chosen by the State’s legislature in 1876, back before the 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was adopted. Senator VITTER was reelected in 2010 with 57 percent of the vote.

Senator VITTER has had a productive career as a legislator. On June 22, 2016, President Obama signed into law the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, which amends the Toxic Substances Control Act, TSCA, the Nation’s primary chemicals management law. Senator VITTER was the lead Republican sponsor of this measure, working first with our beloved former colleague, Senator Lautenberg, and then with Senator UDALL. The new law, which received bipartisan support in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, will make

it easier for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, to review the safety of chemicals already on the market and the new ones being developed, and it provides a stable source of funding for EPA to meet the law's requirements, a huge step forward with respect to chemical safety.

Senator VITTER has been instrumental in developing and passing important public works bills, including the current Water Resources Development Act, WRDA, reauthorization. While he has been an architect of our Nation's infrastructure policies, he has also been sensitive to the concerns of his home State. Thanks to his involvement in the past several surface transportation bills, Louisiana is no longer a "donor" State with respect to the highway trust fund; the State receives \$1.06 in spending for every \$1.00 it sends to Washington in gasoline taxes. Senator VITTER was stalwart when one of the Nation's worst natural disasters—Hurricane Katrina—devastated Louisiana and the rest of the Gulf Coast in 2005 and again in the wake of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010. He coauthored the RESTORE Act, which directs 80 percent of the Clean Water Act fines levied against BP—\$5.5 billion—to the States whose fisheries, shorelines, and economies were decimated by the spill.

Senator VITTER has numerous other legislative accomplishments. To mention just a few, he authored the Steve Gleason Act, which helps people afflicted with diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, by making it easier for them to acquire speech-generating devices. He reformed the Federal Reserve Board by putting in place the requirement that at least one sitting board member must have community banking experience. And he successfully elevated Barksdale Air Force Base's Global Strike Command to four-star general status.

I mentioned a moment ago that Senator VITTER is a conservative. He and I have vast differences of opinion on many issues. But that is ok; that is the nature of the Senate. The genius of our system of government is that it allows—and encourages—people with different points of view to come together and agree on legislation that moves our country forward, and that is something Senator VITTER has been able to do over his career. I send my best wishes to Senator VITTER, his wife, Wendy, and their children Sophie, Lise, Airey, and Jack.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to two colleagues who are retiring at the end of this year, Senator BOXER and Senator MIKULSKI, two remarkable Democratic women Senators leaving the Senate as four new women come in.

BARBARA BOXER

Mr. President, for more than 40 years, BARBARA BOXER has committed

her life to public service, over 30 of them in Washington, first in the House of Representatives and, since 1993, in the U.S. Senate.

When asked what advice she would give to her successor, Senator BOXER said she should not be afraid to fight the good fight every single day.

And that is what Senator BOXER has done. Over the past four decades, she has been an advocate for medical research, women, workers, the environment, and infrastructure.

As ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, BARBARA BOXER urged Congress and the country to confront climate change, creating the Climate Action Task Force with Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE.

In closing, I am reminded of what Robert Kennedy once said: "The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to make things better."

Senator BOXER has told us that, while she is leaving the Senate to return to California, she does not intend to end her life of service. She will continue to work to make things better. We wish her well and we thank her for her public service in the House and here in the Senate.

BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. President, this year we are also saying farewell to our colleague, BARBARA MIKULSKI, the senior Senator from Maryland.

Senator MIKULSKI first entered politics almost 50 years ago when she was elected to the Baltimore City Council in 1971. Five years later, she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and, a decade after that, she was elected to the U.S. Senate.

Senator MIKULSKI is the longest serving woman in the history of Congress and is the first woman Senator to be elected in her own right.

These achievements are notable, but they are not what inspired BARBARA to come to work every day.

Senator MIKULSKI one remarked that, "Each one of us can make a difference. Together, we make change." And that is what BARBARA MIKULSKI sought to do every day.

As a member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Senator MIKULSKI has championed education, workers' rights, and health care. She has stood up for our children and our seniors.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee since she arrived in the Senate, BARBARA MIKULSKI has worked tirelessly to ensure that the programs that advance those priorities receive the funding they need to be successful.

Margaret Chase Smith once said, "Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and the nation."

Senator MIKULSKI dedicated her life to the people of Maryland and the

country. We will miss her in this Chamber and wish her well.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, as this eventful 114th Congress draws to a close, today I wish to honor a number of our colleagues who will be ending their service in the Senate. I was a newcomer to the Senate at the beginning of this Congress and the only Democrat in the freshman Senate class of 2014. I am eternally grateful for the guidance and wisdom of my fellow Senators, particularly those with decades of experience fighting for the American people. Constituents, colleagues, and historians will recount their accomplishments for years to come, but I will take a few minutes now to convey some brief words of praise and gratitude.

HARRY REID

Mr. President, it has been a great honor to serve in the Senate under the leadership of Senate Democratic Leader HARRY REID. Senator REID has taught us all what it means to represent one's State in the U.S. Senate, doing everything one can to fight hard for the people back home. In his nearly 30 years in the Senate, Senator REID has mastered the rules and traditions of this institution and used them to deliver victories for the people of his state and the nation.

Senator REID is always ready to lend an ear and a helping hand to his Democratic colleagues; yet he listens most intently to his constituents. He never stops thinking about how to ensure that they have access to well-paying jobs, health care, education, and a better future for their children. Senator REID has supported economic development and infrastructure investments that have created jobs throughout the country.

After the 2008 financial crisis, when millions of homes were underwater and the existence of the American auto industry hung in the balance, Senator REID helped craft a compromise to begin our economic recovery. I am grateful for his strong support of the American auto industry during this crisis, which helped us pass essential legislation to restructure Michigan's automotive manufacturers and rebuild our communities. I was also proud to work with him and other leaders on the Dodd-Frank Act, which holds Big Banks accountable and helps safeguard American families to prevent another crisis and build a healthier economy. Senator REID's contributions are too many to name, from advancing affordable health care coverage for millions of Americans, to defending labor protections and our social safety net. Through it all, Senator REID has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the details of policymaking and to his constituents.

Senator REID's legacy and the memory of his tireless work ethic will continue to inspire us to keep working

hard, like our constituents do every day, to make their lives better. Senator REID understands and reminds us all that hard work, faith in each other, and faith in our country are what allow us to endure and improve as a nation. I thank Senator REID for his great service, his guidance, and the conviction with which he leaves us as our country continues to move forward.

BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. President, I would also like to honor Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, who blazed a trail for women in the Senate and always looks out for the members of our communities no matter their gender, race, or identity. As the father of two daughters, as well as a son, I greatly admire Senator MIKULSKI's work to break barriers for women. She has fiercely fought to ensure that all women have access to essential health care services, is a champion for equal pay, and passed legislation that expanded childcare access for all families.

A daughter of Baltimore and a former social worker, Senator MIKULSKI also knows the challenges that our communities face. She has been dedicated to supporting our older, industrial communities like Baltimore and Detroit so that they can compete in the new economy. I would also like to recognize her leadership as Vice chairwoman on the Appropriations Committee. We owe her a debt of gratitude for her eagle eye and unrelenting spirit in defending essential programs in areas including health care, education, job creation, infrastructure, and national security. Our work on breaking down barriers and advancing these priorities is not yet done, but I thank Senator MIKULSKI for leading the way.

BARBARA BOXER

Mr. President, Senator BARBARA BOXER is also a trailblazing woman and a fierce advocate for what is best for her State, and I have been honored to get to know her through our work in the Senate. Throughout her career, Senator BOXER has fought for commonsense consumer and environmental protections to make us safer. She has been an incredible partner in our fight this year to end the water crisis in Flint, MI, and to reduce the threat of drinking water contamination in cities across the Nation.

Senator BOXER knows that we must protect our children and communities from the grave effects of environmental contamination by investing in our aging infrastructure and maintaining vigilance. We must also provide the extra care, education, and health care services that these children and communities need to recover.

She has always been a champion for children, from establishing the first federally funded afterschool program to protecting children from contaminated products. Just as importantly, Senator BOXER has been a leader in

protecting the natural resources these future generations will inherit. Her victories for clean water, job-creating smart infrastructure projects, and environmental protections should inspire us to keep looking toward the future as we help our great States thrive today.

DAVID VITTEK

Mr. President, in a Congress where bipartisanship is all too rare, I have been honored to work with many Republican colleagues on commonsense, bipartisan solutions. Senator DAVID VITTEK has served as chairman of the Senate Small Business Committee, of which I am a member, and has been a consummate partner on issues affecting Michigan's small businesses. On the Small Business Committee, we have been able to pass significant legislation to ensure that small businesses have the resources they need to compete, expand, and give back to their communities. We extended the SBA 7(a) Federal loan program to provide thousands of small businesses with financing at no cost to American taxpayers. Together, we introduced legislation that will provide patent education to small businesses. We also introduced legislation that will help small businesses plan for and protect against cyber security attacks. I am glad to have colleagues like Senator VITTEK who believe that no issue is too small when it comes to supporting support job creation and economic growth.

DAN COATS

Mr. President, I would also like to extend my warm wishes to Senator DAN COATS. He has served ably as chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, and I have been proud to sit on the committee during his tenure. He has convened important hearings to discuss essential issues including the Federal debt, the effects of automation on our economy, tax reform, and economic growth. I appreciate his consistent efforts to create a bipartisan forum where we can discuss innovative ideas for addressing our Nation's economic challenges. As a fellow Midwesterner, Senator COATS knows that we must have big ideas and bigger hearts as we move forward, committed to helping all Americans achieve the future they deserve.

KELLY AYOTTE

Mr. President, I also had the pleasure of serving with Senator KELLY AYOTTE on the Senate committees on Small Business, Commerce, and Homeland Security and Government Affairs. She has been a pragmatic partner on legislation as varied as the Northern Border Security Review Act, which will strengthen American security at the northern border with Canada, and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Improvement Act, which would expand a public-private partnership to help businesses get their products to mar-

ket. We also introduced the Pet and Women Safety Act to protect victims of domestic violence from emotional trauma caused by acts or threats of violence against their pets. I respect Senator AYOTTE's dedication to these issues. As a father, I also admire Senator AYOTTE's great work raising two young children while in the Senate. I wish her family all the best in their next adventure.

MARK KIRK

Mr. President, another colleague from the Midwest, Senator MARK KIRK, has served with distinction in the Senate. Like me, Senator KIRK also served as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. We have collaborated on efforts to help veterans suffering from PTSD, protect wildlife habitats and improve water quality in the Great Lakes, extend Medicare coverage for Americans at risk for diabetes, and even establish the Senate Albanian Caucus. I admire the strength and resolve Senator KIRK has exhibited throughout his Senate term and wish him continued success.

It has been a privilege to work with such talented and committed colleagues. I wish them all the best in this next chapter of their lives and thank them for their work. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the service of a former colleague and our current Vice President, JOE BIDEN.

JOE was born in Pennsylvania but moved with his family to Delaware when he was 13. He left Delaware for brief stints at St. Helena School and Syracuse University Law School, but he has always returned to Delaware, including the daily trips he made home during his Senate career and the regular trips he makes home to this day.

Because of his devotion to Delaware, JOE quickly got his start in politics, first on the New Castle County Council and then in the U.S. Senate, where he became the fifth youngest U.S. Senator in history in 1972. He also has the distinction of being Delaware's longest serving Senator.

I worked with JOE on many different issues during his time in the Senate and served on the Foreign Relations Committee when he was our chairman. JOE is known as a foreign affairs expert, and he has many reasons to be proud of the work he has done in that area. One of those things that we worked on together was the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

I remember being at the 2003 State of the Union speech when President Bush said, "We're going to put \$15 billion into an AIDS effort." That shocked all of us who were there. It was a lot of money. But we worked together to develop a bill that passed the House and Senate unanimously.

JOE managed the floor when we reauthorized that program in 2008, and we worked with Senators Coburn, BURR, and Lugar to develop that reauthorization. At the time, JOE suggested historians will regard PEPFAR as President Bush's "single finest hour," and I tend to agree. A few years ago I visited the Kasisi Orphanage in Zambia. We were told that, before PEPFAR, they had to bury 18 kids a month that died of AIDS, but because of PEPFAR, they got that down to one a month. I know JOE shares my pride in the difference that program is making.

We were all a little sad to see JOE move to the White House in 2009, when he became our 47th Vice President. Lucky for us, he has been able to keep his ties to the Senate in his role as President of this body, and I think he has been one of our best partners in the administration.

All of us were glad to be able to recognize JOE and his son, Beau Biden, by naming the cancer section of 21st Century Cures Act after Beau. I expect JOE will continue to be a voice for ending cancer, and I hope to work with him towards that cause.

JOE, Diana and I send our best to you, Jill, and your family. You have served the people of Delaware and the people of the United States with distinction.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHN R. ALLMAN

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about PFC John R. Allman. John was born November 22, 1963, in Carlsbad, NM. He played fierce football for the Carlsbad High School Cavemen and graduated in 1982.

John always wanted to be a Marine—like his father and grandfather before him. He fulfilled his dream and became a marine weeks after graduating from high school.

Tragically, John was killed in a terrorist bomb attack on his barracks while on a multinational peacekeeping mission in Beirut, Lebanon. John and his fellow marines were stationed in Lebanon to help stabilize the country from civil war.

On April 18, 1983, the U.S. Embassy in Beirut was hit by a suicide truck bomb—one of the first suicide attacks in the region—killing 63 people, including 17 Americans.

On October 23, 1983, two truck bombs struck separate buildings housing American and French military forces in Beirut—members of the multinational force. The attack on American barracks housed the 1st Battalion 8th Marines, John's battalion. The bomb striking the marines' quarters was the largest nonnuclear explosion that had ever been detonated, equaling in force between 15,000 and 21,000 pounds of TNT. The death toll was 220 marines, 18 sailors, and 3 soldiers, John

among them. It was the deadliest single-day death toll for the Marine Corps since World War II's Battle of Iwo Jima and the deadliest single terrorist attack on American citizens prior to the September 11 attacks. The blasts led to withdrawal of the international peacekeeping force.

John's hometown of Carlsbad and Eddy County proclaimed Veterans Day 2016 as "John Allman Day" in his honor. That day, the community celebrated with a parade, speeches, and tributes to John. A bench was made and commemorated in John's name and sits permanently in Carlsbad Veterans Memorial Park.

John was humble, quiet, dedicated, fun-loving, intelligent. He was honest and proud. John always gave his all.

John was born the day of John F. Kennedy's assassination. He was not supposed to be named John, but his parents did so in honor of the slain President. Of veterans, President Kennedy said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." We must honor John by doing all we can for our veterans.

PFC John Allman gave his life in the service of peace in the Middle East. We do not forget his sacrifice and the sacrifice of his family. And we honor John's service and the ultimate sacrifice he made on behalf of our country.

TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH A. KAPANOSKE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wanted to say a few words in tribute to a longtime Senate employee who is retiring this month after 35 years of service. Debbie Kapanoske has served as my office manager in Washington for my entire tenure in the U.S. Senate; going on 14 years—but she has been in the Murkowski family much longer. Debbie became correspondence director for Senator Frank Murkowski in 1993. She was subsequently promoted to office manager and continued in that role until 2002 when Senator Frank Murkowski resigned from the Senate following his election as Governor of Alaska. That left Debbie the responsibility of closing one office while simultaneously opening another, and that is no small juggling act. In fact, I understand that the experience led Debbie to swear that she will never close another office again. Before joining the office of Senator Frank Murkowski, Debbie served in the office of the Senator Bob Kasten of Wisconsin as correspondence director.

Debbie is highly respected among her fellow administrative managers in the Senate. She is one of many unsung heroes without which Senate offices could not run. I have often remarked that she is the best office manager I have ever had. So today let me take

this opportunity to thank Debbie for her service to the Senate and in particular for her 23 years of service to Alaska. Over the years, Debbie has mentored scores of staff members first in my father's office and now in mine. And, while they aren't here today to say it personally, I know that she has played a special role in all of their lives. So let me close by thanking Debbie for all that she has done, but more importantly for the powerful impression she has left on all who have worked with her and to wish Debbie and her husband, George, well in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ERIK PHELPS

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize LCDR Erik Phelps, a defense fellow from the U.S. Navy, for his exemplary work in my office and service to our Nation during January to December 2016.

Lieutenant Commander Phelps is a California native and a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. Erik is married to his loving wife, Erin, and they have three young children named Owen, Summer, and Samantha.

Upon joining my office, Erik quickly became a key asset and trusted adviser on defense and veterans policy. In fact, Erik's intellectual drive, attention to detail, and thoughtful planning led to his conceiving five original, outstanding pieces of legislation. These included the Veterans Choice Equal Cost for Care Act, the Veterans Health Administration Spending Transparency and Oversight Act, and the Protection and Advocacy for Veterans Act.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Erik for his outstanding contributions to my office and wish him all the best as he continues his career.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOMODA BAKERY

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Maui's Komoda Store and Bakery on their 100-year anniversary. I visited the bakery in Makawao last month and met the Komoda and Shibuya families who are carrying on the tradition of serving the Maui community.

In 1916, Takezo and Shigeri Komoda opened a mom-and-pop general store, selling bread, salmon, and fresh sandwiches primarily to Makawao town residents. By 1932, they expanded their store and began selling groceries and other household items. Takezo and Shigeri passed on the bakery to their sons Takeo and Ikuo, who ran the store for the next 50 years.

While the bakery is what Komoda's is known for today, Ikuo is the only member of the family who received formal training in 1947 when he traveled

to Minnesota to study baking. Over time, Komoda's transitioned from a general store to a bakery, serving fresh bread, butter rolls, and pastries like stick donuts, malasadas, Chantilly cake, and cream puffs. By the 1990s, Takeo and Ikuo considered retiring and closing the bakery. However, Takeo's son-in-law, Calvin Shibuya, did not want to see the family business close. After training with chief baker Ikuo Komoda, Calvin and his wife, Betty, took over the bakery. Their daughter, Michele, is now learning the business, the baking from her father and the retail side from her mother.

Komoda Bakery is an institution in upcountry Maui. Each day, people line up in the morning to purchase their baked goods. They only make a set amount each day, so if you don't go early, they oftentimes sell out.

Many take the delectable treats from Komoda's to neighbor islands to share with family and friends in the time-honored tradition of omiyage, or gift. When I visited right before Thanksgiving, which is their busiest time of the year, the store was bustling with activity, and the counters were stacked with fruit, pumpkin, and custard pies.

Congratulations to Komoda Bakery on 100 years of success. We thank the Komoda family and their longtime employees who each day wake early to prepare the delicious handmade and homemade baked goods enjoyed by generations.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a Maui News article, which chronicles the Komoda family's dedication and success.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Maui News, Nov. 2, 2016]

SWEET SUCCESS AT 100: KOMODA CELEBRATES CENTURY OF GOOD EATS

(By Melissa Tanji)

MAKAWAO.—Komoda Store & Bakery is celebrating 100 years of feeding Maui's appetite, in the beginning with breads and saimin and now with stick donuts and cream puffs that residents and visitors can't get enough of.

One hundred years in business is a feat rarely achieved by Maui's mom-and-pop stores or for any business, for that matter. The Komodas and their extended family don't know how the years added up.

"We can't believe it lasted this long," said Betty Shibuya, the granddaughter of the founders Takezo and Shigeri Komoda. She added that her ancestors would be surprised that the family has kept the business thriving for a century.

Shibuya's husband and the chief baker, Calvin Shibuya, joked that he, himself, felt like 100 years old, even though he's only 73. But his feelings are justified because Mr. Shibuya starts work at 11:30 p.m.—just to begin the baking. He doesn't end his day until around 4 p.m. at closing time.

But he's not complaining. He said his schedule is similar to what the Komoda family endured for decades.

Even at 73, Calvin Shibuya pledges that he and his family would keep the business chug-

ging along as long as they are able to keep churning out donuts from the old fried bread dough recipe along with butter rolls, pies and buns and other baked goods.

"I've always said we'll (be open) as long as we stay healthy," he said.

This week, the Komoda family is celebrating its milestone with the public.

The family has been giving away 100 free stick donuts to customers on a first-come, first-served basis. (The store opens at 7 a.m.) This will continue on Thursday and Friday. (The store is closed today, as usual.)

On Saturday, 300 stick donuts will be given out. At noon, there will be a performance by Zenshin Daiko, a taiko drum group. A 100th-anniversary dish towel is on sale, and customers who spend \$40 get a commemorative potholder.

Nearby, the Makawao History Museum at 3643 Baldwin Ave. is hosting an exhibit based on the anniversary. It's open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except for Sundays when it opens at 11 a.m.

T. Komoda Store was founded in 1916 as a general store where the current Polli's Mexican Restaurant is on the corner of Makawao and Baldwin avenues. There was some bread baking, which later expanded to saimin and sandwiches, the family said.

In 1932, the family purchased its current spot along Baldwin Avenue. The family said it was more of a general store catering to Makawao town, selling everything from fabric, lighting fixtures and groceries.

As World War II loomed before Dec. 7, 1941, Takezo and Shigeri Komoda anticipated the loss of what they had because they were not American citizens. So, they transferred the property and business to Takeo Komoda, their oldest son and his wife, Kiyoko, who were U.S. citizens, according to Gail Ainsworth. She does research and writing for the Makawao History Museum. (Takeo and Kiyoko were Betty Shibuya's parents.) The store founders had eight children, all of whom at some point had a hand in the business.

In the early days, the family served food, such as saimin and egg sandwiches, Betty Shibuya said. But eventually that was phased out.

In 1947, Takeo Komoda's brother, Ikuo, went to baking school in Minnesota. He was the only one in the family to receive professional training. Ikuo Komoda is credited with developing the cream puff and stick donut. It was under Ikuo Komoda that Calvin Shibuya trained. He got involved in the business in the 1990s because the Komoda brothers were aging and looking for someone to take over. The family considered closing the business, Calvin Shibuya said.

Shibuya had retired from the U.S. Air Force and was contemplating a second career as a commercial pilot.

"I didn't want to see the business close," Calvin Shibuya said. He told the brothers not to close the business and stepped in to help.

"That would be a shame if the business shut down," he said.

Ainsworth called the Komoda family hard-working, though she added that is typical of mom-and-pop businesses.

"I think they were astute," she said. "They transferred their property to their son when they needed to, prior to World War II. They sent another son (Ikuo) to baking school and expanded their bakery business. They adapted to the community as it changed. As people started to shop at large grocery stores, they de-emphasized their store operation."

Indeed, the family adapted and survived the influx of large chain grocery stores, along with specialty bakeries on Maui. They still sell snacks, sodas and hot dogs, but 90 percent of the business is the bakery, Calvin Shibuya said.

The Komoda homestyle and handmade pastries are a favorite to generations of Maui residents.

On Tuesday, Shaun Lyons was in the store, a place she had been to as a kid, and now a grandmother.

Lyons, born to the Baldwin family who lived at Haleakala Ranch, remembers how her parents made her sit on a scale next to the front doors as others went shopping. Lyons remembers her family buying groceries and other necessities on credit at the store and paying a monthly bill. There were no plastic credit cards then.

"It was so convenient," she remembers.

At one point the Komoda family also had a grocery delivery service, which in some places was common.

"I think it's so fantastic," Lyons said of the centennial. "I love all the Komodas and the Komoda family."

On Tuesday, Lyons was buying some hamburger buns and a Chantilly cake her 46-year-old son loves. This time, the cake was for her grandson (her son's son), who was celebrating his 5th birthday on Tuesday.

"This is a great place," she said.

Customer satisfaction and enthusiasm for Komoda's baked goods drive Calvin Shibuya and the rest of the family to work before sunup and until almost sundown daily.

Typically, Calvin Shibuya starts at 11:30 p.m. making coconut Danish and turnovers. Around an hour later, he begins the mixes for the bread and the soft moist butter rolls and cinnamon rolls.

His daughter, Michele Shibuya, is learning the trade and helps her father cut the glob of dough for the butter rolls. Then with a spatula, the butter is spread and, by hand, sugar is sprinkled on the rolls.

Two other employees begin their day at 1:30 a.m. to help with the baking.

Usually around 2:30 a.m., Calvin Shibuya begins his work on the stick donuts. Typically, around 100 dozen are made every day. On weekends that number doubles.

All by hand, the donuts are put on sticks. Shibuya said the only mechanical appliances the bakery has is a mixer and a dough cutter and shaper for their hamburger and hot dog buns. The cutter and shaper are new additions, maybe put in around 10 years ago.

Shibuya said the contraption cut down on 75 percent of the time he and others put in to make the buns. Previously, it involved cutting the dough and putting in on a scale.

Asked why he doesn't automate more of his equipment to help with the baking, Shibuya says the way it is now, "this is the only way I know."

When the Komoda brothers were living and working in the 1980s and 1990s, the bakery was churning out 100 to 150 dozen cream puffs a day. These days, Shibuya makes around 75 dozen as the main baker. But the cream puffs shells are still made one by one and placed onto pans with ice cream scoopers.

Shibuya had hoped that Ikuo Komoda, the chief baker, could have lived to see the 100th anniversary, but he died last year at the age of 86. His mother-in-law, Kiyoko Komoda died in August at the age of 95.

Michele Shibuya said her grandmother, Kiyoko, was a fixture at the bakery and even in her senior years was still at the Makawao business putting together pastry boxes.

Early in the morning when the baking is done and the bakery opens, Calvin Shibuya

continues to work as his wife and daughter and others handle the retail operations.

By mid-morning, Calvin Shibuya is making the cream for the cream puffs and long Johns, all to start the process for the next day.

"At the end of the day, if everything goes well. It's very rewarding," Shibuya said.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING ED MORLAN

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I would like to recognize and honor the life of Edwin Purl Morlan, a constituent in my home State of Colorado who passed away on November 15, 2016, at the age of 66. He lived in Bayfield and was a pillar of the community in southwest Colorado, where he worked for 27 years as the executive director of Region 9 Economic Development District, a non-profit that provides support to local businesses and startups.

At his retirement party only 8 weeks ago, Mr. Morlan's friends, family, co-workers, and fellow economic development officials and entrepreneurs shared stories of the effect he had all across southwest Colorado and the entire State. Mr. Morlan was a key part of rebuilding this rural region's long-struggling economy. Through his vision and hard work, Ed loaned start-up funds to many of today's iconic southwest Colorado businesses, such as Mercury Payment Systems, Steamworks Brewing Company, and Chinook Medical Gear. During his tenure, Region 9 loaned over \$22 million to business ventures. Under Mr. Morlan's leadership, Region 9 Economic Development District led the way to bringing Internet and transportation planning to southwest Colorado, and the district now maintains an indicator report that measures the economic health of 17 regional communities. Mr. Morlan's vision shaped all of these projects. His daughter Kinsee said it well in a recent article in the Durango Herald: "He just wanted Southwest Colorado to keep up with the rest of the world in terms of economic development."

Mr. Morlan was also a veteran. Drafted into the U.S. Army at age 19, he served as a combat medic in one of the most dangerous areas in Vietnam, earning both a Silver Star for the many lives he saved and a Purple Heart for his own injuries. After returning from Vietnam, he attended Western State College in Gunnison, where he met his wife, Jackie.

As a five-term member of the town board of Bayfield and a member of the local planning commission, Mr. Morlan was part of the inaugural class of Leadership La Plata and helped launch an entrepreneurial accelerator program called SCAPE. His commitment to the community won him the Durango Chamber of Commerce's Barbara Conrad Leadership Award, and Governor

John Hickenlooper declared July 28th, 2016 to be "Ed Morlan Day," in recognition of his service.

Mr. Morlan was also known for being a restaurant owner, handyman, boat captain, little league coach, friend, mentor, and dedicated family man. At a celebration of life held in Mr. Morlan's honor in late November, over 300 friends, colleagues, and family gathered at the Bayfield High School Performing Arts Center to share stories of a man who was deeply committed to his job, his family, and his community, a man who was a good friend, companion, grandfather, and husband. He is survived by his wife, Jackie Morlan; his sister, Ann Taylor, and her family; his daughters Amber and Kinsee Morlan; his son-in-law Jeff Hammett; and his grandchildren Huxley and Harper Purl Hammett.

I join with southwest Colorado in honoring Ed Morlan, and I send my deepest condolences to his family.●

THE AMERICA I BELIEVE IN

• Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD a copy of an essay by Ainslie Ross titled "The America I Believe In," which won a regional prize for the Patriot's Pen essay contest. The material follows:

THE AMERICA I BELIEVE IN

Almost every American is taught from an early age to recite the Pledge of Allegiance by heart, but how many actually know it by heart? Most people don't think twice about what the words really mean.

The first phrase says, "I pledge allegiance," meaning we personally, solemnly promise loyalty, dedication, devotion, honor, and obedience. The next phrase says, "to the flag, of the United States of America" so we aren't just promising these to just anyone, but to the people of our country. All those who fought for freedom in the American Revolution against Britain, the Civil War to stop slavery, and in the war that's going on right now in the Middle East to protect our rights from those who want to take it away from us. The America I believe in consists of keeping our promises to our country and our loyalty to what our flag stands for.

The phrase of the pledge that says, "and to the Republic for which it stands" means in addition to pledging for allegiance, we pledge to a government by the people, for the people, and in the interests of the people because the country of America belongs to the people. "One Nation" means we are together as one country; we are not divided by our beliefs, race, gender, or political party, we are together as one. I believe that our whole country can come together as a team because that is what we really are, but that will not be possible unless we set aside our differences and treat each other as one of our team members, with kindness and respect. "Under God" means we are covered by the Holy Father, and if He thinks our country is worth protecting, then it must be worth coming together for as one team.

"Indivisible with liberty and justice for all" means we are inseparable with independence and integrity for as long as our country is complete. The America I believe in consists of not giving away or letting go of our

freedoms that we fought for and worked hard for as one undivided nation.

The America I believe in is powerful, respectful, and we are a team. I believe America is the country we make it. Working together, we can make it the country that the writers of the Pledge of Allegiance saw it as so many years ago.●

RECOGNIZING EIGHT MAINE HOSPITALS RECEIVING THE LEAPFROG GROUP'S TOP HOSPITAL AWARD

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the eight Maine hospitals being awarded the Leapfrog Group's Top Hospital Award. I am proud of the work that our State's medical institutions have done to attain the highest standards of hospital quality and safety. St. Mary's Regional received the Top General Hospital Award, and Bridgton Hospital, Charles A. Dean Memorial Hospital, LincolnHealth, Mayo Regional Hospital, Pen Bay Medical Center, Sebasticook Valley Health, and Stephens Memorial Hospital received the Top Rural Hospital Award.

The Leapfrog Group is an independent hospital watchdog group, working with hospitals around the country to discover and recognize the top performers. The surveys they conduct compare hospitals' performance "on national standards of patient safety, quality, efficiency, and management structures that prevent errors, providing the most comprehensive picture of how patients fare at individual institutions." These rigorous standards have been used to vet thousands of hospitals across the Nation, and these eight Maine facilities have proven themselves worthy of recognition. The standards, quality, and safety that these hospitals have exhibited is emblematic of the work ethic and of the values that make Maine such a great place. As such, they contribute to Maine business's storied legacy of dedication to quality and high standards.

The people of our country depend on the efficient and quality functioning of health centers, and these eight Maine hospitals have proven their great commitment to quality care. Thanks to their continued efforts, individuals and families across the State of Maine have access to much-needed services—and the entire State is stronger because of it. The work of these hospitals serve as a shining example that I hope will be emulated across the State of Maine and the Nation, as all Americans deserve access to health care facilities with a strong track record of quality service and commitment to excellence.

I congratulate these eight Maine hospitals for their work providing high quality crucial health care services to the people of Maine and thank them for their pursuit of excellence. I am proud of these great Maine institutions and look forward to their continued success.●

REMEMBERING BRIGADIER
GENERAL ROSANNE BAILEY

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the memory of Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey, U.S. Air Force, Retired. General Bailey, who was known simply as “Ro,” passed away on November 2, 2016.

Ro began her Air Force career through the ROTC program at Purdue University, where she earned a BS in industrial management from the Krannert School of Management. In 2005, she received the Krannert School’s “Distinguished Alumni Award.”

As an Air Force officer, Ro held significant positions in acquisition and logistics before assuming command level responsibilities. Before retiring, Ro served as commander of the 435th Air Base Wing at Ramstein AFB in Germany and as commander of the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center in Colorado Springs.

One of the stops along Ro’s distinguished Air Force career was Eielson Air Force Base near Fairbanks, AK, where Ro served as commander of the 354th Logistics Group from 1996–1998. Following her retirement from the Air Force, Ro returned to interior Alaska to accept a series of executive positions at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

In 2006, she was named vice chancellor for administrative services. Two years later, she became involved in the university’s efforts to develop a niche in unmanned aerial systems. Her initial position was special projects manager for unmanned aircraft and rocket launch support in 2008.

Ro’s success in that position led the University of Alaska Board of Regents to create the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration in 2012. Ro was named deputy director of the center. She was instrumental in writing the proposal that created the Pan-Pacific UAS Test Range Complex, which is one of only seven FAA-approved unmanned aircraft system test sites in the Nation. Leading the center during the difficult early years, she left her mark on the unmanned aircraft industry.

She was also active in the interior Alaska community as a commissioner of the Steese Fire District and an elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Fairbanks.

Ro’s passing is a great loss to her many friends in the UAS world, at the University of Alaska, and in the broader interior Alaska community. I was privileged to know Ro and am grateful for that opportunity.

Thank you for the opportunity to celebrate the life of Ro Bailey today in the U.S. Senate.●

REMEMBERING RICHARD JOHNSON
AND TRIBUTE TO PAT JOHNSON

• Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the late Richard Salisbury Johnson, Sr., and his wife, Patsy Ann Seaton Johnson, for their contributions to the betterment of Palm Beach County, FL.

Richard, Pat, and their families have been a part of the Palm Beach County community for decades. Both Pat and Richard were born in West Palm Beach. Richard’s great-grandfather arrived on Lake Worth in the early 1880s, and his father worked in the historic 1916 Palm Beach County Court House. Pat’s family moved to the area in 1928. Today, the family still owns the Johnson Farm in Pahokee.

Through the years, the philanthropy of Richard and Pat Johnson has benefited healthcare and education through many organizations, including the Rehabilitation Center for Children and Adults and the Brady Urological Institute at Johns Hopkins University. At Duke University Medical Center, they established the Richard and Pat Johnson University Professorship in Cardiovascular Genomics and both sat on the board. In addition, Pat has chaired many events for St. Mary’s Medical Center, where Richard served as board chair for over a decade. Palm Beach Atlantic College honored Richard with the American Free Enterprise Medal in 1995 and recognized Pat with its Women of Distinction Award in 2001.

With a shared vision and extraordinary generosity, Richard and Pat committed to opening a museum to share their local history. They turned a long, grassroots effort into reality with their generous support of the Historical Society of Palm Beach County. These efforts led to the Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum, which found its home in the now-restored 1916 courthouse, where Richard’s father worked so many years ago.

Since its opening, the Historical Society has engaged over 420,000 Palm Beach County school children by funding education programs, as well as providing transportation for guided tours of the museum. The Johnsons’ leadership has allowed the historical society to better fulfill its mission “to collect, preserve, and share the rich history and cultural heritage of Palm Beach County.”

Richard and Pat Johnson serve as role models through their hard work, dedication, and selflessness, not only to their five children, but also to the people of their community and State. I am honored to represent the Johnson family in the U.S. Senate, and to recognize their lives of public service.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry treaties which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1632. An act to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram.

S. 2974. An act to ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and for other purposes.

S. 3028. An act to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

S. 3183. An act to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2028. An act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7872. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Modification of the Handling Regulation for Area No. 2” (Docket No. AMS-SC-16-0042) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7873. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program,

Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Olives Grown in California; Suspension and Revision of Incoming Size-Grade Requirements" (Docket No. AMS-SC-16-0031) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7874. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown in California and Imported Raisins; Removal of Language" (Docket No. AMS-SC-16-0065) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7875. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dicamba; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9954-37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7876. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Anthony G. Crutchfield, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7877. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Security Education Program (NSEP) and NSEP Service Agreement" (RIN0790-AJ01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7878. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7879. A communication from the Program Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold" (RIN1557-AD99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7880. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; Adjustment to Civil Penalty Amount Under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002" (31 CFR Part 50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7881. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; Certification" (RIN1505-AC53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7882. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Exports to Mexico under License Exception TMP" (RIN0694-AG97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7883. A communication from the Director, Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Modernization and Simplification of Regulation S-K"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7884. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the Export Administration Regulations: Removal of Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation from the List of Validated End-Users in the People's Republic of China" (RIN0694-AH16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7885. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the Export Administration Regulations: Removal of Special Iraq Reconstruction License" (RIN0694-AG89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7886. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the continuation of the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13396 on February 7, 2006, with respect to Cote d'Ivoire; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7887. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7888. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program Commitment Requirement" (RIN2501-AD69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7889. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2016 Economic Dispatch and Technological Change"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7890. A communication from the Deputy Director for Operations, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the detailed boundaries, classification descriptions, and maps for the Snake River Headwaters, in Wyoming; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7891. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval/Disapproval; MS; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2012 PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9956-35-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7892. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Designations for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide (SO2) Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards—Supplement to Round 2 for Four Areas in Texas: Firestone and Anderson Counties, Milam County, Rusk, and Panola Counties, and Titus County" (FRL No. 9956-10-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7893. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Oklahoma; Infrastructure for the Lead, Ozone, Nitrogen Dioxide and Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9955-28-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7894. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Removal of Stage II Gasoline Vapor Recovery Requirements for Gasoline Dispensing Facilities; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule" (FRL No. 9956-26-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7895. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonable Further Progress Plan and Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets for the Dallas/Fort Worth 2008 Ozone Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9955-52-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7896. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Attainment of the 2012 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Standard; Pennsylvania; Delaware County Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9956-41-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7897. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category—Implementation Date Extension" (FRL No. 9956-05-OW) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7898. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Site Characteristics and Site Parameters" (NUREG-0800) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7899. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Physical Security—Early Site Permit and Reactor Siting Criteria" (NUREG-0800) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7900. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fitness for Duty—Introduction" (NUREG-0800) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7901. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Access Authorization Operational Program" (NUREG-0800) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7902. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, Savannah, Georgia; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7903. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Import Restrictions Imposed on Certain Archaeological Material from Egypt" (RIN1515-AE19) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7904. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Certain Archaeological and Ethnological Materials from the Plurinational State of Bolivia" (RIN1515-AE20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7905. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Income and Currency Gain or Loss with Respect to a Section 987 QBU" ((RIN1545-AM12) (TD 9794)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7906. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Recognition and

Deferral of Section 987 Gain or Loss" ((RIN1545-BL12) (TD 9795)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7907. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and State Health Care Programs: Fraud and Abuse; Revisions to the Safe Harbors Under the Anti-Kickback Statute and Civil Monetary Penalty Rules Regarding Beneficiary" (RIN0936-AA06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7908. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "December 2016 Supplement to Rev. Proc. 2014-64, Implementation of Nonresident Alien Deposit Interest Regulations" (Rev. Proc. 2016-56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7909. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Covered Asset Acquisitions" ((RIN1545-BM75) (TD 9800)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7910. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tax Return Preparer Due Diligence Penalty under Section 6695(g)" ((RIN1545-BN61) (TD 9799)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7911. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consistent Basis Reporting Between Estate and Person Acquiring Property From Decedent" ((RIN1545-BM98) (TD 9797)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7912. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Unpaid Losses Discount Factors and Payment Patterns for 2016" (Rev. Proc. 2016-58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7913. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Salvage Discount Factors and Payment Patterns for 2014" (Rev. Proc. 2016-59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7914. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "User Fees for Installment Agreements" ((RIN1545-BN37) (TD 9798)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7915. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch,

Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Publication of the Tier 2 Tax Rates" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7916. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2016 Guidance with Respect to the Tax Credit for Employee Health Insurance Expenses of Certain Small Employers" (Notice 2016-75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7917. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Department of the Treasury Acquisition Regulations; Incremental Funding of Fixed-Price, Time-and-Material or Labor-Hour Contracts During a Continuing Resolution" (48 CFR Part 1032 and 48 CFR Part 1052) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7918. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electronic Notice of Liquidation" (RIN1515-AE16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 9, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7919. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the Child Support Program for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7920. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and State Health Care Programs: Fraud and Abuse; Revisions to the Office of Inspector General's Civil Monetary Penalty Rules" (RIN0936-AA04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7921. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-098); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7922. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-110); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7923. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-112); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7924. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-069); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7925. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-095); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7926. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-039); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7927. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Head Start Program" (RIN0970-AC63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7928. A communication from the Director, Civil Rights Center, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act" (RIN1291-AA36) received in the office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7929. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal years 2011-2014 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Reports to Congress and the LIHEAP Home Energy Notebooks for fiscal years 2011-2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7930. A communication from the Chairman, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7931. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7932. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Labor's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7933. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Department of Labor's 2014 and 2015 FAIR Act Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7934. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7935. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of the implementation of an alternative pay plan for locality pay increases for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7936. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch; Amendment to the Standards Governing Solicitation and Acceptance of Gifts from Outside Sources" (RIN3209-AA04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7937. A communication from the Special Counsel, United States Office of the Special Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of the Special Counsel's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7938. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-up for the period of April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7939. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2015 FAIR Act Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7940. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7941. A communication from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the organization's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7942. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Defense Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7943. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Regulatory Affairs Law Division, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Petitions for Rulemaking, Amendment, or Repeal" (RIN1601-AA56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7944. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Regulatory Affairs Law Division, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Freedom of Information Act Regulations" (RIN1601-AA00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7945. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7946. A communication from the Chairman, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector

General for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7947. A communication from the Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7948. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of the Wind River Indian Reservation to the List of Courts of Indian Offenses" (RIN1076-AF33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-7949. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indian Child Welfare Act Proceedings" (RIN1076-AF25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-7950. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tribal Transportation Program" (RIN1076-AF19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-7951. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to thirteen legislative recommendations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-7952. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 17A" (RIN0648-BF77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7953. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Exchange of Flatfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XE969) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7954. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XF036) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7955. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

“Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648-XF032) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7956. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; 2016 Bigeye Tuna Longline Fishery Reopening in the Eastern Pacific Ocean” (RIN0648-XE902) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7957. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648-XE967) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7958. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648-XE932) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7959. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; 2016-2017 Commercial Accountability Measures and Closure for King Mackerel in the Florida West Coast Northern Subzone” (RIN0648-XF017) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7960. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Georges Bank Cod Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closure and Possession and Trip Limit Reductions for the Common Pool Fishery” (RIN0648-XF002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7961. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648-XF064) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7962. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pacific Island Pelagic Fisheries; 2016 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Bigeye Tuna Fishery; Closure” (RIN0648-XE284)

received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7963. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfers” (RIN0648-XF049) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7964. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Pago Pago Harbor, American Samoa” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0749)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7965. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, St. Louis, MO” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-1020)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7966. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zones; Delaware River; Marcus Hook, PA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-1034)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7967. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Shipping; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments” (Docket No. USCG-2016-0315) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7968. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Discharge Removal Equipment for Vessels Carrying Oil” ((RIN1625-AA02) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0430)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7969. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Cargo Securing Manuals” ((RIN1625-AA25) (Docket No. USCG-2000-7080)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7970. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Harmonization of Standards for Fire Protection, Detection, and Extinguishing Equipment” ((RIN1625-AB59) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0196)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7971. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Great Lakes Pilotage Rates—2016 Annual Review and Changes to Methodology” ((RIN1625-AC22) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0497)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7972. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Requirements for Vessels with Registry Endorsements or Foreign-Flagged Vessels that Perform Certain Aquaculture Support Operations” ((RIN1625-AC23) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0086)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7973. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Financial Stability Oversight Council, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revision of Freedom of Information Act Regulations” (12 CFR Part 1301) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7974. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments” (RIN1076-AF32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-7975. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Leasing of Osage Reservation Lands for Oil and Gas Mining” (RIN1076-AF17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2016; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER MIDNIGHT ON DECEMBER 10, 2016

EC-7976. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation as an emergency requirement all funding so designated by the Congress in the Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017, pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, for the enclosed list of accounts; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-7977. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism all funding including contributions from foreign governments so designated by the Congress in the Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017, pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, for the enclosed list of accounts; to the Committee on the Budget.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 2614, a bill to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism (Rept. No. 114-397).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Report to accompany S. 1403, a bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to promote sustainable conservation and management for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic fisheries and the communities that rely on them, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-398).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3038. A bill to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-399).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Report to accompany S. 1685, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to extend to private land use restrictions its rule relating to reasonable accommodation of amateur service communications (Rept. No. 114-400).

Report to accompany S. 2283, a bill to ensure that small business providers of broadband Internet access service can devote resources to broadband deployment rather than compliance with cumbersome regulatory requirements (Rept. No. 114-401).

Report to accompany S. 2829, a bill to amend and enhance certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-402).

By Mr. ROBERTS, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

Report to accompany S. 2609, An original bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national voluntary labeling standard for bioengineered foods, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-403).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2920. A bill to amend the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-404).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 236. A bill to amend the Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 to create an expedited procedure to enact recommendations of the Government Accountability Office for consolidation and elimination to reduce duplication.

By Mr. ISAKSON, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 290. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-

fairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1378. A bill to strengthen employee cost savings suggestions programs within the Federal Government.

S. 1607. A bill to affirm the authority of the President to require independent regulatory agencies to comply with regulatory analysis requirements applicable to executive agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2834. A bill to improve the Government-wide management of unnecessarily duplicative Government programs and for other purposes.

S. 2972. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide transparency and require certain standards in the award of Federal grants, and for other purposes.

By Mr. COCHRAN, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2017" (Rept. No. 114-405).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 3537. A bill to authorize the Department of Housing and Urban Development to transform neighborhoods of extreme poverty into sustainable, mixed-income neighborhoods with access to economic opportunities, by revitalizing severely distressed housing, and investing and leveraging investments in well-functioning services, educational opportunities, public assets, public transportation, and improved access to jobs; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 3538. A bill to improve enforcement against trafficking in cultural property and prevent stolen or illicit cultural property from financing terrorist and criminal networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. LEE):

S. 3539. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide that any estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office or the Joint Committee on Taxation shall include costs relating to servicing the public debt; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3540. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide access to magnetic EEG/EKG-guided resonance therapy to veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 3541. A bill to require States and units of local government receiving funds under grant programs operated by the Department of Justice that use such funds for pretrial services programs to submit to the Attorney General a report relating to such programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3542. A bill to provide provisional protected presence to qualified individuals who came to the United States as children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3543. A bill to contain, reverse, and deter Russian aggression in Ukraine, to assist Ukraine's democratic transition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 3544. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to ensure that certain firefighters retain retirement benefits while injured or disabled, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 3545. A bill to protect Federal, State, and local public safety officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FLAKE:

S. 3546. A bill to provide provisional protected presence to qualified individuals who came to the United States as children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 3547. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the publication, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, of information relating to rule makings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 3548. A bill to continue the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 633. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the plan of the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy for modernizing the nuclear weapons of the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 634. A resolution affirming the importance of the security and privacy of the people of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COATS (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. Res. 635. A resolution recognizing and commemorating the bicentennial of the State of Indiana; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 636. A resolution designating the week of December 4 through December 10, 2016, as "National Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. Res. 637. A resolution honoring the individuals who lost their lives in the tragic fire in Oakland, California, on December 2, 2016; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr.

BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HATCH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNET, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. THUNE):

S. Res. 638. A resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the lasting significance of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 639. A resolution designating December 17, 2016, as "Wreaths Across America Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. REID, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 640. A resolution recognizing the death of John Glenn, former Senator for the State of Ohio and the first individual from the United States to orbit the Earth; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. Res. 641. A resolution celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 642. A resolution authorizing taking pictures and filming in the Senate Chamber, the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol, and Senate Office Buildings for production of a film and a book on the history of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 461

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 461, a bill to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes.

S. 1714

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1959

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1959, a bill to provide greater controls and restrictions on revolving door lobbying.

S. 1980

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1980, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Alice Paul, in recognition of her role in the women's suffrage movement and in advancing equal rights for women.

S. 2037

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to clarify the Federal Pell Grant duration limits of borrowers who attend an institution of higher education that closes or commits fraud or other misconduct, and for other purposes.

S. 2268

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2268, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dust Off crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2584

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2584, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 2702

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2702, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals with disabilities to save ad-

ditional amounts in their ABLE accounts above the current annual maximum contribution if they work and earn income.

S. 2703

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2703, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow rollovers between 529 programs and ABLE accounts.

S. 2704

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2704, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs.

S. 2924

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2924, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to former United States Senator Max Cleland.

S. 2989

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2989, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 3124

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3124, a bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes.

S. 3130

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3130, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a permanent Independence at Home medical practice program under the Medicare program.

S. 3132

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3132, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide service dogs to certain veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder.

S. 3149

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3149, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lawrence Eugene "Larry" Doby in recognition of his achievements and contributions to American major league athletics, civil rights, and the Armed Forces during World War II.

S. 3237

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3237, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 3256

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3256, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the goal of all children in school and learning as an objective of the United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes.

S. 3276

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3276, a bill to make habitual drunk drivers inadmissible and removable and to require the detention of any alien who is unlawfully present in the United States and has been charged with driving under the influence or driving while intoxicated.

S. 3328

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3328, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform the rights and processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3451

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3451, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable and advanceable tax credit for individuals with young children.

S. 3478

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3478, a bill to require continued and enhanced annual reporting to Congress in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom on anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, the safety and security of European Jewish communities, and the efforts of the United States to partner with European governments, the European Union, and civil society groups, to combat anti-Semitism, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3478, supra.

S. 3509

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3509, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the People's Republic of China in relation to activities in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, and for other purposes.

S. 3527

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3527, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent high net worth individuals from receiving tax windfalls for entering government service.

S. CON. RES. 51

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 51, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that those who served in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, should be presumed to have been exposed to the toxin Agent Orange and should be eligible for all related Federal benefits that come with such presumption under the Agent Orange Act of 1991.

S. RES. 524

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 524, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the conflict in Yemen.

AMENDMENT NO. 5149

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5149 intended to be proposed to S. 612, a bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. LEE):

S. 3539. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide that any estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office or the Joint Committee on Taxation shall include costs relating to servicing the public debt; to the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I am introducing a bill that will reveal to the public the true cost of legislative proposals by requiring that interest expense be included in all budgetary estimates.

This bill will finally allow the American people to understand the true cost of the irresponsible spending that is going on here by Congress, and it will force Congress to deal with the reality of our debt so that we can make the decisions that need to be made going forward, knowing the true impact they will have on our children and our grandchildren.

Let me give an example. The current interest the taxpayer pays today on the national debt is approximately \$248 billion per year. Now, when interest rates go up, this number will significantly increase. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office projects that by the year 2026, the amount of interest we will pay on our national debt will exceed \$700 billion per year.

In 1974, the Congressional Budget Act established two organizations as official budgetary scorekeepers. They are the referees used to calculate cost estimates for a legislative proposal. When a Member of Congress puts forward a bill, they put forward an estimate on what it would cost. In this way, the system already recognizes that the public deserves to know not only how much the bill will cost but, additionally, how much interest will cost on additional debt as a result of the bill proposal. However, it probably surprises a lot of folks that the law does not currently require these scorekeepers, these umpires, these referees to account for the interest cost on those estimates. Can you imagine?

Imagine a family around the dinner table, thinking about purchasing a car or perhaps a new home but not considering the cost of the interest on that very loan used to buy that car or that new home. Run the amortization table sometime on a 30-year conventional loan for a new home. Depending on the rate and the terms of the loan, the interest the consumer will pay can actually exceed the cost of the home itself. Yet this is what the Federal Government does with its legislative budgetary estimates, and it is wrong. That is not the way ordinary folks do it, and that is not the way we should be doing it here.

At the end of the day, whether Congress properly accounts for its budgeted costs or not, the American people

are going to have to pick up the dime. The way we are calculating budgetary costs now actually deflates the true cost. So it is painting a rosier picture for the public than what actually exists.

If I were to go back home, chat with a Montanan, and tell them that Congress allows gimmicks that really shield how much it spends, they would be furious—and they should be furious. Government spending is bloated and far exceeds any commonsense approach that a Montana family would use for their own household. It is time Congress had a true account of the debt burden it is leaving for our kids and our grandkids.

That is why I am introducing the Budgetary Accuracy in Scoring Costs Act—the acronym is the BASIC Act—which will require budget scorekeepers to include the cost of interest on a legislative proposal. This bill will allow the American public to better understand the true costs of irresponsible fiscal spending in Congress and will force this body to face the important decisions it has before it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3539

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Budgetary Accuracy in Scoring Interest Costs Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. CBO AND JCT ESTIMATES TO INCLUDE DEBT SERVICING COSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 402 the following:

“ESTIMATES TO INCLUDE DEBT SERVICING COSTS

“SEC. 403. Any estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under section 402, and any estimate prepared by the Joint Committee on Taxation, shall include, to the extent practicable, the costs (if any) of servicing the debt subject to limit under section 3101 of title 31, United States Code.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 402 the following:

“403. Estimates to include debt servicing costs.”.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3542. A bill to provide provisional protected presence to qualified individuals who came to the United States as children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 6 years ago, I joined with Senator Dick Lugar in a bipartisan request of President Obama to do something to protect the

DREAMers—those young kids brought to America as babies and infants and toddlers and teenagers who were undocumented, living in America, and had no place other than America to call home. We wanted these DREAMers to have a chance, not to be deported—a chance to go to school, a chance to work, a chance to prove themselves and to become part of the future of America.

President Obama created the DACA Program by Executive order, and despite the political controversy of that decision on the other side of the aisle, the fact is it was a lifeline for up to 800,000 who have now come forward. They paid their filing fee of several hundred dollars, they have gone through a criminal background check to make sure there is nothing in their background to disqualify them from staying in the United States, and they have been given a temporary approval to stay here without fear of deportation and to work. So they have gone on to colleges and medical schools and law schools. They have taken important jobs. They have volunteered to serve in our military. They are proving that they want to be part of America’s future.

Now, if that Executive order, DACA, is eliminated, what happens to them? That has been a concern and a fear, not just on this side of the aisle but on the other side as well.

I am happy to report that Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM has stepped forward. We are working together on a measure we call the BRIDGE Act, which we are going to introduce today. This is an effort by Senator GRAHAM and myself to have a bipartisan answer to the question about what happens to these 800,000 and others like them while we debate the future of immigration. I think what we are taking is a reasonable step forward. As PAUL RYAN, the Speaker of the House said the other day, there is no need to disrupt their lives. President-Elect Donald Trump said recently in *Time Magazine*:

We’re going to work out something that’s going to make people happy and proud.

Speaking of the DREAMers, President-Elect Trump said:

They got brought here at a very young age, they’ve worked here, they’ve gone to school here. Some were good students. Some have wonderful jobs. And they’re in never-never land because they don’t know what’s going to happen.

So Senator GRAHAM and I are proposing this legislation today, and we invite Members to join us in supporting it. It is simple. It would provide protection from deportation and legal authority to continue working and studying to the people who are eligible for DACA.

The BRIDGE Act has a new term—not DACA—but “provisional protected presence.” If you have DACA now, you would receive provisional protected

status until your DACA expires, and you can apply for an extension. If you don’t have DACA protection now but you are eligible, you can also apply for this provisional protected presence.

Applicants would be required to pay a reasonable fee, be subject to criminal background checks, and meet the same eligibility criteria that currently applied to DACA. This legal status would be good for 3 years. DACA is only good for 2 years but is renewable. The status we are creating would be good for 3 years after the BRIDGE Act becomes law.

I believe this legislation will attract broad support from both sides of the aisle. But let me be clear. The BRIDGE Act that we are introducing today is no substitute for broader legislation to fix our broken immigration system. This bill should not be tied to other unrelated measures. Let’s take care of these young people who are in doubt about tomorrow before we debate the larger and equally important question about immigration reform, which has so many facets.

Senator GRAHAM and I were two Members of the bipartisan Gang of 8, Republicans and Democrats who authored comprehensive immigration reform legislation that passed the Senate. We both believe that Congress must consider legislation to deal with all aspects of the immigration law. In particular, I strongly believe personally—personally, I believe—that we need a path to citizenship not just for DREAMers but for their parents and other undocumented immigrants who are living in the shadows but, by every measure, should be given a chance to prove themselves in America.

We need to pass the BRIDGE Act quickly to ensure that DREAMers who came forward to register for DACA do not lose critical work permits.

There are 28 medical students at the Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago. They are DACA-eligible. They competed nationally. They weren’t given any specific slots. They were accepted to medical school. If they lose their work permit, they have to drop out of medical soon, and they can’t do their clinical work, which is important to medical education. So let’s not lose them and others who can serve our country in the future.

Over the years, I have come to the floor to tell stories about these DREAMers, and I would like to tell one today about Javier Cuan-Martinez. He came at the age of 4 from Mexico with his parents. He was 4 years old. He went to elementary school in Texas. He moved to Temecula, CA. He was an excellent student involved in many activities. He was a member of the National Honor Society, and he was named Riverside County’s Student of the Month. He received an award from the College Board’s National Hispanic

Recognition Program, given to only 5,000 of the 250,000 Hispanic students who took the test. He was a member of the Math Club and a drum major in the school's marching band. He volunteered in his town's soup kitchen for the homeless and received the President's Volunteer Service Award.

He didn't even know he was undocumented until he was applying for college and he learned that he was ineligible for any Federal financial assistance to go to school.

Thanks to his academic achievements, this young man was accepted at Harvard University. He is now a sophomore majoring in computer science, a member of the Harvard Computer Society and Harvard's marching band. Thanks to DACA, he is supporting himself by working as a web developer.

He sent me a letter, and here is what he said:

DACA doesn't give me an advantage; rather, it gives me the opportunity to create my own future on the same grounds as any other student. I would like to be judged upon my qualities as a person rather than what papers I happen to have in my hand. I hope to be a computer programmer and begin earning my own living as a contributing member of America's society.

Consider this. Every year, the United States of America imports guest workers to do computer programming on H-1B visas. So does it make any sense to deport this young man who could fill one of those important jobs, who was educated and raised in the United States and wants to stay and be a part of our future?

Javier and other DREAMers have so much to give America. But if DACA is eliminated, he will lose his legal status and be deported back to Mexico—a country he barely knows and left when he was 4 years old. Will America be stronger if we deport him? I don't think so.

The answer is obvious. I hope President-Elect Trump will understand this and will continue the DACA Program or encourage the passage of the BRIDGE Program, as we move forward. If he decides to end DACA, the President-elect can then turn to Congress and ask us to do our part by passing the BRIDGE Act.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 3544. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to ensure that certain firefighters retain retirement benefits while injured or disabled, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3544

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wildland Firefighter Retirement and Disability Compensation Benefits Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. CIVIL SERVICE RETENTION RIGHTS.

Section 8151 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) REGULATIONS.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

"(A) the term 'covered employee' means an employee who—

"(i) held a position with the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior as a wildland firefighter; and

"(ii) sustained an injury while in the performance of duty, as determined by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, that prevents the employee from performing the physical duties of a firefighter;

"(B) 'equivalent position' includes a position for a covered employee that allows the covered employee to—

"(i) receive the same retirement benefits under subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84 that the covered employee would receive in the former position had the covered employee not been injured or disabled; and

"(ii) does not require the covered employee to complete any more years of service that the covered employee would be required to complete to receive the benefits described in clause (i) had the covered employee not been injured or disabled; and

"(C) the term 'firefighter' has the meaning given the term in section 8331.

"(2) REGULATIONS.—Under regulations issued by the Office of Personnel Management—

"(A) the department or agency which was the last employer shall immediately and unconditionally accord the employee, if the injury or disability has been overcome within 1 year after the date of commencement of compensation or from the time compensable disability recurs if the recurrence begins after the injured employee resumes regular full-time employment with the United States, the right to resume the former or an equivalent position of the employee, as well as all other attendant rights which the employee would have had, or acquired, in the former position of the employee had the employee not been injured or disabled, including the rights to tenure, promotion, and safeguards in reductions-in-force procedures;

"(B) the department or agency which was the last employer shall, if the injury or disability is overcome within a period of more than 1 year after the date of commencement of compensation, make all reasonable efforts to place, and accord priority to placing, the employee in the former or equivalent position of the employee within such department or agency, or within any other department or agency; and

"(C) a covered employee who was injured during the 20-year period ending on the date of enactment of the Wildland Firefighter Retirement and Disability Compensation Benefits Act of 2016 may not receive the same retirement benefits described in paragraph (1)(B)(ii) unless the covered employee first makes a payment to the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior, as applicable, equal to the amount that would have been deducted from pay under section 8334 or 8442, as applicable, had the covered employee not been injured or disabled."

SEC. 3. COMPUTATION OF PAY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8114 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

"(e) OVERTIME.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the term 'covered overtime pay' means pay received by an employee who holds a position with the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior as a wildland firefighter while engaged in wildland fire suppression activity.

"(2) OVERTIME.—The value of subsistence and quarters, and of any other form of remuneration in kind for services if its value can be estimated in money, and covered overtime pay and premium pay under section 5545(c)(1) of this title are included as part of the pay, but account is not taken of—

"(A) overtime pay;

"(B) additional pay or allowance authorized outside the United States because of differential in cost of living or other special circumstances; or

"(C) bonus or premium pay for extraordinary service including bonus or pay for particularly hazardous service in time of war."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2016.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 633—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE PLAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOR MODERNIZING THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 633

Whereas nuclear war poses the gravest risk to the national security of the United States;

Whereas, as of 2016, the United States maintains a force of approximately 7,000 nuclear weapons, either active, on reserve, or waiting for dismantlement;

Whereas the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy are planning an extensive and costly program to "modernize" the nuclear weapons of the United States;

Whereas there is substantial controversy over whether the nuclear modernization plan goes beyond assuring that the United States nuclear deterrent is safe, secure, and reliable to defend the United States and allies of the United States, and is instead a plan for the development of an even more powerful nuclear arsenal that lacks sufficient cost analysis or decisions on priorities;

Whereas the nuclear modernization plan was launched in a different budget era before the enactment of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25; 125 Stat. 240), which includes budget caps;

Whereas there is widespread agreement that the United States should retain a robust nuclear arsenal to deter a nuclear attack on the United States or allies of the United States;

Whereas, if the nuclear modernization plan is followed, the United States would face a

“modernization mountain” of the heightened expenses associated with developing and producing 12 SSBN(X) nuclear submarines, as many as 100 long-range strike bombers, a new nuclear-tipped cruise missile, and 642 intercontinental ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons all at the same time;

Whereas the total cost to develop, procure, and maintain such an enhanced nuclear arsenal over the next 3 decades has been estimated at up to \$1,000,000,000,000;

Whereas, if all those nuclear weapons programs move forward at their estimated cost, other priorities may suffer, including the fight against international terrorism, the purchase of conventional weapons, and training and maintenance of troops;

Whereas a 2014 review by the National Defense Panel, led by former Secretary of Defense William Perry and retired United States Army General John Abizaid, concluded, “Recapitalization of all three legs of the nuclear Triad with associated weapons could cost between \$600 billion and \$1 trillion over a thirty year period, the costs of which would likely come at the expense of needed improvements in conventional forces.”;

Whereas Brian McKeon, the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, noted, “We’re looking at that big bow wave and wondering how the heck we’re going to pay for it, and probably thanking our lucky stars we won’t be here to answer the question.”;

Whereas Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Mike McCord expressed his concern over the costs of the nuclear refurbishment program, saying, “I don’t know of a good way for us to solve this issue.”, while noting that it will be a major challenge for the next President;

Whereas Todd Harrison of the Center for Strategic and International Studies pointed out that with a nuclear modernization bow wave facing the United States, the next President “will need to make many difficult choices to rationalize long-term defense modernization plans with the resources available”; and

Whereas former Secretary of Defense Perry stated at a July 2016 hearing, “I do not believe we should simply modernize all systems that we built during the Cold War.”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President should—

(1) take action to ensure the affordability and feasibility of the plan of the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy for modernizing the nuclear weapons of the United States by reevaluating, and modifying accordingly, proposals for programs to modernize United States nuclear weapons and delivery systems for such weapons with the goal of ensuring that such proposals focus on refurbishment to ensure security and safety as well as efficiency of existing weapons and delivery systems; and

(2) prioritize among any programs that are planned so that the United States retains a nuclear arsenal robust enough to meet deterrence needs and so that such programs do not jeopardize other economic investments and other security expenditures appropriate to the needs of the United States in the 21st century, including responses to conventional and non-conventional threats.

SENATE RESOLUTION 634—AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SECURITY AND PRIVACY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 634

Whereas the highest priority of Congress should be ensuring the safety, security, and constitutional freedoms of the United States and the people of the United States;

Whereas technology has become a critical component of everyday life;

Whereas the people of the United States store the most sensitive personal information on digital devices and with cloud services;

Whereas criminals and terrorists have used digital communications to perpetrate unlawful conduct;

Whereas protecting the national security and safety of communities in the United States should not come at the cost of diminished protections under the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States is a cornerstone of freedom for the people of the United States;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States and Federal laws recognize certain privacy rights and interests in the digital information and communications of the people of the United States; and

Whereas preserving privacy and security is essential for the continued growth of the digital economy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States should recognize the need to protect the safety, security, and personal privacy of all people of the United States;

(2) legal and policy changes that impact the security of the United States and the civil liberties of the people of the United States should be made with the consideration of Congress, the executive branch, and the people of the United States; and

(3) in considering the changes described in paragraph (2), the United States should recognize the global and economic implications of the security and privacy policies of the United States.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, technology has become a critical part of our everyday lives. We use our computers and smart phones to communicate with our friends and family, conduct business, and to share information. The amount of sensitive personal information we store on our devices and in the cloud is astonishing, from financial records to passwords to personal conversations. It is more important now than ever before to secure and protect our personal information.

Criminals also use technology to commit crimes and to hide their identities. Law enforcement faces tremendous challenges in protecting our country from domestic and international threats. They need tools and resources that allow them to face 21st century threats.

While security should be a top priority for our nation, it must not come at the cost of diminished constitutional rights. The Constitution and Congress have recognized certain privacy rights and interests in digital communications.

U.S. security and privacy policies have global economic impacts, and preserving personal security and privacy is essential for the continued growth of the economy. We must carefully balance our privacy and security interests, and changes to policies that impact our civil liberties must be made with the consideration of Congress and the American people.

That is why today I submit a resolution to affirm the importance of the security and privacy of Americans. This resolution recognizes our national security needs, our civil liberties, and the need to carefully balance the two.

SENATE RESOLUTION 635—RECOGNIZING AND COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE STATE OF INDIANA

Mr. COATS (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 635

Whereas December 11, 2016, marks the 200th year of the statehood of the State of Indiana, and in honor of the momentous occasion, Hoosiers across the State of Indiana will celebrate the historic past and the prosperous future of the State of Indiana;

Whereas, on December 11, 1816, President James Madison signed the Joint Resolution entitled “Resolution for admitting the state of Indiana into the Union”, approved December 11, 1816 (3 Stat. 399), which admitted the State of Indiana as the 19th State of the United States and required that the leaders of the State of Indiana draft a State constitution;

Whereas Jonathan Jennings, who spearheaded the effort in Congress to secure Indiana statehood, together with 43 of his peers, drafted the first Indiana State Constitution beneath the shade of a giant elm tree in the city of Corydon, Indiana, during the summer of 1816;

Whereas in recognition of his role in Congress and as president of the constitutional convention of the State of Indiana, Jonathan Jennings was appointed the first Governor of the State of Indiana, the giant elm tree was later dubbed the Constitution Elm, and Corydon, Indiana, served as the first capital of the State of Indiana;

Whereas, in October 1824, a coalition of State officials commenced an 11-day trek to move the capital of the State of Indiana 130 miles north from Corydon to Indianapolis;

Whereas, in 1850, a second constitutional convention of the State of Indiana convened with the purpose of establishing more frequent elections, imposing restrictions on State debt, and creating biannual legislative sessions for the Indiana General Assembly, and as of November 2016, the Indiana State Constitution of 1850, as amended, still governs the State of Indiana;

Whereas, in 1888, Benjamin Harrison was the first and only Hoosier to be elected President;

Whereas, since 1869, 5 Hoosiers have served the United States as Vice President, and in 2016, the sixth Hoosier to serve as Vice President was elected;

Whereas in celebration of the centennial of the State of Indiana, a design competition for the State flag was held, and the design by Paul Hadley was chosen for its stoic symbolism, including—

(1) the torch that stands for liberty and enlightenment;

(2) the rays that signify that knowledge and freedom are available for all Hoosiers;

(3) the 18 small stars that correspond to the States in the Union before the State of Indiana; and

(4) the 19th and largest star that represents the State of Indiana;

Whereas, the Indiana General Assembly adopted the flag designed by Paul Hadley as the flag of the State of Indiana in 1917;

Whereas, in 1937, by the direction of a resolution of the Indiana General Assembly, “the Crossroads of America” became the official motto of the State of Indiana because the city of Indianapolis serves as an intersection of several major interstate highways that link—

(1) Hoosiers throughout the State of Indiana; and

(2) individuals across the United States;

Whereas the seal of the State of Indiana—

(1) was approved by the Indiana General Assembly in 1963 and originated from a lineage of designs dating back to the period during which Indiana was a territory of the United States;

(2) illustrates a scene from the pioneer era of—

(A) a woodsman cutting into 1 of 2 sycamore trees;

(B) a buffalo in the foreground jumping over a log; and

(C) the sun beginning to set behind 3 hills in the background;

Whereas residents of the State of Indiana embrace the nickname for the State of Indiana, “the Hoosier State”, pride for the term “Hoosier” is deeply rooted in the history of the State of Indiana, and Hoosiers bear the nickname proudly;

Whereas May 29, 2016, marked the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500, which is a great source of pride to all residents of the State of Indiana because of its influential role in shaping and defining the city of Indianapolis and the State of Indiana;

Whereas the Indiana Bicentennial Commission was established in December of 2011 with the objective of honoring the 200 years of history of the State of Indiana;

Whereas the Indiana Bicentennial Commission has 4 key pillars, which are—

(1) historical celebration;

(2) youth and education;

(3) nature conservation; and

(4) community involvement;

Whereas, to achieve its 4 main directives, the Indiana Bicentennial Commission has several major projects, including—

(1) a Bicentennial Nature Trust that allocates \$30,000,000 in matching funds to acquire land statewide for the purposes of recreation and conservation;

(2) the construction of a Statehouse Education Center in the Indiana State Library;

(3) the building of a Bicentennial Plaza on the west side of the Statehouse that features art and improves public access to the surrounding governmental buildings; and

(4) the construction of a new facility to house the Indiana State Archives to provide increased access to the most important documents of the State of Indiana;

Whereas, on September 9, 2016, a torch relay began in Corydon, Indiana, and ended at the Statehouse on October 15, 2016, during which the torch traveled through all 92 counties of the State of Indiana in—

(1) an effort to fortify the communal connection of all Hoosiers; and

(2) a symbolic culmination of the series of celebratory and educational bicentennial events, concluding on Statehood Day on December 11, 2016; and

Whereas it is fitting that the bicentennial of the State of Indiana and the corresponding 200 years of rich history are celebrated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and commemorates the bicentennial of the State of Indiana.

SENATE RESOLUTION 636—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4 THROUGH DECEMBER 10, 2016, AS “NATIONAL NURSE-MANAGED HEALTH CLINIC WEEK”

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 636

Whereas nurse-managed health clinics are nonprofit, community-based health care sites that offer primary care and wellness services based on the nursing model;

Whereas the nursing model emphasizes the protection, promotion, and optimization of health, the prevention of illness, the alleviation of suffering, and the diagnosis and treatment of illness;

Whereas an advanced practice nurse leads each nurse-managed health clinic, and an interdisciplinary team of highly qualified health care professionals staffs each nurse-managed health clinic;

Whereas nurse-managed health clinics offer a broad scope of services, including treatment for acute and chronic illnesses, routine physical exams, immunizations for adults and children, disease screenings, health education, prenatal care, dental care, and drug and alcohol treatment;

Whereas, as of September 2016, approximately 500 nurse-managed health clinics provided care across the United States and recorded more than 2,500,000 patient encounters annually;

Whereas nurse-managed health clinics strengthen the health care safety net by expanding access to primary care and chronic disease management services for vulnerable and medically underserved populations in diverse rural, urban, and suburban communities;

Whereas research has shown that nurse-managed health clinics experience high patient retention and patient satisfaction rates, and nurse-managed health clinic patients, compared to patients of other similar safety net providers, experience higher rates of generic medication fills and lower hospitalization rates;

Whereas the 2013 Health Affairs article “Nurse-Managed Health Centers and Patient-Homes Could Mitigate Expected Primary Care Physician Shortage” highlights the ability of nurse-managed health clinics to bring high quality care to individuals who may not otherwise receive needed services; and

Whereas nurse-managed health clinics offering both primary care and wellness services provide quality care in a cost-effective manner: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of December 4 through December 10, 2016, as “National Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Week”;

(2) supports the ideals and goals of National Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Week; and

(3) encourages the expansion of nurse-managed health clinics so that nurse-managed health clinics may continue to serve as health care workforce development sites for the next generation of primary care providers.

SENATE RESOLUTION 637—HONORING THE INDIVIDUALS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE TRAGIC FIRE IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, ON DECEMBER 2, 2016

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 637

Whereas, on Friday, December 2, 2016, a fire broke out at the Ghost Ship, an artist collective warehouse located in the Fruitvale community on 31st Avenue in Oakland, California;

Whereas Oakland, California, and its arts community suffered a horrific tragedy that evening and continue to mourn the loss of the individuals who died in the fire;

Whereas, according to city of Oakland officials, the Ghost Ship warehouse fire is the deadliest fire in the history of Oakland;

Whereas, according to Alameda County Sheriff’s Office, as of December 5, 2016, 36 individuals perished in the fire;

Whereas it took more than 50 firefighters not less than 4 hours to extinguish the fire and an aggressive, coordinated effort to secure the scene by—

(1) the Oakland Fire Department;

(2) the Oakland Police Department;

(3) the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office, including—

(A) the Coroner’s Bureau; and

(B) the Alameda County Search and Rescue Unit;

(4) Oakland Public Works;

(5) the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services;

(6) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;

(7) the American Red Cross; and

(8) other agencies;

Whereas first responders, firefighters, and recovery personnel, including agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, have worked around the clock to support the families of the victims and the community;

Whereas first responders and recovery personnel—

(1) are vital to the ongoing recovery efforts; and

(2) continue to investigate the cause of the deadly fire; and

Whereas the officials of the city of Oakland, California, have worked tirelessly to heal the community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the individuals who lost their lives in the tragic fire in Oakland, California, on December 2, 2016;

(2) honors the sacrifice of the first responders, firefighters, agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and all individuals who put themselves in harm’s way to help save lives and continue to respond to the fire;

(3) expresses continued solidarity with the people of the East Bay of the State of California as they work to heal their community;

(4) reaffirms its commitment to support long-term recovery efforts in partnership with local and State governments, citizens, and businesses;

(5) supports the city of Oakland's continued emergency response efforts and work to assist the families of the victims of the fire; and

(6) offers condolences and support to the families and loved ones of the victims of the fire.

SENATE RESOLUTION 638—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR AND THE LASTING SIGNIFICANCE OF NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HATCH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNET, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. THUNE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 638

Whereas, on December 7, 1941, without warning and minutes before 8:00 a.m., aircraft of the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked military installations of the United States at Pearl Harbor and elsewhere on the island of Oahu, Hawaii;

Whereas the attack at Pearl Harbor lasted for approximately 5 hours, during which 2,403 members of the Armed Forces of the United States were killed or mortally wounded, 1,247 members of the Armed Forces of the United States were wounded, and 57 civilians lost their lives;

Whereas Japanese aircraft mercilessly attacked facilities, naval vessels, and aircraft of the United States in 2 waves, destroying or severely damaging numerous vessels of the United States Pacific Fleet and 188 aircraft of the United States, while Japanese submarines torpedoed several vessels of the United States between San Francisco and Honolulu;

Whereas President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared the day of the attack on Pearl Harbor "a date which will live in infamy", and the people of the United States became united in remembrance of their fallen countrymen and committed to defending the United States against all aggressors;

Whereas, on the day following the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 8, 1941, Congress declared war against Japan, and 3 days later against Germany, thus beginning the involvement of the United States in a global conflict that would define a generation;

Whereas more than 400,000 men and women of the United States sacrificed their lives to preserve the sacred freedoms of the United States and to cease forever the spread of Nazism through Europe and imperialism by Japan;

Whereas, after nearly 4 years of warfare, and following victory on the European front,

World War II ended on September 2, 1945, when the Japanese surrendered aboard the USS Missouri;

Whereas, in 1950, Admiral Arthur Radford ordered that a flagpole be erected over the remains of the USS Arizona, one of the battleships of the United States sunk at Pearl Harbor;

Whereas the USS Arizona serves as the final resting place for many of the 1,177 crew members of that battleship who lost their lives on December 7, 1941;

Whereas the USS Arizona also serves as an educational site for people of the United States and international visitors alike, raising awareness about the attack on Pearl Harbor and the perils of war;

Whereas the terms of the Japanese surrender fostered significant democratic reform in Japan, including ensuring the individual liberty and rights of the people of Japan;

Whereas the United States has moved beyond the tragedy of Pearl Harbor and war against Japan and, in the years since the conclusion of World War II, has formed a strong and valuable alliance with Japan, including military cooperation and bilateral trade; and

Whereas, on August 23, 1994, Congress enacted Public Law 103-308 (later codified as section 129 of title 36, United States Code), which designates December 7th of each year as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and requests that the President—

(1) issue each year a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

(2) urge all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Federal Government, and interested organizations, groups, and individuals, to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff each December 7th in honor of the individuals who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii—

(1) pays tribute to the members of the Armed Forces of the United States and civilians who died in the attack;

(2) honors the thousands of men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who paid the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in defense of freedom and liberty during World War II;

(3) acknowledges the continued peaceful and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and Japan; and

(4) appreciates the efforts of Japan as one of the most reliable security partners of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 639—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 17, 2016, AS "WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY"

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 639

Whereas, 25 years before the date of adoption of this resolution, the Wreaths Across America project began with an annual tradition that occurs in December, of donating, transporting, and placing 5,000 Maine balsam fir remembrance wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, in the 25 years preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 3,317,000 wreaths have been sent to locations, including national cemeteries and veterans memorials, in every State and overseas;

Whereas the mission of the Wreaths Across America project, to "Remember, Honor, Teach", is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in all 50 States and overseas, including at—

(1) Arlington National Cemetery;

(2) veterans cemeteries; and

(3) other locations;

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project carries out a week-long veterans parade between Maine and Virginia, stopping along the way to spread a message about the importance of—

(1) remembering the fallen heroes of the United States;

(2) honoring those who serve; and

(3) reminding the people of the United States about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve freedoms in the United States;

Whereas, in 2015, approximately 901,000 remembrance wreaths were sent to more than 1,100 locations across the United States and overseas, an increase of more than 100 locations compared to the previous year;

Whereas, in December 2016, the tradition of escorting tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery will be continued by—

(1) the Patriot Guard Riders; and

(2) other patriotic escort units, including motorcycle units, law enforcement units, and first responder units;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals volunteer each December to help lay remembrance wreaths;

Whereas the trucking industry in the United States continues to support the Wreaths Across America project by providing drivers, equipment, and related services to assist in the transportation of wreaths across the United States to over 1,200 locations;

Whereas the Senate designated December 12, 2015, as "Wreaths Across America Day"; and

Whereas, on December 17, 2016, the Wreaths Across America project will continue the proud legacy of bringing remembrance wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 17, 2016, as "Wreaths Across America Day";

(2) honors—

(A) the Wreaths Across America project;

(B) patriotic escort units, including motorcycle units, law enforcement units, and first responder units;

(C) the trucking industry in the United States; and

(D) the volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes—

(A) the service of veterans and members of the Armed Forces; and

(B) the sacrifices that veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and their families have made, and continue to make, for the United States, a great Nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 640—RECOGNIZING THE DEATH OF JOHN GLENN, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF OHIO AND THE FIRST INDIVIDUAL FROM THE UNITED STATES TO ORBIT THE EARTH

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. REID, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 640

Whereas John Glenn was born in Cambridge, Ohio, in 1921 to John Herschel Glenn, Sr. and Clara Sproat Glenn;

Whereas, at 2 years of age, John Glenn moved to New Concord, Ohio, the town where he met his childhood sweetheart and future wife;

Whereas, in March 1942, shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, John Glenn, who was a student at Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio, at the time of the attack, entered the Naval Aviation Cadet program;

Whereas John Glenn served in the Marine Corps from 1942 to 1965, during which time John Glenn—

(1) flew 59 combat missions in World War II and 63 combat missions in Korea; and

(2) for his service, earned 6 separate Distinguished Flying Cross awards and the Air Medal with 18 clusters;

Whereas, in 1959, John Glenn was selected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to serve as 1 of the original 7 astronauts of the space program of the United States;

Whereas, on February 20, 1962, John Glenn guided Mercury spacecraft Friendship 7 into space and circled the globe 3 times, traveling a distance of 3,600,000 miles and becoming the first individual from the United States to orbit the Earth;

Whereas, in 1974, John Glenn arrived in the Senate, where he represented his home State of Ohio for 25 years before retiring in 1999;

Whereas, during his time in the Senate, John Glenn served on the Committee on Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Special Committee on Aging;

Whereas, as Chairman of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, John Glenn worked on a bipartisan basis to eliminate waste and make the Federal Government more efficient;

Whereas, in 1998, as a 77-year old sitting Senator, John Glenn boarded the space shuttle Discovery for 9 days, again setting history as the oldest individual to fly in space;

Whereas, in 2008, Ohio State University founded the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, which, in 2015, became the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, with the mission to “inspire citizenship and develop leadership” in the public sector;

Whereas John Glenn was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on November 16, 2011;

Whereas John Glenn was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom on May 29, 2012;

Whereas 1 author described John Glenn as “the last true national hero America has ever had”;

Whereas John Glenn is survived by his wife of 73 years, his 2 children, and his 2 grandsons; and

Whereas the United States is deeply indebted to John Glenn for his passion for exploration, commitment to public service, and desire to make the world a better place: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) extends its deepest condolences and gratitude to the family of John Glenn; and

(B) honors the legacy and life of John Glenn, his commitment to the United States, and his service to the Senate and the United States; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late John Glenn.

SENATE RESOLUTION 641—CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY OF THE SENATE

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 641

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate—

(1) was established by a resolution adopted on December 10, 1816, as one of the original standing committees of the Senate; and

(2) as of December 2016, is one of the original standing committees that remain;

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate originally had 5 members;

Whereas, according to the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate has jurisdiction over—

(1) apportionment of Representatives;

(2) bankruptcy, mutiny, espionage, and counterfeiting;

(3) civil liberties;

(4) amendments to the Constitution of the United States;

(5) Federal courts and judges;

(6) Government information;

(7) holidays and celebrations;

(8) immigration and naturalization;

(9) interstate compacts, generally;

(10) judicial proceedings, civil and criminal, generally;

(11) local courts in territories and possessions;

(12) measures relating to claims against the United States;

(13) national penitentiaries;

(14) the Patent Office;

(15) patents, copyrights, and trademarks;

(16) protection of trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies;

(17) revision and codification of the laws of the United States; and

(18) State and territorial boundary lines;

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate has had 42 members who have served as chairmen, and a total of 349 men and women representing 49 States have served on the Committee;

Whereas the first chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate was Senator Dudley Chase of Vermont;

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate is regularly the epicenter of the most significant and controversial issues in the United States, and is tasked with upholding fundamental rights and values for all people of the United States;

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate has shaped the physical boundaries of the United States;

Whereas, during the Civil War, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate helped ensure that President Abraham Lincoln had the emergency powers necessary to pursue the war effort;

Whereas, in February 1864, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate reported the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and took an important step in ending slavery in the United States by voting favorably on the language of the amendment, “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States.”;

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate played a vital role in the development and adoption of the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas, in 1872, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate was on the forefront of the women’s suffrage movement;

Whereas, in 1937, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate blocked the attempt by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to pack the Supreme Court of the United States;

Whereas, before enactment, the Civil Rights Act of 1957 (Public Law 85-315; 71 Stat. 634) and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.) were introduced and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate considered and reported the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301);

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate considers civil rights legislation, including—

(1) the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006 (52 U.S.C. 10301 note; Public Law 109-246); and

(2) the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2835);

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate has advanced laws to improve

the criminal justice system, punish criminals, and protect victims of crime and the innocent, including—

(1) the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–473; 98 Stat. 1987);

(2) the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (Public Law 93–415; 88 Stat. 1109);

(3) the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601 et seq.);

(4) the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.);

(5) the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405; 118 Stat. 2260);

(6) the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–220; 124 Stat. 2372); and

(7) the Preserving United States Attorney Independence Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–34; 121 Stat. 224);

Whereas, in 1990, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate reported S. 2754 of the 101st Congress, entitled the “Violence Against Women Act of 1990” and advanced S. 47 of the 113th Congress, which was enacted as the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4; 127 Stat. 54);

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate—

(1) has promoted government transparency;

(2) reported the bill that was enacted as section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Freedom of Information Act”); and

(3) has continued to improve that Act by passing legislation, including the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–185; 130 Stat. 538);

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate is one of the busiest and most productive committees of the Senate, and approximately ⅓ of all measures that are referred to committees of the Senate are referred to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate handles nominations, including nominations for—

(1) the Supreme Court of the United States;

(2) the courts of appeals of the United States;

(3) the district courts of the United States;

(4) the Department of Justice;

(5) the Attorney General;

(6) the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(7) United States Attorneys;

(8) the United States Marshals Service; and

(9) the United States Sentencing Commission;

Whereas the work of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate has contributed to a more diverse Federal judiciary;

Whereas members of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate have been elected President or Vice President or appointed to the Cabinet or the Supreme Court of the United States;

Whereas Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts served on the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate for 45 years from 1963 to 2009, the longest period served on the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate by any Senator; and

Whereas Senator James O. Eastland of Mississippi served as chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate for 22 years from 1956 to 1978, and was the longest-serving chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates and congratulates the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate on the celebration of its 200th anniversary; and

(2) applauds the many accomplishments of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

SENATE RESOLUTION 642—AUTHORIZING TAKING PICTURES AND FILMING IN THE SENATE CHAMBER, THE SENATE WING OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL, AND SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS FOR PRODUCTION OF A FILM AND A BOOK ON THE HISTORY OF THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 642

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF TAKING OF PICTURES AND FILMING IN SENATE CHAMBER, SENATE WING, AND SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—During the period beginning on the date of adoption of this resolution and ending on May 1, 2017, with respect to an individual or entity entering into a memorandum of understanding described in subsection (d)—

(1) paragraph 1 of rule IV of the Rules for the Regulation of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol and Senate Office Buildings (prohibiting the taking of pictures in the Senate Chamber) is temporarily suspended for the purpose of permitting the taking of pictures and filming while the Senate is in session or in recess; and

(2) taking of pictures and filming shall be permitted in the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol and in Senate Office Buildings.

(b) LIMITATION ON USE OF IMAGES.—The pictures taken and film made under subsection (a) may only be used for production of a film documentary and a book on the history of the Senate.

(c) ARRANGEMENTS.—The Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate shall make the necessary arrangements to carry out this resolution, including such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that the taking of pictures and filming conducted under this resolution does not disrupt any proceeding of the Senate.

(d) PRODUCTION AGREEMENT.—The Majority Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate shall jointly enter into a memorandum of understanding with an individual or entity seeking to take pictures and conduct filming for purposes of producing a film documentary and a book on the history of the Senate to formalize an agreement on locations and times for taking pictures and conducting filming and the use of the pictures taken and film made under this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5151. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5152. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5153. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5154. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5155. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5156. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5157. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 612, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5158. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 612, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5159. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 612, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5160. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 612, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5161. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 612, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5162. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. UDALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 612, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5163. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. UDALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5164. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DONNELLY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. Kaine, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. REED, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. COONS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5165. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5166. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5167. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5168. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5169. Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. TOOMEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1831, to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

SA 5170. Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. PERDUE) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2781, to improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes.

SA 5171. Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. PERDUE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3842, to improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes.

SA 5172. Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. SULLIVAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3086, to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris and for other purposes.

SA 5173. Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. MORAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 290, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

SA 5174. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. HATCH) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 57, honoring in praise and remembrance the extraordinary life, steady leadership, and remarkable, 70-year reign of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand.

SA 5175. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. CORKER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1150, to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

SA 5176. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. CORKER) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5175 proposed by Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. CORKER) to the bill H.R. 1150, supra.

SA 5177. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. CORKER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4939, to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes.

SA 5178. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. JOHNSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6302, to provide an increase in premium pay for United States Secret Service agents performing protective services during 2016, and for other purposes.

SA 5179. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. JOHNSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6302, supra.

SA 5180. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. NELSON)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3346, to authorize

the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

SA 5181. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. KIRK) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1168, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to rehabilitation innovation centers under the Medicare program.

SA 5182. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3021, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to pursue independent study programs at certain educational institutions that are not institutions of higher learning.

SA 5183. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. THUNE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 710, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes.

SA 5184. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. BARRASSO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1776, to enhance tribal road safety, and for other purposes.

SA 5185. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. KING) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4245, to exempt exportation of certain echinoderms and mollusks from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

SA 5186. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. PETERS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3084, to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5151. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 2 days after the date of enactment.”

SA 5152. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike “2” and insert “3”

SA 5153. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”

SA 5154. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This act shall be effective 6 days after enactment.”

SA 5155. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike “6” and insert “7”

SA 5156. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 2 days after the date of enactment.”

SA 5157. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike “2” and insert “3”

SA 5158. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”

SA 5159. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This act shall be effective 6 days after enactment.”

SA 5160. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike “6” and insert “7”

SA 5161. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be

proposed by her to the bill S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike subtitle J of title III (relating to California water).

SA 5162. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. UDALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 612, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. EXTENSION OF SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000.

(a) SECURE PAYMENTS FOR STATES CONTAINING FEDERAL LAND.—Section 101 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111) is amended, in subsections (a) and (b), by striking “2015” each place it appears and inserting “2016”.

(b) PAYMENTS TO STATES AND COUNTIES.—Section 102 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7112) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) PAYMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014, 2015, OR 2016.—The election otherwise required by subparagraph (A) shall not apply for fiscal year 2014, 2015, or 2016.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “fiscal years 2014 and 2015” and inserting “fiscal years 2014, 2015, and 2016”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “fiscal year 2015” and inserting “fiscal year 2016”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (E) and inserting the following:

“(E) PAYMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014, 2015, AND 2016.—The election made by an eligible county under subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) for fiscal year 2013, or deemed to be made by the county under paragraph (3)(B) for that fiscal year, shall be effective for fiscal years 2014, 2015, and 2016.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) PAYMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014, 2015, AND 2016.—This paragraph does not apply for fiscal years 2014, 2015, and 2016.”.

(c) TRANSITION PAYMENTS TO STATES.—Section 103(d)(2) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7113(d)(2)) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

(d) RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Section 205(a)(4) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125(a)(4)) is amended by striking “2012” each place it appears and inserting “2016”.

(e) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 208 of the Secure Rural Schools and Commu-

nity Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7128) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “2017” and inserting “2018”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “2018” and inserting “2019”.

(f) COUNTY FUNDS TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 304 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7144) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “2017” and inserting “2018”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “2018” and inserting “2019”.

(g) OFFSET.—It is the sense of the Senate the costs of carrying out this section and the amendments made by this section will be offset.

SA 5163. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. UDALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. EXTENSION OF SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000.

(a) SECURE PAYMENTS FOR STATES CONTAINING FEDERAL LAND.—Section 101 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111) is amended, in subsections (a) and (b), by striking “2015” each place it appears and inserting “2016”.

(b) PAYMENTS TO STATES AND COUNTIES.—Section 102 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7112) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) PAYMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014, 2015, OR 2016.—The election otherwise required by subparagraph (A) shall not apply for fiscal year 2014, 2015, or 2016.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “fiscal years 2014 and 2015” and inserting “fiscal years 2014, 2015, and 2016”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “fiscal year 2015” and inserting “fiscal year 2016”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (E) and inserting the following:

“(E) PAYMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014, 2015, AND 2016.—The election made by an eligible county under subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) for fiscal year 2013, or deemed to be made by the county under paragraph (3)(B) for that fiscal year, shall be effective for fiscal years 2014, 2015, and 2016.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) PAYMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014, 2015, AND 2016.—This paragraph does not apply for fiscal years 2014, 2015, and 2016.”.

(c) TRANSITION PAYMENTS TO STATES.—Section 103(d)(2) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7113(d)(2)) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

(d) RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Section 205(a)(4) of the Secure Rural Schools and

Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125(a)(4)) is amended by striking “2012” each place it appears and inserting “2016”.

(e) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 208 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7128) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “2017” and inserting “2018”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “2018” and inserting “2019”.

(f) COUNTY FUNDS TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 304 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7144) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “2017” and inserting “2018”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “2018” and inserting “2019”.

(g) OFFSET.—It is the sense of the Senate the costs of carrying out this section and the amendments made by this section will be offset.

SA 5164. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DONNELLY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. REED, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. COONS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 12, strike line 1 and all that follows through page 16, line 18, and insert the following:

“(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ‘Miners Protection Act of 2016’.

“(b) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN RETIREES IN THE MULTIEMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 402 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232) is amended—

“(A) in subsection (h)(2)(C)—

“(i) by striking ‘A transfer’ and inserting the following:

“(i) TRANSFER TO THE PLAN.—A transfer”;

“(ii) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and moving such subclauses 2 ems to the right; and

“(iii) by striking the matter following such subclause (II) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

“(ii) CALCULATION OF EXCESS.—The excess determined under clause (i) shall be calculated by taking into account only—

“(I) those beneficiaries actually enrolled in the Plan as of the date of the enactment of the Miners Protection Act of 2016 who are eligible to receive health benefits under the Plan on the first day of the calendar year for which the transfer is made, other than those

beneficiaries enrolled in the Plan under the terms of a participation agreement with the current or former employer of such beneficiaries; and

“(II) those beneficiaries whose health benefits, defined as those benefits payable directly following death or retirement or upon a finding of disability by an employer in the bituminous coal industry under a coal wage agreement (as defined in section 9701(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), would be denied or reduced as a result of a bankruptcy proceeding commenced in 2012 or 2015.

“(iii) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN RETIREES.—Individuals referred to in clause (ii)(II) shall be treated as eligible to receive health benefits under the Plan.

“(iv) REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFER.—The amount of the transfer otherwise determined under this subparagraph for a fiscal year shall be reduced by any amount transferred for the fiscal year to the Plan, to pay benefits required under the Plan, from a voluntary employees’ beneficiary association established as a result of a bankruptcy proceeding described in clause (i).

“(v) VEBA TRANSFER.—The administrator of such voluntary employees’ beneficiary association shall transfer to the Plan any amounts received as a result of such bankruptcy proceeding, reduced by an amount for administrative costs of such association.”; and

“(B) in subsection (i)—

“(i) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

“(ii) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—

“(A) CALCULATION.—If the dollar limitation specified in paragraph (3)(A) exceeds the aggregate amount required to be transferred under paragraphs (1) and (2) for a fiscal year, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer an additional amount equal to the difference between such dollar limitation and such aggregate amount to the trustees of the 1974 UMWA Pension Plan to pay benefits required under that plan.

“(B) CESSATION OF TRANSFERS.—The transfers described in subparagraph (A) shall cease as of the first fiscal year beginning after the first plan year for which the funded percentage (as defined in section 432(i)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of the 1974 UMWA Pension Plan is at least 100 percent.

“(C) PROHIBITION ON BENEFIT INCREASES, ETC.—During a fiscal year in which the 1974 UMWA Pension Plan is receiving transfers under subparagraph (A), no amendment of such plan which increases the liabilities of the plan by reason of any increase in benefits, any change in the accrual of benefits, or any change in the rate at which benefits become nonforfeitable under the plan may be adopted unless the amendment is required as a condition of qualification under part I of subchapter D of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(D) TREATMENT OF TRANSFERS FOR PURPOSES OF WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY UNDER ERISA.—The amount of any transfer made under subparagraph (A) (and any earnings attributable thereto) shall be disregarded in determining the unfunded vested benefits of the 1974 UMWA Pension Plan and the allocation of such unfunded vested benefits to an employer for purposes of determining the employer’s withdrawal liability under section 4201.

“(E) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN CONTRIBUTION RATE.—A transfer under subparagraph (A) shall not be made for a fiscal year unless the persons that are obligated to contribute

to the 1974 UMWA Pension Plan on the date of the transfer are obligated to make the contributions at rates that are no less than those in effect on the date which is 30 days before the date of enactment of the Miners Protection Act of 2016.

“(F) ENHANCED ANNUAL REPORTING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the 90th day of each plan year beginning after the date of enactment of the Miners Protection Act of 2016, the trustees of the 1974 UMWA Pension Plan shall file with the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation a report (including appropriate documentation and actuarial certifications from the plan actuary, as required by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate) that contains—

“(I) whether the plan is in endangered or critical status under section 305 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 432 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as of the first day of such plan year;

“(II) the funded percentage (as defined in section 432(i)(2) of such Code) as of the first day of such plan year, and the underlying actuarial value of assets and liabilities taken into account in determining such percentage;

“(III) the market value of the assets of the plan as of the last day of the plan year preceding such plan year;

“(IV) the total value of all contributions made during the plan year preceding such plan year;

“(V) the total value of all benefits paid during the plan year preceding such plan year;

“(VI) cash flow projections for such plan year and either the 6 or 10 succeeding plan years, at the election of the trustees, and the assumptions relied upon in making such projections;

“(VII) funding standard account projections for such plan year and the 9 succeeding plan years, and the assumptions relied upon in making such projections;

“(VIII) the total value of all investment gains or losses during the plan year preceding such plan year;

“(IX) any significant reduction in the number of active participants during the plan year preceding such plan year, and the reason for such reduction;

“(X) a list of employers that withdrew from the plan in the plan year preceding such plan year, and the resulting reduction in contributions;

“(XI) a list of employers that paid withdrawal liability to the plan during the plan year preceding such plan year and, for each employer, a total assessment of the withdrawal liability paid, the annual payment amount, and the number of years remaining in the payment schedule with respect to such withdrawal liability;

“(XII) any material changes to benefits, accrual rates, or contribution rates during the plan year preceding such plan year;

“(XIII) any scheduled benefit increase or decrease in the plan year preceding such plan year having a material effect on liabilities of the plan;

“(XIV) details regarding any funding improvement plan or rehabilitation plan and updates to such plan;

“(XV) the number of participants and beneficiaries during the plan year preceding such plan year who are active participants, the number of participants and beneficiaries in pay status, and the number of terminated vested participants and beneficiaries;

“(XVI) the information contained on the most recent annual funding notice submitted by the plan under section 101(f) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974;

“(XVII) the information contained on the most recent Department of Labor Form 5500 of the plan; and

“(XVIII) copies of the plan document and amendments, other retirement benefit or ancillary benefit plans relating to the plan and contribution obligations under such plans, a breakdown of administrative expenses of the plan, participant census data and distribution of benefits, the most recent actuarial valuation report as of the plan year, copies of collective bargaining agreements, and financial reports, and such other information as the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, may require.

“(ii) ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION.—The report required under clause (i) shall be submitted electronically.

“(iii) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate shall share the information in the report under clause (i) with the Secretary of Labor.

“(iv) PENALTY.—Any failure to file the report required under clause (i) on or before the date described in such clause shall be treated as a failure to file a report required to be filed under section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, except that section 6652(e) of such Code shall be applied with respect to any such failure by substituting ‘\$100’ for ‘\$25’. The preceding sentence shall not apply if the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate determines that reasonable diligence has been exercised by the trustees of such plan in attempting to timely file such report.

“(G) 1974 UMWA PENSION PLAN DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘1974 UMWA Pension Plan’ has the meaning given the term in section 9701(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, but without regard to the limitation on participation to individuals who retired in 1976 and thereafter.”.

“(2) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2016.

“(B) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 402(i)(4)(F) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(i)(4)(F)), as added by this subsection, shall apply to plan years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

“(c) CLARIFICATION OF FINANCING OBLIGATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 9704 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

“(A) by striking paragraph (3),

“(B) by striking ‘three premiums’ and inserting ‘two premiums’, and

“(C) by striking ‘, plus’ at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting a period.

“(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

“(A) Section 9704 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

“(i) by striking subsection (d), and

“(ii) by redesignating subsections (e) through (j) as subsections (d) through (i), respectively.

“(B) Subsection (d) of section 9704 of such Code, as so redesignated, is amended—

“(i) by striking ‘3 separate accounts for each of the premiums described in subsections (b), (c), and (d)’ in paragraph (1) and

inserting ‘2 separate accounts for each of the premiums described in subsections (b) and (c)’, and

“(i) by striking ‘or the unassigned beneficiaries premium account’ in paragraph (3)(B).

“(C) Subclause (I) of section 9703(b)(2)(C)(ii) of such Code is amended by striking ‘9704(e)(3)(B)(i)’ and inserting ‘9704(d)(3)(B)(i)’.

“(D) Paragraph (3) of section 9705(a) of such Code is amended—

“(i) by striking ‘the unassigned beneficiary premium under section 9704(a)(3) and’ in subparagraph (B), and

“(ii) by striking ‘9704(i)(1)(B)’ and inserting ‘9704(h)(1)(B)’.

“(E) Paragraph (2) of section 9711(c) of such Code is amended—

“(i) by striking ‘9704(j)(2)’ in subparagraph (A)(i) and inserting ‘9704(i)(2)’.

“(ii) by striking ‘9704(j)(2)(B)’ in subparagraph (B) and inserting ‘9704(i)(2)(B)’.

“(iii) by striking ‘9704(j)’ and inserting ‘9704(i)’.

“(F) Paragraph (4) of section 9712(d) of such Code is amended by striking ‘9704(j)’ and inserting ‘9704(i)’.

“(3) ELIMINATION OF ADDITIONAL BACKSTOP PREMIUM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 9712(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subparagraph (C).

“(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (2) of section 9712(d) of such Code is amended—

“(i) by striking subparagraph (B),

“(ii) by striking ‘, and’ at the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting a period, and

“(iii) by striking ‘shall provide for—’ and all that follows through ‘annual adjustments’ and inserting ‘shall provide for annual adjustments’.

“(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to plan years beginning after September 30, 2016.

“(d) CUSTOMS USER FEES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 13031(j)(3)(A) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)(A)) is amended by striking ‘September 30, 2025’ and inserting ‘May 6, 2026’.

“(2) RATE FOR MERCHANDISE PROCESSING FEES.—Section 503 of the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 112-41; 19 U.S.C. 3805 note) is amended by striking ‘September 30, 2025’ and inserting ‘May 6, 2026’.

SA 5165. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

DIVISION —CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AND SUPPORT

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this division is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—INVESTING IN PREVENTION AND FAMILY SERVICES

Sec. 101. Purpose.

Subtitle A—Prevention Activities Under Title IV–E

Sec. 111. Foster care prevention services and programs.

Sec. 112. Foster care maintenance payments for children with parents in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility for substance abuse.

Sec. 113. Title IV–E payments for evidence-based kinship navigator programs.

Subtitle B—Enhanced Support Under Title IV–B

Sec. 121. Elimination of time limit for family reunification services while in foster care and permitting time-limited family reunification services when a child returns home from foster care.

Sec. 122. Reducing bureaucracy and unnecessary delays when placing children in homes across State lines.

Sec. 123. Enhancements to grants to improve well-being of families affected by substance abuse.

Subtitle C—Miscellaneous

Sec. 131. Reviewing and improving licensing standards for placement in a relative foster family home.

Sec. 132. Development of a statewide plan to prevent child abuse and neglect fatalities.

Sec. 133. Modernizing the title and purpose of title IV–E.

Sec. 134. Effective dates.

TITLE II—ENSURING THE NECESSITY OF A PLACEMENT THAT IS NOT IN A FOSTER FAMILY HOME

Sec. 201. Limitation on Federal financial participation for placements that are not in foster family homes.

Sec. 202. Assessment and documentation of the need for placement in a qualified residential treatment program.

Sec. 203. Protocols to prevent inappropriate diagnoses.

Sec. 204. Additional data and reports regarding children placed in a setting that is not a foster family home.

Sec. 205. Effective dates; application to waivers.

TITLE III—CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Sec. 301. Supporting and retaining foster families for children.

Sec. 302. Extension of child and family services programs.

Sec. 303. Improvements to the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and related provisions.

TITLE IV—CONTINUING INCENTIVES TO STATES TO PROMOTE ADOPTION AND LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP

Sec. 401. Reauthorizing adoption and legal guardianship incentive programs.

TITLE V—TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Sec. 501. Technical corrections to data exchange standards to improve program coordination.

Sec. 502. Technical corrections to State requirement to address the developmental needs of young children.

TITLE VI—ENSURING STATES REINVEST SAVINGS RESULTING FROM INCREASE IN ADOPTION ASSISTANCE

Sec. 601. Delay of adoption assistance phase-in.

Sec. 602. GAO study and report on State reinvestment of savings resulting from increase in adoption assistance.

TITLE I—INVESTING IN PREVENTION AND FAMILY SERVICES

SEC. 101. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to enable States to use Federal funds available under parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements through the provision of mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services, in-home parent skill-based programs, and kinship navigator services.

Subtitle A—Prevention Activities Under Title IV–E

SEC. 111. FOSTER CARE PREVENTION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.

(a) STATE OPTION.—Section 471 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “and” and all that follows through the semicolon and inserting “, adoption assistance in accordance with section 473, and, at the option of the State, services or programs specified in subsection (e)(1) of this section for children who are candidates for foster care or who are pregnant or parenting foster youth and the parents or kin caregivers of the children, in accordance with the requirements of that subsection;”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) PREVENTION AND FAMILY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the succeeding provisions of this subsection, the Secretary may make a payment to a State for providing the following services or programs for a child described in paragraph (2) and the parents or kin caregivers of the child when the need of the child, such a parent, or such a caregiver for the services or programs are directly related to the safety, permanence, or well-being of the child or to preventing the child from entering foster care:

“(A) MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES.—Mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services provided by a qualified clinician for not more than a 12-month period that begins on any date described in paragraph (3) with respect to the child.

“(B) IN-HOME PARENT SKILL-BASED PROGRAMS.—In-home parent skill-based programs for not more than a 12-month period that begins on any date described in paragraph (3) with respect to the child and that include parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling.

“(2) CHILD DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a child described in this paragraph is the following:

“(A) A child who is a candidate for foster care (as defined in section 475(13)) but can remain safely at home or in a kinship placement with receipt of services or programs specified in paragraph (1).

“(B) A child in foster care who is a pregnant or parenting foster youth.

“(3) DATE DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the dates described in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) The date on which a child is identified in a prevention plan maintained under paragraph (4) as a child who is a candidate for foster care (as defined in section 475(13)).

“(B) The date on which a child is identified in a prevention plan maintained under paragraph (4) as a pregnant or parenting foster youth in need of services or programs specified in paragraph (1).

“(4) REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO PROVIDING SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.—Services and programs specified in paragraph (1) may be provided under this subsection only if specified in advance in the child’s prevention plan described in subparagraph (A) and the requirements in subparagraphs (B) through (E) are met:

“(A) PREVENTION PLAN.—The State maintains a written prevention plan for the child that meets the following requirements (as applicable):

“(i) CANDIDATES.—In the case of a child who is a candidate for foster care described in paragraph (2)(A), the prevention plan shall—

“(I) identify the foster care prevention strategy for the child so that the child may remain safely at home, live temporarily with a kin caregiver until reunification can be safely achieved, or live permanently with a kin caregiver;

“(II) list the services or programs to be provided to or on behalf of the child to ensure the success of that prevention strategy; and

“(III) comply with such other requirements as the Secretary shall establish.

“(ii) PREGNANT OR PARENTING FOSTER YOUTH.—In the case of a child who is a pregnant or parenting foster youth described in paragraph (2)(B), the prevention plan shall—

“(I) be included in the child’s case plan required under section 475(1);

“(II) list the services or programs to be provided to or on behalf of the youth to ensure that the youth is prepared (in the case of a pregnant foster youth) or able (in the case of a parenting foster youth) to be a parent;

“(III) describe the foster care prevention strategy for any child born to the youth; and

“(IV) comply with such other requirements as the Secretary shall establish.

“(B) TRAUMA-INFORMED.—The services or programs to be provided to or on behalf of a child are provided under an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma and in accordance with recognized principles of a trauma-informed approach and trauma-specific interventions to address trauma’s consequences and facilitate healing.

“(C) ONLY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROMISING, SUPPORTED, OR WELL-SUPPORTED PRACTICES PERMITTED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Only State expenditures for services or programs specified in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) that are provided in accordance with practices that meet the requirements specified in clause (ii) of this subparagraph and that meet the requirements specified in clause (iii), (iv), or (v), respectively, for being a promising, supported, or well-supported practice, shall be eligible for a Federal matching payment under section 474(a)(6)(A).

“(ii) GENERAL PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS.—The general practice requirements specified in this clause are the following:

“(I) The practice has a book, manual, or other available writings that specify the components of the practice protocol and describe how to administer the practice.

“(II) There is no empirical basis suggesting that, compared to its likely benefits, the practice constitutes a risk of harm to those receiving it.

“(III) If multiple outcome studies have been conducted, the overall weight of evidence supports the benefits of the practice.

“(IV) Outcome measures are reliable and valid, and are administrated consistently and accurately across all those receiving the practice.

“(V) There is no case data suggesting a risk of harm that was probably caused by the treatment and that was severe or frequent.

“(iii) PROMISING PRACTICE.—A practice shall be considered to be a ‘promising practice’ if the practice is superior to an appropriate comparison practice using conventional standards of statistical significance (in terms of demonstrated meaningful improvements in validated measures of important child and parent outcomes, such as mental health, substance abuse, and child safety and well-being), as established by the results or outcomes of at least one study that—

“(I) was rated by an independent systematic review for the quality of the study design and execution and determined to be well-designed and well-executed; and

“(II) utilized some form of control (such as an untreated group, a placebo group, or a wait list study).

“(iv) SUPPORTED PRACTICE.—A practice shall be considered to be a ‘supported practice’ if—

“(I) the practice is superior to an appropriate comparison practice using conventional standards of statistical significance (in terms of demonstrated meaningful improvements in validated measures of important child and parent outcomes, such as mental health, substance abuse, and child safety and well-being), as established by the results or outcomes of at least one study that—

“(aa) was rated by an independent systematic review for the quality of the study design and execution and determined to be well-designed and well-executed;

“(bb) was a rigorous random-controlled trial (or, if not available, a study using a rigorous quasi-experimental research design); and

“(cc) was carried out in a usual care or practice setting; and

“(II) the study described in subclause (I) established that the practice has a sustained effect (when compared to a control group) for at least 6 months beyond the end of the treatment.

“(v) WELL-SUPPORTED PRACTICE.—A practice shall be considered to be a ‘well-supported practice’ if—

“(I) the practice is superior to an appropriate comparison practice using conventional standards of statistical significance (in terms of demonstrated meaningful improvements in validated measures of important child and parent outcomes, such as mental health, substance abuse, and child safety and well-being), as established by the results or outcomes of at least two studies that—

“(aa) were rated by an independent systematic review for the quality of the study design and execution and determined to be well-designed and well-executed;

“(bb) were rigorous random-controlled trials (or, if not available, studies using a rigorous quasi-experimental research design); and

“(cc) were carried out in a usual care or practice setting; and

“(II) at least one of the studies described in subclause (I) established that the practice has a sustained effect (when compared to a control group) for at least 1 year beyond the end of treatment.

“(D) GUIDANCE ON PRACTICES CRITERIA AND PRE-APPROVED SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1, 2018, the Secretary shall issue guidance to States regarding the practices criteria required for services or programs to satisfy the requirements of subparagraph (C). The guidance shall include a pre-approved list of services and programs that satisfy the requirements.

“(ii) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall issue updates to the guidance required by clause (i) as often as the Secretary determines necessary.

“(E) OUTCOME ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING.—The State shall collect and report to the Secretary the following information with respect to each child for whom, or on whose behalf mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services or in-home parent skill-based programs are provided during a 12-month period beginning on the date the child is determined by the State to be a child described in paragraph (2):

“(i) The specific services or programs provided and the total expenditures for each of the services or programs.

“(ii) The duration of the services or programs provided.

“(iii) In the case of a child described in paragraph (2)(A), the child’s placement status at the beginning, and at the end, of the 1-year period, respectively, and whether the child entered foster care within 2 years after being determined a candidate for foster care.

“(5) STATE PLAN COMPONENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State electing to provide services or programs specified in paragraph (1) shall submit as part of the State plan required by subsection (a) a prevention services and programs plan component that meets the requirements of subparagraph (B).

“(B) PREVENTION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS PLAN COMPONENT.—In order to meet the requirements of this subparagraph, a prevention services and programs plan component, with respect to each 5-year period for which the plan component is in operation in the State, shall include the following:

“(i) How providing services and programs specified in paragraph (1) is expected to improve specific outcomes for children and families.

“(ii) How the State will monitor and oversee the safety of children who receive services and programs specified in paragraph (1), including through periodic risk assessments throughout the period in which the services and programs are provided on behalf of a child and reexamination of the prevention plan maintained for the child under paragraph (4) for the provision of the services or programs if the State determines the risk of the child entering foster care remains high despite the provision of the services or programs.

“(iii) With respect to the services and programs specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1), information on the specific promising, supported, or well-supported practices the State plans to use to provide the services or programs, including a description of—

“(I) the services or programs and whether the practices used are promising, supported, or well-supported;

“(II) how the State plans to implement the services or programs, including how implementation of the services or programs will be continuously monitored to ensure fidelity to the practice model and to determine outcomes achieved and how information learned from the monitoring will be used to refine and improve practices;

“(III) how the State selected the services or programs;

“(IV) the target population for the services or programs; and

“(V) how each service or program provided will be evaluated through a well-designed and rigorous process, which may consist of an ongoing, cross-site evaluation approved by the Secretary.

“(iv) A description of the consultation that the State agencies responsible for administering the State plans under this part and part B engage in with other State agencies responsible for administering health programs, including mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services, and with other public and private agencies with experience in administering child and family services, including community-based organizations, in order to foster a continuum of care for children described in paragraph (2) and their parents or kin caregivers.

“(v) A description of how the State shall assess children and their parents or kin caregivers to determine eligibility for services or programs specified in paragraph (1).

“(vi) A description of how the services or programs specified in paragraph (1) that are provided for or on behalf of a child and the parents or kin caregivers of the child will be coordinated with other child and family services provided to the child and the parents or kin caregivers of the child under the State plan under part B.

“(vii) Descriptions of steps the State is taking to support and enhance a competent, skilled, and professional child welfare workforce to deliver trauma-informed and evidence-based services, including—

“(I) ensuring that staff is qualified to provide services or programs that are consistent with the promising, supported, or well-supported practice models selected; and

“(II) developing appropriate prevention plans, and conducting the risk assessments required under clause (iii).

“(viii) A description of how the State will provide training and support for caseworkers in assessing what children and their families need, connecting to the families served, knowing how to access and deliver the needed trauma-informed and evidence-based services, and overseeing and evaluating the continuing appropriateness of the services.

“(ix) A description of how caseload size and type for prevention caseworkers will be determined, managed, and overseen.

“(x) An assurance that the State will report to the Secretary such information and data as the Secretary may require with respect to the provision of services and programs specified in paragraph (1), including information and data necessary to determine the performance measures for the State under paragraph (6) and compliance with paragraph (7).

“(C) REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES UNDER THE PREVENTION PLAN COMPONENT.—

“(i) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subclause (ii), a State may not receive a Federal payment under this part for a given promising, supported, or well-supported practice unless (in accordance with subparagraph (B)(iii)(V)) the plan includes a well-designed and rigorous evaluation strategy for that practice.

“(ii) WAIVER OF LIMITATION.—The Secretary may waive the requirement for a well-designed and rigorous evaluation of any well-supported practice if the Secretary deems the evidence of the effectiveness of the practice to be compelling and the State meets the continuous quality improvement require-

ments included in subparagraph (B)(iii)(II) with regard to the practice.

“(6) PREVENTION SERVICES MEASURES.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT; ANNUAL UPDATES.—Beginning with fiscal year 2021, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall establish the following prevention services measures based on information and data reported by States that elect to provide services and programs specified in paragraph (1):

“(i) PERCENTAGE OF CANDIDATES FOR FOSTER CARE WHO DO NOT ENTER FOSTER CARE.—The percentage of candidates for foster care for whom, or on whose behalf, the services or programs are provided who do not enter foster care, including those placed with a kin caregiver outside of foster care, during the 12-month period in which the services or programs are provided and through the end of the succeeding 12-month-period.

“(ii) PER-CHILD SPENDING.—The total amount of expenditures made for mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services or in-home parent skill-based programs, respectively, for, or on behalf of, each child described in paragraph (2).

“(B) DATA.—The Secretary shall establish and annually update the prevention services measures—

“(i) based on the median State values of the information reported under each clause of subparagraph (A) for the 3 then most recent years; and

“(ii) taking into account State differences in the price levels of consumption goods and services using the most recent regional price parities published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce or such other data as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(C) PUBLICATION OF STATE PREVENTION SERVICES MEASURES.—The Secretary shall annually make available to the public the prevention services measures of each State.

“(7) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT FOR STATE FOSTER CARE PREVENTION EXPENDITURES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a State elects to provide services and programs specified in paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the State foster care prevention expenditures for the fiscal year shall not be less than the amount of the expenditures for fiscal year 2014 (or, at the option of a State described in subparagraph (E), fiscal year 2015 or fiscal year 2016 (whichever the State elects)).

“(B) STATE FOSTER CARE PREVENTION EXPENDITURES.—The term ‘State foster care prevention expenditures’ means the following:

“(i) TANF; IV-B; SSBG.—State expenditures for foster care prevention services and activities under the State program funded under part A (including from amounts made available by the Federal Government), under the State plan developed under part B (including any such amounts), or under the Social Services Block Grant Programs under subtitle A of title XX (including any such amounts).

“(ii) OTHER STATE PROGRAMS.—State expenditures for foster care prevention services and activities under any State program that is not described in clause (i) (other than any State expenditures for foster care prevention services and activities under the State program under this part (including under a waiver of the program)).

“(C) STATE EXPENDITURES.—The term ‘State expenditures’ means all State or local funds that are expended by the State or a local agency including State or local funds that are matched or reimbursed by the Federal Government and State or local funds that are not matched or reimbursed by the Federal Government.

“(D) DETERMINATION OF PREVENTION SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall require each State that elects to provide services and programs specified in paragraph (1) to report the expenditures specified in subparagraph (B) for fiscal year 2014 and for such fiscal years thereafter as are necessary to determine whether the State is complying with the maintenance of effort requirement in subparagraph (A). The Secretary shall specify the specific services and activities under each program referred to in subparagraph (B) that are ‘prevention services and activities’ for purposes of the reports.

“(E) STATE DESCRIBED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a State is described in this subparagraph if the population of children in the State in 2014 was less than 200,000 (as determined by the Bureau of the Census).

“(8) PROHIBITION AGAINST USE OF STATE FOSTER CARE PREVENTION EXPENDITURES AND FEDERAL IV-E PREVENTION FUNDS FOR MATCHING OR EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENT.—A State that elects to provide services and programs specified in paragraph (1) shall not use any State foster care prevention expenditures for a fiscal year for the State share of expenditures under section 474(a)(6) for a fiscal year.

“(9) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Expenditures described in section 474(a)(6)(B)—

“(A) shall not be eligible for payment under subparagraph (A), (B), or (E) of section 474(a)(3); and

“(B) shall be eligible for payment under section 474(a)(6)(B) without regard to whether the expenditures are incurred on behalf of a child who is, or is potentially, eligible for foster care maintenance payments under this part.

“(10) APPLICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The provision of services or programs under this subsection to or on behalf of a child described in paragraph (2) shall not be considered to be receipt of aid or assistance under the State plan under this part for purposes of eligibility for any other program established under this Act.

“(B) CANDIDATES IN KINSHIP CARE.—A child described in paragraph (2) for whom such services or programs under this subsection are provided for more than 6 months while in the home of a kin caregiver, and who would satisfy the AFDC eligibility requirement of section 472(a)(3)(A)(ii)(II) but for residing in the home of the caregiver for more than 6 months, is deemed to satisfy that requirement for purposes of determining whether the child is eligible for foster care maintenance payments under section 472.”

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 475 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 675) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(13) The term ‘child who is a candidate for foster care’ means, a child who is identified in a prevention plan under section 471(e)(4)(A) as being at imminent risk of entering foster care (without regard to whether the child would be eligible for foster care maintenance payments under section 472 or is or would be eligible for adoption assistance or kinship guardianship assistance payments under section 473) but who can remain safely in the child’s home or in a kinship placement as long as services or programs specified in section 471(e)(1) that are necessary to prevent the entry of the child into foster care are provided. The term includes a child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is at risk of a disruption or dissolution that would result in a foster care placement.”

(c) PAYMENTS UNDER TITLE IV-E.—Section 474(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 674(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; plus”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) subject to section 471(e)—

“(A) for each quarter—

“(i) subject to clause (ii)—

“(I) beginning after September 30, 2019, and before October 1, 2025, an amount equal to 50 percent of the total amount expended during the quarter for the provision of services or programs specified in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 471(e)(1) that are provided in accordance with promising, supported, or well-supported practices that meet the applicable criteria specified for the practices in section 471(e)(4)(C); and

“(II) beginning after September 30, 2025, an amount equal to the Federal medical assistance percentage (which shall be as defined in section 1905(b), in the case of a State other than the District of Columbia, or 70 percent, in the case of the District of Columbia) of the total amount expended during the quarter for the provision of services or programs specified in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 471(e)(1) that are provided in accordance with promising, supported, or well-supported practices that meet the applicable criteria specified for the practices in section 471(e)(4)(C) (or, with respect to the payments made during the quarter under a cooperative agreement or contract entered into by the State and an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium for the administration or payment of funds under this part, an amount equal to the Federal medical assistance percentage that would apply under section 479B(d) (in this paragraph referred to as the ‘tribal FMAP’) if the Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium made the payments under a program operated under that section, unless the tribal FMAP is less than the Federal medical assistance percentage that applies to the State); except that

“(ii) not less than 50 percent of the total amount payable to a State under clause (i) for a fiscal year shall be for the provision of services or programs specified in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 471(e)(1) that are provided in accordance with well-supported practices; plus

“(B) for each quarter specified in subparagraph (A), an amount equal to the sum of the following proportions of the total amount expended during the quarter:

“(i) 50 percent of so much of the expenditures as are found necessary by the Secretary for the proper and efficient administration of the State plan for the provision of services or programs specified in section 471(e)(1), including expenditures for activities approved by the Secretary that promote the development of necessary processes and procedures to establish and implement the provision of the services and programs for individuals who are eligible for the services and programs and expenditures attributable to data collection and reporting; and

“(ii) 50 percent of so much of the expenditures with respect to the provision of services and programs specified in section 471(e)(1) as are for training of personnel employed or preparing for employment by the State agency or by the local agency administering the plan in the political subdivision and of the members of the staff of State-licensed or State-approved child welfare agencies providing services to children described in section 471(e)(2) and their parents or kin caregivers, including on how to determine who are individuals eligible for the services or programs, how to identify and provide appropriate services and programs, and how to

oversee and evaluate the ongoing appropriateness of the services and programs.”.

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BEST PRACTICES, CLEARINGHOUSE, AND DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUATIONS.—Section 476 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 676) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BEST PRACTICES, CLEARINGHOUSE, DATA COLLECTION, AND EVALUATIONS RELATING TO PREVENTION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.—

“(1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall provide to States and, as applicable, to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal consortia, technical assistance regarding the provision of services and programs described in section 471(e)(1) and shall disseminate best practices with respect to the provision of the services and programs, including how to plan and implement a well-designed and rigorous evaluation of a promising, supported, or well-supported practice.

“(2) CLEARINGHOUSE OF PROMISING, SUPPORTED, AND WELL-SUPPORTED PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall, directly or through grants, contracts, or interagency agreements, evaluate research on the practices specified in clauses (iii), (iv), and (v), respectively, of section 471(e)(4)(C), and programs that meet the requirements described in section 427(a)(1), including culturally specific, or location- or population-based adaptations of the practices, to identify and establish a public clearinghouse of the practices that satisfy each category described by such clauses. In addition, the clearinghouse shall include information on the specific outcomes associated with each practice, including whether the practice has been shown to prevent child abuse and neglect and reduce the likelihood of foster care placement by supporting birth families and kinship families and improving targeted supports for pregnant and parenting youth and their children.

“(3) DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary, directly or through grants, contracts, or interagency agreements, may collect data and conduct evaluations with respect to the provision of services and programs described in section 471(e)(1) for purposes of assessing the extent to which the provision of the services and programs—

“(A) reduces the likelihood of foster care placement;

“(B) increases use of kinship care arrangements; or

“(C) improves child well-being.

“(4) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives periodic reports based on the provision of services and programs described in section 471(e)(1) and the activities carried out under this subsection.

“(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make the reports to Congress submitted under this paragraph publicly available.

“(5) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated to the Secretary \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2017 and each fiscal year thereafter to carry out this subsection.”.

(e) APPLICATION TO PROGRAMS OPERATED BY INDIAN TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 479B of such Act (42 U.S.C. 679c) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (C)(i)—

(I) in subclause (II), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(II) in subclause (III), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) at the option of the tribe, organization, or consortium, services and programs specified in section 471(e)(1) to children described in section 471(e)(2) and their parents or kin caregivers, in accordance with section 471(e) and subparagraph (E).”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) PREVENTION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS AND KIN CAREGIVERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a tribe, organization, or consortium that elects to provide services and programs specified in section 471(e)(1) to children described in section 471(e)(2) and their parents or kin caregivers under the plan, the Secretary shall specify the requirements applicable to the provision of the services and programs. The requirements shall, to the greatest extent practicable, be consistent with the requirements applicable to States under section 471(e) and shall permit the provision of the services and programs in the form of services and programs that are adapted to the culture and context of the tribal communities served.

“(ii) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The Secretary shall establish specific performance measures for each tribe, organization, or consortium that elects to provide services and programs specified in section 471(e)(1). The performance measures shall, to the greatest extent practicable, be consistent with the prevention services measures required for States under section 471(e)(6) but shall allow for consideration of factors unique to the provision of the services by tribes, organizations, or consortia.”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “and (5)” and inserting “(5), and (6)(A)”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading for subsection (d) of section 479B of such Act (42 U.S.C. 679c) is amended by striking “FOR FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS”.

(f) APPLICATION TO PROGRAMS OPERATED BY TERRITORIES.—Section 1108(a)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1308(a)(2)) is amended by striking “or 413(f)” and inserting “413(f), or 474(a)(6)”.

SEC. 112. FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS FOR CHILDREN WITH PARENTS IN A LICENSED RESIDENTIAL FAMILY-BASED TREATMENT FACILITY FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 472 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 672) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(C), by striking “or” and inserting “, with a parent residing in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility, but only to the extent permitted under subsection (j), or in a”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(j) CHILDREN PLACED WITH A PARENT RESIDING IN A LICENSED RESIDENTIAL FAMILY-BASED TREATMENT FACILITY FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this section, a child who is eligible for foster care maintenance payments under this section, or who would be eligible for the payments if the eligibility were determined without regard to paragraphs (1)(B) and (3) of subsection (a), shall be eligible for the payments for a period of not more than 12 months during which the child is placed with a parent who is in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility for substance abuse, but only if—

“(A) the recommendation for the placement is specified in the child’s case plan before the placement;

“(B) the treatment facility provides, as part of the treatment for substance abuse, parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling; and

“(C) the substance abuse treatment, parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling is provided under an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma and in accordance with recognized principles of a trauma-informed approach and trauma-specific interventions to address the consequences of trauma and facilitate healing.

“(2) APPLICATION.—With respect to children for whom foster care maintenance payments are made under paragraph (1), only the children who satisfy the requirements of paragraphs (1)(B) and (3) of subsection (a) shall be considered to be children with respect to whom foster care maintenance payments are made under this section for purposes of subsection (h) or section 473(b)(3)(B).”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 474(a)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 674(a)(1)) is amended by inserting “subject to section 472(j),” before “an amount equal to the Federal” the first place it appears.

SEC. 113. TITLE IV-E PAYMENTS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAMS.

Section 474(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 674(a)), as amended by section 111(c), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; plus”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) an amount equal to 50 percent of the amounts expended by the State during the quarter as the Secretary determines are for kinship navigator programs that meet the requirements described in section 427(a)(1) and that the Secretary determines are operated in accordance with promising, supported, or well-supported practices that meet the applicable criteria specified for the practices in section 471(e)(4)(C), without regard to whether the expenditures are incurred on behalf of children who are, or are potentially, eligible for foster care maintenance payments under this part.”.

Subtitle B—Enhanced Support Under Title IV-B

SEC. 121. ELIMINATION OF TIME LIMIT FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES WHILE IN FOSTER CARE AND PERMITTING TIME-LIMITED FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES WHEN A CHILD RETURNS HOME FROM FOSTER CARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 431(a)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629a(a)(7)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “TIME-LIMITED FAMILY” and inserting “FAMILY”; and

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “time-limited family” and inserting “family”; and

(B) by inserting “or a child who has been returned home” after “child care institution”; and

(C) by striking “, but only during the 15-month period that begins on the date that the child, pursuant to section 475(5)(F), is considered to have entered foster care” and inserting “and to ensure the strength and stability of the reunification. In the case of a child who has been returned home, the services and activities shall only be provided during the 15-month period that begins on the date that the child returns home”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 430 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “time-limited”.

(2) Subsections (a)(4), (a)(5)(A), and (b)(1) of section 432 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629b) are amended by striking “time-limited” each place it appears.

SEC. 122. REDUCING BUREAUCRACY AND UNNECESSARY DELAYS WHEN PLACING CHILDREN IN HOMES ACROSS STATE LINES.

(a) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT.—Section 471(a)(25) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(25)) is amended—

(1) by striking “provide” and insert “provides”; and

(2) by inserting “, which, not later than October 1, 2026, shall include the use of an electronic interstate case-processing system” before the first semicolon.

(b) GRANTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ELECTRONIC INTERSTATE CASE-PROCESSING SYSTEM TO EXPEDITE THE INTERSTATE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE OR GUARDIANSHIP, OR FOR ADOPTION.—Section 437 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629g) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) GRANTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ELECTRONIC INTERSTATE CASE-PROCESSING SYSTEM TO EXPEDITE THE INTERSTATE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE OR GUARDIANSHIP, OR FOR ADOPTION.—

“(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection is to facilitate the development of an electronic interstate case-processing system for the exchange of data and documents to expedite the placements of children in foster, guardianship, or adoptive homes across State lines.

“(2) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—A State that desires a grant under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary an application containing the following:

“(A) A description of the goals and outcomes to be achieved during the period for which grant funds are sought, which goals and outcomes must result in—

“(i) reducing the time it takes for a child to be provided with a safe and appropriate permanent living arrangement across State lines;

“(ii) improving administrative processes and reducing costs in the foster care system; and

“(iii) the secure exchange of relevant case files and other necessary materials in real time, and timely communications and placement decisions regarding interstate placements of children.

“(B) A description of the activities to be funded in whole or in part with the grant funds, including the sequencing of the activities.

“(C) A description of the strategies for integrating programs and services for children who are placed across State lines.

“(D) Such other information as the Secretary may require.

“(3) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may make a grant to a State that complies with paragraph (2).

“(4) USE OF FUNDS.—A State to which a grant is made under this subsection shall use the grant to support the State in connecting with the electronic interstate case-processing system described in paragraph (1).

“(5) EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the final year in which grants are awarded under this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress, and make available to the general public by posting on a website, a report that contains the following information:

“(A) How using the electronic interstate case-processing system developed pursuant

to paragraph (4) has changed the time it takes for children to be placed across State lines.

“(B) The number of cases subject to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children that were processed through the electronic interstate case-processing system, and the number of interstate child placement cases that were processed outside the electronic interstate case-processing system, by each State in each year.

“(C) The progress made by States in implementing the electronic interstate case-processing system.

“(D) How using the electronic interstate case-processing system has affected various metrics related to child safety and well-being, including the time it takes for children to be placed across State lines.

“(E) How using the electronic interstate case-processing system has affected administrative costs and caseworker time spent on placing children across State lines.

“(6) DATA INTEGRATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretariat for the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children and the States, shall assess how the electronic interstate case-processing system developed pursuant to paragraph (4) could be used to better serve and protect children that come to the attention of the child welfare system, by—

“(A) connecting the system with other data systems (such as systems operated by State law enforcement and judicial agencies, systems operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purposes of the Innocence Lost National Initiative, and other systems);

“(B) simplifying and improving reporting related to paragraphs (34) and (35) of section 471(a) regarding children or youth who have been identified as being a sex trafficking victim or children missing from foster care; and

“(C) improving the ability of States to quickly comply with background check requirements of section 471(a)(20), including checks of child abuse and neglect registries as required by section 471(a)(20)(B).”.

(c) RESERVATION OF FUNDS TO IMPROVE THE INTERSTATE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN.—Section 437(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) IMPROVING THE INTERSTATE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN.—The Secretary shall reserve \$5,000,000 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2017 for grants under subsection (g), and the amount so reserved shall remain available through fiscal year 2021.”.

SEC. 123. ENHANCEMENTS TO GRANTS TO IMPROVE WELL-BEING OF FAMILIES AFFECTED BY SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

Section 437(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(f)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “INCREASE THE WELL-BEING OF, AND TO IMPROVE THE PERMANENCY OUTCOMES FOR, CHILDREN AFFECTED BY” and inserting “IMPLEMENT IV-E PREVENTION SERVICES, AND IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF, AND IMPROVE PERMANENCY OUTCOMES FOR, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY HEROIN, OPIOIDS, AND OTHER”;

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘regional partnership’ means a collaborative agreement (which may be established on an interstate, State, or intrastate basis) entered into by the following:

“(A) MANDATORY PARTNERS FOR ALL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS.—

“(i) The State child welfare agency that is responsible for the administration of the State plan under this part and part E.

“(ii) The State agency responsible for administering the substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant provided under subpart II of part B of title XIX of the Public Health Service Act.

“(B) MANDATORY PARTNERS FOR PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROPOSING TO SERVE CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS.—If the partnership proposes to serve children in out-of-home placements, the Juvenile Court or Administrative Office of the Court that is most appropriate to oversee the administration of court programs in the region to address the population of families who come to the attention of the court due to child abuse or neglect.

“(C) OPTIONAL PARTNERS.—At the option of the partnership, any of the following:

“(i) An Indian tribe or tribal consortium.

“(ii) Nonprofit child welfare service providers.

“(iii) For-profit child welfare service providers.

“(iv) Community health service providers, including substance abuse treatment providers.

“(v) Community mental health providers.

“(vi) Local law enforcement agencies.

“(vii) School personnel.

“(viii) Tribal child welfare agencies (or a consortia of the agencies).

“(ix) Any other providers, agencies, personnel, officials, or entities that are related to the provision of child and family services under a State plan approved under this subpart.

“(D) EXCEPTION FOR REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS WHERE THE LEAD APPLICANT IS AN INDIAN TRIBE OR TRIBAL CONSORTIA.—If an Indian tribe or tribal consortium enters into a regional partnership for purposes of this subsection, the Indian tribe or tribal consortium—

“(i) may (but is not required to) include the State child welfare agency as a partner in the collaborative agreement;

“(ii) may not enter into a collaborative agreement only with tribal child welfare agencies (or a consortium of the agencies); and

“(iii) if the condition described in paragraph (2)(B) applies, may include tribal court organizations in lieu of other judicial partners.”;

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “2012 through 2016” and inserting “2017 through 2021”; and

(ii) by striking “\$500,000 and not more than \$1,000,000” and inserting “\$250,000 and not more than \$1,000,000”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by inserting “; PLANNING” after “APPROVAL”;

(ii) in clause (i), by striking “clause (ii)” and inserting “clauses (ii) and (iii)”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) SUFFICIENT PLANNING.—A grant awarded under this subsection shall be disbursed in two phases: a planning phase (not to exceed 2 years); and an implementation phase. The total disbursement to a grantee for the planning phase may not exceed \$250,000, and may not exceed the total anticipated funding for the implementation phase.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) LIMITATION ON PAYMENT FOR A FISCAL YEAR.—No payment shall be made under subparagraph (A) or (C) for a fiscal year until the Secretary determines that the eligible

partnership has made sufficient progress in meeting the goals of the grant and that the members of the eligible partnership are coordinating to a reasonable degree with the other members of the eligible partnership.”;

(4) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (i), by inserting “, parents, and families” after “children”;

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking “safety and permanence for such children; and” and inserting “safe, permanent caregiving relationships for the children.”;

(iii) in clause (iii), by striking “or” and inserting “increase reunification rates for children who have been placed in out of home care, or decrease”; and

(iv) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (v) and inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) improve the substance abuse treatment outcomes for parents including retention in treatment and successful completion of treatment;

“(iv) facilitate the implementation, delivery, and effectiveness of prevention services and programs under section 471(e); and”;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “where appropriate.”; and

(C) by striking subparagraphs (E) and (F) and inserting the following:

“(E) A description of a plan for sustaining the services provided by or activities funded under the grant after the conclusion of the grant period, including through the use of prevention services and programs under section 471(e) and other funds provided to the State for child welfare and substance abuse prevention and treatment services.

“(F) Additional information needed by the Secretary to determine that the proposed activities and implementation will be consistent with research or evaluations showing which practices and approaches are most effective.”;

(5) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking “abuse treatment” and inserting “use disorder treatment including medication assisted treatment and in-home substance abuse disorder treatment and recovery”;

(6) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (C); and

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E) and inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) demonstrate a track record of successful collaboration among child welfare, substance abuse disorder treatment and mental health agencies; and”;

(7) in paragraph (8)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “establish indicators that will be” and inserting “review indicators that are”; and

(ii) by striking “in using funds made available under such grants to achieve the purpose of this subsection” and inserting “and establish a set of core indicators related to child safety, parental recovery, parenting capacity, and family well-being. In developing the core indicators, to the extent possible, indicators shall be made consistent with the outcome measures described in section 471(e)(6)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “base the performance measures on lessons learned from prior rounds of regional partnership grants under this subsection, and” before “consult”; and

(ii) by striking clauses (iii) and (iv) and inserting the following:

“(iii) Other stakeholders or constituencies as determined by the Secretary.”;

(8) in paragraph (9)(A), by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than September 30 of each fiscal year in which a recipient of a grant under this subsection is paid funds under the grant, and every 6 months thereafter, the grant recipient shall submit to the Secretary a report on the services provided and activities carried out during the reporting period, progress made in achieving the goals of the program, the number of children, adults, and families receiving services, and such additional information as the Secretary determines is necessary. The report due not later than September 30 of the last such fiscal year shall include, at a minimum, data on each of the performance indicators included in the evaluation of the regional partnership.”; and

(9) in paragraph (10), by striking “2012 through 2016” and inserting “2017 through 2021”.

Subtitle C—Miscellaneous

SEC. 131. REVIEWING AND IMPROVING LICENSING STANDARDS FOR PLACEMENT IN A RELATIVE FOSTER FAMILY HOME.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF REPUTABLE MODEL LICENSING STANDARDS.—Not later than October 1, 2017, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall identify reputable model licensing standards with respect to the licensing of foster family homes (as defined in section 472(c)(1) of the Social Security Act).

(b) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT.—Section 471(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (34)(B), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (35)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(36) provides that, not later than April 1, 2018, the State shall submit to the Secretary information addressing—

“(A) whether the State licensing standards are in accord with model standards identified by the Secretary, and if not, the reason for the specific deviation and a description as to why having a standard that is reasonably in accord with the corresponding national model standards is not appropriate for the State;

“(B) whether the State has elected to waive standards established in 471(a)(10)(A) for relative foster family homes (pursuant to waiver authority provided by 471(a)(10)(D)), a description of which standards the State most commonly waives, and if the State has not elected to waive the standards, the reason for not waiving these standards;

“(C) if the State has elected to waive standards specified in subparagraph (B), how caseworkers are trained to use the waiver authority and whether the State has developed a process or provided tools to assist caseworkers in waiving nonsafety standards per the authority provided in 471(a)(10)(D) to quickly place children with relatives; and

“(D) a description of the steps the State is taking to improve caseworker training or the process, if any; and”.

SEC. 132. DEVELOPMENT OF A STATEWIDE PLAN TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT FATALITIES.

Section 422(b)(19) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(19)) is amended to read as follows:

“(19) document steps taken to track and prevent child maltreatment deaths by including—

“(A) a description of the steps the State is taking to compile complete and accurate information on the deaths required by Federal law to be reported by the State agency referred to in paragraph (1), including gathering relevant information on the deaths from the relevant organizations in the State including entities such as State vital statistics department, child death review teams, law enforcement agencies, offices of medical examiners or coroners; and

“(B) a description of the steps the state is taking to develop and implement a comprehensive, statewide plan to prevent the fatalities that involves and engages relevant public and private agency partners, including those in public health, law enforcement, and the courts.”

SEC. 133. MODERNIZING THE TITLE AND PURPOSE OF TITLE IV-E.

(a) PART HEADING.—The heading for part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“PART E—FEDERAL PAYMENTS FOR FOSTER CARE, PREVENTION, AND PERMANENCY”.

(b) PURPOSE.—The first sentence of section 470 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 670) is amended—

(1) by striking “1995) and” and inserting “1995);”;

(2) by inserting “kinship guardianship assistance, and prevention services or programs specified in section 471(e)(1),” after “needs;”;

(3) by striking “(commencing with the fiscal year which begins October 1, 1980)”.

SEC. 134. EFFECTIVE DATES.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), subject to subsection (b), the amendments made by this title shall take effect on January 1, 2017.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The amendments made by sections 131 and 133 shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) TRANSITION RULE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a State plan under part B or E of title IV of the Social Security Act which the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines requires State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) in order for the plan to meet the additional requirements imposed by the amendments made by this title, the State plan shall not be regarded as failing to comply with the requirements of such part solely on the basis of the failure of the plan to meet such additional requirements before the first day of the first calendar quarter beginning after the close of the first regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of enactment of this Act. For purposes of the previous sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session shall be deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

(2) APPLICATION TO PROGRAMS OPERATED BY INDIAN TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—In the case of an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium which the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines requires time to take action necessary to comply with the additional requirements imposed by the amendments made by this title (whether the tribe, organization, or tribal consortium has a plan under section 479B of the Social Security Act or a cooperative agreement or contract entered into with a State), the Secretary shall provide the tribe, organization, or tribal consortium with such additional time as the Secretary determines is necessary for the tribe, organization, or tribal

consortium to take the action to comply with the additional requirements before being regarded as failing to comply with the requirements.

TITLE II—ENSURING THE NECESSITY OF A PLACEMENT THAT IS NOT IN A FOSTER FAMILY HOME

SEC. 201. LIMITATION ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION FOR PLACEMENTS THAT ARE NOT IN FOSTER FAMILY HOMES.

(a) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 472 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 672), as amended by section 112, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2)(C), by inserting “, but only to the extent permitted under subsection (k)” after “institution;” and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(k) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the third week for which foster care maintenance payments are made under this section on behalf of a child placed in a child-care institution, no Federal payment shall be made to the State under section 474(a)(1) for amounts expended for foster care maintenance payments on behalf of the child unless—

“(A) the child is placed in a child-care institution that is a setting specified in paragraph (2) (or is placed in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility consistent with subsection (j)); and

“(B) in the case of a child placed in a qualified residential treatment program (as defined in paragraph (4)), the requirements specified in paragraph (3) and section 475A(c) are met.

“(2) SPECIFIED SETTINGS FOR PLACEMENT.—The settings for placement specified in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) A qualified residential treatment program (as defined in paragraph (4)).

“(B) A setting specializing in providing prenatal, post-partum, or parenting supports for youth.

“(C) In the case of a child who has attained 18 years of age, a supervised setting in which the child is living independently.

“(D) A setting providing high-quality residential care and supportive services to children and youth who have been found to be, or are at risk of becoming, sex trafficking victims, in accordance with section 471(a)(9)(C).

“(3) ASSESSMENT TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATENESS OF PLACEMENT IN A QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM.—

“(A) DEADLINE FOR ASSESSMENT.—In the case of a child who is placed in a qualified residential treatment program, if the assessment required under section 475A(c)(1) is not completed within 30 days after the placement is made, no Federal payment shall be made to the State under section 474(a)(1) for any amounts expended for foster care maintenance payments on behalf of the child during the placement.

“(B) DEADLINE FOR TRANSITION OUT OF PLACEMENT.—If the assessment required under section 475A(c)(1) determines that the placement of a child in a qualified residential treatment program is not appropriate, a court disapproves such a placement under section 475A(c)(2), or a child who has been in an approved placement in a qualified residential treatment program is going to return home or be placed with a fit and willing relative, a legal guardian, or an adoptive parent, or in a foster family home, Federal payments shall be made to the State under section 474(a)(1) for amounts expended for foster care maintenance payments on behalf of the

child while the child remains in the qualified residential treatment program only during the period necessary for the child to transition home or to such a placement. In no event shall a State receive Federal payments under section 474(a)(1) for amounts expended for foster care maintenance payments on behalf of a child who remains placed in a qualified residential treatment program after the end of the 30-day period that begins on the date a determination is made that the placement is no longer the recommended or approved placement for the child.

“(4) QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM.—For purposes of this part, the term ‘qualified residential treatment program’ means a program that—

“(A) has a trauma-informed treatment model that is designed to address the needs, including clinical needs as appropriate, of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders or disturbances and, with respect to a child, is able to implement the treatment identified for the child by the assessment of the child required under section 475A(c);

“(B) subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), has registered or licensed nursing staff and other licensed clinical staff who—

“(i) provide care within the scope of their practice as defined by State law;

“(ii) are on-site during business hours; and

“(iii) are available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week;

“(C) to extent appropriate, and in accordance with the child’s best interests, facilitates participation of family members in the child’s treatment program;

“(D) facilitates outreach to the family members of the child, including siblings, documents how the outreach is made (including contact information), and maintains contact information for any known biological family and fictive kin of the child;

“(E) documents how family members are integrated into the treatment process for the child, including post-discharge, and how sibling connections are maintained;

“(F) provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare support for at least 6 months post-discharge; and

“(G) is licensed in accordance with section 471(a)(10) and is accredited by any of the following independent, not-for-profit organizations:

“(i) The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

“(ii) The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

“(iii) The Council on Accreditation (COA).

“(iv) Any other independent, not-for-profit accrediting organization approved by the Secretary.

“(5) FLEXIBILITY IN STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any State that the Secretary determines is described in subparagraph (B) and satisfies the requirements of subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively, the State may elect to satisfy the requirement of paragraph (4)(B) that a qualified residential treatment program have registered or licensed nursing staff and other licensed clinical staff with clinical staff which include staff licensed to monitor medications and physical and behavioral health and that have demonstrated training in child development and trauma, in lieu of with registered or licensed nursing staff and other licensed clinical staff.

“(B) STATE DESCRIBED.—Subject to subparagraph (E), a State is described in this subparagraph if for the most recent fiscal year for which data are available—

“(i) the percentage of children on whose behalf foster care maintenance payments are being made under this part who have been placed in congregate care settings—

“(I) is at or below 7.5 percent for the fiscal year; or

“(II) has been reduced by at least 20 percent from the preceding fiscal year; and

“(ii) the average length of stay for children in foster care under the responsibility of the State in congregate care settings is at or below 12 months.

“(C) DEMONSTRATION OF CAPACITY AND NEED.—A State described in subparagraph (B) shall be eligible to use the alternative staffing model permitted under subparagraph (A) if the State can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the qualified residential treatment programs utilizing the alternative staffing models permitted under subparagraph (A) have the capacity to serve children and youth whose treatment plans—

“(i) indicate a need for increased supervision based on behavioral history, history of juvenile delinquency, or history of sexual offenses; and

“(ii) require a placement that conforms to the alternative staffing model permitted under subparagraph (A).

“(D) ANNUAL DETERMINATION OF STATE ELIGIBILITY BASED ON AFCARS AND OTHER DATA.—The Secretary annually shall make the determinations required under subparagraph (B) with respect to a State and a fiscal year, on the basis of data meeting the requirements of the system established pursuant to section 479, as reported by the State and approved by the Secretary, and, to the extent the Secretary determines necessary, on the basis of such other information reported to the Secretary as the Secretary may require to determine that a State is, or continues to be, a State described in subparagraph (B).

“(E) CONGREGATE CARE SETTINGS.—In this paragraph, the term ‘congregate care settings’ includes any settings described as ‘group homes’ or ‘institutions’ for purposes of data reported in accordance with the requirements of the system established pursuant to section 479 or any similar placement settings reported in accordance with such requirements.

“(6) AUTHORITY FOR FRONTIER STATES TO WAIVE OR MODIFY CERTAIN STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A frontier State may waive or modify the requirements of clause (ii) or (iii) of paragraph (4)(B) (or both) with respect to any qualified residential treatment program located in the frontier State.

“(B) FRONTIER STATE DEFINED.—In this paragraph:

“(i) FRONTIER STATE.—The term ‘frontier State’ means a State in which at least 50 percent of the counties in the State are frontier counties.

“(ii) FRONTIER COUNTY.—The term ‘frontier county’ means a county in which the population per square mile is 6 or less.

“(7) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The prohibition in paragraph (1) on Federal payments under section 474(a)(1) shall not be construed as prohibiting Federal payments for administrative expenditures incurred on behalf of a child placed in a child-care institution and for which payment is available under section 474(a)(3).

“(8) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The requirements in paragraph (4)(B) shall not be construed as requiring a qualified residential treatment program to acquire nursing and behavioral health staff solely through means of a direct employer to employee relationship.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 474(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 674(a)(1)), as amended by section 112(b), is amended by striking “section 472(j)” and inserting “subsections (j) and (k) of section 472”.

(b) DEFINITION OF FOSTER FAMILY HOME, CHILD-CARE INSTITUTION.—Section 472(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 672(c)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this part:

“(1) FOSTER FAMILY HOME.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘foster family home’ means the home of an individual or family—

“(i) that is licensed or approved by the State in which it is situated as a foster family home that meets the standards established for the licensing or approval; and

“(ii) in which a child in foster care has been placed in the care of an individual, who resides with the child and who has been licensed or approved by the State to be a foster parent—

“(I) that the State deems capable of adhering to the reasonable and prudent parent standard;

“(II) that provides 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or other caretakers; and

“(III) that provides the care for not more than six children in foster care.

“(B) STATE FLEXIBILITY.—The number of foster children that may be cared for in a home under subparagraph (A) may exceed the numerical limitation in subparagraph (A)(ii)(II), at the option of the State, for any of the following reasons:

“(i) To allow a parenting youth in foster care to remain with the child of the parenting youth.

“(ii) To allow siblings to remain together.

“(iii) To allow a child with an established meaningful relationship with the family to remain with the family.

“(iv) To allow a family with special training or skills to provide care to a child who has a severe disability.

“(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not be construed as prohibiting a foster parent from renting the home in which the parent cares for a foster child placed in the parent’s care.

“(2) CHILD-CARE INSTITUTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘child-care institution’ means a private child-care institution, or a public child-care institution which accommodates no more than 25 children, which is licensed by the State in which it is situated or has been approved by the agency of the State responsible for licensing or approval of institutions of this type as meeting the standards established for the licensing.

“(B) SUPERVISED SETTINGS.—In the case of a child who has attained 18 years of age, the term shall include a supervised setting in which the individual is living independently, in accordance with such conditions as the Secretary shall establish in regulations.

“(C) EXCLUSIONS.—The term shall not include detention facilities, forestry camps, training schools, or any other facility operated primarily for the detention of children who are determined to be delinquent.”.

(c) TRAINING FOR STATE JUDGES, ATTORNEYS, AND OTHER LEGAL PERSONNEL IN CHILD WELFARE CASES.—Section 438(b)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 629h(b)(1)) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by inserting “shall provide for the training of judges, attorneys, and other legal personnel in child welfare cases on Federal child welfare policies and payment limitations with respect to

children in foster care who are placed in settings that are not a foster family home,” after “with respect to the child.”.

(d) ASSURANCE OF NONIMPACT ON JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM.—

(1) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT.—Section 471(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)), as amended by section 131, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(37) includes a certification that, in response to the limitation imposed under section 472(k) with respect to foster care maintenance payments made on behalf of any child who is placed in a setting that is not a foster family home, the State will not enact or advance policies or practices that would result in a significant increase in the population of youth in the State’s juvenile justice system.”.

(2) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall evaluate the impact, if any, on State juvenile justice systems of the limitation imposed under section 472(k) of the Social Security Act (as added by section 201(a)(1)) on foster care maintenance payments made on behalf of any child who is placed in a setting that is not a foster family home, in accordance with the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) of this section. In particular, the Comptroller General shall evaluate the extent to which children in foster care who also are subject to the juvenile justice system of the State are placed in a facility under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system and whether the lack of available congregate care placements under the jurisdiction of the child welfare systems is a contributing factor to that result. Not later than December 31, 2023, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the evaluation.

SEC. 202. ASSESSMENT AND DOCUMENTATION OF THE NEED FOR PLACEMENT IN A QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM.

Section 475A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) ASSESSMENT, DOCUMENTATION, AND JUDICIAL DETERMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PLACEMENT IN A QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM.—In the case of any child who is placed in a qualified residential treatment program (as defined in section 472(k)(4)), the following requirements shall apply for purposes of approving the case plan for the child and the case system review procedure for the child:

“(1)(A) Within 30 days of the start of each placement in such a setting, a qualified individual (as defined in subparagraph (D)) shall—

“(i) assess the strengths and needs of the child using an age-appropriate, evidence-based, validated, functional assessment tool approved by the Secretary;

“(ii) determine whether the needs of the child can be met with family members or through placement in a foster family home or, if not, which setting from among the settings specified in section 472(k)(2) would provide the most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive environment and be consistent with the short- and long-term goals for the child, as specified in the permanency plan for the child; and

“(iii) develop a list of child-specific short- and long-term mental and behavioral health goals.

“(B)(i) The State shall assemble a family and permanency team for the child in accordance with the requirements of clauses

(ii) and (iii). The qualified individual conducting the assessment required under subparagraph (A) shall work in conjunction with the family of, and permanency team for, the child while conducting and making the assessment.

“(ii) The family and permanency team shall consist of all appropriate biological family members, relative, and fictive kin of the child, as well as, as appropriate, professionals who are a resource to the family of the child, such as teachers, medical or mental health providers who have treated the child, or clergy. In the case of a child who has attained age 14, the family and permanency team shall include the members of the permanency planning team for the child that are selected by the child in accordance with section 475(5)(C)(iv).

“(iii) The State shall document in the child’s case plan—

“(I) the reasonable and good faith effort of the State to identify and include all such individuals on the family of, and permanency team for, the child;

“(II) all contact information for members of the family and permanency team, as well as contact information for other family members and fictive kin who are not part of the family and permanency team;

“(III) evidence that meetings of the family and permanency team, including meetings relating to the assessment required under subparagraph (A), are held at a time and place convenient for family;

“(IV) if reunification is the goal, evidence demonstrating that the parent from whom the child was removed provided input on the members of the family and permanency team;

“(V) evidence that the assessment required under subparagraph (A) is determined in conjunction with the family and permanency team;

“(VI) the placement preferences of the family and permanency team relative to the assessment that recognizes children should be placed with their siblings unless there is a finding by the court that such placement is contrary to their best interest; and

“(VII) if the placement preferences of the family and permanency team and child are not the placement setting recommended by the qualified individual conducting the assessment under subparagraph (A), the reasons why the preferences of the team and of the child were not recommended.

“(C) In the case of a child who the qualified individual conducting the assessment under subparagraph (A) determines should not be placed in a foster family home, the qualified individual shall specify in writing the reasons why the needs of the child cannot be met by the family of the child or in a foster family home. A shortage or lack of foster family homes shall not be an acceptable reason for determining that a needs of the child cannot be met in a foster family home. The qualified individual also shall specify in writing why the recommended placement in a qualified residential treatment program is the setting that will provide the child with the most effective and appropriate level of care in the least restrictive environment and how that placement is consistent with the short- and long-term goals for the child, as specified in the permanency plan for the child.

“(D)(i) Subject to clause (ii), in this subsection, the term ‘qualified individual’ means a trained professional or licensed clinician who is not an employee of the State agency and who is not connected to, or affiliated with, any placement setting in which children are placed by the State.

“(ii) The Secretary may approve a request of a State to waive any requirement in clause (i) upon a submission by the State, in accordance with criteria established by the Secretary, that certifies that the trained professionals or licensed clinicians with responsibility for performing the assessments described in subparagraph (A) shall maintain objectivity with respect to determining the most effective and appropriate placement for a child.

“(2) Within 60 days of the start of each placement in a qualified residential treatment program, a family or juvenile court or another court (including a tribal court) of competent jurisdiction, or an administrative body appointed or approved by the court, independently, shall—

“(A) consider the assessment, determination, and documentation made by the qualified individual conducting the assessment under paragraph (1);

“(B) determine whether the needs of the child can be met through placement in a foster family home or, if not, whether placement of the child in a qualified residential treatment program provides the most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive environment and whether that placement is consistent with the short- and long-term goals for the child, as specified in the permanency plan for the child; and

“(C) approve or disapprove the placement.

“(3) The written documentation made under paragraph (1)(C) and documentation of the determination and approval or disapproval of the placement in a qualified residential treatment program by a court or administrative body under paragraph (2) shall be included in and made part of the case plan for the child.

“(4) As long as a child remains placed in a qualified residential treatment program, the State agency shall submit evidence at each status review and each permanency hearing held with respect to the child—

“(A) demonstrating that ongoing assessment of the strengths and needs of the child continues to support the determination that the needs of the child cannot be met through placement in a foster family home, that the placement in a qualified residential treatment program provides the most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive environment, and that the placement is consistent with the short- and long-term goals for the child, as specified in the permanency plan for the child;

“(B) documenting the specific treatment or service needs that will be met for the child in the placement and the length of time the child is expected to need the treatment or services; and

“(C) documenting the efforts made by the State agency to prepare the child to return home or to be placed with a fit and willing relative, a legal guardian, or an adoptive parent, or in a foster family home.

“(5) In the case of any child who is placed in a qualified residential treatment program for more than 12 consecutive months or 18 nonconsecutive months (or, in the case of a child who has not attained age 13, for more than 6 consecutive or nonconsecutive months), the State agency shall submit to the Secretary—

“(A) the most recent versions of the evidence and documentation specified in paragraph (4); and

“(B) the signed approval of the head of the State agency for the continued placement of the child in that setting.”

SEC. 203. PROTOCOLS TO PREVENT INAPPROPRIATE DIAGNOSES.

(a) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENT.—Section 422(b)(15)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(15)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (vi), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(2) by redesignating clause (vii) as clause (viii); and

(3) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:

“(vii) the procedures and protocols the State has established to ensure that children in foster care placements are not inappropriately diagnosed with mental illness, other emotional or behavioral disorders, medically fragile conditions, or developmental disabilities, and placed in settings that are not foster family homes as a result of the inappropriate diagnoses; and”.

(b) EVALUATION.—Section 476 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 676), as amended by section 111(d), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) EVALUATION OF STATE PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS TO PREVENT INAPPROPRIATE DIAGNOSES OF MENTAL ILLNESS OR OTHER CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the procedures and protocols established by States in accordance with the requirements of section 422(b)(15)(A)(vii). The evaluation shall analyze the extent to which States comply with and enforce the procedures and protocols and the effectiveness of various State procedures and protocols and shall identify best practices. Not later than January 1, 2019, the Secretary shall submit a report on the results of the evaluation to Congress.”

SA 5166. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 14, strike line 18 and all that follows through page 15, line 9, and insert the following:

“(iv) GENERAL FUND TRANSFER.—If the transfer under this subparagraph for fiscal year 2017 (after any adjustment under paragraph (5)) is insufficient to pay health benefits under the plan for such year, including benefits of the individuals referred to in clause (ii)(II)(bb) for the period described in clause (ii)(II), the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Plan out of the general fund of the Treasury an amount sufficient to pay such benefits.”

“(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subparagraph (B) of section 402(h)(1) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(h)(1)) is amended by inserting ‘(except as provided in paragraph (2)(C)(iv))’ after ‘not to exceed’.

SA 5167. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ Notwithstanding sections 101 and 102, within amounts appropriated for the Department of Defense for “Defense Health

Program", \$1,832,000,000 shall be available only for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program for research, development, test, and evaluation.

SA 5168. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Notwithstanding sections 101 and 102, within amounts appropriated for the Department of Defense for "Procurement, Defense-Wide" and "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide", an aggregate of \$600,735,000 shall be available for Israeli Cooperative Programs: *Provided*, That the availability of such amount for such Programs shall be subject to the same authority and conditions as are provided in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016 (division C of Public Law 114-113) with respect to the availability of amounts in that Act for such Programs.

SA 5169. Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. TOOMEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1831, to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act" or the "PACT Act".

SEC. 2. REVISION OF SECTION 48.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 48 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 48. Animal crushing

"(a) OFFENSES.—

"(1) CRUSHING.—It shall be unlawful for any person to purposely engage in animal crushing in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States.

"(2) CREATION OF ANIMAL CRUSH VIDEOS.—It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly create an animal crush video, if—

"(A) the person intends or has reason to know that the animal crush video will be distributed in, or using a means or facility of, interstate or foreign commerce; or

"(B) the animal crush video is distributed in, or using a means or facility of, interstate or foreign commerce.

"(3) DISTRIBUTION OF ANIMAL CRUSH VIDEOS.—It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly sell, market, advertise, exchange, or distribute an animal crush video in, or using a means or facility of, interstate or foreign commerce.

"(b) EXTRATERRITORIAL APPLICATION.—This section applies to the knowing sale, marketing, advertising, exchange, distribution, or creation of an animal crush video outside of the United States, if—

"(1) the person engaging in such conduct intends or has reason to know that the animal crush video will be transported into the United States or its territories or possessions; or

"(2) the animal crush video is transported into the United States or its territories or possessions.

"(c) PENALTIES.—Whoever violates this section shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 7 years, or both.

"(d) EXCEPTIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—This section does not apply with regard to any conduct, or a visual depiction of that conduct, that is—

"(A) a customary and normal veterinary, agricultural husbandry, or other animal management practice;

"(B) the slaughter of animals for food;

"(C) hunting, trapping, fishing, a sporting activity not otherwise prohibited by Federal law, predator control, or pest control;

"(D) medical or scientific research;

"(E) necessary to protect the life or property of a person; or

"(F) performed as part of euthanizing an animal.

"(2) GOOD-FAITH DISTRIBUTION.—This section does not apply to the good-faith distribution of an animal crush video to—

"(A) a law enforcement agency; or

"(B) a third party for the sole purpose of analysis to determine if referral to a law enforcement agency is appropriate.

"(3) UNINTENTIONAL CONDUCT.—This section does not apply to unintentional conduct that injures or kills an animal.

"(4) CONSISTENCY WITH RFRA.—This section shall be enforced in a manner that is consistent with section 3 of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2000bb-1).

"(e) NO PREEMPTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt the law of any State or local subdivision thereof to protect animals.

"(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

"(1) the term 'animal crushing' means actual conduct in which one or more living non-human mammals, birds, reptiles, or amphibians is purposely crushed, burned, drowned, suffocated, impaled, or otherwise subjected to serious bodily injury (as defined in section 1365 and including conduct that, if committed against a person and in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, would violate section 2241 or 2242);

"(2) the term 'animal crush video' means any photograph, motion-picture film, video or digital recording, or electronic image that—

"(A) depicts animal crushing; and

"(B) is obscene; and

"(3) the term 'euthanizing an animal' means the humane destruction of an animal accomplished by a method that—

"(A) produces rapid unconsciousness and subsequent death without evidence of pain or distress; or

"(B) uses anesthesia produced by an agent that causes painless loss of consciousness and subsequent death."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 48 and inserting the following:

"48. Animal crushing."

SA 5170. Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. PERDUE) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2781, to improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 3, line 15, insert "delegated" after "carry out".

On page 4, strike lines 1 through 8 and insert the following:

"(B) maximizes opportunities for small business participation;

On page 11, beginning on line 20, strike "and to compensate such employees for time spent traveling from their homes to work sites".

SA 5171. Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. PERDUE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3842, to improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 3, line 19, insert "delegated" after "carry out".

On page 4, strike lines 5 through 12 and insert the following:

"(B) maximizes opportunities for small business participation;

On page 11, beginning on line 25, strike "and to compensate such employees for time spent traveling from their homes to work sites".

SA 5172. Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. SUL-LIVAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3086, to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.

Section 3 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) ASSISTANCE FOR SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the Administrator or at the request of the Governor of an affected State, the Administrator shall determine whether there is a severe marine debris event.

"(2) ASSISTANCE.—If the Administrator makes a determination under paragraph (1) that there is a severe marine debris event, the Administrator is authorized to make sums available to be used by the affected State or by the Administrator in cooperation with the affected State—

"(A) to assist in the cleanup and response required by the severe marine debris event; or

"(B) such other activity as the Administrator determines is appropriate in response to the severe marine debris event.

"(3) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of any activity carried out under the authority of this subsection shall not exceed 75 percent of the cost of that activity."

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT TO RESPOND TO MARINE DEBRIS.

It is the sense of Congress that the President should—

(1) work with representatives of foreign countries that produce the largest amounts of unmanaged municipal solid waste that reaches the ocean to learn about, and find solutions to, the contributions of such countries to marine debris in the world's oceans;

(2) carry out studies to determine—

(A) the primary means by which solid waste enters the oceans;

(B) the manner in which waste management infrastructure can be most effective in preventing debris from reaching the oceans;

(C) the long-term economic impacts of marine debris on the national economies of each country set out in paragraph (1) and on the global economy; and

(D) the economic benefits of decreasing the amount of marine debris in the oceans;

(3) work with representatives of foreign countries that produce the largest amounts of unmanaged municipal solid waste that reaches the ocean to conclude one or more new international agreements—

(A) to mitigate the risk of land-based marine debris contributed by such countries reaching an ocean; and

(B) to increase technical assistance and investment in waste management infrastructure, if the President determines appropriate; and

(4) consider the benefits and appropriateness of having a senior official of the Department of State serve as a permanent member of the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee established under section 5 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1954).

SA 5173. Mr. BOOZMAN (for Mr. MORAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 290, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Increasing the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability to Veterans Act of 2016”.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered position’ is—

“(A) a senior executive position; or

“(B) a position listed in section 7401(1) of this title that is not a senior executive position.

“(2) The term ‘covered service’ means, with respect to an individual subject to a removal or transfer from a covered position at the Department for performance or misconduct, the period of service beginning on the date that the Secretary determines that such individual engaged in activity that gave rise to such action and ending on the date that such individual is removed from the civil service or leaves employment at the Department prior to the issuance of a final decision with respect to such action, as the case may be.

“(3) The term ‘lump-sum credit’ has the meaning given such term in section 8331 or 8401 of title 5, as the case may be.

“(4) The term ‘senior executive position’ has the meaning given such term in section 713(g) of this title.

“(5) The term ‘service’ has the meaning given such term in section 8331 or 8401 of title 5, as the case may be.”.

(b) APPLICATION.—Section 715 of such title, as added by subsection (a), shall apply to any action of removal or transfer from a covered position (as defined in subsection (e) of such section) at the Department of Veterans Affairs commencing on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“715. Senior executives and section 7401(1) employees: reduction of benefits of individuals convicted of a felony.”.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 717. Administrative leave limitation and report

“(a) LIMITATION APPLICABLE TO EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.—(1) The Secretary may not place any covered individual on administrative leave for more than a total of 14 business days during any 365-day period.

“(2)(A) The Secretary may waive the limitation under paragraph (1) and extend the period of administrative leave of a covered individual if the Secretary submits to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a detailed explanation of the reasons the covered individual was placed on administrative leave and the reasons for the extension of such leave.

“(B) Such explanation shall include the position of the covered individual and the location where the covered individual is employed.

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘covered individual’ means an employee of the Department, including an employee in a senior executive position (as defined in section 713(g) of this title)—

“(A) who is subject to an investigation for purposes of determining whether such individual should be subject to any disciplinary action under this title or title 5; or

“(B) against whom any disciplinary action is proposed or initiated under this title or title 5.

(b) REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE.—(1) Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report listing the position of each employee of the Department (if any) who has been placed on administrative leave for a period longer than 14 business days during such fiscal year.

“(2) Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to each employee listed in such report, the following:

“(A) The position occupied by the employee.

“(B) The number of business days of such leave.

“(C) The reason that such employee was placed on such leave.

“(3) In submitting each report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take such measures to protect the privacy of the employees listed in the report as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘administrative leave’—

“(1) means an administratively authorized absence from duty without loss of pay or charge to leave for which the employee is placed due to an investigation on or for whom any disciplinary action is proposed or initiated; and

“(2) includes any type of paid non-duty status without a charge to leave.”.

(b) APPLICATION.—

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE LIMITATION.—Subsection (a) of section 717 of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), shall apply to any period of administrative leave (as defined in such section) commencing on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) REPORT.—The report under section 717(b) of such title (as added by subsection (a)) shall apply beginning in the first quarter that ends after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 7 of such title is further amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“717. Administrative leave limitation and report.”.

SEC. 4. ACCOUNTABILITY OF LEADERS FOR MANAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 709 the following new section:

“§ 710. Annual performance plan for political appointees

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an annual performance plan for each political appointee of the Department that is similar to the annual performance plan conducted for an employee of the Department who is appointed as a career appointee (as that term is defined in section 3132(a)(4) of title 5) within the Senior Executive Service at the Department.

“(b) ELEMENTS OF PLAN.—Each annual performance plan conducted under subsection (a) with respect to a political appointee of the Department shall include, to the extent applicable, an assessment of whether the appointee is meeting the following goals:

“(1) Recruiting, selecting, and retaining well-qualified individuals for employment at the Department.

“(2) Engaging and motivating employees.

“(3) Training and developing employees and preparing those employees for future leadership roles within the Department.

“(4) Holding each employee of the Department that is a manager accountable for addressing issues relating to performance, in particular issues relating to the performance of employees that report to the manager.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 7 of such title is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 709 the following new item:

“710. Annual performance plan for political appointees.”.

SEC. 5. ACCOUNTABILITY OF SUPERVISORS AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR HIRING WELL-QUALIFIED PEOPLE.

(a) ASSESSMENT DURING PROBATIONARY PERIOD.—

(1) DETERMINATION REQUIRED.—With respect to any employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs who is required to serve a probationary period in a position in the Department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall require the supervisor of such employee to determine, during the 30-day period ending on the date on which the probationary period ends, whether the employee—

(A) has demonstrated successful performance; and

(B) should continue past the probationary period.

(2) LIMITATION ON EMPLOYMENT AFTER PROBATIONARY PERIOD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), no employee of the Department serving a probationary period as described in paragraph (1) may complete that probationary period unless and until the supervisor of the employee, or another supervisor capable of making the requisite determination, has made an affirmative determination under such paragraph.

(B) PROBATIONARY PERIOD DEEMED COMPLETED.—

(i) NO DETERMINATION.—If no determination under paragraph (1) is made with respect to an employee before the end of the 60-day period following the end of the 30-day period specified in such paragraph, the employee shall be deemed to have completed the probationary period of the employee effective as of the end of that 60-day period.

(ii) RETROACTIVE EFFECT OF DETERMINATION.—If an affirmative determination under paragraph (1) is made with respect to an employee after the end of the 30-day period specified in such paragraph, the employee shall be deemed to have completed the probationary period of the employee effective as of the end of that 30-day period.

(3) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS REGARDING DETERMINATIONS.—Not less frequently than monthly, the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives regarding—

(A) each instance during such month in which a supervisor did not make a determination required under paragraph (1) during the period required in such paragraph; and

(B) each such instance included in a previous notification under this paragraph for which the supervisor still has not made such a determination.

(b) SUPERVISORS.—With respect to any employee of the Department who is serving a probationary period in a supervisory position at the Department, successful performance under subsection (a) shall include demonstrating management competencies in addition to the technical skills required for such position.

(c) PERFORMANCE PLAN.—Each annual performance plan conducted for a supervisor of an employee serving a probationary period shall hold the supervisor accountable for—

(1) providing regular feedback to such employee during such period before making a determination under subsection (a) regarding the probationary status of such employee; and

(2) making a timely determination under subsection (a) regarding the probationary status of such employee.

(d) SUPERVISOR DEFINED.—In this section, the term “supervisor” has the meaning given such term in section 7103(a) of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 6. ACCOUNTABILITY OF MANAGERS FOR ADDRESSING PERFORMANCE OF EMPLOYEES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that, as a part of the annual performance plan of an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs who is a manager, the manager is evaluated on the following:

(1) Taking action to address poor performance and misconduct among the employees that report to the manager.

(2) Taking steps to improve or sustain high levels of employee engagement.

SEC. 7. EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF PERSONNEL ACTION TO INCLUDE PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS OF EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 2302(a)(2)(A)(viii) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or under title 38” after “chapter 43 of this title”.

SEC. 8. WRITTEN OPINION ON CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS AFTER TERMINATING EMPLOYMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 719. Written opinion on certain employment restrictions after terminating employment with the Department

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Before terminating employment with the Department, any official of the Department who has participated personally and substantially during the one-year period ending on the date of the termination in an acquisition by the Department that exceeds \$10,000,000 shall obtain a written opinion from an appropriate ethics counselor at the Department regarding any restrictions on activities that the official may undertake on behalf of a covered contractor during the two-year period beginning on the date on which the official terminates such employment.

“(b) COVERED CONTRACTOR DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered contractor’ means a contractor carrying out a contract entered into with the Department, including pursuant to a subcontract.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 7 of such title is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 717 the following new item:

“719. Written opinion on certain employment restrictions after leaving the Department.”.

SEC. 9. REQUIREMENT FOR CONTRACTORS OF THE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYING CERTAIN RECENTLY SEPARATED DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 8129. Requirement for contractors employing certain recently separated Department employees

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A covered contractor may not knowingly provide compensation to an individual described in subsection (b) during the two-year period beginning on the date on which the individual terminates employment with the Department unless the covered contractor determines that the individual—

“(1) has obtained the written opinion required under section 719(a) of this title; or

“(2) has requested such written opinion not later than 30 days before receiving compensation from the covered contractor.

“(b) INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED.—An individual described in this subsection is any official of the Department who participated personally and substantially during the one-year period ending on the date of the termination individual’s employment with the Department in an acquisition by the Department that exceeds \$10,000,000.

“(c) COVERED CONTRACTOR DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered contractor’ means a contractor carrying out a contract entered into with the Department, including pursuant to a subcontract.”.

(b) APPLICATION.—The requirement under section 8129(a) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to any entity that enters into a contract with the Department on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 81 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8128 the following new item:

“8129. Requirement for contractors employing certain recently separated Department employees.”.

SA 5174. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. HATCH) proposed an amendment to the

concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 57, honoring in praise and remembrance the extraordinary life, steady leadership, and remarkable, 70-year reign of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand; as follows:

In the 8th whereas clause, strike “2006” and insert “2009”.

SA 5175. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. CORKER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1150, to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings; policy; sense of Congress.
Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTIVITIES

Sec. 101. Office on International Religious Freedom; Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.
Sec. 102. Annual Report on International Religious Freedom.
Sec. 103. Training for Foreign Service officers.
Sec. 104. Prisoner lists and issue briefs on religious freedom concerns.

TITLE II—NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
Sec. 201. Special Adviser for International Religious Freedom.

TITLE III—PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

Sec. 301. Non-state actor designations.
Sec. 302. Presidential actions in response to particularly severe violations of religious freedom.
Sec. 303. Report to Congress.
Sec. 304. Presidential waiver.
Sec. 305. Publication in the Federal Register.

TITLE IV—PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Sec. 401. Assistance for promoting religious freedom.

TITLE V—DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Sec. 501. Designated Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Religious Freedom.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 601. Miscellaneous provisions.
Sec. 602. Clerical amendments.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; POLICY; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 2(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by inserting “The freedom of thought, conscience, and religion is understood to protect theistic and non-theistic beliefs and the right not to profess or

practice any religion.” before “Governments”;

(2) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the following: “A policy or practice of routinely denying applications for visas for religious workers in a country can be indicative of a poor state of religious freedom in that country.”; and

(3) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by inserting “and the specific targeting of non-theists, humanists, and atheists because of their beliefs” after “religious persecution”; and

(B) by inserting “and in regions where non-state actors exercise significant political power and territorial control” before the period at the end.

(b) **POLICY.**—Section 2(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E);

(2) by striking the matter preceding subparagraph (A), as redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The following shall be the policy of the United States:”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **EVOLVING POLICIES AND COORDINATED DIPLOMATIC RESPONSES.**—Because the promotion of international religious freedom protects human rights, advances democracy abroad, and advances United States interests in stability, security, and development globally, the promotion of international religious freedom requires new and evolving policies and diplomatic responses that—

“(A) are drawn from the expertise of the national security agencies, the diplomatic services, and other governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations; and

“(B) are coordinated across and carried out by the entire range of Federal agencies.”.

(c) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a policy or practice by the government of any foreign country of routinely denying visa applications for religious workers can be indicative of a poor state of religious freedom in that country; and

(2) the United States Government should seek to reverse any such policy by reviewing the entirety of the bilateral relationship between such country and the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6402) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (13) as paragraph (16);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (10), (11), and (12) as paragraphs (12), (13), and (14), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

“(10) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

“(11) **NON-STATE ACTOR.**—The term ‘non-state actor’ means a nonsovereign entity that—

“(A) exercises significant political power and territorial control;

“(B) is outside the control of a sovereign government; and

“(C) often employs violence in pursuit of its objectives.”;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (14), as redesignated, the following:

“(15) **SPECIAL WATCH LIST.**—The term ‘Special Watch List’ means the Special Watch List described in section 402(b)(1)(A)(iii).”; and

(5) in paragraph (16), as redesignated—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as clauses (v) and (vi), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

“(iv) not professing a particular religion, or any religion;”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by inserting “conscience, non-theistic views, or” before “religious belief or practice”; and

(ii) by inserting “forcibly compelling non-believers or non-theists to recant their beliefs or to convert,” after “forced religious conversion,”.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTIVITIES

SEC. 101. OFFICE ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM; AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 101 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting “, and shall report directly to the Secretary of State” before the period at the end;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “responsibility” and inserting “responsibilities”;

(ii) by striking “shall be to advance” and inserting the following: “shall be to—

“(A) advance”;

(iii) in subparagraph (A), as redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) integrate United States international religious freedom policies and strategies into the foreign policy efforts of the United States.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “the principal adviser to” before “the Secretary of State”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) contacts with nongovernmental organizations that have an impact on the state of religious freedom in their respective societies or regions, or internationally.”;

(D) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(E) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) **COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES.**—In order to promote religious freedom as an interest of United States foreign policy, the Ambassador at Large—

“(A) shall coordinate international religious freedom policies across all programs, projects, and activities of the United States; and

“(B) should participate in any interagency processes on issues in which the promotion of international religious freedom policy can advance United States national security interests, including in democracy promotion, stability, security, and development globally.”;

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “staff for the Office” and all that follows and inserting “appropriate staff for the Office, including full-time equivalent positions and other temporary staff positions needed to compile, edit, and manage the Annual Report under the direct supervision of the Ambassador at Large, and for the conduct of investigations by the Office and for necessary travel to

carry out this Act. The Secretary of State should provide the Ambassador at Large with sufficient funding to carry out the duties described in this section, including, as necessary, representation funds. On the date on which the President’s annual budget request is submitted to Congress, the Secretary shall submit an annual report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes a report on staffing levels for the International Religious Freedom Office.”.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that maintaining an adequate staffing level at the Office, such as was in place during fiscal year 2016, is necessary for the Office to carry out its important work.

SEC. 102. ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 102(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “September 1” and inserting “May 1”;

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (iii), by striking “; and” and inserting “as well as the routine denial of visa applications for religious workers;”; and

(B) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (vii); and

(C) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

“(iv) particularly severe violations of religious freedom in that country if such country does not have a functioning government or the government of such country does not control its territory;

“(v) the identification of prisoners, to the extent possible, in that country pursuant to section 108(d);

“(vi) any action taken by the government of that country to censor religious content, communications, or worship activities online, including descriptions of the targeted religious group, the content, communication, or activities censored, and the means used; and”;

(3) in subparagraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(A) by inserting “persecution of lawyers, politicians, or other human rights advocates seeking to defend the rights of members of religious groups or highlight religious freedom violations, prohibitions on ritual animal slaughter or male infant circumcision,” after “entire religions.”; and

(B) by inserting “policies that ban or restrict the public manifestation of religious belief and the peaceful involvement of religious groups or their members in the political life of each such foreign country,” after “such groups.”;

(4) in subparagraph (C), by striking “A description of United States actions and” and inserting “A detailed description of United States actions, diplomatic and political coordination efforts, and other”;

(5) in subparagraph (F)(i)—

(A) by striking “section 402(b)(1)” and inserting “section 402(b)(1)(A)(ii)”;

(B) by adding at the end the following: “Any country in which a non-state actor designated as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act is located shall be included in this section of the report.”.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the original intent of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) was to require annual reports from both the Department of State and the Commission on International Religious Freedom

to be delivered each year, during the same calendar year, and with at least 5 months separating these reports, in order to provide updated information for policymakers, Members of Congress, and nongovernmental organizations; and

(2) given that the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices no longer contain updated information on religious freedom conditions globally, it is important that the Department of State coordinate with the Commission to fulfill the original intent of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

SEC. 103. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.

(a) AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN SERVICE ACT OF 1980.—Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively;

(B) by striking “(a) The Secretary of State” and inserting the following:

“(a) HUMAN RIGHTS, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State”;

and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) ADDITIONAL TRAINING.—Not later than the one year after the date of the enactment of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center shall, consistent with this section, conduct training on religious freedom for all Foreign Service officers, including all entry level officers, all officers prior to departure for posting outside the United States, and all outgoing deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors. Such training shall be included in each of—

“(A) the A-100 course attended by all Foreign Service officers;

“(B) the courses required of every Foreign Service officer prior to a posting outside the United States, with segments tailored to the particular religious demography, religious freedom conditions, and United States strategies for advancing religious freedom, in each receiving country; and

“(C) the courses required of all outgoing deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors.”;

and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM.—The Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, in coordination with the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center and other Federal officials, as appropriate, and in consultation with the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom established under section 201(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, shall make recommendations to the Secretary of State regarding the curriculum required under subsection (a)(2) for training United States Foreign Service officers on the scope and strategic value of international religious freedom, how violations of international religious freedom harm fundamental United States interests, how the advancement of international religious freedom can advance such interests, how United States international religious freedom policy should be carried out in practice by United States diplomats and other Foreign Service officers, and the relevance and relationship of international religious freedom to United States

defense, diplomacy, development, and public affairs efforts. The Secretary of State should ensure the availability of sufficient resources to develop and implement such curriculum.

“(c) INFORMATION SHARING.—The curriculum and training materials developed pursuant to subsections (a)(2) and (b) shall be shared with the United States Armed Forces and other Federal departments and agencies with personnel who are stationed overseas, as appropriate, to provide training on—

“(1) United States religious freedom policies;

“(2) religious traditions;

“(3) religious engagement strategies;

“(4) religious and cultural issues; and

“(5) efforts to counter violent religious extremism.”;

(4) in subsection (e), as redesignated, by striking “The Secretary of State” and inserting “REFUGEES.—The Secretary of State”;

(5) in subsection (f), as redesignated, by striking “The Secretary of State” and inserting “CHILD SOLDIERS.—The Secretary of State”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with the assistance of the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, and the Director of the Foreign Service Institute, located at the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center, shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that contains a plan for undertaking training for Foreign Service officers under section 708 of the Foreign Services Act of 1980, as amended by subsection (a).

SEC. 104. PRISONER LISTS AND ISSUE BRIEFS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONCERNS.

Section 108 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6417) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “faith,” and inserting “activities, religious freedom advocacy, or efforts to protect and advance the universally recognized right to the freedom of religion.”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “, as appropriate, provide” and insert “make available”;

and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) VICTIMS LIST MAINTAINED BY THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make publicly available, to the extent practicable, online and in official publications, lists of persons it determines are imprisoned or detained, have disappeared, been placed under house arrest, been tortured, or subjected to forced renunciations of faith for their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy by the government of a foreign country that the Commission recommends for designation as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under section 402(b)(1)(A)(ii) or by a non-state actor that the Commission recommends for designation as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act and include as much publicly available information as practicable on the conditions and circumstances of such persons.

“(2) DISCRETION.—In compiling lists under paragraph (1), the Commission shall exercise all appropriate discretion, including consideration of the safety and security of, and benefit to, the persons who may be included

on the lists and the families of such persons.”.

TITLE II—NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SEC. 201. SPECIAL ADVISER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

The position described in section 101(k) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021(k)) should assist the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom to coordinate international religious freedom policies and strategies throughout the executive branch and within any interagency policy committee of which the Ambassador at Large is a member.

TITLE III—PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

SEC. 301. NON-STATE ACTOR DESIGNATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, concurrent with the annual foreign country review required under section 402(b)(1)(A) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)(A)), shall—

(1) review and identify any non-state actors operating in any such reviewed country or surrounding region that have engaged in particularly severe violations of religious freedom; and

(2) designate, in a manner consistent with such Act, each such non-state actor as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom.

(b) REPORT.—Whenever the President designates a non-state actor under subsection (a) as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom, the President, as soon as practicable after the designation is made, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the reasons for such designation.

(c) ACTIONS.—The President should take specific actions, when practicable, to address severe violations of religious freedom of non-state actors that are designated under subsection (a)(2).

(d) DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary of State should include information detailing the reasons the President designated a non-state actor as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under subsection (a) in the Annual Report required under section 102(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)(1)).

(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Secretary of State should work with Congress and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom—

(A) to create new political, financial, and diplomatic tools to address severe violations of religious freedom by non-state actors; and

(B) to update the actions the President can take under section 405 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6445);

(2) governments must ultimately be held accountable for the abuses that occur in their territories; and

(3) any actions the President takes after designating a non-state actor as an entity of particular concern should also involve high-level diplomacy with the government of the country in which the non-state actor is operating.

(f) DETERMINATIONS OF RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.—In order to appropriately target Presidential actions under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.), the President, with respect to each non-state actor designated as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under subsection (a), shall seek to determine, to the extent practicable, the specific officials or members that are responsible for

the particularly severe violations of religious freedom engaged in or tolerated by such non-state actor.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “appropriate congressional committees”, “non-state actor”, and “particularly severe violations of religious freedom” have the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6402), as amended by section 3 of this Act.

SEC. 302. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

Section 402 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—
(A) in paragraph (1)—
(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which each Annual Report is submitted under section 102(b), the President shall—

“(i) review the status of religious freedom in each foreign country to determine whether the government of that country has engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom in each such country during the preceding 12 months or longer;

“(ii) designate each country the government of which has engaged in or tolerated violations described in clause (i) as a country of particular concern for religious freedom; and

“(iii) designate each country that engaged in or tolerated severe violations of religious freedom during the previous year, but does not meet, in the opinion of the President at the time of publication of the Annual Report, all of the criteria described in section 3(15) for designation under clause (ii) as being placed on a ‘Special Watch List.’; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “prior to September 1 of the respective year” and inserting “before the date on which each Annual Report is submitted under section 102(b)”;

(B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—
“(A) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the President designates a country as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under paragraph (1)(A)(ii), the President, not later than 90 days after such designation, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

“(i) the designation of the country, signed by the President;

“(ii) the identification, if any, of responsible parties determined under paragraph (2); and

“(iii) a description of the actions taken under subsection (c), the purposes of the actions taken, and the effectiveness of the actions taken.

“(B) REMOVAL OF DESIGNATION.—A country that is designated as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) shall retain such designation until the President determines and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that the country should no longer be so designated.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) EFFECT ON DESIGNATION AS COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.—The presence or absence of a country from the Special Watch List in any given year shall not preclude the designation of such country as a country of particular concern for religious freedom

under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) in any such year.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(5), by striking “the President must designate the specific sanction or sanctions which he determines satisfy the requirements of this subsection.” and inserting “the President shall designate the specific sanction or sanctions that the President determines satisfy the requirements under this subsection and include a description of the impact of such sanction or sanctions on each country.”.

SEC. 303. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Section 404(a)(4)(A) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6444(a)(4)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) the impact on the advancement of United States interests in democracy, human rights, and security, and a description of policy tools being applied in the country, including programs that target democratic stability, economic growth, and counterterrorism.”.

SEC. 304. PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.

Section 407 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6447) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsection (c)”;

(B) by inserting “, for a single, 180-day period,” after “may waive”;

(C) by striking paragraph (1); and

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively;

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—Subject to subsection (c), the President may waive, for any additional specified period of time after the 180-day period described in subsection (a), the application of any of the actions described in paragraphs (9) through (15) of section 405(a) (or a commensurate substitute action) with respect to a country, if the President determines and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that—

“(1) the respective foreign government has ceased the violations giving rise to the Presidential action; or

“(2) the important national interest of the United States requires the exercise of such waiver authority.”;

(4) in subsection (c), as redesignated, by inserting “or (b)” after “subsection (a)”;

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) ongoing and persistent waivers of the application of any of the actions described in paragraphs (9) through (15) of section 405(a) (or commensurate substitute action) with respect to a country do not fulfill the purposes of this Act; and

“(2) because the promotion of religious freedom is an important interest of United States foreign policy, the President, the Secretary of State, and other executive branch officials, in consultation with Congress, should seek to find ways to address existing violations, on a case-by-case basis, through the actions described in section 405 or other commensurate substitute action.”.

SEC. 305. PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.

Section 408(a)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.

6448(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “Any designation of a non-state actor as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act and, if applicable and to the extent practicable, the identities of individuals determined to be responsible for violations described in subsection (f) of such section.”.

TITLE IV—PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

SEC. 401. ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—It is the sense of Congress that for each fiscal year that begins on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President should request sufficient appropriations from Congress to support—

(1) the vigorous promotion of international religious freedom and for projects to advance United States interests in the protection and advancement of international religious freedom, in particular, through grants to groups that—

(A) are capable of developing legal protections or promoting cultural and societal understanding of international norms of religious freedom;

(B) seek to address and mitigate religiously motivated and sectarian violence and combat violent extremism; or

(C) seek to strengthen investigations, reporting, and monitoring of religious freedom violations, including genocide perpetrated against religious minorities; and

(2) the establishment of an effective Religious Freedom Defense Fund, to be administered by the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, to provide grants for—

(A) victims of religious freedom abuses and their families to cover legal and other expenses that may arise from detention, imprisonment, torture, fines, and other restrictions; and

(B) projects to help create and support training of a new generation of defenders of religious freedom, including legal and political advocates, and civil society projects which seek to create advocacy networks, strengthen legal representation, train and educate new religious freedom defenders, and build the capacity of religious communities and rights defenders to protect against religious freedom violations, mitigate societal or sectarian violence, or minimize legal or other restrictions of the right to freedom of religion.

(b) PREFERENCE.—It is the sense of Congress that, in providing grants under subsection (a), the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom should, as appropriate, give preference to projects targeting religious freedom violations in countries—

(1) designated as countries of particular concern for religious freedom under section 402(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)); or

(2) included on the Special Watch List described in section 402(b)(1)(A)(iii) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, as added by section 302(1)(A)(i) of this Act.

(c) ADMINISTRATION AND CONSULTATIONS.—

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—Amounts made available under subsection (a) shall be administered by the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.

(2) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing priorities and policies for providing grants authorized under subsection (a), including programming and policy, the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom

should consult with other Federal agencies, including the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and, as appropriate, nongovernmental organizations.

TITLE V—DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

SEC. 501. DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

Title VI of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6471 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 605 as section 606; and

(2) by inserting after section 604 the following:

“SEC. 605. DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

“(a) LIST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Ambassador at Large and in consultation with relevant government and nongovernment experts, shall establish and maintain a list of foreign individuals to whom a consular post has denied a visa on the grounds of particularly severe violations of religious freedom under section 212(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(G)), or who are subject to financial sanctions or other measures for particularly severe violations of freedom religion.

“(2) REFERENCE.—The list required under paragraph (1) shall be known as the ‘Designated Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Religious Freedom’.

“(b) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that contains the list required under subsection (a), including, with respect to each foreign individual on the list—

“(A) the name of the individual and a description of the particularly severe violation of religious freedom committed by the individual;

“(B) the name of the country or other location in which such violation took place; and

“(C) a description of the actions taken pursuant to this Act or any other Act or Executive order in response to such violation.

“(2) SUBMISSION AND UPDATES.—The Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

“(A) the initial report required under paragraph (1) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act; and

“(B) updates to the report every 180 days thereafter and as new information becomes available.

“(3) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) should be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

“(4) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

“(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(C) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

“(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

“(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(F) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.”.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 601. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Title VII of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6481 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 702. VOLUNTARY CODES OF CONDUCT FOR UNITED STATES INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

“(a) FINDING.—Congress recognizes the enduring importance of United States institutions of higher education worldwide—

“(1) for their potential for shaping positive leadership and new educational models in host countries; and

“(2) for their emphasis on teaching universally recognized rights of free inquiry and academic freedom.

“(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that United States institutions of higher education operating campuses outside the United States or establishing any educational entities with foreign governments, particularly with or in countries the governments of which engage in or tolerate severe violations of religious freedom as identified in the Annual Report, should seek to adopt a voluntary code of conduct for operating in such countries that should—

“(1) uphold the right of freedom of religion of their employees and students, including the right to manifest that religion peacefully as protected in international law;

“(2) ensure that the religious views and peaceful practice of religion in no way affect, or be allowed to affect, the status of a worker’s or faculty member’s employment or a student’s enrollment; and

“(3) make every effort in all negotiations, contracts, or memoranda of understanding engaged in or constructed with a foreign government to protect academic freedom and the rights enshrined in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

“SEC. 703. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM THROUGH UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY.

“It is the sense of Congress that the annual national security strategy report of the President required under section 108 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3043)—

“(1) should promote international religious freedom as a foreign policy and national security priority; and

“(2) should articulate that promotion of the right to freedom of religion is a strategy that—

“(A) protects other, related human rights, and advances democracy outside the United States; and

“(B) makes clear its importance to United States foreign policy goals of stability, security, development, and diplomacy;

“(3) should be a guide for the strategies and activities of relevant Federal agencies; and

“(4) should inform the Department of Defense quadrennial defense review under section 118 of title 10, United States Code, and the Department of State Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review.”.

SEC. 602. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

The table of contents of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 note) is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 605 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 606. Studies on the effect of expedited removal provisions on asylum claims.”;

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 604 the following:

“Sec. 605. Designated Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Religious Freedom.”;

and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 702. Voluntary codes of conduct for United States institutions of higher education operating outside the United States.

“Sec. 703. Sense of Congress regarding national security strategy to promote religious freedom through United States foreign policy.”.

SA 5176. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. CORKER) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5175 proposed by Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. CORKER) to the bill H.R. 1150, to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes; as follows:

Beginning on page 13, strike line 12 and all that follows through page 16, line 20, and insert the following:

(a) AMENDMENTS TO FOREIGN SERVICE ACT OF 1980.—Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively;

(B) by striking “(a) The Secretary of State” and inserting the following:

“(a) HUMAN RIGHTS, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TRAINING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the training required under paragraph (1)(B), the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center shall, not later than the one year after the date of the enactment of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, conduct training on religious freedom for all Foreign Service officers, including all entry level officers, all officers prior to departure for posting outside the United States, and all outgoing deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors. Such training shall be included in—

“(i) the A-100 course attended by all Foreign Service officers;

“(ii) the courses required of every Foreign Service officer prior to a posting outside the United States, with segments tailored to the particular religious demography, religious freedom conditions, and United States strategies for advancing religious freedom, in each receiving country; and

“(iii) the courses required of all outgoing deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors.

“(B) DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM.—In carrying out the training required under paragraph (1)(B), the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, in coordination with the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center and other Federal officials, as appropriate, and in consultation with the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom established under section 201(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(a)), shall

make recommendations to the Secretary of State regarding a curriculum for the training of United States Foreign Service officers under paragraph (1)(B) on the scope and strategic value of international religious freedom, how violations of international religious freedom harm fundamental United States interests, how the advancement of international religious freedom can advance such interests, how United States international religious freedom policy should be carried out in practice by United States diplomats and other Foreign Service officers, and the relevance and relationship of international religious freedom to United States defense, diplomacy, development, and public affairs efforts. The Secretary of State should ensure the availability of sufficient resources to develop and implement such curriculum.

“(C) INFORMATION SHARING.—The curriculum and training materials developed under this paragraph shall be shared with the United States Armed Forces and other Federal departments and agencies with personnel who are stationed overseas, as appropriate, to provide training on—

- “(i) United States religious freedom policies;
“(ii) religious traditions;
“(iii) religious engagement strategies;
“(iv) religious and cultural issues; and
“(v) efforts to counter violent religious extremism.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “The Secretary of State” and inserting “REFUGEES.—The Secretary of State”; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “The Secretary of State” and inserting “CHILD SOLDIERS.—The Secretary of State”.

SA 5177. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. CORKER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4939, to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 11, beginning on line 3, strike “with respect to” and all that follows through line 5 and insert “with respect to human rights and democracy”.

SA 5178. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. JOHNSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6302, to provide an increase in premium pay for protective services during 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. PREMIUM PAY EXCEPTION IN 2016 FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “covered employee” means any officer, employee, or agent employed by the United States Secret Service who performs protective services for an individual or event protected by the United States Secret Service during 2016.

(b) EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITATION ON PREMIUM PAY FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during 2016, section 5547(a) of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to any covered employee to the extent that its application would prevent a

covered employee from receiving premium pay, as provided under the amendment made by paragraph (2).

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 118 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (as enacted into law by section 1(3) of Public Law 106-554; 114 Stat. 2763A-134) is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting “or, if the employee qualifies for an exception to such limitation under section 2(b)(1) of the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016, to the extent that such aggregate amount would exceed the rate of basic pay payable for a position at level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5313 of title 5, United States Code” after “of that limitation”.

(c) TREATMENT OF ADDITIONAL PAY.—If subsection (b) results in the payment of additional premium pay to a covered employee of a type that is normally creditable as basic pay for retirement or any other purpose, that additional pay shall not—

(1) be considered to be basic pay of the covered employee for any purpose; or

(2) be used in computing a lump-sum payment to the covered employee for accumulated and accrued annual leave under section 5551 or section 5552 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) AGGREGATE LIMIT.—With respect to the application of section 5307 of title 5, United States Code, the payment of any additional premium pay to a covered employee as a result of subsection (b) shall not be counted as part of the aggregate compensation of the covered employee.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect as if enacted on December 31, 2015.

SA 5179. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. JOHNSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6302, to provide an increase in premium pay for protective services during 2016, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title to read as follows: “A bill to provide an increase in premium pay for protective services during 2016, and for other purposes.”.

SA 5180. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. NELSON)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3346, to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2016”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. Fiscal year 2017.

TITLE II—SUSTAINING NATIONAL SPACE COMMITMENTS

Sec. 201. Sense of Congress on sustaining national space commitments.

Sec. 202. Findings.

TITLE III—MAXIMIZING UTILIZATION OF THE ISS AND LOW-EARTH ORBIT

Sec. 301. Operation of the ISS.

- Sec. 302. Transportation to ISS.
Sec. 303. ISS transition plan.
Sec. 304. Space communications.
Sec. 305. Indemnification; NASA launch services and reentry services.

TITLE IV—ADVANCING HUMAN DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION

Subtitle A—Human Space Flight and Exploration Goals and Objectives

- Sec. 411. Human space flight and exploration long-term goals.
Sec. 412. Key objectives.
Sec. 413. Vision for space exploration.
Sec. 414. Stepping stone approach to exploration.
Sec. 415. Update of exploration plan and programs.
Sec. 416. Repeals.
Sec. 417. Assured access to space.

Subtitle B—Assuring Core Capabilities for Exploration

Sec. 421. Space Launch System, Orion, and Exploration Ground Systems.

Subtitle C—Journey to Mars

- Sec. 431. Findings on human space exploration.
Sec. 432. Human exploration roadmap.
Sec. 433. Advanced space suit capability.
Sec. 434. Asteroid robotic redirect mission.
Sec. 435. Mars 2033 report.

Subtitle D—TREAT Astronauts Act

- Sec. 441. Short title.
Sec. 442. Findings; sense of Congress.
Sec. 443. Medical monitoring and research relating to human space flight.

TITLE V—ADVANCING SPACE SCIENCE

- Sec. 501. Maintaining a balanced space science portfolio.
Sec. 502. Planetary science.
Sec. 503. James Webb Space Telescope.
Sec. 504. Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope.
Sec. 505. Mars 2020 rover.
Sec. 506. Europa.
Sec. 507. Congressional declaration of policy and purpose.
Sec. 508. Extrasolar planet exploration strategy.
Sec. 509. Astrobiology strategy.
Sec. 510. Astrobiology public-private partnerships.
Sec. 511. Near-earth objects.
Sec. 512. Near-Earth objects public-private partnerships.
Sec. 513. Assessment of science mission extensions.
Sec. 514. Stratospheric observatory for infrared astronomy.
Sec. 515. Radioisotope power systems.
Sec. 516. Assessment of Mars architecture.
Sec. 517. Collaboration.

TITLE VI—AERONAUTICS

- Sec. 601. Sense of Congress on aeronautics.
Sec. 602. Transformative aeronautics research.
Sec. 603. Hypersonic research.
Sec. 604. Supersonic research.
Sec. 605. Rotorcraft research.

TITLE VII—SPACE TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 701. Space technology infusion.
Sec. 702. Space technology program.

TITLE VIII—MAXIMIZING EFFICIENCY

- Subtitle A—Agency Information Technology and Cybersecurity
Sec. 811. Information technology governance.
Sec. 812. Information technology strategic plan.
Sec. 813. Cybersecurity.
Sec. 814. Security management of foreign national access.
Sec. 815. Cybersecurity of web applications.

Subtitle B—Collaboration Among Mission Directorates and Other Matters

Sec. 821. Collaboration among mission directorates.

Sec. 822. NASA launch capabilities collaboration.

Sec. 823. Detection and avoidance of counterfeit parts.

Sec. 824. Education and outreach.

Sec. 825. Leveraging commercial satellite servicing capabilities across mission directorates.

Sec. 826. Flight opportunities.

Sec. 827. Sense of Congress on small class launch missions.

Sec. 828. Baseline and cost controls.

Sec. 829. Commercial technology transfer program.

Sec. 830. Avoiding organizational conflicts of interest in major administration acquisition programs.

Sec. 831. Protection of Apollo landing sites.

Sec. 832. NASA lease of non-excess property.

Sec. 833. Termination liability.

Sec. 834. Independent reviews.

Sec. 835. NASA Advisory Council.

Sec. 836. Cost estimation.

Sec. 837. Facilities and infrastructure.

Sec. 838. Human space flight accident investigations.

Sec. 839. Orbital debris.

Sec. 840. Review of orbital debris removal concepts.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The term “Administration” means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(2) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(3) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(4) **CIS-LUNAR SPACE.**—The term “cis-lunar space” means the region of space from the Earth out to and including the region around the surface of the Moon.

(5) **DEEP SPACE.**—The term “deep space” means the region of space beyond low-Earth orbit, to include cis-lunar space.

(6) **GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUT.**—The term “government astronaut” has the meaning given the term in section 50902 of title 51, United States Code.

(7) **ISS.**—The term “ISS” means the International Space Station.

(8) **ISS MANAGEMENT ENTITY.**—The term “ISS management entity” means the organization with which the Administrator has a cooperative agreement under section 504(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18354(a)).

(9) **NASA.**—The term “NASA” means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(10) **ORION.**—The term “Orion” means the multipurpose crew vehicle described under section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

(11) **SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.**—The term “Space Launch System” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18302).

(12) **UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ASTRO-**

NAUT.—The term “United States government astronaut” has the meaning given the term “government astronaut” in section 50902 of title 51, United States Code, except it does not include an individual who is an international partner astronaut.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 101. FISCAL YEAR 2017.

There are authorized to be appropriated to NASA for fiscal year 2017, \$19,508,000,000, as follows:

- (1) For Exploration, \$4,330,000,000.
- (2) For Space Operations, \$5,023,000,000.
- (3) For Science, \$5,500,000,000.
- (4) For Aeronautics, \$640,000,000.
- (5) For Space Technology, \$686,000,000.
- (6) For Education, \$115,000,000.
- (7) For Safety, Security, and Mission Services, \$2,788,600,000.
- (8) For Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration, \$388,000,000.
- (9) For Inspector General, \$37,400,000.

TITLE II—SUSTAINING NATIONAL SPACE COMMITMENTS

SEC. 201. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SUSTAINING NATIONAL SPACE COMMITMENTS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) honoring current national space commitments and building upon investments in space across successive Administrations demonstrates clear continuity of purpose by the United States, in collaboration with its international, academic, and industry partners, to extend humanity’s reach into deep space, including cis-lunar space, the Moon, the surface and moons of Mars, and beyond;

(2) NASA leaders can best leverage investments in the United States space program by continuing to develop a balanced portfolio for space exploration and space science, including continued development of the Space Launch System, Orion, Commercial Crew Program, space and planetary science missions such as the James Webb Space Telescope, Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope, and Europa mission, and ongoing operations of the ISS and Commercial Resupply Services Program;

(3) a national, government-led space program that builds on current science and exploration programs, advances human knowledge and capabilities, and opens the frontier beyond Earth for ourselves, commercial enterprise, and science, and with our international partners, is of critical importance to our national destiny and to a future guided by United States values and freedoms;

(4) continuity of purpose and effective execution of core NASA programs are essential for efficient use of resources in pursuit of timely and tangible accomplishments;

(5) NASA could improve its efficiency and effectiveness by working with industry to streamline existing programs and requirements, procurement practices, institutional footprint, and bureaucracy while preserving effective program oversight, accountability, and safety;

(6) it is imperative that the United States maintain and enhance its leadership in space exploration and space science, and continue to expand freedom and economic opportunities in space for all Americans that are consistent with the Constitution of the United States; and

(7) NASA should be a multi-mission space agency, and should have a balanced and robust set of core missions in space science, space technology, aeronautics, human space flight and exploration, and education.

SEC. 202. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Returns on the Nation’s investments in science, technology, and exploration accrue

over decades-long timeframes, and a disruption of such investments could prevent returns from being fully realized.

(2) Past challenges to the continuity of such investments, particularly threats regarding the cancellation of authorized programs with bipartisan and bicameral support, have disrupted completion of major space systems thereby—

(A) impeding planning and pursuit of national objectives in space science and human space exploration;

(B) placing such investments in space science and space exploration at risk; and

(C) degrading the aerospace industrial base.

(3) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-155; 119 Stat. 2895), National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-422; 122 Stat. 4779), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18301 et seq.) reflect a broad, bipartisan agreement on the path forward for NASA’s core missions in science, space technology, aeronautics, human space flight and exploration, and education, that serves as the foundation for the policy updates by this Act.

(4) Sufficient investment and maximum utilization of the ISS and ISS National Laboratory with our international and industry partners is—

(A) consistent with the goals and objectives of the United States space program; and

(B) imperative to continuing United States global leadership in human space exploration, science, research, technology development, and education opportunities that contribute to development of the next generation of American scientists, engineers, and leaders, and to creating the opportunity for economic development of low-Earth orbit.

(5) NASA has made measurable progress in the development and testing of the Space Launch System and Orion exploration systems with the near-term objectives of the initial integrated test flight and launch in 2018, a human mission in 2021, and continued missions with an annual cadence in cis-lunar space and eventually to the surface of Mars.

(6) The Commercial Crew Program has made measurable progress toward reestablishing the capability to launch United States government astronauts from United States soil into low-Earth orbit by the end of 2018.

(7) The Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, in its 2015 Annual Report, urged continuity of purpose noting concerns over the potential for cost overruns and schedule slips that could accompany significant changes to core NASA programs.

TITLE III—MAXIMIZING UTILIZATION OF THE ISS AND LOW-EARTH ORBIT

SEC. 301. OPERATION OF THE ISS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) after 15 years of continuous human presence in low-Earth orbit, the ISS continues to overcome challenges and operate safely;

(2) the ISS is a unique testbed for future space exploration systems development, including long-duration space travel;

(3) the expansion of partnerships, scientific research, and commercial applications of the ISS is essential to ensuring the greatest return on investments made by the United States and its international space partners

in the development, assembly, and operations of that unique facility;

(4) utilization of the ISS will sustain United States leadership and progress in human space exploration by—

(A) facilitating the commercialization and economic development of low-Earth orbit;

(B) serving as a testbed for technologies and a platform for scientific research and development; and

(C) serving as an orbital facility enabling research upon—

(i) the health, well-being, and performance of humans in space; and

(ii) the development of in-space systems enabling human space exploration beyond low-Earth orbit; and

(5) the ISS provides a platform for fundamental, microgravity, discovery-based space life and physical sciences research that is critical for enabling space exploration, protecting humans in space, increasing pathways for commercial space development that depend on advances in basic research, and contributes to advancing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research.

(b) OBJECTIVES.—The primary objectives of the ISS program shall be—

(1) to achieve the long term goal and objectives under section 202 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18312); and

(2) to pursue a research program that advances knowledge and provides other benefits to the Nation.

(c) CONTINUATION OF THE ISS.—Section 501 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18351) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 501. CONTINUATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

“(a) POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.—It shall be the policy of the United States, in consultation with its international partners in the ISS program, to support full and complete utilization of the ISS through at least 2024.

“(b) NASA ACTION.—In furtherance of the policy set forth in subsection (a), NASA shall—

“(1) pursue international, commercial, and intragovernmental means to maximize ISS logistics supply, maintenance, and operational capabilities, reduce risks to ISS systems sustainability, and offset and minimize United States operations costs relating to the ISS;

“(2) utilize, to the extent practicable, the ISS for the development of capabilities and technologies needed for the future of human space exploration beyond low-Earth orbit; and

“(3) utilize, if practical and cost effective, the ISS for Science Mission Directorate missions in low-Earth orbit.”

SEC. 302. TRANSPORTATION TO ISS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that reliance on foreign carriers for United States crew transfer is unacceptable, and the Nation’s human space flight program must acquire the capability to launch United States government astronauts on vehicles using United States rockets from United States soil as soon as is safe, reliable, and affordable to do so.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON COMMERCIAL CREW PROGRAM AND COMMERCIAL RESUPPLY SERVICES PROGRAM.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) once developed and certified to meet the Administration’s safety and reliability requirements, United States commercially provided crew transportation systems offer

the potential of serving as the primary means of transporting United States government astronauts and international partner astronauts to and from the ISS and serving as ISS crew rescue vehicles;

(2) the budgetary assumptions used by the Administration in its planning for the Commercial Crew Program have consistently assumed significantly higher funding levels than have been authorized and appropriated by Congress;

(3) credibility in the Administration’s budgetary estimates for the Commercial Crew Program can be enhanced by an independently developed cost estimate;

(4) such credibility in budgetary estimates is an important factor in understanding program risk;

(5) United States access to low-Earth orbit is paramount to the continued success of the ISS and ISS National Laboratory;

(6) a stable and successful Commercial Resupply Services Program and Commercial Crew Program are critical to ensuring timely provisioning of the ISS and to reestablishing the capability to launch United States government astronauts from United States soil into orbit, ending reliance upon Russian transport of United States government astronauts to the ISS which has not been possible since the retirement of the Space Shuttle program in 2011;

(7) NASA should build upon the success of the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services Program and Commercial Resupply Services Program that have allowed private sector companies to partner with NASA to deliver cargo and scientific experiments to the ISS since 2012;

(8) the 21st Century Launch Complex Program has enabled significant modernization and infrastructure improvements at launch sites across the United States to support NASA’s Commercial Resupply Services Program and other civil and commercial space flight missions; and

(9) the 21st Century Launch Complex Program should be continued in a manner that leverages State and private investments to achieve the goals of that program.

(c) REAFFIRMATION.—Congress reaffirms—

(1) its commitment to the use of a commercially developed, private sector launch and delivery system to the ISS for crew missions as expressed in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-155; 119 Stat. 2895), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-422; 122 Stat. 4779), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18301 et seq.); and

(2) the requirement under section 50111(b)(1)(A) of title 51, United States Code, that the Administration shall make use of United States commercially provided ISS crew transfer and crew rescue services to the maximum extent practicable.

(d) USE OF NON-UNITED STATES HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITIES.—Section 201(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18311(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) USE OF NON-UNITED STATES HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Government may not acquire human space flight transportation services from a foreign entity unless—

“(A) no United States Government-operated human space flight capability is available;

“(B) no United States commercial provider is available; and

“(C) it is a qualified foreign entity.

“(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) COMMERCIAL PROVIDER.—The term ‘commercial provider’ means any person providing human space flight transportation services, primary control of which is held by persons other than the Federal Government, a State or local government, or a foreign government.

“(B) QUALIFIED FOREIGN ENTITY.—The term ‘qualified foreign entity’ means a foreign entity that is in compliance with all applicable safety standards and is not prohibited from providing space transportation services under other law.

“(C) UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL PROVIDER.—The term ‘United States commercial provider’ means a commercial provider, organized under the laws of the United States or of a State, that is more than 50 percent owned by United States nationals.

“(3) ARRANGEMENTS WITH FOREIGN ENTITIES.—Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the Administrator from negotiating or entering into human space flight transportation arrangements with foreign entities to ensure safety of flight and continued ISS operations.”

(e) COMMERCIAL CREW PROGRAM.—

(1) SAFETY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall protect the safety of government astronauts by ensuring that each commercially provided transportation system under this subsection meets all applicable human rating requirements in accordance with section 403(b)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18342(b)(1)).

(B) LESSONS LEARNED.—Consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, the Administration shall ensure that safety and the minimization of the probability of loss of crew are the critical priorities of the Commercial Crew Program.

(2) COST MINIMIZATION.—The Administrator shall strive through the competitive selection process to minimize the life cycle cost to the Administration through the planned period of commercially provided crew transportation services.

(f) COMMERCIAL CARGO PROGRAM.—Section 401 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18341) is amended by striking “Commercial Orbital Transportation Services” and inserting “Commercial Resupply Services”.

(g) COMPETITION.—It is the policy of the United States that, to foster the competitive development, operation, improvement, and commercial availability of space transportation services, and to minimize the life cycle cost to the Administration, the Administrator shall procure services for Federal Government access to and return from the ISS, whenever practicable, via fair and open competition for well-defined, milestone-based, Federal Acquisition Regulation-based contracts under section 201(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18311(a)).

(h) TRANSPARENCY.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that cost transparency and schedule transparency aid in effective program management and risk assessment.

(2) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, to the greatest extent practicable and in a manner that does not add costs or schedule

delays to the program, ensure all Commercial Crew Program and Commercial Resupply Services Program providers provide evidence-based support for their costs and schedules.

(i) **ISS CARGO RESUPPLY SERVICES LESSONS LEARNED.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(1) identifies the lessons learned to date from previous and existing Commercial Resupply Services contracts;

(2) indicates whether changes are needed to the manner in which the Administration procures and manages similar services prior to the issuance of future Commercial Resupply Services procurement opportunities; and

(3) identifies any lessons learned from the Commercial Resupply Services contracts that should be applied to the procurement and management of commercially provided crew transfer services to and from the ISS or to other future procurements.

SEC. 303. ISS TRANSITION PLAN.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) NASA has been both the primary supplier and consumer of human space flight capabilities and services of the ISS and in low-Earth orbit; and

(2) according to the National Research Council report “Pathways to Exploration: Rationales and Approaches for a U.S. Program of Human Space Exploration” extending ISS beyond 2020 to 2024 or 2028 will have significant negative impacts on the schedule of crewed missions to Mars, without significant increases in funding.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) an orderly transition for United States human space flight activities in low-Earth orbit from the current regime, that relies heavily on NASA sponsorship, to a regime where NASA is one of many customers of a low-Earth orbit commercial human space flight enterprise may be necessary; and

(2) decisions about the long-term future of the ISS impact the ability to conduct future deep space exploration activities, and that such decisions regarding the ISS should be considered in the context of the Human Exploration Roadmap under section 432 of this Act.

(c) **REPORTS.**—Section 50111 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **ISS TRANSITION PLAN.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator, in coordination with the ISS management entity (as defined in section 2 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2016), ISS partners, the scientific user community, and the commercial space sector, shall develop a plan to transition in a step-wise approach from the current regime that relies heavily on NASA sponsorship to a regime where NASA could be one of many customers of a low-Earth orbit non-governmental human space flight enterprise.

“(2) **REPORTS.**—Not later than December 1, 2017, and biennially thereafter until 2023, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

“(A) a description of the progress in achieving the Administration’s deep space human exploration objectives on ISS and prospects for accomplishing future mission requirements, space exploration objectives, and other research objectives on future com-

mercially supplied low-Earth orbit platforms or migration of those objectives to cis-lunar space;

“(B) steps NASA is taking and will take, including demonstrations that could be conducted on the ISS, to stimulate and facilitate commercial demand and supply of products and services in low-Earth orbit;

“(C) an identification of barriers preventing the commercialization of low-Earth orbit, including issues relating to policy, regulations, commercial intellectual property, data, and confidentiality, that could inhibit the use of the ISS as a commercial incubator;

“(D) the criteria for defining the ISS as a research success;

“(E) the criteria used to determine whether the ISS is meeting the objective under section 301(b)(2) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2016;

“(F) an assessment of whether the criteria under subparagraphs (D) and (E) are consistent with the research areas defined in, and recommendations and schedules under, the current National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Decadal Survey on Biological and Physical Sciences in Space;

“(G) any necessary contributions that ISS extension would make to enabling execution of the Human Exploration Roadmap under section 432 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2016;

“(H) the cost estimates for operating the ISS to achieve the criteria required under subparagraphs (D) and (E) and the contributions identified under subparagraph (G);

“(I) the cost estimates for extending operations of the ISS to 2024, 2028, and 2030;

“(J) an evaluation of the feasible and preferred service life of the ISS beyond the period described in section 503 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18353), through at least 2028, as a unique scientific, commercial, and space exploration-related facility, including—

“(i) a general discussion of international partner capabilities and prospects for extending the partnership;

“(ii) the cost associated with extending the service life;

“(iii) an assessment on the technical limiting factors of the service life of the ISS, including a list of critical components and their expected service life and availability; and

“(iv) such other information as may be necessary to fully describe the justification for and feasibility of extending the service life of the ISS, including the potential scientific or technological benefits to the Federal Government, public, or to academic or commercial entities;

“(K) an identification of the necessary actions and an estimate of the costs to deorbit the ISS once it has reached the end of its service life;

“(L) the impact on deep space exploration capabilities, including a crewed mission to Mars in the 2030s, if the preferred service life of the ISS is extended beyond 2024 and NASA maintains a flat budget profile; and

“(M) an evaluation of the functions, roles, and responsibilities for management and operation of the ISS and a determination of—

“(i) those functions, roles, and responsibilities the Federal Government should retain during the lifecycle of the ISS;

“(ii) those functions, roles, and responsibilities that could be transferred to the commercial space sector;

“(iii) the metrics that would indicate the commercial space sector’s readiness and ability to assume the functions, roles, and responsibilities described in clause (ii); and

“(iv) any necessary changes to any agreements or other documents and the law to enable the activities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

“(3) **DEMONSTRATIONS.**—If additional Government crew, power, and transportation resources are available after meeting the Administration’s requirements for ISS activities defined in the Human Exploration Roadmap and related research, demonstrations identified under paragraph (2) may—

“(A) test the capabilities needed to meet future mission requirements, space exploration objectives, and other research objectives described in paragraph (2)(A); and

“(B) demonstrate or test capabilities, including commercial modules or deep space habitats, Environmental Control and Life Support Systems, orbital satellite assembly, exploration space suits, a node that enables a wide variety of activity, including multiple commercial modules and airlocks, additional docking or berthing ports for commercial crew and cargo, opportunities for the commercial space sector to cost share for transportation and other services on the ISS, other commercial activities, or services obtained through alternate acquisition approaches.”

SEC. 304. SPACE COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) **PLAN.**—The Administrator shall develop a plan, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, to meet the Administration’s projected space communication and navigation needs for low-Earth orbit and deep space operations in the 20-year period following the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The plan shall include—

(1) the lifecycle cost estimates and a 5-year funding profile;

(2) the performance capabilities required to meet the Administration’s projected space communication and navigation needs;

(3) the measures the Administration will take to sustain the existing space communications and navigation architecture;

(4) an identification of the projected space communications and navigation network and infrastructure needs;

(5) a description of the necessary upgrades to meet the needs identified in paragraph (4), including—

(A) an estimate of the cost of the upgrades;

(B) a schedule for implementing the upgrades; and

(C) an assessment of whether and how any related missions will be impacted if resources are not secured at the level needed;

(6) the cost estimates for the maintenance of existing space communications network capabilities necessary to meet the needs identified in paragraph (4);

(7) the criteria for prioritizing resources for the upgrades described in paragraph (5) and the maintenance described in paragraph (6);

(8) an estimate of any reimbursement amounts the Administration may receive from other Federal agencies;

(9) an identification of the projected Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System needs in the 20-year period following the date of enactment of this Act, including in support of relevant Federal agencies, and cost and schedule estimates to maintain and upgrade the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System to meet the projected needs;

(10) the measures the Administration is taking to meet space communications needs after all Tracking and Data Relay Satellite

System third-generation communications satellites are operational; and

(1) the measures the Administration is taking to mitigate threats to electromagnetic spectrum use.

(c) SCHEDULE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit the plan to the appropriate committees of Congress.

SEC. 305. INDEMNIFICATION; NASA LAUNCH SERVICES AND REENTRY SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 20148. Indemnification; NASA launch services and reentry services

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Under such regulations in conformity with this section as the Administrator shall prescribe taking into account the availability, cost, and terms of liability insurance, any contract between the Administration and a provider may provide that the United States will indemnify the provider against successful claims (including reasonable expenses of litigation or settlement) by third parties for death, bodily injury, or loss of or damage to property resulting from launch services and reentry services carried out under the contract that the contract defines as unusually hazardous or nuclear in nature, but only to the extent the total amount of successful claims related to the activities under the contract—

“(1) is more than the amount of insurance or demonstration of financial responsibility described in subsection (c)(3); and

“(2) is not more than the amount specified in section 50915(a)(1)(B).

“(b) TERMS OF INDEMNIFICATION.—A contract made under subsection (a) that provides indemnification shall provide for—

“(1) notice to the United States of any claim or suit against the provider for death, bodily injury, or loss of or damage to property; and

“(2) control of or assistance in the defense by the United States, at its election, of that claim or suit and approval of any settlement.

“(c) LIABILITY INSURANCE OF THE PROVIDER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The provider under subsection (a) shall obtain liability insurance or demonstrate financial responsibility in amounts to compensate for the maximum probable loss from claims by—

“(A) a third party for death, bodily injury, or property damage or loss resulting from a launch service or reentry service carried out under the contract; and

“(B) the United States Government for damage or loss to Government property resulting from a launch service or reentry service carried out under the contract.

“(2) MAXIMUM PROBABLE LOSSES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall determine the maximum probable losses under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) not later than 90 days after the date that the provider requests such a determination and submits all information the Administrator requires.

“(B) REVISIONS.—The Administrator may revise a determination under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph if the Administrator determines the revision is warranted based on new information.

“(3) AMOUNT OF INSURANCE.—For the total claims related to one launch or reentry, a provider shall not be required to obtain insurance or demonstrate financial responsibility of more than—

“(A)(i) \$500,000,000 under paragraph (1)(A); or

“(ii) \$100,000,000 under paragraph (1)(B); or

“(B) the maximum liability insurance available on the world market at reasonable cost.

“(4) COVERAGE.—An insurance policy or demonstration of financial responsibility under this subsection shall protect the following, to the extent of their potential liability for involvement in launch services or reentry services:

“(A) The Government.

“(B) Personnel of the Government.

“(C) Related entities of the Government.

“(D) Related entities of the provider.

“(E) Government astronauts.

“(d) NO INDEMNIFICATION WITHOUT CROSS-WAIVER.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Administrator may not indemnify a provider under this section unless there is a cross-waiver between the Administration and the provider as described in subsection (e).

“(e) CROSS-WAIVERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, on behalf of the United States and its departments, agencies, and instrumentalities, shall reciprocally waive claims with a provider under which each party to the waiver agrees to be responsible, and agrees to ensure that its related entities are responsible, for damage or loss to its property, or for losses resulting from any injury or death sustained by its employees or agents, as a result of activities arising out of the performance of the contract.

“(2) LIMITATION.—The waiver made by the Government under paragraph (1) shall apply only to the extent that the claims are more than the amount of insurance or demonstration of financial responsibility required under subsection (c)(1)(B).

“(f) WILLFUL MISCONDUCT.—Indemnification under subsection (a) may exclude claims resulting from the willful misconduct of the provider or its related entities.

“(g) CERTIFICATION OF JUST AND REASONABLE AMOUNT.—No payment may be made under subsection (a) unless the Administrator or the Administrator’s designee certifies that the amount is just and reasonable.

“(h) PAYMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the approval by the Administrator, payments under subsection (a) may be made from funds appropriated for such payments.

“(2) LIMITATION.—The Administrator shall not approve payments under paragraph (1), except to the extent provided in an appropriation law or to the extent additional legislative authority is enacted providing for such payments.

“(3) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.—If the Administrator requests additional appropriations to make payments under this subsection, then the request for those appropriations shall be made in accordance with the procedures established under section 50915.

“(i) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The authority to indemnify under this section shall not create any rights in third persons that would not otherwise exist by law.

“(2) OTHER AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section may be construed as prohibiting the Administrator from indemnifying a provider or any other NASA contractor under other law, including under Public Law 85–804 (50 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.).

“(3) ANTI-DEFICIENCY ACT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section—

“(A) all obligations under this section are subject to the availability of funds; and

“(B) nothing in this section may be construed to require obligation or payment of

funds in violation of sections 1341, 1342, 1349 through 1351, and 1511 through 1519 of title 31, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ‘Anti-Deficiency Act’).

“(j) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—The Administrator may not provide indemnification under this section for an activity that requires a license or permit under chapter 509.

“(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUT.—The term ‘government astronaut’ has the meaning given the term in section 50902.

“(2) LAUNCH SERVICES.—The term ‘launch services’ has the meaning given the term in section 50902.

“(3) PROVIDER.—The term ‘provider’ means a person that provides domestic launch services or domestic reentry services to the Government.

“(4) REENTRY SERVICES.—The term ‘reentry services’ has the meaning given the term in section 50902.

“(5) RELATED ENTITY.—The term ‘related entity’ means a contractor or subcontractor.

“(6) THIRD PARTY.—The term ‘third party’ means a person except—

“(A) the United States Government;

“(B) related entities of the Government involved in launch services or reentry services;

“(C) a provider;

“(D) related entities of the provider involved in launch services or reentry services; or

“(E) a government astronaut.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for subchapter III of chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 20147 the following:

“20148. Indemnification; NASA launch services and reentry services.”

TITLE IV—ADVANCING HUMAN DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION

Subtitle A—Human Space Flight and Exploration Goals and Objectives

SEC. 411. HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT AND EXPLORATION LONG-TERM GOALS.

Section 202(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18312(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) LONG-TERM GOALS.—The long-term goals of the human space flight and exploration efforts of NASA shall be—

“(1) to expand permanent human presence beyond low-Earth orbit and to do so, where practical, in a manner involving international, academic, and industry partners;

“(2) crewed missions and progress toward achieving the goal in paragraph (1) to enable the potential for subsequent human exploration and the extension of human presence throughout the solar system; and

“(3) to enable a capability to extend human presence, including potential human habitation on another celestial body and a thriving space economy in the 21st Century.”

SEC. 412. KEY OBJECTIVES.

Section 202(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18312(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) to achieve human exploration of Mars and beyond through the prioritization of those technologies and capabilities best suited for such a mission in accordance with the stepping stone approach to exploration under

section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.”.

SEC. 413. VISION FOR SPACE EXPLORATION.

Section 20302 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “in cis-lunar space or” after “sustained human presence”;

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) **FUTURE EXPLORATION OF MARS.**—The Administrator shall manage human space flight programs, including the Space Launch System and Orion, to enable humans to explore Mars and other destinations by defining a series of sustainable steps and conducting mission planning, research, and technology development on a timetable that is technically and fiscally possible, consistent with section 70504.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **ORION.**—The term ‘Orion’ means the multipurpose crew vehicle described under section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

“(2) **SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.**—The term ‘Space Launch System’ means the meaning given the term in section 3 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18302).”.

SEC. 414. STEPPING STONE APPROACH TO EXPLORATION.

Section 70504 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 70504. Stepping stone approach to exploration

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administration may conduct missions to intermediate destinations, including the surface of the Moon, cis-lunar space, near-Earth asteroids, Lagrangian points, and Martian moons, in a series of sustainable steps in accordance with section 20302(b) of title 51, United States Code, in order to achieve the objective of human exploration of Mars specified in section 202(b)(5) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18312(b)(5)).

“(b) **COST-EFFECTIVENESS.**—In order to maximize the cost-effectiveness of the long-term space exploration and utilization activities of the United States, the Administrator shall take all necessary steps, including engaging international, academic, and industry partners, to ensure that activities in the Administration’s human space exploration program balance how those activities might also help meet the requirements of future exploration and utilization activities leading to human habitation on the surface of Mars.

“(c) **COMPLETION.**—Within budgetary considerations, once an exploration-related project enters its development phase, the Administrator shall seek, to the maximum extent practicable, to complete that project without undue delays.

“(d) **INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION.**—In order to achieve the goal of successfully conducting a crewed mission to the surface of Mars, the President may invite the United States partners in the ISS program and other nations, as appropriate, to participate in an international initiative under the leadership of the United States.”.

SEC. 415. UPDATE OF EXPLORATION PLAN AND PROGRAMS.

Section 70502(2) of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(2) implement an exploration research and technology development program to en-

able human and robotic operations consistent with section 20302(b) of this title;”.

SEC. 416. REPEALS.

(a) **SPACE SHUTTLE CAPABILITY ASSURANCE.**—Section 203 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18313) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b);

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “subsection (c)” and inserting “subsection (b)”;

(3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

(b) **SHUTTLE PRICING POLICY FOR COMMERCIAL AND FOREIGN USERS.**—Chapter 703 of title 51, United States Code, and the item relating to that chapter in the table of chapters for that title, are repealed.

(c) **SHUTTLE PRIVATIZATION.**—Section 50133 of title 51, United States Code, and the item relating to that section in the table of sections for chapter 501 of that title, are repealed.

SEC. 417. ASSURED ACCESS TO SPACE.

Section 70501 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) **POLICY STATEMENT.**—In order to ensure continuous United States participation and leadership in the exploration and utilization of space and as an essential instrument of national security, it is the policy of the United States to maintain an uninterrupted capability for human space flight and operations—

“(1) in low-Earth orbit; and

“(2) beyond low-Earth orbit once the capabilities described in section 421(e) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2016 become available.”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate describing the progress being made toward developing the Crew Exploration Vehicle and the Crew Launch Vehicle” and inserting “Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives describing the progress being made toward developing the Space Launch System and Orion”.

Subtitle B—Assuring Core Capabilities for Exploration

SEC. 421. SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM, ORION, AND EXPLORATION GROUND SYSTEMS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) NASA has made steady progress in developing and testing the Space Launch System and Orion exploration systems with the successful Exploration Flight Test of Orion in December of 2014, the final qualification test firing of the 5-segment Space Launch System boosters in June 2016, and a full thrust, full duration test firing of the RS-25 Space Launch System core stage engine in August 2016.

(2) Through the 21st Century Launch Complex program and Exploration Ground Systems programs, NASA has made significant progress in transforming exploration ground systems infrastructure to meet NASA’s mission requirements for the Space Launch System and Orion and to modernize NASA’s launch complexes to the benefit of the civil, defense, and commercial space sectors.

(b) **SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.**—

(1) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Space Launch System is the most practical approach to reaching the Moon, Mars, and beyond.

(2) **REAFFIRMATION.**—Congress reaffirms the policy and minimum capability requirements for the Space Launch System under section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322).

(c) **SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM, ORION, AND EXPLORATION GROUND SYSTEMS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) as the United States works to send humans on a series of missions to Mars in the 2030s, the United States national space program should continue to make progress on its commitment by fully developing the Space Launch System, Orion, and related Exploration Ground Systems;

(2) using the Space Launch System and Orion for a wide range of contemplated missions will facilitate the national defense, science, and exploration objectives of the United States;

(3) the United States should have continuity of purpose for the Space Launch System and Orion in deep space exploration missions, using them beginning with the uncrewed mission, EM-1, planned for 2018, followed by the crewed mission, EM-2, in cis-lunar space planned for 2021, and for subsequent missions beginning with EM-3 extending into cis-lunar space and eventually to Mars;

(4) the President’s annual budget requests for the Space Launch System and Orion development, test, and operational phases should strive to accurately reflect the resource requirements of each of those phases;

(5) the fully integrated Space Launch System, including an upper stage needed to go beyond low-Earth orbit, will safely enable human space exploration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond; and

(6) the Administrator should budget for and undertake a robust ground test and uncrewed and crewed flight test and demonstration program for the Space Launch System and Orion in order to promote safety and reduce programmatic risk.

(d) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall continue development of the fully integrated Space Launch System, including an upper stage needed to go beyond low-Earth orbit, in order to safely enable human space exploration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond over the course of the next century as required in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)).

(e) **EXPLORATION MISSIONS.**—The Administrator shall continue development of—

(1) an uncrewed exploration mission to demonstrate the capability of both the Space Launch System and Orion as an integrated system by 2018;

(2) subject to applicable human rating processes and requirements, a crewed exploration mission to demonstrate the Space Launch System, including the Core Stage and Exploration Upper Stages, by 2021;

(3) subsequent missions beginning with EM-3 at operational flight rate sufficient to maintain safety and operational readiness using the Space Launch System and Orion to extend into cis-lunar space and eventually to Mars; and

(4) a deep space habitat as a key element in a deep space exploration architecture along with the Space Launch System and Orion.

(f) **OTHER USES.**—The Administrator shall assess the utility of the Space Launch System for use by the science community and

for other Federal Government launch needs, including consideration of overall cost and schedule savings from reduced transit times and increased science returns enabled by the unique capabilities of the Space Launch System.

(g) UTILIZATION REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, shall prepare a report that addresses the effort and budget required to enable and utilize a cargo variant of the 130-ton Space Launch System configuration described in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)).

(2) CONTENTS.—In preparing the report, the Administrator shall—

(A) consider the technical requirements of the scientific and national security communities related to a cargo variant of the Space Launch System; and

(B) directly assess the utility and estimated cost savings obtained by using a cargo variant of the Space Launch System for national security and space science missions.

(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

Subtitle C—Journey to Mars

SEC. 431. FINDINGS ON HUMAN SPACE EXPLORATION.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In accordance with section 204 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (124 Stat. 2813), the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, through its Committee on Human Spaceflight, conducted a review of the goals, core capabilities, and direction of human space flight, and published the findings and recommendations in a 2014 report entitled, “Pathways to Exploration: Rationales and Approaches for a U.S. Program of Human Space Exploration”.

(2) The Committee on Human Spaceflight included leaders from the aerospace, scientific, security, and policy communities.

(3) With input from the public, the Committee on Human Spaceflight concluded that many practical and aspirational rationales for human space flight together constitute a compelling case for continued national investment and pursuit of human space exploration toward the horizon goal of Mars.

(4) According to the Committee on Human Spaceflight, the rationales include economic benefits, national security, national prestige, inspiring students and other citizens, scientific discovery, human survival, and a sense of shared destiny.

(5) The Committee on Human Spaceflight affirmed that Mars is the appropriate long-term goal for the human space flight program.

(6) The Committee on Human Spaceflight recommended that NASA define a series of sustainable steps and conduct mission planning and technology development as needed to achieve the long-term goal of placing humans on the surface of Mars.

(7) Expanding human presence beyond low-Earth orbit and advancing toward human missions to Mars requires early planning and timely decisions to be made in the near-term on the necessary courses of action for commitments to achieve short-term and long-term goals and objectives.

(8) In addition to the 2014 report described in paragraph (1), there are several independently developed reports or concepts that de-

scribe potential Mars architectures or concepts and identify Mars as the long-term goal for human space exploration, including NASA’s “The Global Exploration Roadmap” of 2013, “NASA’s Journey to Mars—Pioneering Next Steps in Space Exploration” of 2015, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory’s “Minimal Architecture for Human Journeys to Mars” of 2015, and Explore Mars’ “The Humans to Mars Report 2016”.

SEC. 432. HUMAN EXPLORATION ROADMAP.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) expanding human presence beyond low-Earth orbit and advancing toward human missions to Mars in the 2030s requires early strategic planning and timely decisions to be made in the near-term on the necessary courses of action for commitments to achieve short-term and long-term goals and objectives;

(2) for strong and sustained United States leadership, a need exists to advance a human exploration roadmap, addressing exploration objectives in collaboration with international, academic, and industry partners;

(3) an approach that incrementally advances toward a long-term goal is one in which nearer-term developments and implementation would influence future development and implementation; and

(4) a human exploration roadmap should begin with low-Earth orbit, then address in greater detail progress beyond low-Earth orbit to cis-lunar space, and then address future missions aimed at human arrival and activities near and then on the surface of Mars.

(b) HUMAN EXPLORATION ROADMAP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop a human exploration roadmap, including a critical decision plan, to expand human presence beyond low-Earth orbit to the surface of Mars and beyond, considering potential interim destinations such as cis-lunar space and the moons of Mars.

(2) SCOPE.—The human exploration roadmap shall include—

(A) an integrated set of exploration, science, and other goals and objectives of a United States human space exploration program to achieve the long-term goal of human missions near or on the surface of Mars in the 2030s;

(B) opportunities for international, academic, and industry partnerships for exploration-related systems, services, research, and technology if those opportunities provide cost-savings, accelerate program schedules, or otherwise benefit the goals and objectives developed under subparagraph (A);

(C) sets and sequences of precursor missions in cis-lunar space and other missions or activities necessary—

(i) to demonstrate the proficiency of the capabilities and technologies identified under subparagraph (D); and

(ii) to meet the goals and objectives developed under subparagraph (A), including anticipated timelines and missions for the Space Launch System and Orion;

(D) an identification of the specific capabilities and technologies, including the Space Launch System, Orion, a deep space habitat, and other capabilities, that facilitate the goals and objectives developed under subparagraph (A);

(E) a description of how cis-lunar elements, objectives, and activities advance the human exploration of Mars;

(F) an assessment of potential human health and other risks, including radiation exposure;

(G) mitigation plans, whenever possible, to address the risks identified in subparagraph (F);

(H) a description of those technologies already under development across the Federal Government or by other entities that facilitate the goals and objectives developed under subparagraph (A);

(I) a specific process for the evolution of the capabilities of the fully integrated Orion with the Space Launch System and a description of how these systems facilitate the goals and objectives developed under subparagraph (A) and demonstrate the capabilities and technologies described in subparagraph (D);

(J) a description of the capabilities and technologies that need to be demonstrated or research data that could be gained through the utilization of the ISS and the status of the development of such capabilities and technologies;

(K) a framework for international cooperation in the development of all capabilities and technologies identified under this section, including an assessment of the risks posed by relying on international partners for capabilities and technologies on the critical path of development;

(L) a process for partnering with non-governmental entities using Space Act Agreements or other acquisition instruments for future human space exploration; and

(M) include information on the phasing of planned intermediate destinations, Mars mission risk areas and potential risk mitigation approaches, technology requirements and phasing of required technology development activities, the management strategy to be followed, related ISS activities, planned international collaborative activities, potential commercial contributions, and other activities relevant to the achievement of the goal established in this section.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the human exploration roadmap, the Administrator shall consider—

(A) using key exploration capabilities, namely the Space Launch System and Orion;

(B) using existing commercially available technologies and capabilities or those technologies and capabilities being developed by industry for commercial purposes;

(C) establishing an organizational approach to ensure collaboration and coordination among NASA’s Mission Directorates under section 821, when appropriate, including to collect and return to Earth a sample from the Martian surface;

(D) building upon the initial uncrewed mission, EM-1, and first crewed mission, EM-2, of the Space Launch System and Orion to establish a sustainable cadence of missions extending human exploration missions into cis-lunar space, including anticipated timelines and milestones;

(E) developing the robotic and precursor missions and activities that will demonstrate, test, and develop key technologies and capabilities essential for achieving human missions to Mars, including long-duration human operations beyond low-Earth orbit, space suits, solar electric propulsion, deep space habitats, environmental control life support systems, Mars lander and ascent vehicle, entry, descent, landing, ascent, Mars surface systems, and in-situ resource utilization;

(F) demonstrating and testing 1 or more habitat modules in cis-lunar space to prepare for Mars missions;

(G) using public-private, firm fixed-price partnerships, where practicable;

(H) collaborating with international, academic, and industry partners, when appropriate;

(I) any risks to human health and sensitive onboard technologies, including radiation exposure;

(J) any risks identified through research outcomes under the NASA Human Research Program's Behavioral Health Element; and

(K) the recommendations and ideas of several independently developed reports or concepts that describe potential Mars architectures or concepts and identify Mars as the long-term goal for human space exploration, including the reports described under section 431.

(4) **CRITICAL DECISION PLAN ON HUMAN SPACE EXPLORATION.**—As part of the human exploration roadmap, the Administrator shall include a critical decision plan—

(A) identifying and defining key decisions guiding human space exploration priorities and plans that need to be made before June 30, 2020, including decisions that may guide human space exploration capability development, precursor missions, long-term missions, and activities;

(B) defining decisions needed to maximize efficiencies and resources for reaching the near, intermediate, and long-term goals and objectives of human space exploration; and

(C) identifying and defining timelines and milestones for a sustainable cadence of missions beginning with EM-3 for the Space Launch System and Orion to extend human exploration from cis-lunar space to the surface of Mars.

(5) **REPORTS.**—

(A) **INITIAL HUMAN EXPLORATION ROADMAP.**—The Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(i) an initial human exploration roadmap, including a critical decision plan, before December 1, 2017; and

(ii) an updated human exploration roadmap periodically as the Administrator considers necessary but not less than biennially.

(B) **CONTENTS.**—Each human exploration roadmap under this paragraph shall include a description of—

(i) the achievements and goals accomplished in the process of developing such capabilities and technologies during the 2-year period prior to the submission of the human exploration roadmap; and

(ii) the expected goals and achievements in the following 2-year period.

(C) **SUBMISSION WITH BUDGET.**—Each human exploration roadmap under this section shall be included in the budget for that fiscal year transmitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 433. ADVANCED SPACE SUIT CAPABILITY.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a detailed plan for achieving an advanced space suit capability that aligns with the crew needs for exploration enabled by the Space Launch System and Orion, including an evaluation of the merit of delivering the planned suit system for use on the ISS.

SEC. 434. ASTEROID ROBOTIC REDIRECT MISSION.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) NASA initially estimated that the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission would launch in December 2020 and cost no more than \$1,250,000,000, excluding launch and operations.

(2) On July 15, 2016, NASA conducted its Key Decision Point-B review of the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission or approval for Phase B in mission formulation.

(3) During the Key Decision Point-B review, NASA estimated that costs have grown to \$1,400,000,000 excluding launch and operations for a launch in December 2021 and the agency must evaluate whether to accept the increase or reduce the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission's scope to stay within the cost cap set by the Administrator.

(4) In April 2015, the NASA Advisory Council—

(A) issued a finding that—

(i) high-performance solar electric propulsion will likely be an important part of an architecture to send humans to Mars; and

(ii) maneuvering a large test mass is not necessary to provide a valid in-space test of a new solar electric propulsion stage;

(B) determined that a solar electric propulsion mission will contribute more directly to the goal of sending humans to Mars if the mission is focused entirely on development and validation of the solar electric propulsion stage; and

(C) determined that other possible motivations for acquiring and maneuvering a boulder, such as asteroid science and planetary defense, do not have value commensurate with their probable cost.

(5) The Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission is competing for resources with other critical exploration development programs, including the Space Launch System, Orion, commercial crew, and a habitation module.

(6) In 2014, the NASA Advisory Council recommended that NASA conduct an independent cost and technical assessment of the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission.

(7) In 2015, the NASA Advisory Council recommended that NASA preserve the following key objectives if the program needed to be descope:

(A) Development of high power solar electric propulsion.

(B) Ability to maneuver in a low gravity environment in deep space.

(8) In January 2015 and July 2015, the NASA Advisory Council expressed its concern to NASA about the potential for growing costs for the program and highlighted that choices would need to be made about the program's content.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the technological and scientific goals of the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission may not be commensurate with the cost; and

(2) alternative missions may provide a more cost effective and scientifically beneficial means to demonstrate the technologies needed for a human mission to Mars that would otherwise be demonstrated by the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission.

(c) **EVALUATION AND REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

(1) conduct an evaluation of—

(A) alternative approaches to the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission for demonstrating the technologies and capabilities needed for a human mission to Mars that would otherwise be demonstrated by the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission;

(B) the scientific and technical benefits of the alternative approaches under subparagraph (A) to future human space exploration compared to scientific and technical benefits of the Asteroid Redirect Robotic Mission;

(C) the commercial benefits of the alternative approaches identified in subparagraph (A), including the impact on the development of domestic solar electric propulsion technology to bolster United States competitiveness in the global marketplace; and

(D) a comparison of the estimated costs of the alternative approaches identified in subparagraph (A); and

(2) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the evaluation under paragraph (1), including any recommendations.

SEC. 435. MARS 2033 REPORT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall contract with an independent, non-governmental systems engineering and technical assistance organization to study a Mars human space flight mission to be launched in 2033.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The study shall include—

(1) a technical development, test, fielding, and operations plan using the Space Launch System, Orion, and other systems to successfully launch such a Mars human space flight mission by 2033;

(2) an annual budget profile, including cost estimates, for the technical development, test, fielding, and operations plan to carry out a Mars human space flight mission by 2033; and

(3) a comparison of the annual budget profile to the 5-year budget profile contained in the President's budget request for fiscal year 2017 under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the study, including findings and recommendations regarding the Mars 2033 human space flight mission described in subsection (a).

(d) **ASSESSMENT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date the report is submitted under subsection (c), the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an assessment by the NASA Advisory Council of whether the proposal for a Mars human space flight mission to be launched in 2033 is in the strategic interests of the United States in space exploration.

Subtitle D—TREAT Astronauts Act

SEC. 441. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the "To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts Act" or the "TREAT Astronauts Act".

SEC. 442. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Human space exploration can pose significant challenges and is full of substantial risk, which has ultimately claimed the lives of 24 National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronauts serving in the line of duty.

(2) As United States government astronauts participate in long-duration and exploration space flight missions they may experience increased health risks, such as vision impairment, bone demineralization, and behavioral health and performance risks, and may be exposed to galactic cosmic radiation. Exposure to high levels of radiation and microgravity can result in acute and long-term health consequences that can increase the risk of cancer and tissue degeneration and have potential effects on the musculoskeletal system, central nervous system, cardiovascular system, immune function, and vision.

(3) To advance the goal of long-duration and exploration space flight missions, United States government astronaut Scott Kelly participated in a 1-year twins study in space while his identical twin brother, former United States government astronaut Mark Kelly, acted as a human control specimen on

Earth, providing an understanding of the physical, behavioral, microbiological, and molecular reaction of the human body to an extended period of time in space.

(4) Since the Administration currently provides medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment for United States government astronauts during their active employment, given the unknown long-term health consequences of long-duration space exploration, the Administration has requested statutory authority from Congress to provide medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment to former United States government astronauts for psychological and medical conditions associated with human space flight.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to seek the unknown and lead the world in space exploration and scientific discovery as the Administration prepares for long-duration and exploration space flight in deep space and an eventual mission to Mars;

(2) data relating to the health of astronauts will become increasingly valuable to improving our understanding of many diseases humans face on Earth;

(3) the Administration should provide the type of monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment described in subsection (a) only for conditions the Administration considers unique to the training or exposure to the space flight environment of United States government astronauts and should not require any former United States Government astronauts to participate in the Administration's monitoring;

(4) such monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment should not replace a former United States government astronaut's private health insurance;

(5) expanded data acquired from such monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment should be used to tailor treatment, inform the requirements for new space flight medical hardware, and develop controls in order to prevent disease occurrence in the astronaut corps; and

(6) the 340-day space mission of Scott Kelly aboard the ISS—

(A) was pivotal for the goal of the United States for humans to explore deep space and Mars as the mission generated new insight into how the human body adjusts to weightlessness, isolation, radiation, and the stress of long-duration space flight; and

(B) will help support the physical and mental well-being of astronauts during longer space exploration missions in the future.

SEC. 443. MEDICAL MONITORING AND RESEARCH RELATING TO HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code, as amended by section 305 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 20149. Medical monitoring and research relating to human space flight

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may provide for—

“(1) the medical monitoring and diagnosis of a former United States government astronaut or a former payload specialist for conditions that the Administrator considers potentially associated with human space flight; and

“(2) the treatment of a former United States government astronaut or a former payload specialist for conditions that the Administrator considers associated with human space flight, including scientific and

medical tests for psychological and medical conditions.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) NO COST SHARING.—The medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment described in subsection (a) shall be provided without any deductible, copayment, or other cost sharing obligation.

“(2) ACCESS TO LOCAL SERVICES.—The medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment described in subsection (a) may be provided by a local health care provider if it is unadvisable due to the health of the applicable former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist for that former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist to travel to the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, as determined by the Administrator.

“(3) SECONDARY PAYMENT.—Payment or reimbursement for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment described in subsection (a) shall be secondary to any obligation of the United States Government or any third party under any other provision of law or contractual agreement to pay for or provide such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment. Any costs for items and services that may be provided by the Administrator for medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment under subsection (a) that are not paid for or provided under such other provision of law or contractual agreement, due to the application of deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, other cost sharing, or otherwise, are reimbursable by the Administrator on behalf of the former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist involved to the extent such items or services are authorized to be provided by the Administrator for such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment under subsection (a).

“(4) CONDITIONAL PAYMENT.—The Administrator may provide for conditional payments for or provide medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment described in subsection (a) that is obligated to be paid for or provided by the United States or any third party under any other provision of law or contractual agreement to pay for or provide such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment if—

“(A) payment for (or the provision of) such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment services has not been made (or provided) or cannot reasonably be expected to be made (or provided) promptly by the United States or such third party, respectively; and

“(B) such payment (or such provision of services) by the Administrator is conditioned on reimbursement by the United States or such third party, respectively, for such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment.

“(c) EXCLUSIONS.—The Administrator may not—

“(1) provide for medical monitoring or diagnosis of a former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist under subsection (a) for any psychological or medical condition that is not potentially associated with human space flight;

“(2) provide for treatment of a former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist under subsection (a) for any psychological or medical condition that is not associated with human space flight; or

“(3) require a former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist to participate in the medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment authorized under subsection (a).

“(d) PRIVACY.—Consistent with applicable provisions of Federal law relating to privacy, the Administrator shall protect the privacy

of all medical records generated under subsection (a) and accessible to the Administration.

“(e) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

“(f) DEFINITION OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUT.—In this section, the term ‘United States government astronaut’ has the meaning given the term ‘government astronaut’ in section 50902, except it does not include an individual who is an international partner astronaut.

“(g) DATA USE AND DISCLOSURE.—The Administrator may use or disclose data acquired in the course of medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment of a former United States government astronaut or a former payload specialist under subsection (a), in accordance with subsection (d). Former United States government astronaut or former payload specialist participation in medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment under subsection (a) shall constitute consent for the Administrator to use or disclose such data.”

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code, as amended by section 305 of this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 20148 the following:

“20149. Medical monitoring and research relating to human space flight.”

(c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each fiscal year, not later than the date of submission of the President's annual budget request for that fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Administrator shall publish a report, in accordance with applicable Federal privacy laws, on the activities of the Administration under section 20149 of title 51, United States Code.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed cost accounting of the Administration's activities under section 20149 of title 51, United States Code, and a 5-year budget estimate.

(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress each report under paragraph (1) not later than the date of submission of the President's annual budget request for that fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

(d) COST ESTIMATE.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with an independent external organization to undertake an independent cost estimate of the cost to the Administration and the Federal Government to implement and administer the activities of the Administration under section 20149 of title 51, United States Code. The independent external organization may not be a NASA entity, such as the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance.

(2) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the independent cost estimate under paragraph (1).

(e) PRIVACY STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—The Administrator shall carry out a study on any potential privacy or legal issues related to the possible sharing beyond the Federal Government of data acquired under the activities of the Administration under section 20149 of title 51, United States Code.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing the results of the study carried out under paragraph (1).

(f) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.—The Inspector General of NASA shall periodically audit or review, as the Inspector General considers necessary to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse, the activities of the Administration under section 20149 of title 51, United States Code.

TITLE V—ADVANCING SPACE SCIENCE

SEC. 501. MAINTAINING A BALANCED SPACE SCIENCE PORTFOLIO.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SCIENCE PORTFOLIO.—Congress reaffirms the sense of Congress that—

(1) a balanced and adequately funded set of activities, consisting of research and analysis grant programs, technology development, suborbital research activities, and small, medium, and large space missions, contributes to a robust and productive science program and serves as a catalyst for innovation and discovery; and

(2) the Administrator should set science priorities by following the guidance provided by the scientific community through the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's decadal surveys.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to ensure, to the extent practicable, a steady cadence of large, medium, and small science missions.

SEC. 502. PLANETARY SCIENCE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) Administration support for planetary science is critical to enabling greater understanding of the solar system and the origin of the Earth;

(2) the United States leads the world in planetary science and can augment its success in that area with appropriate international, academic, and industry partnerships;

(3) a mix of small, medium, and large planetary science missions is required to sustain a steady cadence of planetary exploration; and

(4) robotic planetary exploration is a key component of preparing for future human exploration.

(b) MISSION PRIORITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the priorities established in the most recent Planetary Science Decadal Survey, the Administrator shall ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, the completion of a balanced set of Discovery, New Frontiers, and Flagship missions at the cadence recommended by the most recent Planetary Science Decadal Survey.

(2) MISSION PRIORITY ADJUSTMENTS.—Consistent with the set of missions described in paragraph (1), and while maintaining the continuity of scientific data and steady development of capabilities and technologies, the Administrator may seek, if necessary, adjustments to mission priorities, schedule, and scope in light of changing budget projections.

SEC. 503. JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the James Webb Space Telescope will—
(A) significantly advance our understanding of star and planet formation, and improve our knowledge of the early universe; and

(B) support United States leadership in astrophysics;

(2) consistent with annual Government Accountability Office reviews of the James

Webb Space Telescope program, the Administrator should continue robust surveillance of the performance of the James Webb Space Telescope project and continue to improve the reliability of cost estimates and contractor performance data and other major space flight projects in order to enhance NASA's ability to successfully deliver the James Webb Space Telescope on-time and within budget;

(3) the on-time and on-budget delivery of the James Webb Space Telescope is a high congressional priority; and

(4) the Administrator should ensure that integrated testing is appropriately timed and sufficiently comprehensive to enable potential issues to be identified and addressed early enough to be handled within the James Webb Space Telescope's development schedule and prior to its launch.

SEC. 504. WIDE-FIELD INFRARED SURVEY TELESCOPE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope (referred to in this section as "WFIRST") mission has the potential to enable scientific discoveries that will transform our understanding of the universe; and

(2) the Administrator, to the extent practicable, should make progress on the technologies and capabilities needed to position the Administration to meet the objectives, as outlined in the 2010 National Academies' Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey, in a way that maximizes the scientific productivity of meeting those objectives for the resources invested.

(b) CONTINUITY OF DEVELOPMENT.—The Administrator shall ensure that the concept definition and pre-formulation activities of the WFIRST mission continue while the James Webb Space Telescope is being completed.

SEC. 505. MARS 2020 ROVER.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Mars 2020 mission, to develop a Mars rover and to enable the return of samples to Earth, should remain a priority for NASA; and

(2) the Mars 2020 mission—

(A) should significantly increase our understanding of Mars;

(B) should help determine whether life previously existed on that planet; and

(C) should provide opportunities to gather knowledge and demonstrate technologies that address the challenges of future human expeditions to Mars.

SEC. 506. EUROPA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Studies of Europa, Jupiter's moon, indicate that Europa may provide a habitable environment, as it contains key ingredients known to support life.

(2) In 2012, using the Hubble Space Telescope, NASA scientists observed water vapor around the south polar region of Europa, which provides potential evidence of water plumes in that region.

(3) For decades, the Europa mission has consistently ranked as a high priority mission for the scientific community.

(4) The Europa mission was ranked as the top priority mission in the previous Planetary Science Decadal Survey and ranked as the second-highest priority in the current Planetary Science Decadal Survey.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Europa mission could provide another avenue in which to capitalize on our Nation's current investment in the Space

Launch System that would significantly reduce the transit time for such a deep space mission; and

(2) a scientific, robotic exploration mission to Europa, as prioritized in both Planetary Science Decadal Surveys, should be supported.

SEC. 507. CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF POLICY AND PURPOSE.

Section 20102(d) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(10) The search for life's origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the universe.”.

SEC. 508. EXTRASOLAR PLANET EXPLORATION STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to develop a science strategy for the study and exploration of extrasolar planets, including the use of the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, the James Webb Space Telescope, a potential Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission, or any other telescope, spacecraft, or instrument, as appropriate.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The strategy shall—

(A) outline key scientific questions;

(B) identify the most promising research in the field;

(C) indicate the extent to which the mission priorities in existing decadal surveys address the key extrasolar planet research and exploration goals;

(D) identify opportunities for coordination with international partners, commercial partners, and not-for-profit partners; and

(E) make recommendations regarding the activities under subparagraphs (A) through (D), as appropriate.

(b) USE OF STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall use the strategy—

(1) to inform roadmaps, strategic plans, and other activities of the Administration as they relate to extrasolar planet research and exploration; and

(2) to provide a foundation for future activities and initiatives related to extrasolar planet research and exploration.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall submit to the Administrator and to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing the strategy developed under subsection (a).

SEC. 509. ASTROBIOLOGY STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to develop a science strategy for astrobiology that would outline key scientific questions, identify the most promising research in the field, and indicate the extent to which the mission priorities in existing decadal surveys address the search for life's origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the Universe.

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The strategy shall include recommendations for coordination with international partners.

(b) USE OF STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall use the strategy developed under subsection (a) in planning and funding research and other activities and initiatives in the field of astrobiology.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall submit to the Administrator and to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing the strategy developed under subsection (a).

SEC. 510. ASTROBIOLOGY PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing how the Administration can expand collaborative partnerships to study life's origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the universe.

SEC. 511. NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS.

Section 321 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (51 U.S.C. note prec. 71101) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) PROGRAM REPORT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2016, an initial report that provides—

“(1) recommendations for carrying out the Survey program and an associated proposed budget;

“(2) an analysis of possible options that the Administration could employ to divert an object on a likely collision course with Earth; and

“(3) a description of the status of efforts to coordinate and cooperate with other countries to discover hazardous asteroids and comets, plan a mitigation strategy, and implement that strategy in the event of the discovery of an object on a likely collision course with Earth.

“(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—After the initial report under subsection (e), the Administrator shall annually transmit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

“(1) a summary of all activities carried out under subsection (d) since the date of enactment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2016, including the progress toward achieving 90 percent completion of the survey described in subsection (d); and

“(2) a summary of expenditures for all activities carried out under subsection (d) since the date of enactment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2016.

“(g) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator, in collaboration with other relevant Federal agencies, shall carry out a technical and scientific assessment of the capabilities and resources—

“(1) to accelerate the survey described in subsection (d); and

“(2) to expand the Administration's Near-Earth Object Program to include the detection, tracking, cataloging, and characterization of potentially hazardous near-Earth objects less than 140 meters in diameter.

“(h) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2016, the Administrator shall transmit the results of the assessment under subsection (g) to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.”.

SEC. 512. NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administration should

seek to leverage the capabilities of the private sector and philanthropic organizations to the maximum extent practicable in carrying out the Near-Earth Object Survey Program in order to meet the goal of that program under section 321(d)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (51 U.S.C. note prec. 71101(d)(1)).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing how the Administration can expand collaborative partnerships to detect, track, catalogue, and categorize near-Earth objects.

SEC. 513. ASSESSMENT OF SCIENCE MISSION EXTENSIONS.

Section 30504 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 30504. Assessment of science mission extensions

“(a) ASSESSMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall carry out triennial reviews within each of the Science divisions to assess the cost and benefits of extending the date of the termination of data collection for those missions that exceed their planned missions' lifetime.

“(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting an assessment under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall consider whether and how extending missions impacts the start of future missions.

“(b) CONSULTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF INSTRUMENTS ON MISSIONS.—When deciding whether to extend a mission that has an operational component, the Administrator shall—

“(1) consult with any affected Federal agency; and

“(2) take into account the potential benefits of instruments on missions that are beyond their planned mission lifetime.

“(c) REPORTS.—The Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, at the same time as the submission to Congress of the Administration's annual budget request for each fiscal year, a report detailing any assessment under subsection (a) that was carried out during the previous year.”.

SEC. 514. STRATOSPHERIC OBSERVATORY FOR INFRARED ASTRONOMY.

The Administrator may not terminate science operations of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy before December 31, 2017.

SEC. 515. RADIOISOTOPE POWER SYSTEMS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) exploration of the outer reaches of the solar system is enabled by radioisotope power systems;

(2) establishing continuity in the production of the material needed for radioisotope power systems is essential to maintaining the availability of such systems for future deep space exploration missions; and

(3) Federal agencies supporting the Administration through the production of such material should do so in a cost effective manner so as not to impose excessive reimbursement requirements on the Administration.

(b) ANALYSIS OF REQUIREMENTS AND RISKS.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal agencies, shall conduct an analysis of—

(1) the requirements of the Administration for radioisotope power system material that

is needed to carry out planned, high priority robotic missions in the solar system and other surface exploration activities beyond low-Earth orbit; and

(2) the risks to missions of the Administration in meeting those requirements, or any additional requirements, due to a lack of adequate radioisotope power system material.

(c) CONTENTS OF ANALYSIS.—The analysis conducted under subsection (b) shall—

(1) detail the Administration's current projected mission requirements and associated timeframes for radioisotope power system material;

(2) explain the assumptions used to determine the Administration's requirements for the material, including—

(A) the planned use of advanced thermal conversion technology such as advanced thermocouples and Stirling generators and converters; and

(B) the risks and implications of, and contingencies for, any delays or unanticipated technical challenges affecting or related to the Administration's mission plans for the anticipated use of advanced thermal conversion technology;

(3) assess the risk to the Administration's programs of any potential delays in achieving the schedule and milestones for planned domestic production of radioisotope power system material;

(4) outline a process for meeting any additional Administration requirements for the material;

(5) estimate the incremental costs required to increase the amount of material produced each year, if such an increase is needed to support additional Administration requirements for the material;

(6) detail how the Administration and other Federal agencies will manage, operate, and fund production facilities and the design and development of all radioisotope power systems used by the Administration and other Federal agencies as necessary;

(7) specify the steps the Administration will take, in consultation with the Department of Energy, to preserve the infrastructure and workforce necessary for production of radioisotope power systems and ensure that its reimbursements to the Department of Energy associated with such preservation are equitable and justified; and

(8) detail how the Administration has implemented or rejected the recommendations from the National Research Council's 2009 report titled “Radioisotope Power Systems: An Imperative for Maintaining U.S. Leadership in Space Exploration.”

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit the results of the analysis to the appropriate committees of Congress.

SEC. 516. ASSESSMENT OF MARS ARCHITECTURE.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to assess—

(1) the Administration's Mars exploration architecture and its responsiveness to the strategies, priorities, and guidelines put forward by the National Academies' planetary science decadal surveys and other relevant National Academies Mars-related reports;

(2) the long-term goals of the Administration's Mars Exploration Program and such program's ability to optimize the science return, given the current fiscal posture of the program;

(3) the Mars exploration architecture's relationship to Mars-related activities to be

undertaken by foreign agencies and organizations; and

(4) the extent to which the Mars exploration architecture represents a reasonably balanced mission portfolio.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit the results of the assessment to the appropriate committees of Congress.

SEC. 517. COLLABORATION.

The Administration shall continue to develop first-of-a-kind instruments that, once proved, can be transitioned to other agencies for operations. Whenever responsibilities for the development of sensors or for measurements are transferred to the Administration from another agency, the Administration shall seek, to the extent possible, to be reimbursed for the assumption of such responsibilities.

TITLE VI—AERONAUTICS

SEC. 601. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON AERONAUTICS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a robust aeronautics research portfolio will help maintain the United States status as a leader in aviation, enhance the competitiveness of the United States in the world economy, and improve the quality of life of all citizens;

(2) aeronautics research is essential to the Administration's mission, continues to be an important core element of the Administration's mission, and should be supported;

(3) the Administrator should coordinate and consult with relevant Federal agencies and the private sector to minimize duplication of efforts and leverage resources; and

(4) carrying aeronautics research to a level of maturity that allows the Administration's research results to be transferred to the users, whether private or public sector, is critical to their eventual adoption.

SEC. 602. TRANSFORMATIVE AERONAUTICS RESEARCH.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator should look strategically into the future and ensure that the Administration's Center personnel are at the leading edge of aeronautics research by encouraging investigations into the early-stage advancement of new processes, novel concepts, and innovative technologies that have the potential to meet national aeronautics needs.

SEC. 603. HYPERSONIC RESEARCH.

(a) ROADMAP FOR HYPERSONIC RESEARCH.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall develop and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a research and development roadmap for hypersonic aircraft research.

(b) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the roadmap is to explore hypersonic science and technology using air-breathing propulsion concepts, through a mix of theoretical work, basic and applied research, and development of flight research demonstration vehicles.

(c) CONTENTS.—The roadmap shall recommend appropriate Federal agency contributions, coordination efforts, and technology milestones.

SEC. 604. SUPERSONIC RESEARCH.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the ability to fly commercial aircraft over land at supersonic speeds without adverse impacts on the environment or on local communities could open new global markets and enable new transportation capabilities; and

(2) continuing the Administration's research program is necessary to assess the

impact in a relevant environment of commercial supersonic flight operations and provide the basis for establishing appropriate sonic boom standards for such flight operations.

(b) ROADMAP FOR SUPERSONIC RESEARCH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a roadmap that allows for flexible funding profiles for supersonic aeronautics research and development.

(2) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the roadmap is to develop and demonstrate, in a relevant environment, airframe and propulsion technologies to minimize the environmental impact, including noise, of supersonic overland flight in an efficient and economical manner.

(3) CONTENTS.—The roadmap shall include—

(A) the baseline research as embodied by the Administration's existing research on supersonic flight;

(B) a list of specific technological, environmental, and other challenges that must be overcome to minimize the environmental impact, including noise, of supersonic overland flight;

(C) a research plan to address the challenges under subparagraph (B), including a project timeline for accomplishing relevant research goals;

(D) a plan for coordination with stakeholders, including relevant government agencies and industry; and

(E) a plan for how the Administration will ensure that sonic boom research is coordinated as appropriate with relevant Federal agencies.

SEC. 605. ROTORCRAFT RESEARCH.

(a) ROADMAP FOR ROTORCRAFT RESEARCH.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a roadmap for research relating to rotorcraft and other runway-independent air vehicles.

(b) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the roadmap is to develop and demonstrate improved safety, noise, and environmental impact in a relevant environment.

(c) CONTENTS.—The roadmap shall include specific goals for the research, a timeline for implementation, metrics for success, and guidelines for collaboration and coordination with industry and other Federal agencies.

TITLE VII—SPACE TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 701. SPACE TECHNOLOGY INFUSION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SPACE TECHNOLOGY.—It is the sense of Congress that space technology is critical—

(1) to developing technologies and capabilities that will make the Administration's core missions more affordable and more reliable;

(2) to enabling a new class of Administration missions beyond low-Earth orbit; and

(3) to improving technological capabilities and promote innovation for the Administration and the Nation.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PROPULSION TECHNOLOGY.—It is the sense of Congress that advancing propulsion technology would improve the efficiency of trips to Mars and could shorten travel time to Mars, reduce astronaut health risks, and reduce radiation exposure, consumables, and mass of materials required for the journey.

(c) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States that the Administrator shall develop technologies to support the Administration's

core missions, as described in section 2(3) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18301(3)), and support sustained investments in early stage innovation, fundamental research, and technologies to expand the boundaries of the national aerospace enterprise.

(d) PROPULSION TECHNOLOGIES.—A goal of propulsion technologies developed under subsection (c) shall be to significantly reduce human travel time to Mars.

SEC. 702. SPACE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

(a) SPACE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Administrator shall conduct a space technology program (referred to in this section as the "Program") to research and develop advanced space technologies that could deliver innovative solutions across the Administration's space exploration and science missions.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the Program, the Administrator shall consider—

(1) the recommendations of the National Academies' review of the Administration's Space Technology roadmaps and priorities; and

(2) the applicable enabling aspects of the stepping stone approach to exploration under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the Program, the Administrator shall—

(1) to the extent practicable, use a competitive process to select research and development projects;

(2) to the extent practicable and appropriate, use small satellites and the Administration's suborbital and ground-based platforms to demonstrate space technology concepts and developments; and

(3) as appropriate, partner with other Federal agencies, universities, private industry, and foreign countries.

(d) SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall organize and manage the Administration's Small Business Innovation Research Program and Small Business Technology Transfer Program within the Program.

(e) NONDUPLICATION CERTIFICATION.—The Administrator shall submit a budget for each fiscal year, as transmitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, that avoids duplication of projects, programs, or missions conducted by Program with other projects, programs, or missions conducted by another office or directorate of the Administration.

(f) COLLABORATION, COORDINATION, AND ALIGNMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

(A) ensure that the Administration's projects, programs, and activities in support of technology research and development of advanced space technologies are fully coordinated and aligned;

(B) ensure that the results the projects, programs, and activities under subparagraph (A) are shared and leveraged within the Administration; and

(C) ensure that the organizational responsibility for research and development activities in support of human space exploration not initiated as of the date of enactment of this Act is established on the basis of a sound rationale.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that projects, programs, and missions being conducted by the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate in support of research and development of advanced space technologies and systems focusing on human space exploration should continue in that Directorate.

(g) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide to the appropriate committees of Congress a report—

(1) comparing the Administration's space technology investments with the high-priority technology areas identified by the National Academies in the National Research Council's report on the Administration's Space Technology Roadmaps; and

(2) including—

(A) identification of how the Administration will address any gaps between the agency's investments and the recommended technology areas, including a projection of funding requirements; and

(B) identification of the rationale described in subsection (f)(1)(C).

(h) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall include in the Administration's annual budget request for each fiscal year the rationale for assigning organizational responsibility for, in the year prior to the budget fiscal year, each initiated project, program, and mission focused on research and development of advanced technologies for human space exploration.

TITLE VIII—MAXIMIZING EFFICIENCY

Subtitle A—Agency Information Technology and Cybersecurity

SEC. 811. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, in a manner that reflects the unique nature of NASA's mission and expertise—

(1) ensure the NASA Chief Information Officer, Mission Directorates, and Centers have appropriate roles in the management, governance, and oversight processes related to information technology operations and investments and information security programs for the protection of NASA systems;

(2) ensure the NASA Chief Information Officer has the appropriate resources and insight to oversee NASA information technology and information security operations and investments;

(3) provide an information technology program management framework to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of information technology investments, including relying on metrics for identifying and reducing potential duplication, waste, and cost;

(4) improve the operational linkage between the NASA Chief Information Officer and each NASA mission directorate, center, and mission support office to ensure both agency and mission needs are considered in agency-wide information technology and information security management and oversight;

(5) review the portfolio of information technology investments and spending, including information technology-related investments included as part of activities within NASA mission directorates that may not be considered information technology, to ensure investments are recognized and reported appropriately based on guidance from the Office of Management and Budget;

(6) consider appropriate revisions to the charters of information technology boards and councils that inform information technology investment and operation decisions; and

(7) consider whether the NASA Chief Information Officer should have a seat on any boards or councils described in paragraph (6).

(b) GAO STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the effectiveness of the Administration's Information Technology Governance in ensuring information technology resources are

aligned with agency missions and are cost effective and secure.

(2) CONTENTS.—The study shall include an assessment of—

(A) the resources available for overseeing Administration-wide information technology operations, investments, and security measures and the NASA Chief Information Officer's visibility and involvement into information technology oversight and access to those resources;

(B) the effectiveness and challenges of the Administration's information technology structure, decision making processes and authorities, including impacts on its ability to implement information security; and

(C) the impact of NASA Chief Information Officer approval authority over information technology investments that exceed a defined monetary threshold, including any potential impacts of such authority on the Administration's missions, flights programs and projects, research activities, and Center operations.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the results of the study under paragraph (1), including any recommendations.

SEC. 812. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Administrator shall develop an information technology strategic plan to guide NASA information technology management and strategic objectives.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the strategic plan, the Administrator shall ensure that the strategic plan addresses—

(1) the deadline under section 306(a) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) the requirements under section 3506 of title 44, United States Code.

(c) CONTENTS.—The strategic plan shall address, in a manner that reflects the unique nature of NASA's mission and expertise—

(1) near and long-term goals and objectives for leveraging information technology;

(2) a plan for how NASA will submit to Congress of a list of information technology projects, including completion dates and risk level in accordance with guidance from the Office of Management and Budget;

(3) an implementation overview for an agency-wide approach to information technology investments and operations, including reducing barriers to cross-center collaboration;

(4) coordination by the NASA Chief Information Officer with centers and mission directorates to ensure that information technology policies are effectively and efficiently implemented across the agency;

(5) a plan to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of information technology investments, including a description of how unnecessarily duplicative, wasteful, legacy, or outdated information technology across NASA will be identified and eliminated, and a schedule for the identification and elimination of such information technology;

(6) a plan for improving the information security of agency information and agency information systems, including improving security control assessments and role-based security training of employees; and

(7) submission by NASA to Congress of information regarding high risk projects and cybersecurity risks.

(d) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—The Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the strategic plan under subsection (a) and any updates thereto.

SEC. 813. CYBERSECURITY.

(a) FINDING.—The security of NASA information and information systems is vital to the success of the mission of the agency.

(b) INFORMATION SECURITY PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall implement the information security plan developed under paragraph (2) and take such further actions as the Administrator considers necessary to improve the information security system in accordance with this section.

(2) INFORMATION SECURITY PLAN.—Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), the Administrator shall develop an agency-wide information security plan to enhance information security for NASA information and information infrastructure.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the plan under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall ensure that the plan—

(A) reflects the unique nature of NASA's mission and expertise;

(B) is informed by policies, standards, guidelines, and directives on information security required for Federal agencies;

(C) is consistent with the standards and guidelines under section 11331 of title 40, United States Code; and

(D) meets applicable National Institute of Standards and Technology information security standards and guidelines.

(4) CONTENTS.—The plan shall address—

(A) an overview of the requirements of the information security system;

(B) an agency-wide risk management framework for information security;

(C) a description of the information security system management controls and common controls that are necessary to ensure compliance with information security-related requirements;

(D) an identification and assignment of roles, responsibilities, and management commitment for information security at the agency;

(E) coordination among organizational entities, including between each center, facility, mission directorate, and mission support office, and among agency entities responsible for different aspects of information security;

(F) the need to protect the information security of mission-critical systems and activities and high-impact and moderate-impact information systems; and

(G) a schedule of frequent reviews and updates, as necessary, of the plan.

SEC. 814. SECURITY MANAGEMENT OF FOREIGN NATIONAL ACCESS.

The Administrator shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress when the agency has implemented the information technology security recommendations from the National Academy of Public Administration on foreign national access management, based on reports from January 2014 and March 2016.

SEC. 815. CYBERSECURITY OF WEB APPLICATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall, in a manner that reflects the unique nature of NASA's mission and expertise—

(1) develop a plan, including such actions and milestones as are necessary, to fully remediate security vulnerabilities of NASA web applications within a timely fashion after discovery; and

(2) provide an update on its plan to implement the recommendation from the NASA Inspector General in the audit report dated July 10, 2014, (IG-14-023) to remove from the

Internet or otherwise secure all NASA web applications in development or testing mode.

Subtitle B—Collaboration Among Mission Directorates and Other Matters

SEC. 821. COLLABORATION AMONG MISSION DIRECTORATES.

The Administrator shall encourage an interdisciplinary approach among all NASA mission directorates and divisions, whenever appropriate, for projects or missions—

- (1) to improve coordination, and encourage collaboration and early planning on scope;
- (2) to determine areas of overlap or alignment;
- (3) to find ways to leverage across divisional perspectives to maximize outcomes; and
- (4) to be more efficient with resources and funds.

SEC. 822. NASA LAUNCH CAPABILITIES COLLABORATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Launch Services Program is responsible for the acquisition, management, and technical oversight of commercial launch services for NASA's science and robotic missions.

(2) The Commercial Crew Program is responsible for the acquisition, management, and technical oversight of commercial crew transportation systems.

(3) The Launch Services Program and Commercial Crew Program have worked together to gain exceptional technical insight into the contracted launch service providers that are common to both programs.

(4) The Launch Services Program has a long history of oversight of 12 different launch vehicles and over 80 launches.

(5) Co-location of the Launch Services Program and Commercial Crew Program has enabled the Commercial Crew Program to efficiently obtain the launch vehicle technical expertise of and provide engineering and analytical support to the Commercial Crew Program.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Launch Services Program and Commercial Crew Program each benefit from communication and coordination of launch manifests, technical information, and common launch vehicle insight between the programs; and

(2) such communication and coordination is enabled by the co-location of the programs.

(c) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall pursue a strategy for acquisition of crewed transportation services and non-crewed launch services that continues to enhance communication, collaboration, and coordination between the Launch Services Program and the Commercial Crew Program.

SEC. 823. DETECTION AND AVOIDANCE OF COUNTERFEIT PARTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) A 2012 investigation by the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate of counterfeit electronic parts in the Department of Defense supply chain from 2009 through 2010 uncovered 1,800 cases and over 1,000,000 counterfeit parts and exposed the threat such counterfeit parts pose to service members and national security.

(2) Since 2010, the Comptroller General of the United States has identified in 3 separate reports the risks and challenges associated with counterfeit parts and counterfeit prevention at both the Department of Defense and NASA, including inconsistent definitions of counterfeit parts, poorly targeted quality

control practices, and potential barriers to improvements to these practices.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the presence of counterfeit electronic parts in the NASA supply chain poses a danger to United States government astronauts, crew, and other personnel and a risk to the agency overall.

(c) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall revise the NASA Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation to improve the detection and avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts in the supply chain.

(2) CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—In revising the regulations under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall—

(A) require each covered contractor—

(i) to detect and avoid the use or inclusion of any counterfeit parts in electronic parts or products that contain electronic parts;

(ii) to take such corrective actions as the Administrator considers necessary to remedy the use or inclusion described in clause (i); and

(iii) including a subcontractor, to notify the applicable NASA contracting officer not later than 30 calendar days after the date the covered contractor becomes aware, or has reason to suspect, that any end item, component, part or material contained in supplies purchased by NASA, or purchased by a covered contractor or subcontractor for delivery to, or on behalf of, NASA, contains a counterfeit electronic part or suspect counterfeit electronic part; and

(B) prohibit the cost of counterfeit electronic parts, suspect counterfeit electronic parts, and any corrective action described under subparagraph (A)(ii) from being included as allowable costs under agency contracts, unless—

(i)(I) the covered contractor has an operational system to detect and avoid counterfeit electronic parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts that has been reviewed and approved by NASA or the Department of Defense; and

(II) the covered contractor has provided the notice under subparagraph (A)(iii); or

(ii) the counterfeit electronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic parts were provided to the covered contractor as Government property in accordance with part 45 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(3) SUPPLIERS OF ELECTRONIC PARTS.—In revising the regulations under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall—

(A) require NASA and covered contractors, including subcontractors, at all tiers—

(i) to obtain electronic parts that are in production or currently available in stock from—

(I) the original manufacturers of the parts or their authorized dealers; or

(II) suppliers who obtain such parts exclusively from the original manufacturers of the parts or their authorized dealers; and

(ii) to obtain electronic parts that are not in production or currently available in stock from suppliers that meet qualification requirements established under subparagraph (C);

(B) establish documented requirements consistent with published industry standards or Government contract requirements for—

(i) notification of the agency; and

(ii) inspection, testing, and authentication of electronic parts that NASA or a covered contractor, including a subcontractor, obtains from any source other than a source described in subparagraph (A);

(C) establish qualification requirements, consistent with the requirements of section 2319 of title 10, United States Code, pursuant to which NASA may identify suppliers that have appropriate policies and procedures in place to detect and avoid counterfeit electronic parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts; and

(D) authorize a covered contractor, including a subcontractor, to identify and use additional suppliers beyond those identified under subparagraph (C) if—

(i) the standards and processes for identifying such suppliers comply with established industry standards;

(ii) the covered contractor assumes responsibility for the authenticity of parts provided by such suppliers under paragraph (2); and

(iii) the selection of such suppliers is subject to review and audit by NASA.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED CONTRACTOR.—The term “covered contractor” means a contractor that supplies an electronic part, or a product that contains an electronic part, to NASA.

(2) ELECTRONIC PART.—The term “electronic part” means a discrete electronic component, including a microcircuit, transistor, capacitor, resistor, or diode, that is intended for use in a safety or mission critical application.

SEC. 824. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) United States competitiveness in the 21st century requires engaging the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this section as “STEM”) talent in all States;

(2) the Administration is uniquely positioned to educate and inspire students and the broader public on STEM subjects and careers;

(3) the Administration's Education and Communication Offices, Mission Directorates, and Centers have been effective in delivering educational content because of the strong engagement of Administration scientists and engineers in the Administration's education and outreach activities;

(4) the Administration's education and outreach programs, including the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and the Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, reflect the Administration's successful commitment to growing and diversifying the national science and engineering workforce; and

(5) in order to grow and diversify the Nation's engineering workforce, it is vital for the Administration to bolster programs, such as High Schools United with NASA to Create Hardware (HUNCH) program, that conduct outreach activities to underserved rural communities, vocational schools, and tribal colleges and universities and encourage new participation in the STEM workforce.

(b) CONTINUATION OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall continue engagement with the public and education opportunities for students via all the Administration's mission directorates to the maximum extent practicable.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the Administration's near-term outreach plans for advancing space law education.

SEC. 825. LEVERAGING COMMERCIAL SATELLITE SERVICING CAPABILITIES ACROSS MISSION DIRECTORATES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Refueling and relocating aging satellites to extend their operational lifetimes is a capacity that NASA will substantially benefit from and is important for lowering the costs of ongoing scientific, national security, and commercial satellite operations.

(2) The technologies involved in satellite servicing, such as dexterous robotic arms, propellant transfer systems, and solar electric propulsion, are all critical capabilities to support a human exploration mission to Mars.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) satellite servicing is a vital capability that will bolster the capacity and affordability of NASA's ongoing scientific and human exploration operations while simultaneously enhancing the ability of domestic companies to compete in the global marketplace; and

(2) future NASA satellites and spacecraft across mission directorates should be constructed in a manner that allows for servicing in order to maximize operational longevity and affordability.

(c) LEVERAGING OF CAPABILITIES.—The Administrator shall identify orbital assets in both the Science Mission Directorate and the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate that could benefit from satellite servicing-related technologies, and shall work across all NASA mission directorates to evaluate opportunities for the private sector to perform such services or advance technical capabilities by leveraging the technologies and techniques developed by NASA programs and other industry programs.

SEC. 826. FLIGHT OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) DEVELOPMENT OF PAYLOADS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to conduct necessary research, the Administrator shall continue and, as the Administrator considers appropriate, expand the development of technology payloads for—

(A) scientific research; and

(B) investigating new or improved capabilities.

(2) FUNDS.—For the purpose of carrying out paragraph (1), the Administrator shall make funds available for—

(A) flight testing;

(B) payload development; and

(C) hardware related to subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(b) REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.—Congress reaffirms that the Administrator should provide flight opportunities for payloads to microgravity environments and suborbital altitudes as authorized by section 907 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18405).

SEC. 827. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SMALL CLASS LAUNCH MISSIONS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Venture Class Launch Services contracts awarded under the Launch Services Program will expand opportunities for future dedicated launches of CubeSats and other small satellites and small orbital science missions; and

(2) principal investigator-led small orbital science missions, including CubeSat class, Small Explorer (SMEX) class, and Venture class, offer valuable opportunities to advance science at low cost, train the next generation of scientists and engineers, and enable participants to acquire skills in systems

engineering and systems integration that are critical to maintaining the Nation's leadership in space and to enhancing United States innovation and competitiveness abroad.

SEC. 828. BASELINE AND COST CONTROLS.

Section 30104(a)(1) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "Procedural Requirements 7120.5c, dated March 22, 2005" and inserting "Procedural Requirements 7120.5E, dated August 14, 2012".

SEC. 829. COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM.

Section 50116(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting ", while protecting national security" after "research community".

SEC. 830. AVOIDING ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN MAJOR ADMINISTRATION ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) REVISED REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall revise the Administration Regulation to the Federal Acquisition Regulation to provide uniform guidance and recommend revised requirements for organizational conflicts of interest by contractors in major acquisition programs in order to address the elements identified in subsection (b).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The revised regulations under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum—

(1) address organizational conflicts of interest that could potentially arise as a result of—

(A) lead system integrator contracts on major acquisition programs and contracts that follow lead system integrator contracts on such programs, particularly contracts for production;

(B) the ownership of business units performing systems engineering and technical assistance functions, professional services, or management support services in relation to major acquisition programs by contractors who simultaneously own business units competing to perform as either the prime contractor or the supplier of a major subsystem or component for such programs;

(C) the award of major subsystem contracts by a prime contractor for a major acquisition program to business units or other affiliates of the same parent corporate entity, and particularly the award of subcontracts for software integration or the development of a proprietary software system architecture; or

(D) the performance by, or assistance of, contractors in technical evaluations on major acquisition programs;

(2) require the Administration to request advice on systems architecture and systems engineering matters with respect to major acquisition programs from objective sources independent of the prime contractor;

(3) require that a contract for the performance of systems engineering and technical assistance functions for a major acquisition program contains a provision prohibiting the contractor or any affiliate of the contractor from participating as a prime contractor or a major subcontractor in the development of a system under the program; and

(4) establish such limited exceptions to the requirement in paragraphs (2) and (3) as the Administrator considers necessary to ensure that the Administration has continued access to advice on systems architecture and systems engineering matters from highly qualified contractors with domain experience and expertise, while ensuring that such advice comes from sources that are objective and unbiased.

SEC. 831. PROTECTION OF APOLLO LANDING SITES.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies and stakeholders, shall assess the issues relating to protecting and preserving historically important Apollo Program lunar landing sites and Apollo program artifacts residing on the lunar surface, including those pertaining to Apollo 11 and Apollo 17.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the assessment, the Director shall include—

(1) a determination of what risks to the protection and preservation of those sites and artifacts exist or may exist in the future;

(2) a determination of what measures are required to ensure such protection and preservation;

(3) a determination of the extent to which additional domestic legislation or international treaties or agreements will be required; and

(4) specific recommendations for protecting and preserving those lunar landing sites and artifacts.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the results of the assessment.

SEC. 832. NASA LEASE OF NON-EXCESS PROPERTY.

Section 20145(g) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "10 years after December 26, 2007" and inserting "December 31, 2018".

SEC. 833. TERMINATION LIABILITY.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the ISS, the Space Launch System, and the Orion will enable the Nation to continue operations in low-Earth orbit and to send its astronauts to deep space;

(2) the James Webb Space Telescope will revolutionize our understanding of star and planet formation and how galaxies evolved, and will advance the search for the origins of our universe;

(3) as a result of their unique capabilities and their critical contribution to the future of space exploration, these systems have been designated by Congress and the Administration as priority investments;

(4) contractors are currently holding program funding, estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars, to cover the potential termination liability should the Government choose to terminate a program for convenience;

(5) as a result, hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are unavailable for meaningful work on these programs;

(6) according to the Government Accountability Office, the Administration procures most of its goods and services through contracts, and it terminates very few of them;

(7) in fiscal year 2010, the Administration terminated 28 of 16,343 active contracts and orders, a termination rate of about 0.17 percent; and

(8) the Administration should vigorously pursue a policy on termination liability that maximizes the utilization of its appropriated funds to make maximum progress in meeting established technical goals and schedule milestones on these high-priority programs.

SEC. 834. INDEPENDENT REVIEWS.

Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing—

(1) the Administration's procedures for conducting independent reviews of projects and programs at lifecycle milestones;

(2) how the Administration ensures the independence of the individuals who conduct those reviews prior to their assignment;

(3) the internal and external entities independent of project and program management that conduct reviews of projects and programs at life cycle milestones; and

(4) how the Administration ensures the independence of such entities and their members.

SEC. 835. NASA ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) **ASSESSMENT.**—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Public Administration to assess the effectiveness of the NASA Advisory Council and to make recommendations to Congress for any change to—

(1) the functions of the Council;

(2) the appointment of members to the Council;

(3) the qualifications for members of the Council;

(4) the duration of terms of office for members of the Council;

(5) the frequency of meetings of the Council;

(6) the structure of leadership and Committees of the Council; and

(7) the levels of professional staffing for the Council.

(b) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In carrying out the assessment under subsection (a), the National Academy of Public Administration shall—

(1) consider the impacts of broadening the Council's role to include providing consultation and advice to Congress under section 20113(g) of title 51, United States Code;

(2) consider the past activities of the NASA Advisory Council and the activities of other analogous Federal advisory bodies; and

(3) any other issues that the National Academy of Public Administration determines could potentially impact the effectiveness of the Council.

(c) **REPORT.**—The National Academy of Public Administration shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the results of the assessment, including any recommendations.

(d) **CONSULTATION AND ADVICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 20113(g) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and Congress” after “advice to the Administration”.

(2) **SUNSET.**—Effective September 30, 2017, section 20113(g) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking “and Congress”.

SEC. 836. COST ESTIMATION.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) realistic cost estimating is critically important to the ultimate success of major space development projects; and

(2) the Administration has devoted significant efforts over the past 5 years to improving its cost estimating capabilities, but it is important that the Administration continue its efforts to develop and implement guidance in establishing realistic cost estimates.

(b) **GUIDANCE AND CRITERIA.**—The Administrator shall provide to its acquisition programs and projects, in a manner consistent with the Administration's Space Flight Program and Project Management Requirements—

(1) guidance on when to use an Independent Cost Estimate and Independent Cost Assessment; and

(2) criteria to use to make a determination under paragraph (1).

SEC. 837. FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Administration must address, mitigate, and reverse, where possible, the deterioration of its facilities and infrastructure, as their condition is hampering the effectiveness and efficiency of research performed by both the Administration and industry participants making use of Administration facilities, thus harming the competitiveness of the United States aerospace industry;

(2) the Administration has a role in providing laboratory capabilities to industry participants that are not economically viable as commercial entities and thus are not available elsewhere;

(3) to ensure continued access to reliable and efficient world-class facilities by researchers, the Administration should establish strategic partnerships with other Federal agencies, institutions of higher education, and industry, as appropriate; and

(4) decisions on whether to dispose of, maintain, or modernize existing facilities must be made in the context of meeting Administration and other needs, including those required to meet the activities supporting the Human Exploration Roadmap under section 432 of this Act, consider other national laboratory needs as the Administrator deems appropriate.

(b) **POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States that the Administration maintain reliable and efficient facilities and infrastructure and that decisions on whether to dispose of, maintain, or modernize existing facilities or infrastructure be made in the context of meeting future Administration needs.

(c) **PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall develop a facilities and infrastructure plan.

(2) **GOAL.**—The goal of the plan is to position the Administration to have the facilities and infrastructure, including laboratories, tools, and approaches, necessary to meet future Administration and other Federal agencies' laboratory needs.

(3) **CONTENTS.**—The plan shall identify—

(A) current Administration and other Federal agency laboratory needs;

(B) future Administration research and development and testing needs;

(C) a strategy for identifying facilities and infrastructure that are candidates for disposal, that is consistent with the national strategic direction set forth in—

(i) the National Space Policy;

(ii) the National Aeronautics Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Infrastructure Plan;

(iii) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–155; 119 Stat. 2895), National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–422; 122 Stat. 4779), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18301 et seq.); and

(iv) the Human Exploration Roadmap under section 432 of this Act;

(D) a strategy for the maintenance, repair, upgrading, and modernization of Administration facilities and infrastructure, including laboratories and equipment; and

(E) criteria for—

(i) prioritizing deferred maintenance tasks;

(ii) maintaining, repairing, upgrading, or modernizing Administration facilities and infrastructure; and

(iii) implementing processes, plans, and policies for guiding the Administration's Centers on whether to maintain, repair, upgrade, or modernize a facility or infrastructure and for determining the type of instrument to be used.

SEC. 838. HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 70702 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a)(3) to read as follows:

“(3) any other orbital or suborbital space vehicle carrying humans that is—

“(A) owned by the Federal Government; or

“(B) being used pursuant to a contract or Space Act Agreement with the Federal Government for carrying a government astronaut or a researcher funded by the Federal Government; or”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUT.**—The term ‘government astronaut’ has the meaning given the term in section 50902.

“(2) **SPACE ACT AGREEMENT.**—The term ‘Space Act Agreement’ means an agreement entered into by the Administration pursuant to its other transactions authority under section 20113(e).”.

SEC. 839. ORBITAL DEBRIS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) orbital debris poses serious risks to the operational space capabilities of the United States;

(2) an international commitment and integrated strategic plan are needed to mitigate the growth of orbital debris wherever possible; and

(3) the delay in the Office of Science and Technology Policy's submission of a report on the status of international coordination and development of orbital debris mitigation strategies to be inconsistent with such risks.

(b) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **COORDINATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of efforts to coordinate with foreign countries within the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee to mitigate the effects and growth of orbital debris under section 1202(b)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18441(b)(1)).

(2) **MITIGATION STRATEGY.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of the orbital debris mitigation strategy required under section 1202(b)(2) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18441(b)(2)).

SEC. 840. REVIEW OF ORBITAL DEBRIS REMOVAL CONCEPTS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) orbital debris in low-Earth orbit poses significant risks to spacecraft;

(2) such orbital debris may increase due to collisions between existing debris objects; and

(3) understanding options to address and remove orbital debris is important for ensuring safe and effective spacecraft operations in low-Earth orbit.

(b) **REVIEW.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator—

(A) in collaboration with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall solicit and review concepts and options for removing orbital debris from low-Earth orbit; and

(B) shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the solicitation and review under subparagraph (A), including recommendations on the best options for decreasing the risks associated with orbital debris.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The solicitation and review under paragraph (1) shall address the requirements for and feasibility of developing and implementing each of the options.

SA 5181. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. KIRK) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1168, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to rehabilitation innovation centers under the Medicare program; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Preserving Rehabilitation Innovation Centers Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In the United States, there are an estimated 1,181 inpatient rehabilitation facilities. Among these facilities is a small group of inpatient rehabilitation institutions that are contributing to the future of rehabilitation care medicine, as well as to patient recovery, scientific innovation, and quality of life.

(2) This unique category of inpatient rehabilitation institutions treats the most complex patient conditions, such as traumatic brain injury, stroke, spinal cord injury, childhood disease, burns, and wartime injuries.

(3) These leading inpatient rehabilitation institutions are all not-for-profit or Government-owned institutions and serve a high volume of Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries.

(4) These leading inpatient rehabilitation institutions have been recognized by the Federal Government for their contributions to cutting-edge research to develop solutions that enhance quality of care, improve patient outcomes, and reduce health care costs.

(5) These leading inpatient rehabilitation institutions help to improve the practice and standard of rehabilitation medicine across the Nation in urban, suburban, and rural communities by training physicians, medical students, and other clinicians, and providing care to patients from all 50 States.

(6) It is vital that these leading inpatient rehabilitation institutions are supported so they can continue to lead the Nation’s efforts to—

(A) advance integrated, multidisciplinary rehabilitation research;

(B) provide cutting-edge medical care to the most complex rehabilitation patients;

(C) serve as education and training facilities for the physicians, nurses, and other health professionals who serve rehabilitation patients;

(D) ensure Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries receive state-of-the-art, high-quality rehabilitation care by developing and disseminating best practices and advancing the quality of care utilized by post-acute providers in all 50 States; and

(E) support other inpatient rehabilitation institutions in rural areas to help ensure access to quality post-acute care for patients living in these communities.

SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT RELATING TO THE COSTS INCURRED BY, AND THE MEDICARE PAYMENTS MADE TO, REHABILITATION INNOVATION CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(j) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(j)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (9); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following new paragraph:

“(8) STUDY AND REPORT RELATING TO THE COSTS INCURRED BY, AND THE MEDICARE PAYMENTS MADE TO, REHABILITATION INNOVATION CENTERS.—

“(A) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to assess the costs incurred by rehabilitation innovation centers (as defined in subparagraph (C)) that are beyond the prospective rate for each of the following activities:

“(i) Furnishing items and services to individuals under this title.

“(ii) Conducting research.

“(iii) Providing medical training.

“(B) REPORT.—Not later than July 1, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study under subparagraph (A), together with recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(C) REHABILITATION INNOVATION CENTER DEFINED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term ‘rehabilitation innovation center’ means a rehabilitation facility that, determined as of the date of the enactment of this paragraph, is described in clause (ii) or clause (iii).

“(ii) NOT-FOR-PROFIT.—A rehabilitation facility described in this clause is a facility that—

“(I) is classified as a not-for-profit entity under the IRF Rate Setting File for the Correction Notice for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2012 (78 Fed. Reg. 59256);

“(II) holds at least one Federal rehabilitation research and training designation for research projects on traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, or stroke rehabilitation research from the Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers or the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center at the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research at the Department of Education, based on such data submitted to the Secretary by a facility, in a form, manner, and time frame specified by the Secretary;

“(III) has a minimum Medicare case mix index of 1.1144 for fiscal year 2012 according to the IRF Rate Setting File described in subclause (I); and

“(IV) had at least one Medicare discharges or at least 200 Medicaid discharges in a prior year as determined by the Secretary.

“(iii) GOVERNMENT-OWNED.—A rehabilitation facility described in this clause is a facility that—

“(I) is classified as a Government-owned institution under the IRF Rate Setting File described in clause (ii)(I);

“(II) holds at least one Federal rehabilitation research and training designation for research projects on traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, or stroke rehabilitation research from the Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers, the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center, or the Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems at the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research at the Department of Education,

based on such data submitted to the Secretary by a facility, in a form, manner, and time frame specified by the Secretary;

“(III) has a minimum Medicare case mix index of 1.1144 for 2012 according to the IRF Rate Setting File described in clause (ii)(I); and

“(IV) has a Medicare disproportionate share hospital (DSH) percentage of at least 0.6300 according to the IRF Rate Setting File described in clause (ii)(I).”.

SA 5182. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3021, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to pursue independent study programs at certain educational institutions that are not institutions of higher learning; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Education Improvement Act of 2016” or the “VEI Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PURSUE INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAMS AT CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE NOT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.

Paragraph (4) of section 3680A(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(4) any independent study program except—

“(A) with respect to enrollments occurring during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Veterans Education Improvement Act of 2016 and ending on September 30, 2018, an independent study program (including open circuit television) that—

“(i) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency; and

“(ii) leads—

“(I) to a standard college degree;

“(II) to a certificate that reflects educational attainment offered by an institution of higher learning; or

“(III) to a certificate that reflects completion of a course of study offered by—

“(aa) an area career and technical education school (as defined in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of section 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3))) that provides education at the postsecondary level; or

“(bb) a postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in section 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))) that provides education at the postsecondary level; and

“(B) with respect to enrollments occurring during any period other than the period described in subparagraph (A), an accredited independent study program (including open circuit television) leading—

“(i) to a standard college degree; or

“(ii) to a certificate that reflects educational attainment offered by an institution of higher learning.”.

SEC. 3. APPROVAL OF COURSES OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR PURPOSES OF THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3104(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” before “A rehabilitation”; and

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

“(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), to the maximum extent practicable, a course of education or training may be pursued by a veteran as part of a rehabilitation program under this chapter only if the course is approved for purposes of chapter 30 or 33 of this title.

“(B) The Secretary may waive the requirement under subparagraph (A) to the extent the Secretary determines appropriate.”

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a course of education or training pursued by a veteran who first begins a program of rehabilitation under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, on or after the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO PRIORITIZE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BASED ON NEED.

Section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 3, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c)(1) The Secretary shall have the authority to administer this chapter by prioritizing the provision of services under this chapter based on need, as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) In evaluating need for purposes of this subsection, the Secretary shall consider disability ratings, the severity of employment handicaps, qualification for a program of independent living services and assistance, income, and such other factors as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(3) Not later than 90 days before making any changes to the prioritization of the provision of services under this chapter as authorized under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a plan describing such changes.”

SEC. 5. CODIFICATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF ELECTION PROCESS FOR POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter III of chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 3325 as section 3326; and

(2) by inserting after section 3324 the following new section 3325:

“§ 3325. Election to receive educational assistance

(a) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO ELECT PARTICIPATION IN POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—An individual may elect to receive educational assistance under this chapter if such individual—

“(1) as of August 1, 2009—

“(A) is entitled to basic educational assistance under chapter 30 of this title and has used, but retains unused, entitlement under that chapter;

“(B) is entitled to educational assistance under chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 of title 10 and has used, but retains unused, entitlement under the applicable chapter;

“(C) is entitled to basic educational assistance under chapter 30 of this title but has not used any entitlement under that chapter;

“(D) is entitled to educational assistance under chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 of title 10 but has not used any entitlement under such chapter;

“(E) is a member of the Armed Forces who is eligible for receipt of basic educational assistance under chapter 30 of this title and is making contributions toward such assist-

ance under section 3011(b) or 3012(c) of this title; or

“(F) is a member of the Armed Forces who is not entitled to basic educational assistance under chapter 30 of this title by reason of an election under section 3011(c)(1) or 3012(d)(1) of this title; and

“(2) as of the date of the individual's election under this paragraph, meets the requirements for entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter.

“(b) **CESSATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD GI BILL.**—Effective as of the first month beginning on or after the date of an election under subsection (a) of an individual described by paragraph (1)(E) of that subsection, the obligation of the individual to make contributions under section 3011(b) or 3012(c) of this title, as applicable, shall cease, and the requirements of such section shall be deemed to be no longer applicable to the individual.

“(c) **REVOCAION OF REMAINING TRANSFERRED ENTITLEMENT.**—

“(1) **ELECTION TO REVOKE.**—If, on the date an individual described in paragraph (1)(A) or (1)(C) of subsection (a) makes an election under that subsection, a transfer of the entitlement of the individual to basic educational assistance under section 3020 of this title is in effect and a number of months of the entitlement so transferred remain unutilized, the individual may elect to revoke all or a portion of the entitlement so transferred that remains unutilized.

“(2) **AVAILABILITY OF REVOKED ENTITLEMENT.**—Any entitlement revoked by an individual under this paragraph shall no longer be available to the dependent to whom transferred, but shall be available to the individual instead for educational assistance under chapter 33 of this title in accordance with the provisions of this section.

“(3) **AVAILABILITY OF UNREVOKED ENTITLEMENT.**—Any entitlement described in paragraph (1) that is not revoked by an individual in accordance with that paragraph shall remain available to the dependent or dependents concerned in accordance with the current transfer of such entitlement under section 3020 of this title.

“(d) **POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2) and except as provided in subsection (e), an individual making an election under subsection (a) shall be entitled to educational assistance under this chapter in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, instead of basic educational assistance under chapter 30 of this title, or educational assistance under chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 of title 10, as applicable.

“(2) **LIMITATION ON ENTITLEMENT FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.**—In the case of an individual making an election under subsection (a) who is described by paragraph (1)(A) of that subsection, the number of months of entitlement of the individual to educational assistance under this chapter shall be the number of months equal to—

“(A) the number of months of unused entitlement of the individual under chapter 30 of this title, as of the date of the election, plus

“(B) the number of months, if any, of entitlement revoked by the individual under subsection (c)(1).

“(e) **CONTINUING ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE NOT AVAILABLE UNDER 9/11 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In the event educational assistance to which an individual making an election under subsection (a) would be entitled under chapter 30 of this title, or chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 of title 10, as applicable, is

not authorized to be available to the individual under the provisions of this chapter the individual shall remain entitled to such educational assistance in accordance with the provisions of the applicable chapter.

“(2) **CHARGE FOR USE OF ENTITLEMENT.**—The utilization by an individual of entitlement under paragraph (1) shall be chargeable against the entitlement of the individual to educational assistance under this chapter at the rate of one month of entitlement under this chapter for each month of entitlement utilized by the individual under paragraph (1) (as determined as if such entitlement were utilized under the provisions of chapter 30 of this title, or chapter 107, 1606, or 1607 of title 10, as applicable).

“(f) **ADDITIONAL POST-9/11 ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS HAVING MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD GI BILL.**—

“(1) **ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.**—In the case of an individual making an election under subsection (a) who is described by subparagraph (A), (C), or (E) of paragraph (1) of that subsection, the amount of educational assistance payable to the individual under this chapter as a monthly stipend payable under paragraph (1)(B) of section 3313(c) of this title, or under paragraphs (2) through (7) of that section (as applicable), shall be the amount otherwise payable as a monthly stipend under the applicable paragraph increased by the amount equal to—

“(A) the total amount of contributions toward basic educational assistance made by the individual under section 3011(b) or 3012(c) of this title, as of the date of the election, multiplied by

“(B) the fraction—

“(i) the numerator of which is—

“(I) the number of months of entitlement to basic educational assistance under chapter 30 of this title remaining to the individual at the time of the election; plus

“(II) the number of months, if any, of entitlement under chapter 30 revoked by the individual under subsection (c)(1); and

“(ii) the denominator of which is 36 months.

“(2) **MONTHS OF REMAINING ENTITLEMENT FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.**—In the case of an individual covered by paragraph (1) who is described by subsection (a)(1)(E), the number of months of entitlement to basic educational assistance remaining to the individual for purposes of paragraph (1)(B)(i)(II) shall be 36 months.

“(3) **TIMING OF PAYMENT.**—The amount payable with respect to an individual under paragraph (1) shall be paid to the individual together with the last payment of the monthly stipend payable to the individual under paragraph (1)(B) of section 3313(c) of this title, or under paragraphs (2) through (7) of that section (as applicable), before the exhaustion of the individual's entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter.

“(g) **CONTINUING ENTITLEMENT TO ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CRITICAL SKILLS OR SPECIALITY AND ADDITIONAL SERVICE.**—An individual making an election under subsection (a)(1) who, at the time of the election, is entitled to increased educational assistance under section 3015(d) of this title, or section 16131(i) of title 10, or supplemental educational assistance under subchapter III of chapter 30 of this title, shall remain entitled to such increased educational assistance or supplemental educational assistance in the utilization of entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter, in an amount equal to the quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, equivalent of the monthly amount of such increased educational assistance or supplemental educational assistance

payable with respect to the individual at the time of the election.

“(h) ALTERNATIVE ELECTION BY SECRETARY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual who, on or after January 1, 2016, submits to the Secretary an election under this section that the Secretary determines is clearly against the interests of the individual, or who fails to make an election under this section, the Secretary may make an alternative election on behalf of the individual that the Secretary determines is in the best interests of the individual.

“(2) NOTICE.—If the Secretary makes an election on behalf of an individual under this subsection, the Secretary shall notify the individual by not later than seven days after making such election and shall provide the individual with a 30-day period, beginning on the date of the individual’s receipt of such notice, during which the individual may modify or revoke the election made by the Secretary on the individual’s behalf. The Secretary shall include, as part of such notice, a clear statement of why the alternative election made by the Secretary is in the best interests of the individual as compared to the election submitted by the individual. The Secretary shall provide the notice required under this paragraph by electronic means whenever possible.

“(i) IRREVOCABILITY OF ELECTIONS.—An election under subsection (a) or (c)(1) is irrevocable.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking the item relating to section 3325 and inserting the following new items:

“3325. Election to receive educational assistance.

“3326. Reporting requirement.”

(c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Subsection (c) of section 5003 of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 38 U.S.C. 3301 note) is hereby repealed.

SEC. 6. WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCE.

Section 3485(a)(4) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “June 30, 2013” each place it appears and inserting “June 30, 2013, or the period beginning on June 30, 2017, and ending on June 30, 2022”.

SEC. 7. RETENTION OF ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE DURING CERTAIN ADDITIONAL PERIODS OF ACTIVE DUTY.

(a) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE.—Section 16131(c)(3)(B)(i) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “or 12304” and inserting “12304, 12304a, or 12304b”.

(b) EXPIRATION DATE.—Section 16133(b)(4) of such title is amended by striking “or 12304” and inserting “12304, 12304a, or 12304b”.

SEC. 8. REPORTS ON PROGRESS OF STUDENTS RECEIVING POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 5, is further amended—

(1) in subsection 3326(c), as redesignated—
(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph (3):

“(3) the information received by the Secretary under section 3327 of this title; and”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 3327. Report on student progress

“As a condition on approval under chapter 36 of this title of a course offered by an educational institution (as defined in section 3452 of this title), each year, each educational institution (as so defined) that received a payment in that year on behalf of an individual entitled to educational assistance under this chapter shall submit to the Secretary such information regarding the academic progress of the individual as the Secretary may require.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by section 5, is further amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“3327. Report on student progress.”

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 9. CENTRALIZED REPORTING OF VETERAN ENROLLMENT BY CERTAIN GROUPS, DISTRICTS, AND CONSORTIUMS OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3684(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “32, 33,” after “31,”; and

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

“(4) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘educational institution’ may include a group, district, or consortium of separately accredited educational institutions located in the same State that are organized in a manner that facilitates the centralized reporting of the enrollments in such group, district, or consortium of institutions.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to reports submitted on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 10. ROLE OF STATE APPROVING AGENCIES.

(a) APPROVAL OF CERTAIN COURSES.—Section 3672(b)(2)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “the following” and all that follows through the colon and inserting the following: “a program of education is deemed to be approved for purposes of this chapter if a State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency, determines that the program is one of the following programs.”

(b) APPROVAL OF OTHER COURSES.—Section 3675 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “The Secretary or a State approving agency” and inserting “A State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency,”; and

(B) by striking “offered by proprietary for-profit educational institutions” and inserting “not covered by section 3672 of this title”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking “the Secretary or the State approving agency” and inserting “the State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency,”; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “the Secretary or the State approving agency” and inserting “the State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency”.

SEC. 11. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL FOR PURPOSES OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO PREPARE INDIVIDUALS FOR LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION.

(a) APPROVAL OF NONACCREDITED COURSES.—Subsection (c) of section 3676 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (14) as paragraph (16); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (13) the following new paragraphs:

“(14) In the case of a course designed to prepare an individual for licensure or certification in a State, the course—

“(A) meets all instructional curriculum licensure or certification requirements of such State; and

“(B) in the case of a course designed to prepare an individual for licensure to practice law in a State, is accredited by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education under subpart 2 of part H of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b).

“(15) In the case of a course designed to prepare an individual for employment pursuant to standards developed by a board or agency of a State in an occupation that requires approval, licensure, or certification, the course—

“(A) meets such standards; and

“(B) in the case of a course designed to prepare an individual for licensure to practice law in a State, is accredited by an accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education under subpart 2 of part H of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b).”

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f)(1) The Secretary may waive the requirements of paragraph (14) or (15) of subsection (c) in the case of a course of education offered by an educational institution (either accredited or not accredited) if the Secretary determines all of the following:

“(A) The educational institution is not accredited by an agency or association recognized by the Secretary of Education.

“(B) The course did not meet the requirements of such paragraph at any time during the two-year period preceding the date of the waiver.

“(C) The waiver furthers the purposes of the educational assistance programs administered by the Secretary or would further the education interests of individuals eligible for assistance under such programs.

“(D) The educational institution does not provide any commission, bonus, or other incentive payment based directly or indirectly on success in securing enrollments or financial aid to any persons or entities engaged in any student recruiting or admission activities or in making decisions regarding the award of student financial assistance, except for the recruitment of foreign students residing in foreign countries who are not eligible to receive Federal student assistance.

“(2) Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary issues a waiver under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress notice of such waiver and a justification for issuing such waiver.”

(c) APPROVAL OF ACCREDITED COURSES.—Section 3675(b)(3) of such title, as amended by section 10, is further amended—

(1) by striking “and (3)” and inserting “(3), (14), (15), and (16)”;

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “(or, with respect to such

paragraphs (14) and (15), the requirements under such paragraphs are waived pursuant to subsection (f)(1) of section 3676 of this title”.

(d) APPROVAL OF ACCREDITED STANDARD COLLEGE DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED AT PUBLIC OR NOT-FOR-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—Section 3672(b)(2) of such title is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “An accredited” and inserting “Except as provided in subparagraph (C), an accredited”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) A course that is described in both subparagraph (A)(i) of this paragraph and in paragraph (14) or (15) of section 3676(c) of this title shall not be deemed to be approved for purposes of this chapter unless—

“(i) a State approving agency, or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency, determines that the course meets the applicable criteria in such paragraphs; or

“(ii) the Secretary issues a waiver for such course under section 3676(f)(1) of this title.”.

(e) DISAPPROVAL OF COURSES.—Section 3679 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the Secretary or the applicable State approving agency shall disapprove a course of education described in paragraph (14) or (15) of section 3676(c) of this title unless the educational institution providing the course of education—

“(1) publicly discloses any conditions or additional requirements, including training, experience, or examinations, required to obtain the license, certification, or approval for which the course of education is designed to provide preparation; and

“(2) makes each disclosure required by paragraph (1) in a manner that the Secretary considers prominent (as specified by the Secretary in regulations prescribed for purposes of this subsection).”.

(f) APPLICABILITY.—If after enrollment in a course of education that is subject to disapproval by reason of an amendment made by this Act, an individual pursues one or more courses of education at the same educational institution while remaining continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between courses, semesters, or terms) at that institution, any course so pursued by the individual at that institution while so continuously enrolled shall not be subject to disapproval by reason of such amendment.

SEC. 12. COMPLIANCE SURVEYS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3693 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following new subsection (a):

“(a)(1) Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary shall conduct an annual compliance survey of educational institutions and training establishments offering one or more courses approved for the enrollment of eligible veterans or persons if at least 20 such veterans or persons are enrolled in any such course.

“(2) The Secretary shall—

“(A) design the compliance surveys required by paragraph (1) to ensure that such institutions or establishments described in such paragraph, as the case may be, and approved courses are in compliance with all applicable provisions of chapters 30 through 36 of this title;

“(B) survey each such educational institution and training establishment not less than once during every two-year period; and

“(C) assign not fewer than one education compliance specialist to work on compliance surveys in any year for each 40 compliance surveys required to be made under this section for such year.

“(3) The Secretary, in consultation with the State approving agencies, shall—

“(A) annually determine the parameters of the surveys required under paragraph (1); and

“(B) not later than September 1 of each year, make available to the State approving agencies a list of the educational institutions and training establishments that will be surveyed during the fiscal year following the date of making such list available.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) In this section, the terms ‘educational institution’ and ‘training establishment’ have the meanings given such terms in section 3452 of this title.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking “subsection (a) of this section for an annual compliance survey” and inserting “subsection (a)(1) for a compliance survey”;

(2) by striking “institution” and inserting “educational institution or training establishment”;

(3) by striking “institution’s demonstrated record of compliance” and inserting “record of compliance of such institution or establishment”.

SEC. 13. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO IN-STATE TUITION RATE FOR INDIVIDUALS TO WHOM ENTITLEMENT IS TRANSFERRED UNDER ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Subparagraph (B) of section 3679(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(B) An individual who is entitled to assistance under—

“(i) section 3311(b)(9) of this title; or

“(ii) section 3319 of this title by virtue of the individual’s relationship to—

“(I) a veteran described in subparagraph (A); or

“(II) a member of the uniformed services described in section 3319(b) of this title who is serving on active duty.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a course, semester, or term that begins after July 1, 2017.

SEC. 14. AUTHORITY OF DIRECTORS OF VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORKS TO INVESTIGATE MEDICAL CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of a Veterans Integrated Service Network of the Department of Veterans Affairs may contract with an appropriate entity specializing in civilian accreditation or health care evaluation to investigate any medical center within such Network to assess and report deficiencies of the facilities at such medical center.

(b) COORDINATION.—Before entering into any contract under subsection (a), the Director of a Veterans Integrated Service Network shall notify the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Comptroller General of the United States for purposes of coordinating any investigation conducted pursuant to such contract with any other investigations or accreditations that may be ongoing.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

(1) to prevent the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs from conducting any review, audit, evaluation, or inspection regarding a topic for which a review is conducted under subsection (a); or

(2) to modify the requirement that employees of the Department assist with any review, audit, evaluation, or inspection conducted by the Office of the Inspector General of the Department.

SA 5183. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. THUNE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 710, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL SECURITY CARD PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSESSMENT.

(a) CREDENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall commence actions, consistent with section 70105 of title 46, United States Code, to improve the Transportation Security Administration’s process for vetting individuals with access to secure areas of vessels and maritime facilities.

(2) REQUIRED ACTIONS.—The actions described under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) conducting a comprehensive risk analysis of security threat assessment procedures, including—

(i) identifying those procedures that need additional internal controls; and

(ii) identifying best practices for quality assurance at every stage of the security threat assessment;

(B) implementing the additional internal controls and best practices identified under subparagraph (A);

(C) improving fraud detection techniques, such as—

(i) by establishing benchmarks and a process for electronic document validation;

(ii) by requiring annual training for Trusted Agents; and

(iii) by reviewing any security threat assessment-related information provided by Trusted Agents and incorporating any new threat information into updated guidance under subparagraph (D);

(D) updating the guidance provided to Trusted Agents regarding the vetting process and related regulations;

(E) finalizing a manual for Trusted Agents and adjudicators on the vetting process; and

(F) establishing quality controls to ensure consistent procedures to review adjudication decisions and terrorism vetting decisions.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit a report to Congress that evaluates the implementation of the actions described in paragraph (1).

(b) COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY ASSESSMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY CARD PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall commission an assessment of the effectiveness of the transportation security card program (referred to in this section as “Program”) required under section 70105 of title 46, United

States Code, at enhancing security and reducing security risks for facilities and vessels regulated under chapter 701 of that title.

(2) **LOCATION.**—The assessment commissioned under paragraph (1) shall be conducted by a research organization with significant experience in port or maritime security, such as—

(A) a national laboratory;

(B) a university-based center within the Science and Technology Directorate's centers of excellence network; or

(C) a qualified federally-funded research and development center.

(3) **CONTENTS.**—The assessment commissioned under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) review the credentialing process by determining—

(i) the appropriateness of vetting standards;

(ii) whether the fee structure adequately reflects the current costs of vetting;

(iii) whether there is unnecessary redundancy or duplication with other Federal- or State-issued transportation security credentials; and

(iv) the appropriateness of having varied Federal and State threat assessments and access controls;

(B) review the process for renewing applications for Transportation Worker Identification Credentials, including the number of days it takes to review application, appeal, and waiver requests for additional information; and

(C) review the security value of the Program by—

(i) evaluating the extent to which the Program, as implemented, addresses known or likely security risks in the maritime and port environments;

(ii) evaluating the potential for a non-biometric credential alternative;

(iii) identifying the technology, business process, and operational impacts of the use of the transportation security card and transportation security card readers in the maritime and port environments;

(iv) assessing the costs and benefits of the Program, as implemented; and

(v) evaluating the extent to which the Secretary of Homeland Security has addressed the deficiencies in the Program identified by the Government Accountability Office and the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security before the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) **DEADLINES.**—The assessment commissioned under paragraph (1) shall be completed not later than 1 year after the date on which the assessment is commissioned.

(5) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date that the assessment is completed, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives the results of the assessment commissioned under this subsection.

(c) **CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN; PROGRAM REFORMS.**—If the assessment commissioned under subsection (b) identifies a deficiency in the effectiveness of the Program, the Secretary of Homeland Security, not later than 60 days after the date on which the assessment is completed, shall submit a corrective action plan to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee

on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that—

(1) responds to findings of the assessment;

(2) includes an implementation plan with benchmarks;

(3) may include programmatic reforms, revisions to regulations, or proposals for legislation; and

(4) shall be considered in any rulemaking by the Department of Homeland Security relating to the Program.

(d) **INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.**—If a corrective action plan is submitted under subsection (c), the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall—

(1) not later than 120 days after the date of such submission, review the extent to which such plan implements the requirements under subsection (c); and

(2) not later than 18 months after the date of such submission, and annually thereafter for 3 years, submit a report to the congressional committees set forth in subsection (c) that describes the progress of the implementation of such plan.

SA 5184. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. BAR-RASSO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1776, to enhance tribal road safety, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Tribal Infrastructure and Roads Enhancement and Safety Act” or the “TIRES Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.

In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. APPLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS TO CERTAIN TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

(a) **DEFINITION OF TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROJECT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In this section, the term “tribal transportation safety project” means a project described in paragraph (2) that is eligible for funding under section 202 of title 23, United States Code, and that—

(A) corrects or improves a hazardous road location or feature; or

(B) addresses a highway safety problem.

(2) **PROJECTS DESCRIBED.**—A project described in this paragraph is a project for 1 or more of the following:

(A) An intersection safety improvement.

(B) Pavement and shoulder widening (including the addition of a passing lane to remedy an unsafe condition).

(C) Installation of rumble strips or another warning device, if the rumble strips or other warning devices do not adversely affect the safety or mobility of bicyclists and pedestrians, including persons with disabilities.

(D) Installation of a skid-resistant surface at an intersection or other location with a high frequency of crashes.

(E) An improvement for pedestrian or bicyclist safety or the safety of persons with disabilities.

(F) Construction and improvement of a railway-highway grade crossing safety feature, including the installation of protective devices.

(G) The conduct of a model traffic enforcement activity at a railway-highway crossing.

(H) Construction of a traffic calming feature.

(I) Elimination of a roadside hazard.

(J) Installation, replacement, and other improvements of highway signage and pavement markings or a project to maintain min-

imum levels of retroreflectivity that addresses a highway safety problem consistent with a State strategic highway safety plan.

(K) Installation of a priority control system for emergency vehicles at signalized intersections.

(L) Installation of a traffic control or other warning device at a location with high crash potential.

(M) Transportation safety planning.

(N) Collection, analysis, and improvement of safety data.

(O) Planning integrated interoperable emergency communications equipment, operational activities, or traffic enforcement activities (including police assistance) relating to work zone safety.

(P) Installation of guardrails, barriers (including barriers between construction work zones and traffic lanes for the safety of road users and workers), and crash attenuators.

(Q) The addition or retrofitting of structures or other measures to eliminate or reduce crashes involving vehicles and wildlife.

(R) Installation of yellow-green signs and signals at pedestrian and bicycle crossings and in school zones.

(S) Construction and operational improvements on a high risk rural road (as defined in section 148(a) of title 23, United States Code).

(T) Geometric improvements to a road for the purposes of safety improvement.

(U) A road safety audit.

(V) Roadway safety infrastructure improvements consistent with the recommendations included in the publication of the Federal Highway Administration entitled “Handbook for Designing Roadways for the Aging Population” (FHWA-SA-14-015), dated June 2014 (or a revised or updated publication).

(W) Truck parking facilities eligible for funding under section 1401 of MAP-21 (23 U.S.C. 137 note; Public Law 112-141).

(X) Systemic safety improvements.

(Y) Installation of vehicle-to-infrastructure communication equipment.

(Z) Pedestrian hybrid beacons.

(AA) Roadway improvements that provide separation between pedestrians and motor vehicles, including medians and pedestrian crossing islands.

(BB) A physical infrastructure safety project not described in subparagraphs (A) through (AA).

(b) **NEW CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.**—

(1) **REVIEW OF EXISTING CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.**—The Secretary shall review the categorical exclusions under section 771.117 of title 23, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), to determine which, if any, are applicable for use by the Secretary in review of projects eligible for assistance under section 202 of title 23, United States Code.

(2) **REVIEW OF TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROJECTS.**—The Secretary shall identify tribal transportation safety projects that meet the requirements for categorical exclusions under sections 1507.3 and 1508.4 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) **PROPOSAL.**—The Secretary shall issue a proposed rule, in accordance with sections 1507.3 and 1508.4 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, to propose any categorical exclusions identified under paragraphs (1) and (2).

(4) **DEADLINE.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and after considering any comments on the proposed rule issued under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall promulgate a final rule for the categorical exclusions, in accordance with sections 1507.3 and 1508.4 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

(5) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Transportation shall provide technical assistance to the Secretary in carrying out this subsection.

(C) REVIEWS OF TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary or the head of another Federal agency responsible for a decision related to a tribal transportation safety project shall complete any approval or decision for the review of the tribal transportation safety project required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or any other applicable Federal law on an expeditious basis using the shortest existing applicable process.

(2) REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.—Not later than 45 days after the date of receipt of a complete application by an Indian tribe for approval of a tribal transportation safety project, the Secretary shall—

(A) take final action on the application; or

(B) provide the Indian tribe a schedule for completion of the review described in paragraph (1), including the identification of any other Federal agency that has jurisdiction with respect to the project.

(3) DECISIONS UNDER OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.—In any case in which a decision under any other Federal law relating to a tribal transportation safety project (including the issuance or denial of a permit or license) is required, not later than 45 days after the Secretary has made all decisions of the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to the project, the head of the Federal agency responsible for the decision shall—

(A) make the applicable decision; or

(B) provide the Indian tribe a schedule for making the decision.

(4) EXTENSIONS.—The Secretary or the head of an applicable Federal agency may extend the period under paragraph (2) or (3), as applicable, by an additional 30 days by providing the Indian tribe notice of the extension, including a statement of the need for the extension.

(5) NOTIFICATION AND EXPLANATION.—In any case in which a required action is not completed by the deadline under paragraph (2), (3), or (4), as applicable, the Secretary or the head of a Federal agency, as applicable, shall—

(A) notify the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives of the failure to comply with the deadline; and

(B) provide to the Committees described in subparagraph (A) a detailed explanation of the reasons for the failure to comply with the deadline.

SEC. 4. PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENTS FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into programmatic agreements with Indian tribes that establish efficient administrative procedures for carrying out environmental reviews for projects eligible for assistance under section 202 of title 23, United States Code.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—A programmatic agreement under subsection (a)—

(1) may include an agreement that allows an Indian tribe to determine, on behalf of the Secretary, whether a project is categorically excluded from the preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(2) shall—

(A) require that the Indian tribe maintain adequate capacity in terms of personnel and

other resources to carry out applicable agency responsibilities pursuant to section 1507.2 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations);

(B) set forth the responsibilities of the Indian tribe for making categorical exclusion determinations, documenting the determinations, and achieving acceptable quality control and quality assurance;

(C) allow—

(i) the Secretary to monitor compliance of the Indian tribe with the terms of the agreement; and

(ii) the Indian tribe to execute any needed corrective action;

(D) contain stipulations for amendments, termination, and public availability of the agreement once the agreement has been executed; and

(E) have a term of not more than 5 years, with an option for renewal based on a review by the Secretary of the performance of the Indian tribe.

SA 5185. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. KING) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4245, to exempt exportation of certain echinoderms and mollusks from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. EXPEDITED EXPORTATION OF CERTAIN SPECIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (referred to in this section as the “Director”) shall issue a proposed rule to amend section 14.92 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, to establish expedited procedures relating to the export permission requirements of section 9(d)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1538(d)(1)) for fish or wildlife described in subsection (c).

(b) EXEMPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the rulemaking under subsection (a), subject to paragraph (2), the Director may provide an exemption from the requirement to procure—

(A) a permission under section 9(d)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1538(d)(1)); or

(B) an export license under subpart I of part 14 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—The Director shall not provide an exemption under paragraph (1)—

(A) unless the Director determines that the exemption will not have a significant negative impact on the conservation of the species that is the subject of the exemption; or

(B) to an entity that has been convicted of a violation of a Federal law relating to the importation, transportation, or exportation of wildlife during a period of not less than 5 years ending on the date on which the entity applies for exemption under paragraph (1).

(c) COVERED FISH OR WILDLIFE.—The fish or wildlife described in this subsection are the species commonly known as sea urchins and sea cucumbers (including any product of a sea urchin or sea cucumber) that—

(1) do not require a permit under part 16, 17, or 23 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(2) are exported for purposes of human or animal consumption.

SA 5186. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. PETERS))

proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3084, to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “American Innovation and Competitiveness Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—MAXIMIZING BASIC RESEARCH

Sec. 101. Reaffirmation of merit-based peer review.

Sec. 102. Transparency and accountability.

Sec. 103. EPSCoR reaffirmation and update.

Sec. 104. Cybersecurity research.

Sec. 105. Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Update.

Sec. 106. Physical sciences coordination.

Sec. 107. Laboratory program improvements.

Sec. 108. Standard Reference Data Act update.

Sec. 109. NSF mid-scale project investments.

Sec. 110. Oversight of NSF major multi-user research facility projects.

Sec. 111. Personnel oversight.

Sec. 112. Management of the U.S. Antarctic Program.

Sec. 113. NIST campus security.

Sec. 114. Coordination of sustainable chemistry research and development.

Sec. 115. Misrepresentation of research results.

Sec. 116. Research reproducibility and replication.

Sec. 117. Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies Initiative.

TITLE II—ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY BURDEN REDUCTION

Sec. 201. Interagency working group on research regulation.

Sec. 202. Scientific and technical collaboration.

Sec. 203. NIST grants and cooperative agreements update.

Sec. 204. Repeal of certain obsolete reports.

Sec. 205. Repeal of certain provisions.

Sec. 206. Grant subrecipient transparency and oversight.

Sec. 207. Micro-purchase threshold for procurement solicitations by research institutions.

Sec. 208. Coordination of international science and technology partnerships.

TITLE III—SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH EDUCATION

Sec. 301. Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program update.

Sec. 302. Space grants.

Sec. 303. STEM Education Advisory Panel.

Sec. 304. Committee on STEM Education.

Sec. 305. Programs to expand STEM opportunities.

Sec. 306. NIST education and outreach.

Sec. 307. Presidential awards for excellence in STEM mentoring.

Sec. 308. Working group on inclusion in STEM fields.

Sec. 309. Improving undergraduate STEM experiences.

Sec. 310. Computer science education research.

Sec. 311. Informal STEM education.

Sec. 312. Developing STEM apprenticeships.
 Sec. 313. NSF report on broadening participation.

Sec. 314. NOAA science education programs.
 Sec. 315. Hispanic-serving institutions undergraduate program update.

TITLE IV—LEVERAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Sec. 401. Prize competition authority update.

Sec. 402. Crowdsourcing and citizen science.
 Sec. 403. NIST director functions update.
 Sec. 404. NIST Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology update.

TITLE V—MANUFACTURING

Sec. 501. Hollings manufacturing extension partnership improvements.

TITLE VI—INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Sec. 601. Innovation corps.
 Sec. 602. Translational research grants.
 Sec. 603. Optics and photonics technology innovations.
 Sec. 604. United States chief technology officer.
 Sec. 605. National research council study on technology for emergency notifications on campuses.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, unless expressly provided otherwise:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(2) **FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY.**—The term “Federal science agency” has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6623).

(3) **FOUNDATION.**—The term “Foundation” means the National Science Foundation.

(4) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(5) **NIST.**—The term “NIST” means the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(6) **STEM.**—The term “STEM” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the American COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

(7) **STEM EDUCATION.**—The term “STEM education” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the STEM Education Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

TITLE I—MAXIMIZING BASIC RESEARCH

SEC. 101. REAFFIRMATION OF MERIT-BASED PEER REVIEW.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) sustained, predictable Federal funding of basic research is essential to United States leadership in science and technology;

(2) the Foundation’s intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria are appropriate for evaluating grant proposals, as concluded by the 2011 National Science Board Task Force on Merit Review;

(3) evaluating proposals on the basis of the Foundation’s intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria should be used to assure that the Foundation’s activities are in the national interest as these reviews can affirm that—

(A) the proposals funded by the Foundation are of high quality and advance scientific knowledge; and

(B) the Foundation’s grants address societal needs through basic research findings or through related activities; and

(4) as evidenced by the Foundation’s contributions to scientific advancement, economic growth, human health, and national security, its peer review and merit review processes have identified and funded scientifically and societally relevant basic research and should be preserved.

(b) **MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA.**—The Foundation shall maintain the intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria, among other specific criteria as appropriate, as the basis for evaluating grant proposals in the merit review process.

(c) **UPDATES.**—If after the date of enactment of this Act a change is made to the merit-review process, the Director shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress not later than 30 days after the date of the change.

SEC. 102. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—

(1) building the understanding of and confidence in investments in basic research is essential to public support for sustained, predictable Federal funding;

(2) the Foundation has improved transparency and accountability of the outcomes made through the merit review process, but additional transparency into individual grants is valuable in communicating and assuring the public value of federally funded research; and

(3) the Foundation should commit to transparency and accountability and to clear, consistent public communication regarding the national interest for each Foundation-awarded grant and cooperative agreement.

(b) **GUIDANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Foundation shall issue and periodically update, as appropriate, policy guidance for both Foundation staff and other Foundation merit review process participants on the importance of transparency and accountability to the outcomes made through the merit review process.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The guidance under paragraph (1) shall require that each public notice of a Foundation-funded research project justify the expenditure of Federal funds by—

(A) describing how the project—

(i) reflects the statutory mission of the Foundation, as established in the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.); and

(ii) addresses the Foundation’s intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria; and

(B) clearly identifying the research goals of the project in a manner that can be easily understood by both technical and non-technical audiences.

(c) **BROADER IMPACTS REVIEW CRITERION UPDATE.**—Section 526(a) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p–14(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) **GOALS.**—The Foundation shall apply a broader impacts review criterion to identify and demonstrate project support of the following goals:

“(1) Increasing the economic competitiveness of the United States.

“(2) Advancing of the health and welfare of the American public.

“(5) Developing an American STEM workforce that is globally competitive through improved pre-kindergarten through grade 12 STEM education and teacher development, and improved undergraduate STEM education and instruction.

“(6) Improving public scientific literacy and engagement with science and technology in the United States.

“(4) Enhancing partnerships between academia and industry in the United States.

“(3) Supporting the national defense of the United States.

“(7) Expanding participation of women and individuals from underrepresented groups in STEM.”.

SEC. 103. EPSCOR REAFFIRMATION AND UPDATE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Section 517(a) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p–9(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “The National” and inserting “the National”; and

(B) by striking “education,” and inserting “education”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “with 27 States” and all that follows through the semicolon at the end and inserting “with 28 States and jurisdictions, taken together, receiving only about 12 percent of all National Science Foundation research funding;”;

(3) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) each of the States described in paragraph (2) receives only a fraction of 1 percent of the Foundation’s research dollars each year;”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) first established at the National Science Foundation in 1979, the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (referred to in this section as ‘EPSCoR’) assists States and jurisdictions historically underserved by Federal research and development funding in strengthening their research and innovation capabilities;

“(5) the EPSCoR structure requires each participating State to develop a science and technology plan suited to State and local research, education, and economic interests and objectives;

“(6) EPSCoR has been credited with advancing the research competitiveness of participating States, improving awareness of science, promoting policies that link scientific investment and economic growth, and encouraging partnerships between government, industry, and academia;

“(7) EPSCoR proposals are evaluated through a rigorous and competitive merit-review process to ensure that awarded research and development efforts meet high scientific standards; and

“(8) according to the National Academy of Sciences, EPSCoR has strengthened the national research infrastructure and enhanced the educational opportunities needed to develop the science and engineering workforce.”.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) since maintaining the Nation’s scientific and economic leadership requires the participation of talented individuals nationwide, EPSCoR investments into State research and education capacities are in the Federal interest and should be sustained; and

(B) EPSCoR should maintain its experimental component by supporting innovative methods for improving research capacity and competitiveness.

(2) **DEFINITION OF EPSCOR.**—In this subsection, the term “EPSCoR” has the meaning given the term in section 502 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p note).

(c) **AWARD STRUCTURE UPDATES.**—Section 517 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p–9) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) AWARD STRUCTURE UPDATES.—In implementing the mandate to maximize the impact of Federal EPSCoR support on building competitive research infrastructure, and based on the inputs and recommendations of previous EPSCoR reviews, the head of each Federal agency administering an EPSCoR program shall—

“(1) consider modifications to EPSCoR proposal solicitation, award type, and project evaluation—

“(A) to more closely align with current agency priorities and initiatives;

“(B) to focus EPSCoR funding on achieving critical scientific, infrastructure, and educational needs of that agency;

“(C) to encourage collaboration between EPSCoR-eligible institutions and researchers, including with institutions and researchers in other States and jurisdictions;

“(D) to improve communication between State and Federal agency proposal reviewers; and

“(E) to continue to reduce administrative burdens associated with EPSCoR;

“(2) consider modifications to EPSCoR award structures—

“(A) to emphasize long-term investments in building research capacity, potentially through the use of larger, renewable funding opportunities; and

“(B) to allow the agency, States, and jurisdictions to experiment with new research and development funding models; and

“(3) consider modifications to the mechanisms used to monitor and evaluate EPSCoR awards—

“(A) to increase collaboration between EPSCoR-funded researchers and agency staff, including by providing opportunities for mentoring young researchers and for the use of Federal facilities;

“(B) to identify and disseminate best practices; and

“(C) to harmonize metrics across participating Federal agencies, as appropriate.”.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS.—Section 517 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-9), as amended, is further amended—

(A) by striking subsection (c);

(B) by redesignating subsections (d) through (g) as subsections (c) through (f), respectively;

(C) in subsection (c), as redesignated—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “Experimental Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research” and inserting “EPSCoR”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraphs (A) and (E), by striking “EPSCoR and Federal EPSCoR-like programs” and inserting “each EPSCoR”;

(II) in subparagraph (D), by striking “EPSCoR and other Federal EPSCoR-like programs” and inserting “each EPSCoR”;

(III) in subparagraph (E), by striking “EPSCoR or Federal EPSCoR-like programs” and inserting “each EPSCoR”; and

(IV) in subparagraph (G), by striking “EPSCoR programs” and inserting “each EPSCoR”; and

(D) by amending subsection (d), as redesignated, to read as follows:

“(d) FEDERAL AGENCY REPORTS.—Each Federal agency that administers an EPSCoR shall submit to Congress, as part of its Federal budget submission—

“(1) a description of the program strategy and objectives;

“(2) a description of the awards made in the previous fiscal year, including—

“(A) the total amount made available, by State, under EPSCoR;

“(B) the total amount of agency funding made available to all institutions and entities within each EPSCoR State;

“(C) the efforts and accomplishments to more fully integrate the EPSCoR States in major agency activities and initiatives;

“(D) the percentage of EPSCoR reviewers from EPSCoR States; and

“(E) the number of programs or large collaborator awards involving a partnership of organizations and institutions from EPSCoR and non-EPSCoR States; and

“(3) an analysis of the gains in academic research quality and competitiveness, and in science and technology human resource development, achieved by the program over the last 5 fiscal years.”; and

(E) in subsection (e)(1), as redesignated, by striking “Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research or a program similar to the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research” and inserting “EPSCoR”.

(2) RESULTS OF AWARD STRUCTURE PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the EPSCoR Interagency Coordinating Committee shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the updates made to the award structure under 517(f) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-9(f)), as amended by this subsection.

(e) DEFINITION OF EPSCoR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 502 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p note) is amended by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) EPSCoR.—The term ‘EPSCoR’ means—

“(A) the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research established by the Foundation; or

“(B) a program similar to the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research at another Federal agency.”.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 113 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1862g) is amended—

(A) in the heading, by striking “EXPERIMENTAL” and inserting “ESTABLISHED”;

(B) in subsection (a), by striking “an Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research” and inserting “a program to stimulate competitive research (known as the ‘Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research’)”; and

(C) in subsection (b), by striking “the program” and inserting “the Program”.

SEC. 104. CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH.

(a) FOUNDATION CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH.—Section 4(a)(1) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 7403(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (O), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (P), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(Q) security of election-dedicated voting system software and hardware; and

“(R) role of the human factor in cybersecurity and the interplay of computers and humans and the physical world.”.

(b) NIST CYBERSECURITY PRIORITIES.—

(1) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AWARENESS.—The Director of NIST shall continue to raise public awareness of the voluntary, industry-led cybersecurity standards and best practices for critical infrastructure developed under section 2(c)(15) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)(15)).

(2) QUANTUM COMPUTING.—Under section 2(b) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(b)) and section 20 of that Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-3), the Director of NIST shall—

(A) research information systems for future cybersecurity needs; and

(B) coordinate with relevant stakeholders to develop a process—

(i) to research and identify or, if necessary, develop cryptography standards and guidelines for future cybersecurity needs, including quantum-resistant cryptography standards; and

(ii) to provide recommendations to Congress, Federal agencies, and industry consistent with the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-113; 110 Stat. 775), for a secure and smooth transition to the standards under clause (i).

(3) FEDERAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Section 20(d)(3) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-3(d)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) conduct research and analysis—

“(A) to determine the nature and extent of information security vulnerabilities and techniques for providing cost-effective information security;

“(B) to review and determine prevalent information security challenges and deficiencies identified by agencies or the Institute, including any challenges or deficiencies described in any of the annual reports under section 3553 or 3554 of title 44, United States Code, and in any of the reports and the independent evaluations under section 3555 of that title, that may undermine the effectiveness of agency information security programs and practices; and

“(C) to evaluate the effectiveness and sufficiency of, and challenges to, Federal agencies’ implementation of standards and guidelines developed under this section and policies and standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40, United States Code.”.

(4) VOTING.—Section 2(c) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (16) through (23) as paragraphs (17) through (24), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (15) the following:

“(16) perform research to support the development of voluntary, consensus-based, industry-led standards and recommendations on the security of computers, computer networks, and computer data storage used in election systems to ensure voters can vote securely and privately.”.

SEC. 105. NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Modernization Act of 2016”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Section 2 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5501) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (2) and (5), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology, including high-performance computing.”; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology, including high-performance computing.”;

(c) PURPOSES.—Section 3 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5502) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “expanding Federal support for research, development, and application of high-performance computing” and inserting “supporting Federal research, development, and application of networking and information technology”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “high-performance computing” both places it appears and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(C) by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D);

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) stimulate research on and promote more rapid development of high-end computing systems software and applications software;”;

(E) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) through (H) as subparagraphs (D) through (G), respectively;

(F) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated, by inserting “high-end” after “the development of”;

(G) in subparagraphs (E) and (F), as redesignated, by striking “high-performance computing” each place it appears and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(H) in subparagraph (G), as redesignated, by striking “high-performance” and inserting “high-end”;

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “high-performance computing and” and inserting “networking and information technology and”; and

(B) by striking “high-performance computing network” and inserting “networking and information technology”.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—Section 4 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5503) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (3) and (5);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (4), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (2), (3), (5), (8), and (9), respectively;

(3) by inserting before paragraph (2), as redesignated, the following:

“(1) ‘cyber-physical systems’ means physical or engineered systems whose networking and information technology functions and physical elements are deeply integrated and are actively connected to the physical world through sensors, actuators, or other means to enable safe and effective, real-time performance in safety-critical and other applications;”;

(4) in paragraph (3), as redesignated, by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(5) by inserting after paragraph (3), as redesignated, the following:

“(4) ‘high-end computing’ means the most advanced and capable computing systems, including their hardware, storage, networking and software, encompassing both massive computational capability and large-scale data analytics to solve computational problems of national importance that are beyond the capability of small- to medium-scale systems, including computing formerly known as high-performance computing;”;

(6) by inserting after paragraph (5), as redesignated, the following:

“(6) ‘networking and information technology’ means high-end computing, communications, and information technologies, high-capacity and high-speed networks, spe-

cial purpose and experimental systems, high-end computing systems software and applications software, and the management of large data sets;

“(7) ‘participating agency’ means an agency described in section 101(a)(3)(C);”;

(7) in paragraph (8), as redesignated, by striking “National High-Performance Computing Program” and inserting “Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program”.

(e) TITLE I HEADING.—The heading of title I of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511 et seq.) is amended by striking “HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING” and inserting “NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY”.

(f) NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—Section 101 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “NATIONAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING PROGRAM” and inserting “NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “NATIONAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING PROGRAM” and inserting “NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “National High-Performance Computing Program” and inserting “Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “high-performance computing, including networking” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(iii) in subparagraphs (B) and (G), by striking “high-performance” each place it appears and inserting “high-end”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C), by striking “high-performance computing and networking” and inserting “high-end computing, distributed, and networking”;

(v) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) provide for efforts to increase software security and reliability;”;

(vi) in subparagraph (H)—

(I) by inserting “support and guidance” after “provide”; and

(II) by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(vii) in subparagraph (I)—

(I) by striking “improving the security” and inserting “improving the security, reliability, and resilience”; and

(II) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(viii) by adding at the end the following:

“(J) provide for increased understanding of the scientific principles of cyber-physical systems and improve the methods available for the design, development, and operation of cyber-physical systems that are characterized by high reliability, safety, and security;”

“(K) provide for research and development on human-computer interactions, visualization, and big data;

“(L) provide for research and development on the enhancement of cybersecurity, including the human facets of cyber threats and secure cyber systems;

“(M) provide for the understanding of the science, engineering, policy, and privacy protection related to networking and information technology;

“(N) provide for the transition of high-end computing hardware, system software, devel-

opment tools, and applications into development and operations; and

“(O) foster public-private collaboration among government, industry research laboratories, academia, and nonprofit organizations to maximize research and development efforts and the benefits of networking and information technology, including high-end computing.”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) establish the goals and priorities for Federal networking and information technology research, development, education, and other activities;”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) provide for interagency coordination of Federal networking and information technology research, development, education, and other activities undertaken pursuant to the Program—

“(i) among the participating agencies; and

“(ii) to the extent practicable, with other Federal agencies not described in paragraph (3)(C), other Federal and private research laboratories, industry, research entities, institutions of higher education, relevant nonprofit organizations, and international partners of the United States;”;

(iii) by amending subparagraph (E) to read as follows:

“(E) encourage and monitor the efforts of the agencies participating in the Program to allocate the level of resources and management attention necessary to ensure that the strategic plans under subsection (e) are developed and executed effectively and that the objectives of the Program are met; and”;

(iv) in subparagraph (F), by striking “high-performance” and inserting “high-end”; and

(D) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (E) as subparagraphs (C), (D), (E), and (G), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) provide a detailed description of the nature and scope of research infrastructure designated as such under the Program;”;

(iii) in subparagraph (C), as redesignated—

(I) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

“(i) the Department of Justice;”;

(II) by redesignating clauses (vii) through (xi) as clauses (viii) through (xii), respectively;

(III) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:

“(vii) the Department of Homeland Security;”;

(IV) by amending clause (viii), as redesignated, to read as follows:

“(viii) the National Archives and Records Administration;”;

(iv) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated—

(I) by striking “is submitted,” and inserting “is submitted, the levels for the previous fiscal year;”;

(II) by striking “each Program Component Area;” and inserting “each Program Component Area and research area supported in accordance with section 102;”;

(v) by amending subparagraph (E), as redesignated, to read as follows:

“(E) describe the levels of Federal funding for each participating agency, and for each Program Component Area, for the fiscal year during which such report is submitted, the levels for the previous fiscal year, and the levels proposed for the fiscal year with respect to which the budget submission applies;”;

(vi) by inserting after subparagraph (E), as redesignated, the following:

“(F) include a description of how the objectives for each Program Component Area, and the objectives for activities that involve multiple Program Component Areas, relate to the objectives of the Program identified in the strategic plans required under subsection (e); and”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “high-performance computing” both places it appears and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(ii) after the first sentence, by inserting the following: “Each chair of the advisory committee shall meet the qualifications of committee membership and may be a member of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.”;

(B) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking “high-performance computing, networking technology, and related software” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the second sentence, by striking “2” and inserting “3”;

(ii) by striking “Committee on Science and Technology” and inserting “Committee on Science, Space, and Technology”;

(iii) by striking “The first report shall be due within 1 year after the date of enactment of the America COMPETES Act.”;

(4) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) PERIODIC REVIEWS.—The heads of the participating agencies, working through the National Science and Technology Council and the Program, shall—

“(1) periodically assess and update, as appropriate, the structure of the Program, including the Program Component Areas and associated contents, scope, and funding levels, taking into consideration any relevant recommendations of the advisory committee established under subsection (b); and

“(2) ensure that such agency’s implementation of the Program includes foundational, large-scale, long-term, and interdisciplinary information technology research and development activities, including activities described in section 102.

“(e) STRATEGIC PLANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The heads of the participating agencies, working through the National Science and Technology Council and the Program, shall develop and implement strategic plans to guide—

“(A) emerging activities of Federal networking and information technology research and development; and

“(B) the activities described in subsection (a)(1).

“(2) UPDATES.—The heads of the participating agencies shall update the strategic plans as appropriate.

“(3) CONTENTS.—Each strategic plan shall—

“(A) specify near-term and long-term objectives for the portions of the Program relevant to the strategic plan, the anticipated schedule for achieving the near-term and long-term objectives, and the metrics to be used for assessing progress toward the near-term and long-term objectives;

“(B) specify how the near-term and long-term objectives complement research and development areas in which academia and the private sector are actively engaged;

“(C) describe how the heads of the participating agencies will support mechanisms for foundational, large-scale, long-term, and interdisciplinary information technology research and development and for Grand Challenges, including through collaborations—

“(i) across Federal agencies;

“(ii) across Program Component Areas; and

“(iii) with industry, Federal and private research laboratories, research entities, institutions of higher education, relevant nonprofit organizations, and international partners of the United States;

“(D) describe how the heads of the participating agencies will foster the rapid transfer of research and development results into new technologies and applications in the national interest, including through cooperation and collaborations with networking and information technology research, development, and technology transition initiatives supported by the States; and

“(E) describe how the portions of the Program relevant to the strategic plan will address long-term challenges for which solutions require foundational, large-scale, long-term, and interdisciplinary information technology research and development.

“(4) PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORTS.—In developing, implementing, and updating strategic plans, the heads of the participating agencies, working through the National Science and Technology Council and the Program, shall coordinate with industry, academia, and other interested stakeholders to ensure, to the extent practicable, that the Federal networking and information technology research and development activities carried out under this section do not duplicate the efforts of the private sector.

“(5) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In developing and updating strategic plans, the heads of the participating agencies shall solicit recommendations and advice from—

“(A) the advisory committee under subsection (b);

“(B) the Committee on Science and relevant subcommittees of the National Science and Technology Council; and

“(C) a wide range of stakeholders, including industry, academia, National Laboratories, and other relevant organizations and institutions.

“(f) REPORTS.—The heads of the participating agencies, working through the National Science and Technology Council and the Program, shall submit to the advisory committee, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives—

“(1) the strategic plans developed under subsection (e)(1); and

“(2) each update under subsection (e)(2).”.

(g) NATIONAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORK.—Section 102 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5512) is repealed.

(h) NEXT GENERATION INTERNET.—Section 103 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5513) is repealed.

(i) GRAND CHALLENGES IN AREAS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.—Title I of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 102. GRAND CHALLENGES IN AREAS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall encourage the participating agencies to support foundational, large-scale, long-term, interdisciplinary, and interagency informa-

tion technology research and development activities in networking and information technology directed toward agency mission areas that have the potential for significant contributions to national economic competitiveness and for other significant societal benefits. Such activities, ranging from basic research to the demonstration of technical solutions, shall be designed to advance the development of fundamental discoveries. The advisory committee established under section 101(b) shall make recommendations to the Program for candidate research and development areas for support under this section.

“(b) CHARACTERISTICS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Research and development activities under this section shall—

“(A) include projects selected on the basis of applications for support through a competitive, merit-based process;

“(B) to the extent practicable, involve collaborations among researchers in institutions of higher education and industry, and may involve nonprofit research institutions and Federal laboratories, as appropriate;

“(C) to the extent practicable, leverage Federal investments through collaboration with related State and private sector initiatives; and

“(D) include a plan for fostering the transfer of research discoveries and the results of technology demonstration activities, including from institutions of higher education and Federal laboratories, to industry for commercial development.

“(2) COST-SHARING.—In selecting applications for support, the agencies may give special consideration to projects that include cost sharing from non-Federal sources.”.

(j) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES.—Section 201 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5521) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “(a) GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “high-end” after “National Science Foundation shall provide”;

(ii) by striking “high-performance computing” and all that follows through “networking;” and inserting “networking and information technology; and”;

(C) by striking paragraphs (2) through (4); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) the National Science Foundation shall use its existing programs, in collaboration with other agencies, as appropriate, to improve the teaching and learning of networking and information technology at all levels of education and to increase participation in networking and information technology fields, including by individuals identified in sections 33 and 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a and 1885b).”;

(2) by striking subsection (b).

(k) NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES.—Section 202 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5522) is amended—

(1) by striking “(a) GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—”;

(2) by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(3) by striking subsection (b).

(l) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ACTIVITIES.—Section 203 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5523) is amended—

(1) by striking “(a) GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “high-performance computing and networking” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(3) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “high-performance” and inserting “high-end”; and

(4) by striking subsection (b).

(m) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ACTIVITIES.—Section 204 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5524) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “high-performance computing systems and networks” and inserting “networking and information technology systems and capabilities”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “interoperability of high-performance computing systems in networks and for common user interfaces to systems” and inserting “interoperability and usability of networking and information technology systems”;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING AND NETWORK” and inserting “NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY”;

(B) by striking “Pursuant to the Computer Security Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-235; 101 Stat. 1724), the” and inserting “The”; and

(C) by striking “sensitive information in Federal computer systems” and inserting “Federal agency information and information systems”; and

(3) by striking subsections (c) and (d).

(n) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ACTIVITIES.—Section 205 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5525) is repealed.

(o) ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.—Section 206 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5526) is repealed.

(p) MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.—Section 207 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5527) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 2315(a) of title 10” and inserting “section 3552(b)(6)(A)(i) of title 44”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”.

(q) REPEAL.—Section 208 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5528) is repealed.

(r) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.—Section 4(b)(5)(K) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(b)(5)(K)) is amended by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”.

(s) NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—Section 13202(b) of the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 17912(b)) is amended by striking “National High-Performance Computing Program” and inserting “Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program”.

(t) FEDERAL CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Section 201(a)(4) of the Cyber Security Enhancement Act of 2014 (15 U.S.C. 7431(a)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking “clauses (i) through (x)” and inserting “clauses (i) through (xi)”;

(2) by striking “under clause (xi)” and inserting “under clause (xi)”.

(u) ADDITIONAL REPEAL.—Section 4 of the Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004 (15 U.S.C. 5543) is repealed.

SEC. 106. PHYSICAL SCIENCES COORDINATION.

(a) HIGH-ENERGY PHYSICS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Physical Science Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council (referred to in this section as “Subcommittee”) shall continue to coordinate Federal efforts related to high-energy physics research to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of United States investment in high-energy physics.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Subcommittee include—

(A) to advise and assist the Committee on Science and the National Science and Technology Council on United States policies, procedures, and plans in the physical sciences, including high-energy physics; and

(B) to identify emerging opportunities, stimulate international cooperation, and foster the development of the physical sciences in the United States, including—

(i) in high-energy physics research, including related underground science and engineering research;

(ii) in physical infrastructure and facilities;

(iii) in information and analysis; and

(iv) in coordination activities.

(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In regard to coordinating Federal efforts related to high-energy physics research, the Subcommittee shall, taking into account the findings and recommendations of relevant advisory committees—

(A) provide recommendations on planning for construction and stewardship of large facilities participating in high-energy physics;

(B) provide recommendations on research coordination and collaboration among the programs and activities of Federal agencies related to underground science, neutrino research, dark energy, and dark matter research;

(C) establish goals and priorities for high-energy physics, related underground science, and research and development that will strengthen United States competitiveness in high-energy physics;

(D) propose methods for engagement with international, Federal, and State agencies and Federal laboratories not represented on the National Science and Technology Council to identify and reduce regulatory, logistical, and fiscal barriers that inhibit United States leadership in high-energy physics and related underground science; and

(E) develop, and update as necessary, a strategic plan to guide Federal programs and activities in support of high-energy physics research, including—

(i) the efforts taken in support of paragraph (2) since the last strategic plan;

(ii) an evaluation of the current research needs for maintaining United States leadership in high-energy physics; and

(iii) an identification of future priorities in the area of high-energy physics.

(b) RADIATION BIOLOGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Subcommittee shall continue to coordinate Federal efforts related to radiation biology research to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of United States investment in radiation biology.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RADIATION BIOLOGY.—In regard to coordinating Federal efforts related to radiation biology research, the Subcommittee shall—

(A) advise and assist the National Science and Technology Council on policies and initiatives in radiation biology, including enhancing scientific knowledge of the effects of low dose radiation on biological systems to improve radiation risk management methods;

(B) identify opportunities to stimulate international cooperation and leverage research and knowledge from sources outside of the United States;

(C) ensure coordination between the Department of Energy Office of Science, Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Institutes of Health, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Defense, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Department of Homeland Security;

(D) identify ongoing scientific challenges for understanding the long-term effects of ionizing radiation on biological systems; and

(E) formulate overall scientific goals for the future of low-dose radiation research in the United States.

(c) FUSION ENERGY SCIENCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Subcommittee shall continue to coordinate Federal efforts related to fusion energy research to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of United States investment in fusion energy sciences.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FUSION ENERGY SCIENCES.—In regard to coordinating Federal efforts related to fusion energy sciences, the Subcommittee shall—

(A) advise and assist the National Science and Technology Council on policies and initiatives in fusion energy sciences, including enhancing scientific knowledge of fusion energy science, plasma physics, and related materials sciences;

(B) identify opportunities to stimulate international cooperation and leverage research and knowledge from sources outside of the United States, including the ITER project;

(C) ensure coordination between the Department of Energy Office of Science, National Nuclear Security Administration, Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Foundation, and Department of Defense regarding fusion energy sciences and plasma physics; and

(D) formulate overall scientific goals for the future of fusion energy sciences and plasma physics.

SEC. 107. LABORATORY PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIST, acting through the Associate Director for Laboratory Programs, shall develop and implement a comprehensive strategic plan for laboratory programs that expands—

(1) interactions with academia, international researchers, and industry; and

(2) commercial and industrial applications.

(b) OPTIMIZING COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS.—In accordance with the purpose under section 1(b)(3) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271(b)(3)), the comprehensive strategic plan shall—

(1) include performance metrics for the dissemination of fundamental research results, measurements, and standards research results to industry, including manufacturing, and other interested parties;

(2) document any positive benefits of research on the competitiveness of the interested parties described in paragraph (1);

(3) clarify the current approach to the technology transfer activities of NIST; and

(4) consider recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences.

SEC. 108. STANDARD REFERENCE DATA ACT UPDATE.

Section 2 of the Standard Reference Data Act (15 U.S.C. 290a) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

“For the purposes of this Act:

“(1) STANDARD REFERENCE DATA.—The term ‘standard reference data’ means data that is—

“(A) either—

“(i) quantitative information related to a measurable physical, or chemical, or biological property of a substance or system of substances of known composition and structure;

“(ii) measurable characteristics of a physical artifact or artifacts;

“(iii) engineering properties or performance characteristics of a system; or

“(iv) 1 or more digital data objects that serve—

“(I) to calibrate or characterize the performance of a detection or measurement system; or

“(II) to interpolate or extrapolate, or both, data described in subparagraph (A) through (C); and

“(B) that is critically evaluated as to its reliability under section 3 of this Act.

“(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Commerce.”

SEC. 109. NSF MID-SCALE PROJECT INVESTMENTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Foundation funds major research facilities, infrastructure, and instrumentation that provide unique capabilities at the frontiers of science and engineering.

(2) Modern and effective research facilities, infrastructure, and instrumentation are critical to maintaining United States leadership in science and engineering.

(3) The costs of some proposed research instrumentation, equipment, and upgrades to major research facilities fall between programs currently funded by the Foundation, creating a gap between the established parameters of the Major Research Instrumentation and Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction programs, including projects that have been identified as cost-effective additions of high priority to the advancement of scientific understanding.

(4) The 2010 Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey recommended a mid-scale innovations program.

(b) MID-SCALE PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall evaluate the existing and future needs, across all disciplines supported by the Foundation, for mid-scale projects.

(2) STRATEGY.—The Director of the Foundation shall develop a strategy to address the needs identified in paragraph (1).

(3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Foundation shall provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress on the evaluation under paragraph (1) and the strategy under paragraph (2).

(4) DEFINITION OF MID-SCALE PROJECTS.—In this subsection, the term “mid-scale projects” means research instrumentation, equipment, and upgrades to major research facilities or other research infrastructure investments that exceed the maximum award funded by the major research instrumentation program and are below the minimum award funded by the major research equipment and facilities construction program as described in section 507 of the AMERICA COMPETES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010 (Public Law 111-358; 124 Stat. 4008).

SEC. 110. OVERSIGHT OF NSF MAJOR MULTI-USER RESEARCH FACILITY PROJECTS.

(a) FACILITIES OVERSIGHT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation shall strengthen oversight and accountability over the full life-cycle of each major multi-user research facility project, including planning, development, procurement, construction, operations, and support, and shut-down of the facility, in order to maximize research investment.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Director shall—

(A) prioritize the scientific outcomes of a major multi-user research facility project and the internal management and financial oversight of the major multi-user research facility project;

(B) clarify the roles and responsibilities of all organizations, including offices, panels, committees, and directorates, involved in supporting a major multi-user research facility project, including the role of the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction Panel;

(C) establish policies and procedures for the planning, management, and oversight of a major multi-user research facility project at each phase of the life-cycle of the major multi-user research facility project;

(D) ensure that policies for estimating and managing costs and schedules are consistent with the best practices described in the Government Accountability Office Cost Estimating and Assessment Guide, the Government Accountability Office Schedule Assessment Guide, and the Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. Part 200);

(E) establish the appropriate project management and financial management expertise required for Foundation staff to oversee each major multi-user research facility project effectively, including by improving project management training and certification;

(F) coordinate the sharing of the best management practices and lessons learned from each major multi-user research facility project;

(G) continue to maintain a Large Facilities Office to support the research directorates in the development, implementation, and oversight of each major multi-user research facility project, including by—

(i) serving as the Foundation’s primary resource for all policy or process issues related to the development, implementation, and oversight of a major multi-user research facility project;

(ii) serving as a Foundation-wide resource on project management, including providing expert assistance on nonscientific and non-technical aspects of project planning, budgeting, implementation, management, and oversight;

(iii) coordinating and collaborating with research directorates to share best management practices and lessons learned from prior major multi-user research facility projects; and

(iv) assessing each major multi-user research facility project for cost and schedule risk; and

(H) appoint a senior agency official whose responsibility is oversight of the development, construction, and operations of major multi-user research facilities across the Foundation.

(b) FACILITIES FULL LIFE-CYCLE COSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c)(1), the Director of the Foundation shall require that any pre-award analysis of a major multi-user research facility project in-

cludes the development and consideration of the full life-cycle cost (as defined in section 2 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 1862k note)) in accordance with section 14 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-4).

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Based on the pre-award analysis described in paragraph (1), the Director of the Foundation shall include projected operational costs within the Foundation’s out-years as part of the President’s annual budget submission to Congress under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) COST OVERSIGHT.—

(1) PRE-AWARD ANALYSIS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation and the National Science Board may not approve or execute any agreement to start construction on any proposed major multi-user research facility project unless—

(i) an external analysis of the proposed budget has been conducted to ensure the proposal is complete and reasonable;

(ii) the analysis under clause (i) follows the Government Accountability Office Cost Estimating and Assessment Guide;

(iii) except as provided under subparagraph (C), an analysis of the accounting systems has been conducted;

(iv) an independent cost estimate of the construction of the project has been conducted using the same detailed technical information as the project proposal estimate to determine whether the estimate is well-supported and realistic; and

(v) the Foundation and the National Science Board have considered the analyses under clauses (i) and (iii) and the independent cost estimate under clause (iv) and resolved any major issues identified therein.

(B) AUDITS.—An external analysis under subparagraph (A)(i) may include an audit.

(C) EXCEPTION.—The Director of the Foundation, at the Director’s discretion, may waive the requirement under subparagraph (A)(iii) if a similar analysis of the accounting systems was conducted in the prior years.

(2) CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT.—The Director of the Foundation shall require for each major multi-user research facility project—

(A) periodic external reviews on project management and performance;

(B) adequate internal controls, policies, and procedures, and reliable accounting systems in preparation for the incurred cost audits under subparagraph (D);

(C) annual incurred cost submissions of financial expenditures; and

(D) an incurred cost audit of the major multi-user research facility project in accordance with Government Accountability Office Government Auditing Standards—

(i) at least once during construction at a time determined based on risk analysis and length of the award, except that the length of time between audits may not exceed 3 years; and

(ii) at the completion of the construction phase.

(3) OPERATIONS COST ANALYSIS.—The Director of the Foundation shall require an independent cost analysis of the operational proposal for each major multi-user research facility project.

(d) CONTINGENCY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation shall strengthen internal controls to improve oversight of contingency on a major multi-user research facility project.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Director of the Foundation shall—

(A) only include contingency amounts in an award in accordance with section 200.433 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to contingency provisions), or any successor regulation;

(B) retain control over funds budgeted for contingency, except that the Director may disburse budgeted contingency funds incrementally to the awardee to ensure project stability and continuity;

(C) track contingency use; and

(D) ensure that contingency amounts allocated to the performance baseline are reasonable and allowable.

(e) USE OF FEES.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the use of taxpayer-funded award fees should be transparent and explicable; and

(B) the Foundation should implement an award fee policy that ensures more transparency and accountability in the funding of necessary and appropriate expenses directly related to the construction and operation of major multi-user research facilities.

(2) REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING.—The Director of the Foundation shall establish guidelines for awardees regarding inappropriate expenditures associated with all fee types used in cooperative agreements, including for alcoholic beverages, lobbying, meals or entertainment for non-business purposes, non-business travel, and any other purpose the Director determines is inappropriate.

(f) OVERSIGHT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS.—The Director of the Foundation shall—

(1) not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and periodically thereafter until the completion date, provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress on the response to or progress made toward implementation of—

(A) this section;

(B) all of the issues and recommendations identified in cooperative agreement audit reports and memoranda issued by the Inspector General of the Foundation in the last 5 years; and

(C) all of the issues and recommendations identified by a panel of the National Academy of Public Administration in the December 2015 report entitled “National Science Foundation: Use of Cooperative Agreements to Support Large Scale Investment in Research”; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, notify the appropriate committees of Congress when the Foundation has implemented the recommendations identified in a panel of the National Academy of Public Administration report issued December 2015.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) MAJOR MULTI-USER RESEARCH FACILITY PROJECT.—The term “major multi-user research facility project” means a science and engineering facility project that—

(A) exceeds the lesser of—

(i) 10 percent of a Directorate’s annual budget; or

(ii) \$100,000,000 in total project costs; or

(B) is funded by the major research equipment and facilities construction account, or any successor account.

SEC. 111. PERSONNEL OVERSIGHT.

(a) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—The Director of the Foundation shall update the policy and procedure of the Foundation relating to conflicts of interest to improve documentation and management of any known conflict of interest of an individual on temporary assignment at the Foundation, including an individual on assignment under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.).

(b) JUSTIFICATIONS.—The Deputy Director of the Foundation shall submit annually to the appropriate committees of Congress written justification for each rotator employed under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.), or other rotator employed, by the Foundation that year that is paid at a rate that exceeds the maximum rate of pay for the Senior Executive Service, including, if applicable, the level of adjustment for the certified Senior Executive Service Performance Appraisal System.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Foundation shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the Foundation’s efforts to control costs associated with employing rotators, including the results of and participation in the Foundation’s cost-sharing pilot program and the Foundation’s progress in responding to the findings and implementing the recommendations of the Office of Inspector General of the Foundation related to the employment of rotators.

SEC. 112. MANAGEMENT OF THE U.S. ANTARCTIC PROGRAM.

(a) REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation shall continue to review the efforts by the Foundation to sustain and strengthen scientific efforts in the face of logistical challenges for the United States Antarctic Program.

(2) ISSUES TO BE EXAMINED.—In conducting the review, the Director shall examine, at a minimum, the following:

(A) Implementation by the Foundation of issues and recommendations identified by—

(i) the Inspector General of the National Science Foundation in audit reports and memoranda on the United States Antarctic Program in the last 4 years;

(ii) the U.S. Antarctic Program Blue Ribbon Panel report, More and Better Science in Antarctica through Increased Logistical Effectiveness, issued July 23, 2012; and

(iii) the National Research Council report, Future Science Opportunities in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, issued September 2011.

(B) Efforts by the Foundation to track its progress in addressing the issues and recommendations under subparagraph (A).

(C) Efforts by the Foundation to address other opportunities and challenges, including efforts on scientific research, coordination with other Federal agencies and international partners, logistics and transportation, health and safety of participants, oversight and financial management of awardees and contractors, and resources and policy challenges.

(b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the ongoing review, including findings and any recommendations.

SEC. 113. NIST CAMPUS SECURITY.

(a) SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY.—The Department of Commerce Office of Security shall directly manage the law enforcement and

site security programs of NIST through an assigned Director of Security for NIST without increasing the number of full-time equivalent employees of the Department of Commerce, including NIST.

(b) REPORTS.—The Director of Security for NIST shall provide an activities and security report on a quarterly basis for the first year after the date of enactment of this Act, and on an annual basis thereafter, to the Under Secretary for Standards and Technology and the appropriate committees of Congress.

SEC. 114. COORDINATION OF SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the science of chemistry is vital to improving the quality of human life and plays an important role in addressing critical global challenges, including water quality, energy, health care, and agriculture;

(2) sustainable chemistry can reduce risks to human health and the environment, reduce waste, improve pollution prevention, promote safe and efficient manufacturing, and promote efficient use of resources in developing new materials, processes, and technologies that support viable long-term solutions to a significant number of challenges;

(3) sustainable chemistry can stimulate innovation, encourage new and creative approaches to problems, create jobs, and save money; and

(4) a coordinated effort on sustainable chemistry will allow for a greater return on research investment in this area.

(b) SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY BASIC RESEARCH.—Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, the Director of the Foundation may continue to carry out the Sustainable Chemistry Basic Research program authorized under section 509 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-3).

SEC. 115. MISREPRESENTATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—The Director of the Foundation may revise the regulations under part 689 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to research misconduct) to ensure that the findings and conclusions of any article authored by a principal investigator, using the results of research conducted under a Foundation grant, that is published in a peer-reviewed publication, made publicly available, or incorporated in an application for a research grant or grant extension from the Foundation, does not contain any falsification, fabrication, or plagiarism.

(b) INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATION.—Upon a finding that research misconduct has occurred, the Foundation shall, in addition to any possible final action under section 689.3 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, notify other Federal science agencies of the finding.

SEC. 116. RESEARCH REPRODUCIBILITY AND REPLICATION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the gold standard of good science is the ability of a researcher or research laboratory to reproduce a published research finding, including methods;

(2) there is growing concern that some published research findings cannot be reproduced or replicated, which can negatively affect the public’s trust in science;

(3) there are a complex set of factors affecting reproducibility and replication; and

(4) the increasing interdisciplinary nature and complexity of scientific research may be

a contributing factor to issues with research reproducibility and replication.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Foundation shall enter into an agreement with the National Research Council—

(A) to assess research and data reproducibility and replicability issues in interdisciplinary research;

(B) to make recommendations for improving rigor and transparency in scientific research; and

(C) to submit to the Director of the Foundation a report on the assessment, including its findings and recommendations, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date the Director of the Foundation receives the report under paragraph (1)(C), the Director shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress, including a response from the Director of the Foundation and the Chair of the National Science Board as to whether they agree with each of the findings and recommendations in the report.

SEC. 117. BRAIN RESEARCH THROUGH ADVANCING INNOVATIVE NEUROTECHNOLOGIES INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall support research activities related to the interagency Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies Initiative.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Foundation should work in conjunction with the Interagency Working Group on Neuroscience established by the National Science and Technology Council, Committee on Science to determine how to use the data infrastructure of the Foundation and other applicable Federal science agencies to help neuroscientists collect, standardize, manage, and analyze the large amounts of data that result from research attempting to understand how the brain functions.

TITLE II—ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY BURDEN REDUCTION

SEC. 201. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON RESEARCH REGULATION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Research and Development Efficiency Act”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Scientific and technological advancement have been the largest drivers of economic growth in the last 50 years, with the Federal Government being the largest investor in basic research.

(2) Substantial and increasing administrative burdens and costs in Federal research administration, particularly in the higher education sector where most federally funded research is performed, are eroding funds available to carry out basic scientific research.

(3) Federally funded grants are increasingly competitive, with the Foundation funding only approximately 1 in every 5 grant proposals.

(4) Progress has been made over the last decade in streamlining the pre-award grant application process through the Federal Government’s Grants.gov website.

(5) Post-award administrative costs have increased as Federal research agencies have continued to impose agency-unique compliance and reporting requirements on researchers and research institutions.

(6) Researchers spend as much as 42 percent of their time complying with Federal

regulations, including administrative tasks such as applying for grants or meeting reporting requirements.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) administrative burdens faced by researchers may be reducing the return on investment of federally funded research and development; and

(2) it is a matter of critical importance to United States competitiveness that administrative costs of federally funded research be streamlined so that a higher proportion of federal funding is applied to direct research activities.

(d) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall establish an interagency working group (referred to in this section as the “Working Group”) for the purpose of reducing administrative burdens on federally funded researchers while protecting the public interest through the transparency of and accountability for federally funded activities.

(e) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall—

(A) regularly review relevant, administration-related regulations imposed on federally funded researchers;

(B) recommend those regulations or processes that may be eliminated, streamlined, or otherwise improved for the purpose described in subsection (d);

(C) recommend ways to minimize the regulatory burden on United States institutions of higher education performing federally funded research while maintaining accountability for federal funding; and

(D) recommend ways to identify and update specific regulations to refocus on performance-based goals rather than on process while achieving the outcome described in subparagraph (C).

(2) GRANT REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall—

(i) conduct a comprehensive review of Federal science agency grant proposal documents; and

(ii) develop, to the extent practicable, a simplified, uniform grant format to be used by all Federal science agencies.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the uniform grant format, the Working Group shall consider whether to implement—

(i) procedures for preliminary project proposals in advance of peer-review selection;

(ii) increased use of “Just-In-Time” procedures for documentation that does not bear directly on the scientific merit of a proposal;

(iii) simplified initial budget proposals in advance of peer review selection; and

(iv) detailed budget proposals for applicants that peer review selection identifies as likely to be funded.

(3) CENTRALIZED RESEARCHER PROFILE DATABASE.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Working Group shall establish, to the extent practicable, a secure, centralized database for investigator biosketches, curriculum vitae, licenses, lists of publications, and other documents considered relevant by the Working Group.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the centralized profile database under subparagraph (A), the Working Group shall consider incorporating existing investigator databases.

(C) GRANT PROPOSALS.—To the extent practicable, all grant proposals shall utilize the centralized investigator profile database established under subparagraph (A).

(D) REQUIREMENTS.—Each investigator shall—

(i) be responsible for ensuring the investigator’s profile is current and accurate; and

(ii) be assigned a unique identifier linked to the database and accessible to all Federal funding agencies.

(4) CENTRALIZED ASSURANCES REPOSITORY.—The Working Group shall—

(A) establish a central repository for all of the assurances required for Federal research grants; and

(B) provide guidance to institutions of higher education and Federal science agencies on the use of the centralized assurances repository.

(5) COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall—

(i) conduct a comprehensive review of the mandated progress reports for federally funded research; and

(ii) develop a strategy to simplify investigator progress reports.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the strategy, the Working Group shall consider limiting progress reports to performance outcomes.

(f) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out its responsibilities under subsection (e)(1), the Working Group shall consult with academic researchers outside the Federal Government, including—

(1) federally funded researchers;

(2) non-federally funded researchers;

(3) institutions of higher education and their representative associations;

(4) scientific and engineering disciplinary societies and associations;

(5) nonprofit research institutions;

(6) industry, including small businesses;

(7) federally funded research and development centers; and

(8) members of the public with a stake in ensuring effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability in the performance of scientific research.

(g) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Working Group shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on its responsibilities under this section, including a discussion of the considerations described in paragraphs (2)(B), (3)(B), and (5)(B) of subsection (e) and recommendations made under subsection (e)(1).

SEC. 202. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COLLABORATION.

(a) DEFINITION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL WORKSHOP.—In this section, the term “scientific and technical workshop” means a symposium, seminar, or any other organized, formal gathering where scientists or engineers working in STEM research and development fields assemble to coordinate, exchange and disseminate information or to explore or clarify a defined subject, problem or area of knowledge in the STEM fields.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should encourage broad dissemination of Federal research findings and engagement of Federal researchers with the scientific and technical community; and

(2) laboratory, test center, and field center directors and other similar heads of offices should approve scientific and technical workshop attendance if—

(A) that attendance would meet the mission of the laboratory or test center; and

(B) sufficient laboratory or test center funds are available for that purpose.

(c) ATTENDANCE POLICIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the heads of the Federal science agencies shall each develop an action plan for the implementation of revisions and updates to their policies on attendance at scientific and technical workshops.

(d) NIST WORKSHOPS.—Section 2(c) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)), as amended by section 104 of this Act, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (19) through (24) as paragraphs (22) through (27), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (18) the following:

“(19) host, participate in, and support scientific and technical workshops (as defined in section 202 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act);

“(20) collect and retain any fees charged by the Secretary for hosting a scientific and technical workshop described in paragraph (19);

“(21) notwithstanding title 31 of the United States Code, use the fees described in paragraph (20) to pay for any related expenses, including subsistence expenses for participants;”.

SEC. 203. NIST GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS UPDATE.

Section 8(a) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3706(a)) is amended by striking “The total amount of any such grant or cooperative agreement may not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the program.”.

SEC. 204. REPEAL OF CERTAIN OBSOLETE REPORTS.

(a) REPEAL OF CERTAIN OBSOLETE REPORTS.—

(1) NIST REPORTS.—

(A) REPORT ON DONATION OF EDUCATIONALLY USEFUL FEDERAL EQUIPMENT TO SCHOOLS.—Section 6(b) of the Technology Administration Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1) IN GENERAL.—” and indenting appropriately; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (2).

(B) THREE-YEAR PROGRAMMATIC PLANNING DOCUMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Section 23 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278i) is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d).

(ii) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 10(h)(1) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278(h)(1)) is amended by striking the last sentence.

(2) MULTIAGENCY REPORT ON INNOVATION ACCELERATION RESEARCH.—Section 1008 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 6603) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (c); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(3) NSF REPORTS.—

(A) FUNDING FOR SUCCESSFUL STEM EDUCATION PROGRAMS; REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Section 7012 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o-4) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(B) ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION; EVALUATION AND REPORT.—Section 7031 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o-11) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(C) MATH AND SCIENCE PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM COORDINATION REPORT.—Section 9(c) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n(c)) is amended—

(i) by striking paragraph (4); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4).

(b) NATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE REPORTS.—The 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by amending section 2(c)(4) (15 U.S.C. 7501(c)(4)) to read as follows:

“(4) develop, not later than 5 years after the date of the release of the most-recent strategic plan, and update every 5 years thereafter, a strategic plan to guide the activities described under subsection (b) that describes—

“(A) the near-term and long-term objectives for the Program;

“(B) the anticipated schedule for achieving the near-term objectives; and

“(C) the metrics that will be used to assess progress toward the near-term and long-term objectives;

“(D) how the Program will move results out of the laboratory and into application for the benefit of society;

“(E) the Program’s support for long-term funding for interdisciplinary research and development in nanotechnology; and

“(F) the allocation of funding for inter-agency nanotechnology projects;”;

(2) by amending section 4(d) (15 U.S.C. 7503(d)) to read as follows:

“(d) REPORTS.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the most recent assessment under subsection (c), and quadrennially thereafter, the Advisory Panel shall submit to the President, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report its assessments under subsection (c) and its recommendations for ways to improve the Program.”; and

(3) in section 5 (15 U.S.C. 7504)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “TRIENNIAL” and inserting “QUADRENNIAL”;

(B) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “triennial” and inserting “quadrennial”;

(C) in subsection (b), by striking “triennial” and inserting “quadrennial”;

(D) in subsection (c), by striking “triennial” and inserting “quadrennial”; and

(E) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date the first evaluation under subsection (a) is received, and quadrennially thereafter, the Director of the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office shall report to the President its assessments under subsection (c) and its recommendations for ways to improve the Program.

“(2) CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date the President receives the report under paragraph (1), the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall transmit a copy of the report to Congress.”.

(c) MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION.—Section 14 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-4) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) PRIORITIZATION OF PROPOSED MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORITIES.—The Director shall—

“(A) develop a list indicating by number the relative priority for funding under the major research equipment and facilities construction account that the Director assigns to each project the Board has approved for inclusion in a future budget request; and

“(B) submit the list described in subparagraph (A) to the Board for approval.

“(2) CRITERIA.—The Director shall include in the criteria for developing the list under paragraph (1) the readiness of plans for construction and operation, including confidence in the estimates of the full life-cycle cost (as defined in section 2 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 1862k note)) and the proposed schedule of completion.

“(3) UPDATES.—The Director shall update the list prepared under paragraph (1) each time the Board approves a new project that would receive funding under the major research equipment and facilities construction account and periodically submit any updated list to the Board for approval.”;

(2) by striking subsection (e);

(3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and

(4) by amending subsection (c), as redesignated, to read as follows:

“(c) BOARD APPROVAL OF MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES PROJECTS.—The Board shall explicitly approve any project to be funded out of the major research equipment and facilities construction account before any funds may be obligated from such account for such project.”.

SEC. 205. REPEAL OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

(a) TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 28 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) ADDITIONAL AWARD CRITERIA.—Section 4226(b) of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (15 U.S.C. 278n note) is repealed.

(B) MANAGEMENT COSTS.—Section 2(d) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(d)) is amended by striking “sections 25, 26, and 28” and inserting “sections 25 and 26”.

(C) ANNUAL AND OTHER REPORTS TO SECRETARY AND CONGRESS.—Section 10(h)(1) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278(h)(1)) is amended by striking “, including the Program established under section 28.”.

(b) TEACHERS FOR A COMPETITIVE TOMORROW.—Sections 6111 through 6116 of the America COMPETES Act (20 U.S.C. 9811, 9812, 9813, 9814, 9815, 9816) and the items relating to those sections in the table of contents under section 2 of that Act (Public Law 110-69; 121 Stat. 572) are repealed.

SEC. 206. GRANT SUBRECIPIENT TRANSPARENCY AND OVERSIGHT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Foundation shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an audit of the Foundation’s policies and procedures governing the monitoring of pass-through entities with respect to subrecipients.

(b) CONTENTS.—The audit shall include the following:

(1) Information regarding the Foundation’s process to oversee—

(A) the compliance of pass-through entities under section 200.331 and subpart F of part 200 of chapter II of subtitle A of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, and the other requirements of that title for subrecipients;

(B) whether pass-through entities have processes and controls in place regarding financial compliance of subrecipients, where appropriate; and

(C) whether pass-through entities have processes and controls in place to maintain approved grant objectives for subrecipients, where appropriate.

(2) Recommendations, if necessary, to increase transparency and oversight while balancing administrative burdens.

SEC. 207. MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD FOR PROCUREMENT SOLICITATIONS BY RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS.

(a) **MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD.**—The micro-purchase threshold for procurement activities administered under sections 6303 through 6305 of title 31, United States Code, awarded by the Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Institute of Standards and Technology to institutions of higher education, or related or affiliated nonprofit entities, or to nonprofit research organizations or independent research institutes is—

(1) \$10,000 (as adjusted periodically to account for inflation); or

(2) such higher threshold as determined appropriate by the head of the relevant executive agency and consistent with audit findings under chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code, internal institutional risk assessment, or State law.

(b) **UNIFORM GUIDANCE.**—The Uniform Guidance shall be revised to conform with the requirements of this section. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term “Uniform Guidance” means the uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for Federal awards contained in part 200 of title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 208. COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2016”.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a body under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the United States science and technology enterprise, improve economic and national security, and support United States foreign policy goals.

(c) **NSTC BODY LEADERSHIP.**—The body established under subsection (b) shall be co-chaired by senior level officials from the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Department of State.

(d) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The body established under subsection (b) shall—

(1) plan and coordinate interagency international science and technology cooperative research and training activities and partnerships supported or managed by Federal agencies;

(2) work with other National Science and Technology Council committees to help plan and coordinate the international component of national science and technology priorities;

(3) establish Federal priorities and policies for aligning, as appropriate, international science and technology cooperative research and training activities and partnerships supported or managed by Federal agencies with the foreign policy goals of the United States;

(4) identify opportunities for new international science and technology cooperative research and training partnerships that advance both the science and technology and the foreign policy priorities of the United States;

(5) in carrying out paragraph (4), solicit input and recommendations from non-Federal science and technology stakeholders, including institutions of higher education, scientific and professional societies, industry,

and other relevant organizations and institutions; and

(6) identify broad issues that influence the ability of United States scientists and engineers to collaborate with foreign counterparts, including barriers to collaboration and access to scientific information.

(e) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a biennial report on the requirements of this section.

(f) **WEBSITE.**—The Director shall make each report available to the public on the Office of Science and Technology Policy website.

(g) **TERMINATION.**—The body established under subsection (b) shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(h) **ADDITIONAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall submit, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that lists and describes the details of all foreign travel by Office of Science and Technology Policy staff and detailees.

TITLE III—SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH EDUCATION
SEC. 301. ROBERT NOYCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE.

Section 10A of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n–1a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(k) **STEM TEACHER SERVICE AND RETENTION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director shall develop and implement practices for increasing the proportion of individuals receiving fellowships under this section who—

“(A) fulfill the service obligation required under subsection (h); and

“(B) remain in the teaching profession in a high need local educational agency beyond the service obligation.

“(2) **PRACTICES.**—The practices described under paragraph (1) may include—

“(A) partnering with nonprofit or professional associations or with other government entities to provide individuals receiving fellowships under this section with opportunities for professional development, including mentorship programs that pair those individuals with currently employed and recently retired science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science professionals;

“(B) increasing recruitment from high need districts;

“(C) establishing a system to better collect, track, and respond to data on the career decisions of individuals receiving fellowships under this section;

“(D) conducting research to better understand factors relevant to teacher service and retention, including factors specifically impacting the retention of teachers who are individuals identified in sections 33 and 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b); and

“(E) conducting pilot programs to improve teacher service and retention.”.

SEC. 302. SPACE GRANTS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program has been an important program by which the Federal Government has partnered with universities, colleges, industry, and other organizations to provide hands-on STEM experiences, fostering of multidisciplinary space research, and supporting graduate fellowships in space-related fields, among other purposes.

(b) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—Section 40303 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION COSTS.**—In carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the Administrator—

“(1) shall maximize appropriated funds for grants and contracts made under section 40304 in each fiscal year; and

“(2) in each fiscal year, the Administrator shall limit its program administration costs to no more than 5 percent of funds appropriated for this program for that fiscal year.

“(e) **REPORTS.**—For any fiscal year in which the Administrator cannot meet the administration cost target under subsection (d)(2), if the Administrator is unable to limit program costs under subsection (b), the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report, including—

“(1) a description of why the Administrator did not meet the cost target under subsection (d); and

“(2) the measures the Administrator will take in the next fiscal year to meet the cost target under subsection (d) without drawing upon other Federal funding.”.

SEC. 303. STEM EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment this Act, the Director of the Foundation, Secretary of Education, Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall jointly establish an advisory panel (referred to in this section as the “STEM Education Advisory Panel”) to advise the Committee on STEM Education of the National Science and Technology Council (referred to in this section as “CoSTEM”) on matters relating to STEM education.

(b) **MEMBERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The STEM Education Advisory Panel shall be composed of not less than 11 members.

(2) **APPOINTMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Director of the Foundation, in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the heads of the Federal science agencies, shall appoint the members of the STEM Education Advisory Panel.

(B) **CONSIDERATION.**—In selecting individuals to appoint under subparagraph (A), the Director of the Foundation shall seek and give consideration to recommendations from Congress, industry, the scientific community, including the National Academy of Sciences, scientific professional societies, academia, State and local governments, organizations representing individuals identified in section 33 or section 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b), and such other organizations as the Director considers appropriate.

(C) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Members shall—

(i) primarily be individuals from academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, and industry, including in-school, out-of-school, and informal education practitioners; and

(ii) be individuals who are qualified to provide advice and information on STEM education research, development, training, implementation, interventions, professional development, or workforce needs or concerns.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The STEM Education Advisory Panel shall—

(A) advise CoSTEM;

(B) periodically assess CoSTEM's progress in carrying out its responsibilities under section 101(b) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621(b)); and

(C) help identify any need or opportunity to update the strategic plan under section 101(b) of that Act.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In its advisory role, the STEM Education Advisory Panel shall consider—

(A) the management, coordination, and implementation of STEM education programs and activities across the Federal Government;

(B) the appropriateness of criteria used by Federal agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of Federal STEM education programs and activities;

(C) whether societal and workforce concerns are adequately addressed by current Federal STEM education programs and activities;

(D) how Federal agencies can incentivize institutions of higher education to improve retention of STEM students;

(E) ways to leverage private and nonprofit STEM investments and encourage public-private partnerships to strengthen STEM education and help build the STEM workforce pipeline;

(F) ways to incorporate workforce needs into Federal STEM education programs and activities, particularly for specific employment fields of national interest and employment fields experiencing high unemployment rates;

(G) ways to better vertically and horizontally integrate Federal STEM education programs and activities from pre-kindergarten through graduate study and the workforce, and from in-school to out-of-school in order to improve transitions for students moving through the STEM education and workforce pipelines;

(H) the extent to which Federal STEM education programs and activities are contributing to recruitment and retention of individuals identified in sections 33 and 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b) in the STEM education and workforce pipelines; and

(I) ways to encourage geographic diversity in the STEM education and the workforce pipelines.

(3) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The STEM Education Advisory Panel shall make recommendations to improve Federal STEM education programs and activities based on each assessment under paragraph (1)(B).

(d) FUNDING.—The Director of the Foundation, the Secretary of Education, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall jointly make funds available on an annual basis to support the activities of the STEM Education Advisory Panel.

(e) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and after each assessment under subsection (c)(1)(B), the STEM Education Advisory Panel shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and CoSTEM a report on its assessment under that subsection and its recommendations under subsection (c)(3).

(f) TRAVEL EXPENSES OF NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Non-Federal members of the STEM Education Advisory Panel, while attending meetings of the panel or while otherwise serving at the request of a co-chairperson away from their homes or regular places of business, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for individuals in the Government serving without pay.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit members of the STEM Advisory Panel who are officers or employees of the United States from being allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with existing law.

(g) TERMINATION.—The STEM Education Advisory Panel established under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date that it is established.

SEC. 304. COMMITTEE ON STEM EDUCATION.

(a) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Section 101(b) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5)(D), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) collaborate with the STEM Education Advisory Panel established under section 303 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act and other outside stakeholders to ensure the engagement of the STEM education community;

“(8) review the measures used by a Federal agency to evaluate its STEM education activities and programs;

“(9) request and review feedback from States on how the States are utilizing Federal STEM education programs and activities; and

“(10) recommend the reform, termination, or consolidation of Federal STEM education activities and programs, taking into consideration the recommendations of the STEM Education Advisory Panel.”

(b) REPORTS.—Section 101 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621) is amended—

(1) by striking “(c) REPORT.—” and inserting “(d) REPORTS.—”;

(2) by striking “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF OSTP.—” and inserting “(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF OSTP.—”;

(3) in subsection (d), as redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) a description of all consolidations and terminations of Federal STEM education programs and activities implemented in the previous fiscal year, including an explanation for the consolidations and terminations;

“(7) recommendations for reforms, consolidations, and terminations of STEM education programs or activities in the upcoming fiscal year; and

“(8) a description of any significant new STEM education public-private partnerships.”

SEC. 305. PROGRAMS TO EXPAND STEM OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Economic projections by the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that by 2018, there could be 2,400,000 unfilled STEM jobs.

(2) Women represent slightly more than half the United States population, and projections indicate that 54 percent of the population will be a member of a racial or ethnic minority group by 2050.

(3) Despite representing half the population, women comprise only about 30 percent of STEM workers according to a 2015 report by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics.

(4) A 2014 National Center for Education Statistics study found that underrepresented populations leave the STEM fields at higher rates than their counterparts.

(5) The representation of women in STEM drops significantly at the faculty level. Overall, women hold only 25 percent of all tenured and tenure-track positions and 17 percent of full professor positions in STEM fields in our Nation's universities and 4-year colleges.

(6) Black and Hispanic faculty together hold about 6.5 percent of all tenured and tenure-track positions and 5 percent of full professor positions.

(7) Many of the numbers in the American Indian or Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander categories for different faculty ranks were too small for the Foundation to report publicly without potentially compromising confidential information about the individuals being surveyed.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) it is critical to our Nation's economic leadership and global competitiveness that the United States educate, train, and retain more scientists, engineers, and computer scientists;

(2) there is currently a disconnect between the availability of and growing demand for STEM-skilled workers;

(3) historically, underrepresented populations are the largest untapped STEM talent pools in the United States; and

(4) given the shifting demographic landscape, the United States should encourage full participation of individuals from underrepresented populations in STEM fields.

(c) REAFFIRMATION.—The Director of the Foundation shall continue to support programs designed to broaden participation of underrepresented populations in STEM fields.

(d) GRANTS TO BROADEN PARTICIPATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation shall award grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis, to eligible entities to increase the participation of underrepresented populations in STEM fields, including individuals identified in section 33 or section 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b).

(2) CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this subsection may include grants for the establishment of a Center of Excellence to collect, maintain, and disseminate information to increase participation of underrepresented populations in STEM fields.

(B) PURPOSE.—The purpose of a Center of Excellence under this subsection is to promote diversity in STEM fields by building on the success of the INCLUDES programs, providing technical assistance, maintaining best practices, and providing related training at federally funded academic institutions.

(e) ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISSEMINATION.—

(1) EVALUATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Foundation shall evaluate the grants provided under this section.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the evaluation under subparagraph (A), the Director shall—

(i) use a common set of benchmarks and assessment tools to identify best practices and materials developed or demonstrated by the research; and

(ii) to the extent practicable, combine the research resulting from the grant activity under subsection (e) with the current research on serving underrepresented students in grades kindergarten through 8.

(2) REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director of the Foundation shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and make widely available to the public a report that includes—

(A) the results of the evaluation; and

(B) any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the program.

(f) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the Director of the Foundation shall consult and cooperate with the programs and policies of other relevant Federal agencies to avoid duplication with and enhance the effectiveness of the program under this section.

SEC. 306. NIST EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.

(a) REPEAL.—The National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.) is amended by striking section 18 (15 U.S.C. 278g-1).

(b) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.—The National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.), as amended, is further amended by inserting after section 17, the following:

“SEC. 18. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director is authorized to expend funds appropriated for activities of the Institute in any fiscal year, to support, promote, and coordinate activities and efforts to enhance public awareness and understanding of measurement sciences, standards and technology at the national measurement laboratories and otherwise in fulfillment of the mission of the Institute. The Director may carry out activities under this subsection, including education and outreach activities to the general public, industry and academia in support of the Institute’s mission.

“(b) HIRING.—The Director, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, may revise the procedures the Director applies when making appointments to laboratory positions within the competitive service—

“(1) to ensure corporate memory of and expertise in the fundamental ongoing work, and on developing new capabilities in priority areas;

“(2) to maintain high overall technical competence;

“(3) to improve staff diversity;

“(4) to balance emphases on the noncore and core areas; or

“(5) to improve the ability of the Institute to compete in the marketplace for qualified personnel.

“(c) VOLUNTEERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may establish a program to use volunteers in carrying out the programs of the Institute.

“(2) ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL.—The Director may accept, subject to regulations issued by the Office of Personnel Management, voluntary service for the Institute for such purpose if the service—

“(A) is to be without compensation; and

“(B) will not be used to displace any current employee or act as a substitute for any future full-time employee of the Institute.

“(3) FEDERAL EMPLOYEE STATUS.—Any individual who provides voluntary service under this subsection shall not be considered a Federal employee, except for purposes of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code (relating to compensation for injury), and sections 2671 through 2680 of title 28, United States Code (relating to tort claims).

“(d) RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may expend funds appropriated for activities of the Institute in any fiscal year, as the Director considers appropriate, for awards of research fellowships and other forms of financial and logistical assistance, including direct stipend awards to—

“(A) students at institutions of higher learning within the United States who show promise as present or future contributors to the mission of the Institute; and

“(B) United States citizens for research and technical activities of the Institute, including programs.

“(2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The selection of persons to receive such fellowships and assistance shall be made on the basis of ability and of the relevance of the proposed work to the mission and programs of the Institute.

“(3) FINANCIAL AND LOGISTICAL ASSISTANCE.—Notwithstanding section 1345 of title 31, United States Code, or any other law to the contrary, the Director may include as a form of financial or logistical assistance under this subsection temporary housing and transportation to and from Institute facilities.

“(e) EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.—The Director may—

“(1) facilitate education programs for undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and academic and industry employees;

“(2) sponsor summer workshops for STEM kindergarten through grade 12 teachers as appropriate;

“(3) develop programs for graduate student internships and visiting faculty researchers;

“(4) document publications, presentations, and interactions with visiting researchers and sponsoring interns as performance metrics for improving and continuing interactions with those individuals; and

“(5) facilitate laboratory tours and provide presentations for educational, industry, and community groups.”

(c) POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 19 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-2) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 19. POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Institute and the National Academy of Sciences, jointly, shall establish and conduct a post-doctoral fellowship program, subject to the availability of appropriations.

“(b) ORGANIZATION.—The post-doctoral fellowship program shall include not less than 20 new fellows per fiscal year.

“(c) EVALUATIONS.—In evaluating applications for post-doctoral fellowships under this section, the Director of the Institute and the President of the National Academy of Sciences shall give consideration to the goal of promoting the participation of individuals identified in sections 33 and 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b) in research areas supported by the Institute.”

(d) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—

(1) RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AT INSTI-

TUTES OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The repeal made by subsection (a) of this section shall not affect any award of a research fellowship or other form of financial assistance made under section 18 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-1) before the date of enactment of this Act. Such award shall continue to be subject to the requirements to which such funds were subject under that section before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—The amendment made by subsection (c) of this section shall not affect any award of a post-doctoral fellowship or other form of financial assistance made under section 19 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-2) before the date of enactment of this Act. Such awards shall continue to be subject to the requirements to which such funds were subject under that section before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 307. PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN STEM MENTORING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation shall continue to administer awards on behalf of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to recognize outstanding mentoring in STEM fields.

(b) ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS.—The Director of the Foundation shall provide Congress with a list of award recipients, including the name, institution, and a brief synopsis of the impact of the mentoring efforts.

SEC. 308. WORKING GROUP ON INCLUSION IN STEM FIELDS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Office of Science and Technology Policy, in collaboration with Federal departments and agencies, shall establish an interagency working group to compile and summarize available research and best practices on how to promote diversity and inclusions in STEM fields and examine whether barriers exist to promoting diversity and inclusion within Federal agencies employing scientists and engineers.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The working group shall be responsible for reviewing and assessing research, best practices, and policies across Federal science agencies related to the inclusion of individuals identified in sections 33 and 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b) in the Federal STEM workforce, including available research and best practices on how to promote diversity and inclusion in STEM fields, including—

(1) policies providing flexibility for scientists and engineers that are also caregivers, particularly on the timing of research grants;

(2) policies to address the proper handling of claims of sexual harassment;

(3) policies to minimize the effects of implicit bias and other systemic factors in hiring, promotion, evaluation and the workplace in general; and

(4) other evidence-based strategies that the working group considers effective for promoting diversity and inclusion in the STEM fields.

(c) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In carrying out the responsibilities under section (b), the working group shall solicit and consider input and recommendations from non-Federal stakeholders, including—

(1) the Council of Advisors on Science and Technology;

(2) federally funded and non-federally funded researchers, institutions of higher education, scientific disciplinary societies, and associations;

(3) nonprofit research institutions;

(4) industry, including small businesses;

(5) federally funded research and development centers;

(6) non-governmental organizations; and

(7) such other members of the public interested in promoting a diverse and inclusive Federal STEM workforce.

(d) **PUBLIC REPORTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and periodically thereafter, the working group shall publish a report on the review and assessment under subsection (b), including a summary of available research and best practices, any recommendations for Federal actions to promote a diverse and inclusive Federal STEM workforce, and updates on the implementation of previous recommendations for Federal actions.

(e) **TERMINATION.**—The interagency working group established under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date that it is established.

SEC. 309. IMPROVING UNDERGRADUATE STEM EXPERIENCES.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that each Federal science agency should invest in and expand research opportunities for undergraduate students attending institutions of higher education during the undergraduate students' first 2 academic years of postsecondary education.

(b) **IDENTIFICATION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each Federal agency shall submit to the President recommendations regarding how the agency could best fulfill the goals described in subsection (a).

SEC. 310. COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION RESEARCH.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that as the lead Federal agency for building the research knowledge base for computer science education, the Foundation is well positioned to make investments that will accelerate ongoing efforts to enable rigorous and engaging computer science throughout the Nation as an integral part of STEM education.

(b) **GRANT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Foundation shall award grants to eligible entities to research computer science education and computational thinking.

(2) **RESEARCH.**—The research described in paragraph (1) may include the development or adaptation, piloting or full implementation, and testing of—

(A) models of preservice preparation for teachers who will teach computer science and computational thinking;

(B) scalable and sustainable models of professional development and ongoing support for the teachers described in subparagraph (A);

(C) tools and models for teaching and learning aimed at supporting student success and inclusion in computing within and across diverse populations, particularly poor, rural, and tribal populations and other populations that have been historically underrepresented in computer science and STEM fields; and

(D) high-quality learning opportunities for teaching computer science and, especially in poor, rural, or tribal schools at the elementary school and middle school levels, for integrating computational thinking into STEM teaching and learning.

(c) **COLLABORATIONS.**—In carrying out the grants established in subsection (b), eligible entities may collaborate and partner with local or remote schools to support the integration of computing and computational thinking within pre-kindergarten through grade 12 STEM curricula and instruction.

(d) **METRICS.**—The Director of the Foundation shall develop metrics to measure the success of the grant program funded under this section in achieving program goals.

(e) **REPORT.**—The Director of the Foundation shall report, in the annual budget submission to Congress, on the success of the program as measured by the metrics in subsection (d).

(f) **DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—In this section, the term “eligible entity” means an institution of higher education or a non-profit research organization.

SEC. 311. INFORMAL STEM EDUCATION.

(a) **NATIONAL STEM PARTNERSHIP GRANTS.**—Section 3(a) of the STEM Education Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 1862q(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) a national partnership of institutions involved in informal STEM learning.”

(b) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Section 3(b) of the STEM Education Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 1862q(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) fostering on-going partnerships between institutions involved in informal STEM learning, institutions of higher education, and education research centers; and

“(4) developing, and making available informal STEM education activities and educational materials.”

SEC. 312. DEVELOPING STEM APPRENTICESHIPS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The lack of data on the return on investment for United States employers using registered apprenticeships makes it difficult—

(A) to communicate the value of these programs to businesses; and

(B) to expand registered apprenticeships.

(2) The lack of data on the value and impact of employer-provided worker training, which is likely substantial, hinders the ability of the Federal Government to formulate policy related to workforce training.

(3) The Secretary of Commerce has initiated—

(A) the first study on the return on investment for United States employers using registered apprenticeships through case studies of firms in various sectors, occupations, and geographic locations to provide the business community with data on employer benefits and costs; and

(B) discussions with officials at relevant Federal agencies about the need to collect comprehensive data on—

(i) employer-provided worker training; and

(ii) existing tools that could be used to collect such data.

(b) **DEVELOPMENT OF APPRENTICESHIP INFORMATION.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall continue to research the value to businesses of utilizing apprenticeship programs, including—

(1) evidence of return on investment of apprenticeships, including estimates for the average time it takes a business to recover the costs associated with training apprentices; and

(2) data from the United States Census Bureau and other statistical surveys on employer-provided training, including apprenticeships and other on-the-job training and industry-recognized certification programs.

(c) **DISSEMINATION OF APPRENTICESHIP INFORMATION.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall disseminate findings from research on apprenticeships to businesses and other relevant stakeholders, including—

(1) institutions of higher education;

(2) State and local chambers of commerce; and

(3) workforce training organizations.

(d) **NEW APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM STUDY.**—The Secretary of Commerce may collaborate with the Secretary of Labor to study approaches for reducing the cost of creating new apprenticeship programs and hosting apprentices for businesses, particularly small businesses, including—

(1) training sharing agreements;

(2) group training models; and

(3) pooling resources and best practices.

(e) **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION GRANTS.**—The Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 28. STEM APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Commerce may carry out a grant program to identify the need for skilled science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this section as ‘STEM’) workers and to expand STEM apprenticeship programs.

“(b) **ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘eligible recipient’ means—

“(1) a State;

“(2) an Indian tribe;

“(3) a city or other political subdivision of a State;

“(4) an entity that—

“(A) is a nonprofit organization, an institution of higher education, a public-private partnership, a science or research park, a Federal laboratory, or an economic development organization or similar entity; and

“(B) has an application that is supported by a State, a political subdivision of a State, or a native organization; or

“(5) a consortium of any of the entities described in paragraphs (1) through (5).

“(c) **NEEDS ASSESSMENT GRANTS.**—The Secretary of Commerce may provide a grant to an eligible recipient to conduct a needs assessment to identify—

“(1) the unmet need of a region’s employer base for skilled STEM workers;

“(2) the potential of STEM apprenticeships to address the unmet need described in paragraph (1); and

“(3) any barriers to addressing the unmet need described in paragraph (1).

“(d) **APPRENTICESHIP EXPANSION GRANTS.**—The Secretary of Commerce may provide a grant to an eligible recipient that has conducted a needs assessment as described in subsection (c)(1) to develop infrastructure to expand STEM apprenticeship programs.”

SEC. 313. NSF REPORT ON BROADENING PARTICIPATION.

Section 204(e) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1885c(e)) is amended to read as follows:

“(e) **BIENNIAL REPORT.**—Every 2 years, the Committee shall prepare and submit to the Director a report on its activities during the previous 2 years and proposed activities for the next 2 years. The Director shall submit to Congress the report, unaltered, together with such comments as the Director considers appropriate, including—

“(1) review data on the participation in Foundation activities of institutions serving populations that are underrepresented in STEM disciplines, including poor, rural, and tribal populations; and

“(2) recommendations regarding how the Foundation could improve outreach and inclusion of these populations in Foundation activities.”.

SEC. 314. NOAA SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4002(a) of the America COMPETES Act (33 U.S.C. 893a(a)) is amended by striking “agency, with consideration given to the goal of promoting the participation of individuals from underrepresented groups” and inserting “the agency, with consideration given to the goal of promoting the participation of individuals identified in sections 33 and 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b)”.

(b) EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM GOALS.—Section 4002(b)(4) of the America COMPETES Act (33 U.S.C. 893a(b)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (C) and subparagraph (D);

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) are designed considering the unique needs of underrepresented groups, translating such materials and other resources;”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) are promoted widely, especially among individuals identified in sections 33 and 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b); and”.

(c) METRICS.—Section 4002 of the America COMPETES Act (33 U.S.C. 893a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(2) by adding after section (c) the following:

“(d) METRICS.—In executing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration science education plan under subsection (c), the Administrator shall maintain a comprehensive system for evaluating the Administration’s educational programs and activities. In so doing, the Administrator shall ensure that such education programs have measurable objectives and milestones as well as clear, documented metrics for evaluating programs. For each such education program or portfolio of similar programs, the Administrator shall—

“(1) encourage the collection of evidence as relevant to the measurable objectives and milestones; and

“(2) ensure that program or portfolio evaluations focus on educational outcomes and not just inputs, activities completed, or the number of participants.”.

SEC. 315. HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7033(a) of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o-12(a)) is amended as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall award grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to Hispanic-serving institutions (as defined in section 502 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a)) to enhance the quality of undergraduate STEM education at such institutions and to increase the retention and graduation rates of students pursuing associate’s or baccalaureate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.”.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) of this section shall not affect any award of a grant or other form of financial assistance made under section 7033 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o-12) before the date of enactment of this Act. Such awards shall continue to be

subject to the requirements to which such funds were subject under that section before the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE IV—LEVERAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

SEC. 401. PRIZE COMPETITION AUTHORITY UPDATE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Science Prize Competition Act”.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Section 24 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “PRIZES” and by inserting “PRIZE COMPETITIONS”;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “prize may be one or more of the following” and inserting “prize competition may be 1 or more of the following types of activities”;

(C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “competition” after “prize”; and

(D) in paragraphs (3) and (4), by striking “prizes” and inserting “prize competitions”;

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “in the Federal Register” and inserting “on a publicly accessible Government website, such as www.challenge.gov.”;

(B) in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), by inserting “prize” before “competition”; and

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking “prize” and inserting “cash prize purse or non-cash prize award”;

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “prize” and inserting “cash prize purse”; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “prize” before “competition”;

(4) in subsection (h), by inserting “prize” before “competition” each place it appears;

(5) in subsection (i)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “prize” before “competition”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “prize” before “competition” each place it appears;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) WAIVERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An agency may waive the requirement under paragraph (2).

“(B) LIST.—The Director shall include a list of all of the waivers granted under this paragraph during the preceding fiscal year, including a detailed explanation of the reason for granting the waiver.”;

(6) in subsection (j)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “prize” before “competition”; and

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) LICENSES.—As appropriate and to further the goals of a prize competition, the Federal Government may negotiate a license for the use of intellectual property developed by a registered participant in a prize competition.”;

(7) in subsection (k)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “each competition” and inserting “each prize competition” each place it appears;

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “prize” before “competition”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “prize” before “competitions” each place it appears;

(8) in subsection (l), by striking “an agreement with” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “a grant,

contract, cooperative agreement, or other agreement with a private sector for-profit or nonprofit entity or State or local government agency to administer the prize competition, subject to the provisions of this section.”;

(9) in subsection (m)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Support for a prize competition under this section, including financial support for the design and administration of a prize competition or funds for a cash prize purse, may consist of Federal appropriated funds and funds provided by private sector for-profit and nonprofit entities. The head of an agency may request and accept funds from other Federal agencies, State, United States territory, local, or tribal government agencies, private sector for-profit entities, and nonprofit entities, to be available to the extent provided by appropriations Acts, to support such prize competitions. The head of an agency may not give any special consideration to any agency or entity in return for a donation.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “prize awards” and inserting “cash prize purses or non-cash prize awards”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) ANNOUNCEMENT.—No prize competition may be announced under subsection (f) until all the funds needed to pay out the announced amount of the cash prize purse have been appropriated or committed in writing by a private or State, United States territory, local, or tribal government source.”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “a prize” and inserting “a cash prize purse or non-cash prize award”;

(II) in clause (i), by inserting “competition” after “prize”; and

(III) in clause (ii), by inserting “or State, United States territory, local, or tribal government” after “private”; and

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “a prize” and inserting “a cash prize purse or a non-cash prize award”; and

(II) by striking “Science and Technology” and inserting “Science, Space, and Technology”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “cash prizes” and inserting “cash prize purses or non-cash prize awards”;

(10) in subsection (n)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “SERVICE” and inserting “SERVICES”;

(B) by striking “the date of the enactment of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010,” and inserting “the date of enactment of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act.”; and

(C) by inserting “for both for-profit and nonprofit entities and State, United States territory, local, and tribal government entities,” after “contract vehicle”;

(11) in subsection (o)(1), by striking “or providing a prize” and inserting “a prize competition or providing a cash prize purse or non-cash prize award”; and

(12) in subsection (p)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “ANNUAL” and inserting “BIENNIAL”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “each year” and inserting “every other year”;

(ii) by striking “Science and Technology” and inserting “Science, Space, and Technology”; and

(iii) by striking “fiscal year” and inserting “2 fiscal years”; and

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “The report for a fiscal year” and inserting “A report”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the heading, by striking “PRIZES” and inserting “PRIZE PURSES OR NON-CASH PRIZE AWARDS”; and

(II) by striking “cash prizes” each place it appears and inserting “cash prize purses or non-cash prize awards”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) PLAN.—A description of crosscutting topical areas and agency-specific mission needs that may be the strongest opportunities for prize competitions during the upcoming 2 fiscal years.”.

SEC. 402. CROWDSOURCING AND CITIZEN SCIENCE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Act”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the authority granted to Federal agencies under the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-358; 124 Stat. 3982) to pursue the use of incentive prizes and challenges has yielded numerous benefits;

(2) crowdsourcing and citizen science projects have a number of additional unique benefits, including accelerating scientific research, increasing cost effectiveness to maximize the return on taxpayer dollars, addressing societal needs, providing hands-on learning in STEM, and connecting members of the public directly to Federal science agency missions and to each other; and

(3) granting Federal science agencies the direct, explicit authority to use crowdsourcing and citizen science will encourage its appropriate use to advance Federal science agency missions and stimulate and facilitate broader public participation in the innovation process, yielding numerous benefits to the Federal Government and citizens who participate in such projects.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CITIZEN SCIENCE.—The term “citizen science” means a form of open collaboration in which individuals or organizations participate voluntarily in the scientific process in various ways, including—

(A) enabling the formulation of research questions;

(B) creating and refining project design;

(C) conducting scientific experiments;

(D) collecting and analyzing data;

(E) interpreting the results of data;

(F) developing technologies and applications;

(G) making discoveries; and

(H) solving problems.

(2) CROWDSOURCING.—The term “crowdsourcing” means a method to obtain needed services, ideas, or content by soliciting voluntary contributions from a group of individuals or organizations, especially from an online community.

(3) PARTICIPANT.—The term “participant” means any individual or other entity that has volunteered in a crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section.

(d) CROWDSOURCING AND CITIZEN SCIENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each Federal science agency, or the heads of multiple Federal science agencies working cooperatively, may utilize crowdsourcing and citizen science to conduct projects designed to advance the mission of the respective Federal science agency or the joint mission of Federal science agencies, as applicable.

(2) VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the head of a Federal science agency may accept, subject to regulations issued by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, services from participants under this section if such services—

(A) are performed voluntarily as a part of a crowdsourcing or citizen science project authorized under paragraph (1);

(B) are not financially compensated for their time; and

(C) will not be used to displace any employee of the Federal Government.

(3) OUTREACH.—The head of each Federal science agency engaged in a crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section shall make public and promote such project to encourage broad participation.

(4) CONSENT, REGISTRATION, AND TERMS OF USE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal science agency shall determine the appropriate level of consent, registration, or acknowledgment of the terms of use that are required from participants in crowdsourcing or citizen science projects under this section on a per-project basis.

(B) DISCLOSURES.—In seeking consent, conducting registration, or developing terms of use for a project under this subsection, a Federal science agency shall disclose the privacy, intellectual property, data ownership, compensation, service, program, and other terms of use to the participant in a clear and reasonable manner.

(C) MODE OF CONSENT.—A Federal agency or Federal science agencies, as applicable, may obtain consent electronically or in written form from participants under this section.

(5) PROTECTIONS FOR HUMAN SUBJECTS.—Any crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section that involves research involving human subjects shall be subject to part 46 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(6) DATA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A Federal science agency shall, where appropriate and to the extent practicable, make data collected through a crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section available to the public, in a machine readable format, unless prohibited by law.

(B) NOTICE.—As part of the consent process, the Federal science agency shall notify all participants—

(i) of the expected uses of the data compiled through the project;

(ii) if the Federal science agency will retain ownership of such data;

(iii) if and how the data and results from the project would be made available for public or third party use; and

(iv) if participants are authorized to publish such data.

(7) TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS.—Federal science agencies shall endeavor to make technologies, applications, code, and derivations of such intellectual property developed through a crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section available to the public.

(8) LIABILITY.—Each participant in a crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section shall agree—

(A) to assume any and all risks associated with such participation; and

(B) to waive all claims against the Federal Government and its related entities, except for claims based on willful misconduct, for

any injury, death, damage, or loss of property, revenue, or profits (whether direct, indirect, or consequential) arising from participation in the project.

(9) RESEARCH MISCONDUCT.—Federal science agencies coordinating crowdsourcing or citizen science projects under this section shall make all practicable efforts to ensure that participants adhere to all relevant Federal research misconduct policies and other applicable ethics policies.

(10) MULTI-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS.—The head of each Federal science agency engaged in crowdsourcing or citizen science under this section, or the heads of multiple Federal science agencies working cooperatively, may enter into a contract or other agreement to share administrative duties for such projects with—

(A) a for profit or nonprofit private sector entity, including a private institution of higher education;

(B) a State, tribal, local, or foreign government agency, including a public institution of higher education; or

(C) a public-private partnership.

(11) FUNDING.—In carrying out crowdsourcing and citizen science projects under this section, the head of a Federal science agency, or the heads of multiple Federal science agencies working cooperatively—

(A) may use funds appropriated by Congress;

(B) may publicize projects and solicit and accept funds or in-kind support for such projects, to be available to the extent provided by appropriations Acts, from—

(i) other Federal agencies;

(ii) for profit or nonprofit private sector entities, including private institutions of higher education; or

(iii) State, tribal, local, or foreign government agencies, including public institutions of higher education; and

(C) may not give any special consideration to any entity described in subparagraph (B) in return for such funds or in-kind support.

(12) FACILITATION.—

(A) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator of the General Services Administration, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall, at no cost to Federal science agencies, identify and develop relevant products, training, and services to facilitate the use of crowdsourcing and citizen science projects under this section, including by specifying the appropriate contract vehicles and technology and organizational platforms to enhance the ability of Federal science agencies to carry out the projects under this section.

(B) ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE.—The head of each Federal science agency engaged in crowdsourcing or citizen science under this section may—

(i) consult any guidance provided by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, including the Federal Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Toolkit;

(ii) designate a coordinator for that Federal science agency’s crowdsourcing and citizen science projects; and

(iii) share best practices with other Federal agencies, including participation of staff in the Federal Community of Practice for Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science.

(e) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and

Technology Policy shall include, as a component of an annual report required under section 24(p) of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(p)), a report on the projects and activities carried out under this section.

(2) INFORMATION INCLUDED.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a summary of each crowdsourcing and citizen science project conducted by a Federal science agency during the most recently completed 2 fiscal years, including a description of the proposed goals of each crowdsourcing and citizen science project;

(B) an analysis of why the utilization of a crowdsourcing or citizen science project summarized in subparagraph (A) was the preferable method of achieving the goals described in subparagraph (A) as opposed to other authorities available to the Federal science agency, such as contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and prize competitions;

(C) the participation rates, submission levels, number of consents, and any other statistic that might be considered relevant in each crowdsourcing and citizen science project;

(D) a detailed description of—

(i) the resources, including personnel and funding, that were used in the execution of each crowdsourcing and citizen science project;

(ii) the project activities for which such resources were used; and

(iii) how the obligations and expenditures relating to the project's execution were allocated among the accounts of the Federal science agency, including a description of the amount and source of all funds, private, public, and in-kind, contributed to each crowdsourcing and citizen science project;

(E) a summary of the use of crowdsourcing and citizen science by all Federal science agencies, including interagency and multi-sector partnerships;

(F) a description of how each crowdsourcing and citizen science project advanced the mission of each participating Federal science agency;

(G) an identification of each crowdsourcing or citizen science project where data collected through such project was not made available to the public, including the reasons for such action; and

(H) any other information that the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy considers relevant.

(f) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

(1) to affect the authority to conduct crowdsourcing and citizen science authorized by any other provision of law; or

(2) to displace Federal Government resources allocated to the Federal science agencies that use crowdsourcing or citizen science authorized under this section to carry out a project.

SEC. 403. NIST DIRECTOR FUNCTIONS UPDATE.

Section 2(b) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(b)), as amended by section 403 of this Act, is further amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “authorized to take” and inserting “authorized to serve as the President's principal adviser on standards policy pertaining to the Nation's technological competitiveness and innovation ability and to take”;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “compare standards” and all that follows through “Federal Government” and inserting “facilitate standards-related information sharing

and cooperation between Federal agencies”; and

(3) in paragraph (13), by striking “Federal, State, and local” and all that follows through “private sector” and inserting “technical standards activities and conformity assessment activities of Federal, State, and local governments with private sector”.

SEC. 404. NIST VISITING COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY UPDATE.

Section 10 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking “15 members appointed by the Director, at least 10 of whom” and inserting “not fewer than 9 members appointed by the Director, a majority of whom”; and

(B) in the third sentence, by striking “National Bureau of Standards” and inserting “National Institute of Standards and Technology”; and

(2) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “, including the Program established under section 28.”.

TITLE V—MANUFACTURING

SEC. 501. HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Manufacturing Extension Partnership Improvement Act”.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 25. HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

“(2) AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL.—The term ‘area career and technical education school’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Vocational Education Act of 1963 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

“(3) CENTER.—The term ‘Center’ means a manufacturing extension center that—

“(A) is created under subsection (b); and

“(B) is affiliated with an eligible entity that applies for and is awarded financial support under subsection (e).

“(4) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term ‘community college’ means an institution of higher education (as defined under section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))) at which the highest degree that is predominately awarded to students is an associate's degree.

“(5) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means a United States-based nonprofit institution, or consortium thereof, an institution of higher education, or a State, United States territory, local, or tribal government.

“(6) HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP OR PROGRAM.—The term ‘Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership’ or ‘Program’ means the program established under subsection (b).

“(7) MEP ADVISORY BOARD.—The term ‘MEP Advisory Board’ means the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Advisory Board established under subsection (n).

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Secretary, acting through the Director and,

if appropriate, through other Federal officials, shall establish a program to provide assistance for the creation and support of manufacturing extension centers for the transfer of manufacturing technology and best business practices.

“(c) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the Program shall be to enhance competitiveness, productivity, and technological performance in United States manufacturing through—

“(1) the transfer of manufacturing technology and techniques developed at the Institute to Centers and, through them, to manufacturing companies throughout the United States;

“(2) the participation of individuals from industry, institutions of higher education, State governments, other Federal agencies, and, when appropriate, the Institute in cooperative technology transfer activities;

“(3) efforts to make new manufacturing technology and processes usable by United States-based small and medium-sized companies;

“(4) the active dissemination of scientific, engineering, technical, and management information about manufacturing to industrial firms, including small and medium-sized manufacturing companies;

“(5) the utilization, when appropriate, of the expertise and capability that exists in Federal agencies, other than the Institute, and federally-sponsored laboratories;

“(6) the provision to community colleges and area career and technical education schools of information about the job skills needed in manufacturing companies, including small and medium-sized manufacturing businesses in the regions they serve;

“(7) the promotion and expansion of certification systems offered through industry, associations, and local colleges when appropriate, including efforts such as facilitating training, supporting new or existing apprenticeships, and providing access to information and experts, to address workforce needs and skills gaps in order to assist small- and medium-sized manufacturing businesses; and

“(8) the growth in employment and wages at United States-based small and medium-sized companies.

“(d) ACTIVITIES.—The activities of a Center shall include—

“(1) the establishment of automated manufacturing systems and other advanced production technologies, based on Institute-supported research, for the purpose of demonstrations and technology transfer;

“(2) the active transfer and dissemination of research findings and Center expertise to a wide range of companies and enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized manufacturers; and

“(3) the facilitation of collaborations and partnerships between small and medium-sized manufacturing companies, community colleges, and area career and technical education schools, to help those entities better understand the specific needs of manufacturers and to help manufacturers better understand the skill sets that students learn in the programs offered by such colleges and schools.

“(e) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary may provide financial assistance for the creation and support of a Center through a cooperative agreement with an eligible entity.

“(2) COST SHARING.—The Secretary may not provide more than 50 percent of the capital and annual operating and maintenance funds required to establish and support a Center.

“(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of paragraph (2), any amount received by an eligible entity for a Center under a provision of law other than paragraph (1) shall not be considered an amount provided under paragraph (1).

“(4) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may revise or promulgate such regulations as necessary to carry out this subsection.

“(f) APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(2) PROGRAM DESCRIPTION.—The Secretary shall establish and update, as necessary—

“(A) a description of the Program;

“(B) the application procedures;

“(C) performance metrics;

“(D) criteria for determining qualified applicants; and

“(E) criteria for choosing recipients of financial assistance from among the qualified applicants.

“(F) procedures for determining allowable cost share contributions; and

“(G) such other program policy objectives and operational procedures as the Secretary considers necessary.

“(3) COST SHARING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—To be considered for financial assistance under this section, an applicant shall provide adequate assurances that the applicant and if applicable, the applicant’s partnering organizations, will obtain funding for not less than 50 percent of the capital and annual operating and maintenance funds required to establish and support the Center from sources other than the financial assistance provided under subsection (e).

“(B) AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—In meeting the cost-sharing requirement under subparagraph (A), an eligible entity may enter into an agreement with 1 or more other entities, such as a private industry, institutions of higher education, or a State, United States territory, local, or tribal government for the contribution by that other entity of funding if the Secretary determines the agreement—

“(i) is programmatically reasonable;

“(ii) will help accomplish programmatic objectives; and

“(iii) is allocable under Program procedures under subsection (f)(2).

“(4) LEGAL RIGHTS.—Each applicant shall include in the application a proposal for the allocation of the legal rights associated with any intellectual property which may result from the activities of the Center.

“(5) MERIT REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall subject each application to merit review.

“(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a decision whether to approve an application and provide financial assistance under subsection (e), the Secretary shall consider, at a minimum—

“(i) the merits of the application, particularly those portions of the application regarding technology transfer, training and education, and adaptation of manufacturing technologies to the needs of particular industrial sectors;

“(ii) the quality of service to be provided;

“(iii) the geographical diversity and extent of the service area; and

“(iv) the type and percentage of funding and in-kind commitment from other sources under paragraph (3).

“(g) EVALUATIONS.—

“(1) THIRD AND EIGHTH YEAR EVALUATIONS BY PANEL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that each Center is evaluated during its third and eighth years of operation by an evaluation panel appointed by the Secretary.

“(B) COMPOSITION.—The Secretary shall ensure that each evaluation panel appointed under subparagraph (A) is composed of—

“(i) private experts, none of whom are connected with the Center evaluated by the panel; and

“(ii) Federal officials.

“(C) CHAIRPERSON.—For each evaluation panel appointed under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall appoint a chairperson who is an official of the Institute.

“(2) FIFTH YEAR EVALUATIONS BY SECRETARY.—In the fifth year of operation of a Center, the Secretary shall conduct a review of the Center.

“(3) PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT.—In evaluating a Center an evaluation panel or the Secretary, as applicable, shall measure the performance of the Center against—

“(A) the objective specified in subsection (c);

“(B) the performance metrics under subsection (f)(2)(C); and

“(C) such other criterion as considered appropriate by the Secretary.

“(4) POSITIVE EVALUATIONS.—If an evaluation of a Center is positive, the Secretary may continue to provide financial assistance for the Center—

“(A) in the case of an evaluation occurring in the third year of a Center, through the fifth year of the Center;

“(B) in the case of an evaluation occurring in the fifth year of a Center, through the eighth year of the Center; and

“(C) in the case of an evaluation occurring in the eighth year of a Center, through the tenth year of the Center.

“(5) OTHER THAN POSITIVE EVALUATIONS.—

“(A) PROBATION.—If an evaluation of a Center is other than positive, the Secretary shall put the Center on probation during the period beginning on the date that the Center receives notice under subparagraph (B)(i) and ending on the date that the reevaluation is complete under subparagraph (B)(iii).

“(B) NOTICE AND REEVALUATION.—If a Center receives an evaluation that is other than positive, the evaluation panel or Secretary, as applicable, shall—

“(i) notify the Center of the reason, including any deficiencies in the performance of the Center identified during the evaluation;

“(ii) assist the Center in remedying the deficiencies by providing the Center, not less frequently than once every 3 months, an analysis of the Center, if considered appropriate by the panel or Secretary, as applicable; and

“(iii) reevaluate the Center not later than 1 year after the date of the notice under clause (i).

“(C) CONTINUED SUPPORT DURING PERIOD OF PROBATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may continue to provide financial assistance under subsection (e) for a Center during the probation period.

“(ii) POST PROBATION.—After the period of probation, the Secretary shall not provide any financial assistance unless the Center has received a positive evaluation under subparagraph (B)(iii).

“(6) FAILURE TO REMEDY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a Center fails to remedy a deficiency or to show significant improvement in performance before the end of the probation period under paragraph (5), the Secretary shall conduct a competition to select an operator for the Center under subsection (h).

“(B) TREATMENT OF CENTERS SUBJECT TO NEW COMPETITION.—Upon the selection of an operator for a Center under subsection (h), the Center shall be considered a new Center and the calculation of the years of operation of that Center for purposes of paragraphs (1) through (5) of this subsection and subsection (h)(1) shall start anew.

“(h) REAPPLICATION COMPETITION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AFTER 10 YEARS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible entity has operated a Center under this section for a period of 10 consecutive years, the Secretary shall conduct a competition to select an eligible entity to operate the Center in accordance with the process plan under subsection (i).

“(2) INCUMBENT ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An eligible entity that has received financial assistance under this section for a period of 10 consecutive years and that the Secretary determines is in good standing shall be eligible to compete in the competition under paragraph (1).

“(3) TREATMENT OF CENTERS SUBJECT TO REAPPLICATION COMPETITION.—Upon the selection of an operator for a Center under paragraph (1), the Center shall be considered a new Center and the calculation of the years of operation of that Center for purposes of paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (g) shall start anew.

“(i) PROCESS PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act, the Secretary shall implement and submit to Congress a plan for how the Institute will conduct an evaluation, competition, and reapplication competition under this section.

“(j) OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION OF CENTER CLIENTS.—The following information, if obtained by the Federal Government in connection with an activity of a Center or the Program, shall be exempt from public disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code:

“(A) Information on the business operation of any participant in the Program or of a client of a Center.

“(B) Trade secrets of any client of a Center.

“(k) OVERSIGHT BOARDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on receipt of financial assistance for a Center under subsection (e), an eligible entity shall establish a board to oversee the operations of the Center.

“(2) STANDARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish appropriate standards for each board described under paragraph (1).

“(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the standards, the Director shall take into account the type and organizational structure of an eligible entity.

“(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The standards shall address—

“(i) membership;

“(ii) composition;

“(iii) term limits;

“(iv) conflicts of interest; and

“(v) such other requirements as the Director considers necessary.

“(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each board established under paragraph (1) shall be composed of members as follows:

“(i) The membership of each board shall be representative of stakeholders in the region in which the Center is located.

“(ii) A majority of the members of the board shall be selected from among individuals who own or are employed by small or medium-sized manufacturers.

“(B) LIMITATION.—A member of a board established under paragraph (1) may not serve on more than 1 board established under that paragraph.

“(4) BYLAWS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each board established under paragraph (1) shall adopt and submit to the Director bylaws to govern the operation of the board.

“(B) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—Bylaws adopted under subparagraph (A) shall include policies to minimize conflicts of interest, including such policies relating to disclosure of relationships and recusal as may be necessary to minimize conflicts of interest.

“(1) ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS.—In addition to such sums as may be appropriated to the Secretary and Director to operate the Program, the Secretary and Director may also accept funds from other Federal departments and agencies and from the private sector under section 2(c)(7) of this Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)(7)), to be available to the extent provided by appropriations Acts, for the purpose of strengthening United States manufacturing.

“(m) MEP ADVISORY BOARD.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Institute a Manufacturing Extension Partnership Advisory Board.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(A) COMPOSITION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The MEP Advisory Board shall consist of not fewer than 10 members appointed by the Director and broadly representative of stakeholders.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—Of the members appointed under clause (i)—

“(I) at least 2 members shall be employed by or on an advisory board for a Center;

“(II) at least 5 members shall be from United States small businesses in the manufacturing sector; and

“(III) at least 1 member shall represent a community college.

“(iii) LIMITATION.—No member of the MEP Advisory Board shall be an employee of the Federal Government.

“(B) TERM.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the term of office of each member of the MEP Advisory Board shall be 3 years.

“(C) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such term.

“(D) SERVING CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—Any person who has completed 2 consecutive full terms of service on the MEP Advisory Board shall thereafter be ineligible for appointment during the 1-year period following the expiration of the second such term.

“(3) MEETINGS.—The MEP Advisory Board shall—

“(A) meet not less than biannually; and

“(B) provide to the Director—

“(i) advice on the activities, plans, and policies of the Program;

“(ii) assessments of the soundness of the plans and strategies of the Program; and

“(iii) assessments of current performance against the plans of the Program.

“(4) FACA APPLICABILITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In discharging its duties under this subsection, the MEP Advisory Board shall function solely in an advisory capacity, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to the MEP Advisory Board.

“(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—At a minimum, the MEP Advisory Board shall transmit an annual report to the Secretary for transmittal to Congress not later than 30 days after the submission to Congress of the President's annual budget under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

“(B) CONTENTS.—The report shall address the status of the Program and describe the relevant sections of the programmatic planning document and updates thereto transmitted to Congress by the Director under subsections (c) and (d) of section 23 (15 U.S.C. 2781).

“(n) SMALL MANUFACTURERS.—

“(1) EVALUATION OF OBSTACLES.—As part of the Program, the Director shall—

“(A) identify obstacles that prevent small manufacturers from effectively competing in the global market;

“(B) implement a comprehensive plan to train the Centers to address the obstacles identified in paragraph (2); and

“(C) facilitate improved communication between the Centers to assist such manufacturers in implementing appropriate, targeted solutions to the obstacles identified in paragraph (2).

“(2) DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN ACCESS RESOURCES.—As part of the Program, the Secretary shall develop open access resources that address best practices related to inventory sourcing, supply chain management, manufacturing techniques, available Federal resources, and other topics to further the competitiveness and profitability of small manufacturers.”.

(c) COMPETITIVE AWARDS PROGRAM.—The National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 25 the following:

“SEC. 25A. COMPETITIVE AWARDS PROGRAM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish within the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership under section 25 (15 U.S.C. 278k) and section 26 (15 U.S.C. 2781) a program of competitive awards among participants described in subsection (b) of this section for the purposes described in subsection (c).

“(b) PARTICIPANTS.—Participants receiving awards under this section shall be Centers, or a consortium of Centers.

“(c) PURPOSE, THEMES, AND REIMBURSEMENT.—

“(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program established under subsection (a) is to add capabilities to the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, including the development of projects to solve new or emerging manufacturing problems as determined by the Director, in consultation with the Director of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the MEP Advisory Board, other Federal agencies, and small and medium-sized manufacturers.

“(2) THEMES.—The Director may identify 1 or more themes for a competition carried out under this section, which may vary from year to year, as the Director considers appropriate after assessing the needs of manufacturers and the success of previous competitions.

“(3) REIMBURSEMENT.—Centers may be reimbursed for costs incurred by the Centers under this section.

“(d) APPLICATIONS.—Applications for awards under this section shall be submitted in such manner, at such time, and containing such information as the Director shall require in consultation with the MEP Advisory Board.

“(e) SELECTION.—

“(1) PEER REVIEW AND COMPETITIVELY AWARDED.—The Director shall ensure that awards under this section are peer reviewed and competitively awarded.

“(2) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The Director shall endeavor to have broad geographic diversity among selected proposals.

“(3) CRITERIA.—The Director shall select applications to receive awards that the Director determines will achieve 1 or more of the following:

“(A) Improve the competitiveness of industries in the region in which the Center or Centers are located.

“(B) Create jobs or train newly hired employees.

“(C) Promote the transfer and commercialization of research and technology from institutions of higher education, national laboratories or other federally funded research programs, and nonprofit research institutes.

“(D) Recruit a diverse manufacturing workforce, including through outreach to underrepresented populations, including individuals identified in section 33 or section 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b).

“(E) Such other result as the Director determines will advance the objective set forth in section 25(c) (15 U.S.C. 278k) or in section 26 (15 U.S.C. 2781).

“(f) PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION.—Recipients of awards under this section shall not be required to provide a matching contribution.

“(g) GLOBAL MARKETPLACE PROJECTS.—In making an award under this section, the Director, in consultation with the MEP Advisory Board and the Secretary, may take into consideration whether an application has significant potential for enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized United States manufacturers in the global marketplace.

“(h) DURATION.—The duration of an award under this section shall be for not more than 3 years.

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—The terms used in this section have the meanings given the terms in section 25 (15 U.S.C. 278k).”.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States, in consultation with the MEP Advisory Board (as defined in section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k)), shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report analyzing—

(A) the effectiveness of the changes in the cost share to Centers under section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k);

(B) the engagement in services and the characteristics of services provided by 2 types of Centers, including volume and type of service; and

(C) whether the cost-sharing ratio has any effect on the services provided by either type of Center.

(2) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of submission of the report under paragraph (1), the Director of NIST shall contract with an independent organization to perform an assessment of the implementation of the reapplication competition process.

(B) CONSULTATION.—The independent organization performing the assessment under subparagraph (A) may consult with the MEP Advisory Board (as defined in section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k)).

(3) COMPARISON OF CENTERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report providing information on the first and second years of operations for Centers (as defined in section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k)) operating from new competitions or recompetition as compared to longstanding Centers.

(B) CONTENTS.—The report shall provide detail on the engagement in services provided by Centers and the characteristics of services provided, including volume and type of services, so that the appropriate committees of Congress can evaluate whether the cost-sharing ratio has an effect on the services provided at Centers.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2199(3) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “regional center” and inserting “manufacturing extension center”;

(B) by inserting “and best business practices” before “referred”; and

(C) by striking “25(a)” and inserting “25(b)”.

(2) ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION INITIATIVE.—Section 3(a) of the Enterprise Integration Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 278g-5(a)) is amended by inserting “Hollings” before “Manufacturing Extension Partnership”.

(3) ASSISTANCE TO STATE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—Section 26(a) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 2781(a)) is amended by striking “Centers program created” and inserting “Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership”.

(f) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—Notwithstanding the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the Secretary of Commerce may carry out section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) as that section was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, with respect to existing grants, agreements, cooperative agreements, or contracts, and with respect to applications for such items that are received by the Secretary prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) PATENT RIGHTS.—The provisions of chapter 18 of title 35, United States Code, shall apply, to the extent not inconsistent with section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) and section 25 of that Act, to the promotion of technology from research by Centers under those sections, except for contracts for such specific technology extension or transfer services as may be specified by the Director of NIST or under other law.

TITLE VI—INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

SEC. 601. INNOVATION CORPS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The National Science Foundation Innovation Corps (referred to in this section as the “I-Corps”) was established to foster a national innovation ecosystem by encouraging institutions, scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs to identify and explore the innovation and commercial potential of National Science Foundation-funded research well beyond the laboratory.

(2) Through I-Corps, the Foundation invests in entrepreneurship and commercialization education, training, and mentoring that can ultimately lead to the practical deployment of technologies, products, processes, and services that improve the Na-

tion’s competitiveness, promote economic growth, and benefit society.

(3) By building networks of entrepreneurs, educators, mentors, institutions, and collaborations, and supporting specialized education and training, I-Corps is at the leading edge of a strong, lasting foundation for an American innovation ecosystem.

(4) By translating federally funded research to a commercial stage more quickly and efficiently, programs like the I-Corps create new jobs and companies, help solve societal problems, and provide taxpayers with a greater return on their investment in research.

(5) The I-Corps program model has a strong record of success that should be replicated at all Federal science agencies.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) commercialization of federally funded research can improve the Nation’s competitiveness, grow the economy, and benefit society;

(2) I-Corps is a useful tool in promoting the commercialization of federally funded research by training researchers funded by the Foundation in entrepreneurship and commercialization;

(3) I-Corps should continue to build a network of entrepreneurs, educators, mentors, and institutions and support specialized education and training;

(4) researchers other than those funded by the Foundation may also benefit from the education and training described in paragraph (3); and

(5) I-Corps should continue to promote a strong innovation system by investing in and supporting female entrepreneurs through mentorship, education, and training because they are historically underrepresented in entrepreneurial fields.

(c) I-CORPS PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to promote a strong, lasting foundation for the national innovation ecosystem and increase the positive economic and social impact of federally funded research, the Director of the Foundation shall set forth eligibility requirements and carry out a program to award grants for entrepreneurship and commercialization education, training, and mentoring.

(2) EXPANSION OF I-CORPS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director—

(i) shall encourage the development and expansion of I-Corps and other training programs that focus on professional development, including education in entrepreneurship and commercialization; and

(ii) may establish an agreement with another Federal science agency—

(I) to make researchers, students, and institutions funded by that agency eligible to participate in the I-Corps program; or

(II) to assist that agency with the design and implementation of its own program that is similar to the I-Corps program.

(B) PARTNERSHIP FUNDING.—In negotiating an agreement with another Federal science agency under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Director shall require that Federal science agency to provide funding for—

(i) the training for researchers, students, and institutions selected for the I-Corps program; and

(ii) the locations that Federal science agency designates as regional and national infrastructure for science and engineering entrepreneurship.

(3) FOLLOW-ON GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Director, in consultation with the Director of the Small Business Innovation

Research Program, shall make funds available for competitive grants, including to I-Corps participants, to help support—

(i) prototype or proof-of-concept development; and

(ii) such activities as the Director considers necessary to build local, regional, and national infrastructure for science and engineering entrepreneurship.

(B) LIMITATION.—Grants under subparagraph (A) shall be limited to participants with innovations that because of the early stage of development are not eligible to participate in a Small Business Innovation Research Program or a Small Business Technology Transfer Program.

(4) STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS.—The Director may engage in partnerships with State and local governments, economic development organizations, and nonprofit organizations to provide access to the I-Corps program to support entrepreneurship education and training for researchers, students, and institutions under this subsection.

(5) REPORTS.—The Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a biennial report on I-Corps program efficacy, including metrics on the effectiveness of the program. Each Federal science agency participating in the I-Corps program or that implements a similar program under paragraph (2)(A) shall contribute to the report.

(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms “Small Business Innovation Research Program” and “Small Business Technology Transfer Program” have the meanings given those terms in section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638).

SEC. 602. TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) commercialization of federally funded research may benefit society and the economy; and

(2) not-for-profit organizations support the commercialization of federally funded research by providing useful business and technical expertise to researchers.

(b) COMMERCIALIZATION PROMOTION.—The Director of the Foundation shall continue to award grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to eligible entities to promote the commercialization of federally funded research results.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Activities supported by grants under this section may include—

(1) identifying Foundation-sponsored research and technologies that have the potential for accelerated commercialization;

(2) supporting prior or current Foundation-sponsored investigators, institutions of higher education, and non-profit organizations that partner with an institution of higher education in undertaking proof-of-concept work, including development of prototypes of technologies that are derived from Foundation-sponsored research and have potential market value;

(3) promoting sustainable partnerships between Foundation-funded institutions, industry, and other organizations within academia and the private sector with the purpose of accelerating the transfer of technology;

(4) developing multi-disciplinary innovation ecosystems which involve and are responsive to specific needs of academia and industry; and

(5) providing professional development, mentoring, and advice in entrepreneurship, project management, and technology and business development to innovators.

(d) ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The following organizations may be eligible for grants under this section:

(A) Institutions of higher education.

(B) Public or nonprofit technology transfer organizations.

(C) A nonprofit organization that partners with an institution of higher education.

(D) A consortia of 2 or more of the organizations described under subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(2) LEAD ORGANIZATIONS.—Any eligible organization under paragraph (1) may apply as a lead organization.

(e) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity seeking a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

SEC. 603. OPTICS AND PHOTONICS TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The 1998 National Research Council Report, "Harnessing Light" presented a comprehensive overview on the importance of optics and photonics to various sectors of the United States economy.

(2) In 2012, in response to increased coordination and investment by other nations, the National Research Council released a follow up study recommending a national photonics initiative to increase collaboration and coordination among United States industry, Federal and State government, and academia to identify and further advance areas of photonics critical to regaining United States competitiveness and maintaining national security.

(3) Publicly-traded companies focused on optics and photonics in the United States enable more than \$3 trillion in revenue annually.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) optics and photonics research and technologies promote United States global competitiveness in industry sectors, including telecommunications and information technology, energy, healthcare and medicine, manufacturing, and defense;

(2) Federal science agencies, industry, and academia should seek partnerships with each other to develop basic research in optics and photonics into more mature technologies and capabilities; and

(3) each Federal science agency, as appropriate, should—

(A) survey and identify optics and photonics-related programs within that Federal science agency and share results with other Federal science agencies for the purpose of generating multiple applications and uses;

(B) partner with the private sector and academia to leverage knowledge and resources to maximize opportunities for innovation in optics and photonics;

(C) explore research and development opportunities, including Federal and private sector-sponsored internships, to ensure a highly trained optics and photonics workforce in the United States;

(D) encourage partnerships between academia and industry to promote improvement in the education of optics and photonics technicians at the secondary school level, undergraduate level, and 2-year college level, including through the Foundation's Advanced Technological Education program; and

(E) assess existing programs and explore alternatives to modernize photonics laboratory equipment in undergraduate institu-

tions in the United States to facilitate critical hands-on learning.

SEC. 604. UNITED STATES CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "United States Chief Technology Officer Act".

(b) IN GENERAL.—Section 203 the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6612) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(b) ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS.—" before "The President is authorized" and indenting appropriately;

(2) by inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—" before "There shall be" and indenting appropriately; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(c) CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER.—Subject to subsection (b), the President is authorized to designate 1 of the Associate Directors under that subsection as a United States Chief Technology Officer."

SEC. 605. NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL STUDY ON TECHNOLOGY FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS ON CAMPUSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall enter into an arrangement with the National Research Council to conduct and complete a study to identify and review technologies employed at institutions of higher education to provide notifications to students, faculty, and other personnel during emergency situations in accordance with law.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study shall address—

(1) the timeliness of notifications provided by the technologies during emergency situations;

(2) the durability of the technologies in delivering the notifications to students, faculty, and other personnel; and

(3) the limitations exhibited by the technologies to successfully deliver the notifications not more than 30 seconds after the institution of higher education transmits the notifications.

(c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date that the National Research Council enters into the arrangement under subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall submit to Congress a report on the study, including recommendations for addressing any limitations identified under subsection (b)(3).

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator RON WYDEN, intend to object to proceeding to H.R. 6438, an act to extend the waiver of limitations with respect to excluding from gross income amounts received by wrongfully incarcerated individuals; dated December 9, 2016.

NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged and the Senate proceed to the consideration of PN1894 through PN1899 and PN1831, that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening

action or debate, that no further motions be in order, that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Coast Guard under title 14, U.S.C., section 271(E):

To be lieutenant commander

Stephen J. Albert
 Elroy S. Allen
 Kirsten M. Ambors-Casey
 Juan C. Avila
 Kenji R. Awamura
 Charles J. Bare
 Dustin G. Barker
 Todd C. Batten
 Caroline B. Bell
 Zachary C. Bender
 James C. Bennett
 Jonathan P. Benvenuto
 Jason L. Berger
 Nicole L. Blanchard
 Simon G. Blanco
 Jordan T. Boghosian
 Christopher A. Bonner
 Chad M. Brook
 Christine S. Brown
 Bryan P. Brownlee
 Mark W. Burgner
 William J. Burwell
 Kristen M. Byers
 Nelson W. Cable
 Nolan V. Cain
 Kristen B. Caldwell
 Gregory S. Carr
 Jason R. Carrillo
 Kyle M. Carter
 Kyra M. Chin-Dykeman
 Erin H. Chlum
 Bradley R. Clemons
 Megan K. Clifford
 Robert D. Cole, Jr.
 Roberto C. Concepcion
 Jason A. Condon
 Kevin H. Connell
 Rebecca M. Corson
 James D. Couch
 Brian A. Crimmel
 Bryan S. Crook
 Lane P. Cutler
 Kathryn R. Cyr
 Steven T. Davies
 Rebecca W. Dearkin
 Michael A. Deal
 Daniel J. Deangelo
 Andrew B. Dennelly
 Amanda W. Denning
 Amanda M. Dipietro
 Anna K. Dixon
 Timothy W. Dolan
 Kelli M. Dougherty
 Leslie M. Downing
 Stephen J. Drauszewski
 Michael J. Dubinsky
 Quinton L. Dubose
 Andrew S. Dunlevy
 Elisa F. Dykman
 Ronald Easley
 Erica L. Elfguinn
 Patricia C. Elliston
 Denny A. Ernster
 Bryce G. Ettestad
 Jason E. Evans
 Daniel J. Every

Amanda L. Fahrigr
 Diana Ferguson
 Jamison R. Ferriell
 Traci-Ann Fiammetta
 Michael L. Flint
 John M. Forster
 Edward K. Forys
 Rebecca A. Fosha
 Michelle M. Foster
 James T. Freeman
 Jeffrey A. Fry
 Nicholas A. Galati
 Victor J. Galgano
 Rven T. Garcia
 Micah N. Gentile
 Zachery J. Geyer
 Mario G. Gil
 David M. Gilbert
 David S. Gonzalez
 Eliezer Gonzalez
 Lee R. Gorlin
 Robert D. Gorman
 Andrew M. Grantham
 Christopher F. Greenough
 Patrick J. Grizzle
 Sean T. Groark
 Michael B. Groncki II
 Ian C. Groom
 Anthony J. Guido
 Matthew C. Haddad
 Brian M. Hall
 Ian Hanna
 Eric C. Hanson
 Kevan P. Hanson
 Brent L. Hardgrave
 Stephen A. Hart
 Lisa G. Hartley
 Jason L. Hathaway
 Kelly L. Haupt
 Joseph S. Heal
 Terrance L. Herdliska
 Matthew R. Herring
 Jennifer L. Hertzler
 John D. Hess
 Jerod M. Hitzel
 Stefanie J. Hodgdon
 James M. Hodges
 Jonathan W. Hofius
 Zachary D. Huff
 Steven W. Hulse
 Matthew C. Hunt
 Bryson C. Jacobs
 Raymond M. Jamros
 Sarah M. Janaro
 David L. Janney
 Andrew B. Jantzen
 Chelsea A. Kalil
 Abigail H. Kawada
 Caroline D. Kearney
 Gary G. Kim
 Min H. Kim
 Gretal G. Kinney
 David B. Komar
 Brittani J. Koroknay
 Kevin K. Koski
 Matthew M. Kroll
 Sarah A. Krolman
 Nicholas R. Kross
 Brownie J. Kuk
 Celina H. Ladyga
 Jonathan W. Ladyga
 Leo C. Lake
 Jonathan M. Larai
 Dustin T. Lee
 Karen M. Lee
 Blake K. Leedy
 Clinton D. Lemasters
 Paul M. Leon
 Benjamin S. Leuthold
 Aaron B. Leyko
 James P. Litzinger
 John T. Livingston
 Robert J. Lokar
 Sean A. Lott

Rachael E. Love
 Charles A. Lumpkin
 Ryan W. Maca
 Steven A. Macias
 Robert M. Mackenzie
 Issac D. Mahar
 Sawyer M. Mann
 Marc A. Mares
 Christopher H. Martin
 Scott A. McBride
 Kenneth W. McCain
 Christopher J. McCann
 Scott J. McCann
 Jayna G. McCarron
 Adam J. McCarthy
 Scott H. McGrew
 Patrick M. McMahon
 Anna C. McNeil
 Steven T. Melvin
 Hermie P. Mendoza
 Megan K. Mervar
 Julian M. Middleton
 Jeffrey S. Milgate
 Michael S. Miller
 Frank P. Minopoli
 Caitlin H. Mitchell-Wurster
 Nathan P. Morello
 Karl H. Mueller
 Ian J. Mulcahy
 Adam L. Mullins
 John E. Mundale
 Andrew J. Murphy
 Joshua C. Murphy
 Elizabeth G. Nakagawa
 Nikea L. Natteal
 Andrew J. Nebl
 Jason A. Neiman
 David T. Newcomb
 Huy D. Nguyen
 Bret D. Nichols
 Christopher M. Nichols
 Eric D. Nielsen
 Richard D. Nines
 Jeffrey T. Noyes
 Robert P. Odonnell
 Grace E. Oh
 Teresa Z. Ohley
 Phillip N. Ortega
 Jacob T. Paarlberg
 Jarrett S. Parker
 Christopher J. Pelar
 Neil R. Penso
 Kurt W. Pfeffer
 Andrew D. Phipps
 Jeyar L. Pierce
 David A. Pipkorn
 Joseph P. Plunkett
 Robert S. Poitinger
 John P. Poley
 Joseph P. Prado
 Andrew D. Pritchett
 Fredrick D. Pugh
 Christopher S. Pulliam
 Eric A. Quigley
 Alejandro M. Quintero
 Thomas J. Rader
 Ryan R. Ramos
 Peter J. Raneri
 Jonathan T. Rebuck
 Frank M. Reed III
 Howard B. Reiney, Jr.
 Sheral A. Richardson
 Byron Rios
 Callan D. Robbins
 Jason W. Roberts
 Michelle I. Rosenberg
 Michael C. Ross
 Mallorie G. Schell
 James J. Schock
 Daniel A. Schrader
 Derek L. Schramel
 John Sgarlata, Jr.
 Matthew A. Shaffer
 Saladin Shelton

Paul C. Simpson
 James D. Slapak
 Randall J. Slusher
 Norma L. Smihal
 Colleen M. Smith
 Joseph L. Smith
 Josh L. Smith
 Katie E. Smith
 Lauren E. Smoak
 Brett L. Sprenger
 Kevin L. St. Cin
 Paul W. Stepler
 Rachel P. Strubel
 George R. Suchanek
 John P. Suckow
 Kathleen M. Sullivan
 Amy K. Sung
 Matthew M. Swanner
 David C. Thompson
 Damon Thornton
 Jessica S. Thornton
 John D. Tomlin
 Melvin A. Torres
 Christopher N. Toussaint
 Cynthia S. Travers
 Michael R. Turanitz
 Eduardo M. Valdez
 Matthew J. Vanginkel
 Fausto E. Veras
 Michael M. Vickers
 Michael A. Viles
 Steven M. Volk
 John M. Walsh
 Todd A. Weimorts
 Steven D. Welch
 Bruce D. Wells
 Mason C.E. Wilcox
 Derek D. Wilson
 Paul A. Windt
 Nicholas A. Woessner
 Francis E.S. Wolfe
 Jonathan M. Wolstenholme
 Robert T. Wright
 Victor M. Yaguchi
 Miles K. Young
 Matthew W. Zinn

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Coast Guard under title 14, U.S.C. section 71:

To be commander

Jennifer L. Adams
 Marc H. Akus
 David J. Aldous
 Nathan W. Allen
 Ryan J. Allen
 Shameen E. Anthaniowilliams
 Melissa J. Arles
 Christopher M. Armstrong
 Charles L. Banks, Jr.
 Ann M. Bassolino
 Kevin M. Beck
 Andrew J. Behnke
 Robert J. Berry II
 Fred S. Bertsch IV
 Vanessa Blackmore
 William K. Blair
 John D. Block
 Peter F. Bosma
 Ruben E. Boudreaux
 Kevin C. Boyd, Jr.
 Valerie A. Boyd
 Jason P. Brand
 William C. Brent, Jr.
 Chad R. Brick
 Shane D. Bridges
 Kevin A. Broyles
 Bryan J. Burkhalter
 Eric A. Cain
 Joseph G. Callaghan
 Ian L. Callander
 Brian R. Carroll
 Paul R. Casey
 Eric M. Casper

Jacob L. Cass
 Michael P.C. Chien
 Michael N. Cost
 Justin K. Covert
 Melba J. Crisp
 Charlene R.T. Criss
 Mark W. Crysler
 Christopher J. Davis
 Karen Denny
 Matthew C. Derrenbacher
 Michael S. Dipace
 Jason D. Dolbeck
 Matthew D. Dooris
 Christopher Douglas
 Keith M. Doxey
 Kevin F. Duffy
 Jason R. Dunn
 Samuel Z. Edwards
 Jamie M. Embry
 Todd L. Emerson
 Daniel J. Everett
 Peter M. Evonuk
 Brian M. Farmer
 Jeffrey P. Ferlauto
 Frank J. Florio III
 James T. Fogle
 George O. Fulenwider III
 Patrick J. Gallagher
 William J. George
 Robert H. Gomez
 Dennis D. Good
 Evangeline R. Gormley
 John A. Goshorn
 Andrew P. Grant
 Brooke E. Grant
 Derrick S. Greer
 Steven M. Griffin
 William M. Grossman
 Jay W. Guyer
 Gregory M. Haas
 Jeremy M. Hall
 Byron H. Hayes
 Dorothy J. Hernaez
 Robert P. Hill
 Jennifer L. Hnatow
 Jacob A. Hobson
 Morgan T. Holden
 Dean E. Horton
 Donald K. Isom
 Max M. Jenny
 Khristopher D. Johns
 Christopher L. Jones
 Karen S. Jones
 Matthew N. Jones
 Kevin A. Keenan
 Scott R. Kirkland
 Aji L. Kirksey
 David J. Kowalczyk, Jr.
 Donald R. Kuhl
 Shawn A. Lansing
 Mark L. Lay
 Kristina L. Lewis
 Paul J. Mangini
 Elizabeth L. Massimi
 Ryan P. Matson
 Eric J. Matthies
 Harold L. McCarter
 Blake A. McKinney
 William A. McKinstry
 James M. McLay
 James D. McManus
 Brad M. McNally
 Joseph W. McPherson III
 John M.P. McTamney IV
 Ronald R. Millsbaugh
 Marc J. Montemerlo
 Jason W. Morgan
 Ryan T. Murphy
 Michael A. Nalli
 Mark R. Neeland
 Justin W. Noggle
 Martin L. Nossett IV
 Anne E. O'Connell
 James M. Omara IV

Roger E. Omenhiser, Jr.
 Brendan P. Oshea
 Joseph B. Parker
 Stacia F. Parrott
 Christopher M. Pasciuto
 Chester A. Passic
 Andrew L. Pate
 Mark B. Patton
 Jeffrey L. Payne
 James H. Pershing
 Barton L. Philpott
 Jeffrey J. Pile
 Elizabeth T. Platt
 Kenneth B. Poole II
 Jorge Porto
 Mark B. Pototschnik
 Leah M. Preston
 Amanda M. Ramassini
 Libby J. Rasmussen
 Jeffrey J. Rasnake
 Lisa M. Rice
 Matthew Rooney
 Michael B. Russell
 Jan A. Rybka
 Paul Salerno
 Evelyn B. Samms
 Rachelle N. Samuel
 Kevin B. Saunders
 Benjamin J. Schluckebier
 Timothy L. Schmitz
 Deon J. Scott
 Kirk C. Shadrick
 Brook W. Sherman
 Jason S. Smith
 Laura J. Smolinski
 Joan Snaith
 Gabriel J. Somma
 Robert E. Stiles
 Jessica R. Styron
 Robert D. Taylor
 James K. Terrell
 Emily L. Tharp
 Alfred J. Thompson
 Lawrence W. Tinstman
 David A. Torres
 Devin L. Townsend
 Christopher A. Treib
 Jared S. Trusz
 Michael A. Venturella
 Matthew J. Walker
 William R. Walker
 Sara A. Wallace
 Tamara S. Wallen
 Amber S. Ward
 Rodney P. Wert
 Stephen E. West
 Christopher A. White
 Brian R. Willson
 William B. Winburn
 Tracy L. Wirth
 Christopher L. Wright
 Brent C. Yezefski
 Peter J. Zauner

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be captain

Daryl P. Schaffer
 Lisa H. Schulz

The following named officers of the Coast Guard Permanent Commission Teaching Staff for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., sections 189 and 276:

To be captain

David C. Clippinger
 Michael J. Corl
 Gregory J. Hall
 Russell E. Bowman

To be commander

Joseph T. Benin

To be lieutenant commander

Matthew B. Williams

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203(A):

To be captain

Mark E. Ames
 Michael G. Barton
 Leon D. Dame
 Tiffany G. Danko
 Stacie L. Fain
 Daniel J. Fitzgerald
 Joanna K. Hiigel
 Jason A. Lehto
 Richard E. Neim, Jr.
 Colleen M. Pak
 George W. Petras
 Michael A. Spolidoro
 Matthew D. Wadleigh

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C. section 271(E):

To be captain

John F. Barresi
 Amy M. Beach
 Benjamin D. Berg
 John M. Branch
 Paul Brooks
 Bruce C. Brown
 Suzanne M. Brown
 Marie Byrd
 Flip P. Capistrano
 Jay Caputo
 Clinton S. Carlson
 Kevin M. Carroll
 Travis L. Carter
 John D. Cole
 Timothy J. Connors
 Eric M. Cooper
 John P. Debok
 Eric D. Denley
 Angelic D. Donovan
 Maryellen J. Durley
 William G. Dwyer
 Matthew Edwards
 Michael J. Ennis
 Brian D. Falk
 Rosemary P. Firestine
 Arthur H. Gomez
 Amy B. Grable
 Holly R. Harrison
 Mark E. Hiigel
 Patrick M. Hilbert
 Todd M. Howard
 Richard E. Howes
 Michael A. Hudson
 Mark A. Jackson
 Scott L. Johnson
 Eric P. King
 Shawn S. Koch
 Sherman M. Lacey
 William A. Lewin
 Ralph R. Little
 Vivianne Louie
 Michael C. Macmillan
 James D. Marquez
 Craig J. Massello
 Joseph T. McGilley
 Adam B. Morrison
 Prince A. Neal
 Timothy M. Newton
 Jeffrey W. Novak
 Louie C. Parks, Jr.
 Jose A. Pena
 Michael R. Roschel
 Gregory C. Rothrock
 James B. Rush
 Jason H. Ryan
 Michael Schoonover, Jr.
 Mark J. Shepard
 Jason E. Smith

Sampson C. Stevens
 Scott A. Stoermer
 Jeffrey S. Swanson
 Roxanne Tamez
 Gregory L. Thomas
 Richter L. Tipton
 Roberto H. Torres
 Karrie C. Trebbe
 Jacqueline M. Twomey
 Mark B. Walsh

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 271(e):

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Melvin W. Bouboulis
 Capt. Donna L. Cottrell
 Capt. Michael J. Johnston
 Capt. Eric C. Jones
 Capt. Michael P. Ryan

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 658; that the nomination be confirmed; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) William J. Galinis

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of Calendar Nos. 7, 591, 653, 699, 773, 739, 740, 741, and 772; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any further debate on the nominations?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Adri Davin Jayaratne, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
 Jay Neal Lerner, of Illinois, to be Inspector General, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Andrew Mayock, of Illinois, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Peggy E. Gustafson, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Commerce.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Ann Begeman, of South Dakota, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2020.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

John D. Minton, Jr., of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2019. (Reappointment)

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

Mark D. Acton, of Kentucky, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2022. (Reappointment)

Robert G. Taub, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2022. (Reappointment)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Kamala Shirin Lakhdhir, of Connecticut, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Malaysia.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPORTING AUTHORITY

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the Senate's adjournment, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Tuesday, December 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF SENATE DOCUMENTS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of materials from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in tribute to retiring Members of the 114th Congress, and an additional Senate document a compilation of materials from the CONGRESSIONAL

RECORD in tribute to the President of the Senate, JOE BIDEN, and that Members have until Tuesday, December 20, to submit such tributes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, and in consultation with the chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Dennis Shea of Virginia, for a term beginning January 1, 2017 and expiring December 31, 2018.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 114-125, upon the recommendation of the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Finance and the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Advisory Committee on International Exchange Rate Policy: Mark A. Calabria of Virginia, John Cochrane of California, and Thea Lee of the District of Columbia.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE CERTAIN CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 2943

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 179, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 179) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make certain corrections in the enrollment of S. 2943.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 179) was agreed to.

PROVIDING ARSENAL INSTALLATION REUTILIZATION AUTHORITY

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee

on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of S. 3336 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3336) to provide arsenal installation reutilization authority.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Ernst amendment No. 5128 be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, that the title amendment No. 5129 be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5128) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 1, strike lines 3 and 4 and insert the following:

SECTION 1. INSTALLATION REUTILIZATION AUTHORITY FOR ARSENALS, DEPOTS, AND PLANTS.

On page 1, line 6, strike “arsenal, the Secretary concerned” and insert “arsenal, depot, or plant, the Secretary of the Army”.

On page 2, line 4, insert “, depot, or plant” after “arsenal”.

On page 2, line 8, insert “, depot, or plant” after “arsenal”.

On page 2, line 12, insert “, depot, or plant” after “arsenal”.

On page 2, line 17, strike “Secretary concerned” and insert “Secretary of the Army”.

On page 2, line 21, insert “, depot, or plant” after “arsenal”.

On page 4, line 3, insert “, DEPOT, OR PLANT” after “ARSENAL”.

On page 4, line 5, insert “, depot, or plant” after “arsenal”.

On page 4, line 6, strike “Department of the Defense” and insert “Army”.

The bill (S. 3336), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3336

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

SECTION 1. INSTALLATION REUTILIZATION AUTHORITY FOR ARSENALS, DEPOTS, AND PLANTS.

(a) MODIFIED AUTHORITY.—In the case of a military manufacturing arsenal, depot, or plant, the Secretary of the Army may authorize leases and contracts under section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, for a term of up to 25 years, notwithstanding subsection (b)(1) of such section, if the Secretary determines that a lease or contract of that duration will promote the national defense or be in the public interest for the purpose of—

(1) helping to maintain the viability of the military manufacturing arsenal, depot, or plant and any military installations on which it is located;

(2) eliminating, or at least reducing, the cost of Government ownership of the military manufacturing arsenal, depot, or plant,

including the costs of operations and maintenance, the costs of environmental remediation, and other costs; and

(3) leveraging private investment at the military manufacturing arsenal, depot, or plant through long-term facility use contracts, property management contracts, leases, or other agreements that support and advance the preceding purposes.

(b) DELEGATION AND REVIEW PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army may delegate the authority provided by this section to the commander of the major subordinate command of the Army that has responsibility for the military manufacturing arsenal, depot, or plant or, if part of a larger military installation, the installation as a whole. The commander may approve a lease or contract under such authority on a case-by-case basis or a class basis.

(2) REVIEW PERIOD.—Any lease or contract that is approved utilizing the delegation authority under paragraph (1) is subject to a 90-day hold period so that the Army real property manager may review the lease or contract pursuant to paragraph (3).

(3) DISPOSITION OF REVIEW.—If the Army real property manager disapproves of a contract or lease submitted for review under paragraph (2), the agreement shall be null and void upon transmittal by the real property manager to the delegating authority of a written disapproval, including a justification for such disapproval, within the 90-day hold period. If no such disapproval is transmitted within the 90-day hold period, the agreement shall be deemed approved.

(4) APPROVAL OF REVISED AGREEMENT.—If, not later than 60 days after receiving a disapproval under paragraph (3), the delegating authority submits to the Army real property manager a new contract or lease that addresses the Army real property manager’s concerns outlined in such disapproval, the new contract or lease shall be deemed approved unless the Army real property manager transmits to the delegating authority a disapproval of the new contract or lease within 30 days of such submission.

(c) MILITARY MANUFACTURING ARSENAL, DEPOT, OR PLANT DEFINED.—In this section, the term “military manufacturing arsenal, depot, or plant” means a Government-owned, Government-operated defense plant of the Army that manufactures weapons, weapon components, or both.

(d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall terminate at the close of September 30, 2019.

The amendment (No. 5129) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to provide installation reutilization authority for arsenals, depots, and plants.”

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY TO INCLUDE ALL FUNDS WHEN ISSUING CERTAIN GEOGRAPHIC TARGETING ORDERS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5602 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5602) to amend title 31, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to include all funds when issuing certain geographic targeting orders, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Shelby-Brown substitute amendment No. 5127 be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5127) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of December 5, 2016, under “Text of Amendments.”)

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 5602), as amended, was passed.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar Nos. 675 through 683.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read a third time and passed, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER (SEAL) LOUIS “LOU” J. LANGLAIS POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 3218) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1221 State Street, Suite 12, Santa Barbara, California, as the “Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Louis ‘Lou’ J. Langlais Post Office Building,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RICHARD ALLEN CABLE POST
OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 4887) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23323 Shelby Road in Shelby, Indiana, as the "Richard Allen Cable Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LEONARD MONTALTO POST
OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5150) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3031 Veterans Road West in Staten Island, New York, as the "Leonard Montalto Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ARMY FIRST LIEUTENANT DON-
ALD C. CARWILE POST OFFICE
BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5309) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 McElroy Drive in Oxford, Mississippi, as the "Army First Lieutenant Donald C. Carwile Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

E. MARIE YOUNGBLOOD POST
OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 5356) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14231 TX-150 in Coldspring, Texas, as the "E. Marie Youngblood Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ZAPATA VETERANS POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 5591) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 810 N US Highway 83 in Zapata, Texas, as the "Zapata Veterans Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

OFFICER JOSEPH P. CALI POST
OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5676) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6300 N. Northwest Highway in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Officer Joseph P. Cali Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ABNER J. MIKVA POST OFFICE
BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5798) to designate the facility of the United States Postal

Service located at 1101 Davis Street in Evanston, Illinois, as the "Abner J. Mikva Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SEGUNDO T. SABLAN AND CNMI
FALLEN MILITARY HEROES
POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5889) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Chalan Kanoa VLG in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as the "Segundo T. Sablan and CNMI Fallen Military Heroes Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA AND GOV-
ERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF
NORWAY NUCLEAR ENERGY ACT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 704, S. 8.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 8) to provide for the approval of the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 8) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 8

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

SECTION 1. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the provisions for congressional consideration of a proposed agreement for cooperation in subsection d. of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153), the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, done at Washington June 11, 2016, may be brought into effect on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, as if all the requirements in such section for consideration of such agreement had been satisfied, subject to subsection (b).

(b) APPLICABILITY OF ATOMIC ENERGY ACT OF 1954 AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Upon entering into effect, the agreement referred to in subsection (a) shall be subject to the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) and any other applicable United States law as if such agreement had come into effect in accordance with the requirements of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153).

RESPONSE ACT OF 2016

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message from the House to accompany S. 546.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 546) entitled "An Act to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes.", do pass with an amendment.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment; and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PREVENTING ANIMAL CRUELTY
AND TORTURE ACT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 1831 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1831) to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Toomey substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5169) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act" or the "PACT Act".

SEC. 2. REVISION OF SECTION 48.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 48 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 48. Animal crushing

“(a) OFFENSES.—

“(1) CRUSHING.—It shall be unlawful for any person to purposely engage in animal crushing in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States.

“(2) CREATION OF ANIMAL CRUSH VIDEOS.—It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly create an animal crush video, if—

“(A) the person intends or has reason to know that the animal crush video will be distributed in, or using a means or facility of, interstate or foreign commerce; or

“(B) the animal crush video is distributed in, or using a means or facility of, interstate or foreign commerce.

“(3) DISTRIBUTION OF ANIMAL CRUSH VIDEOS.—It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly sell, market, advertise, exchange, or distribute an animal crush video in, or using a means or facility of, interstate or foreign commerce.

“(b) EXTRATERRITORIAL APPLICATION.—This section applies to the knowing sale, marketing, advertising, exchange, distribution, or creation of an animal crush video outside of the United States, if—

“(1) the person engaging in such conduct intends or has reason to know that the animal crush video will be transported into the United States or its territories or possessions; or

“(2) the animal crush video is transported into the United States or its territories or possessions.

“(c) PENALTIES.—Whoever violates this section shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 7 years, or both.

“(d) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—This section does not apply with regard to any conduct, or a visual depiction of that conduct, that is—

“(A) a customary and normal veterinary, agricultural husbandry, or other animal management practice;

“(B) the slaughter of animals for food;

“(C) hunting, trapping, fishing, a sporting activity not otherwise prohibited by Federal law, predator control, or pest control;

“(D) medical or scientific research;

“(E) necessary to protect the life or property of a person; or

“(F) performed as part of euthanizing an animal.

“(2) GOOD-FAITH DISTRIBUTION.—This section does not apply to the good-faith distribution of an animal crush video to—

“(A) a law enforcement agency; or

“(B) a third party for the sole purpose of analysis to determine if referral to a law enforcement agency is appropriate.

“(3) UNINTENTIONAL CONDUCT.—This section does not apply to unintentional conduct that injures or kills an animal.

“(4) CONSISTENCY WITH RFRA.—This section shall be enforced in a manner that is consistent with section 3 of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2000bb-1).

“(e) NO PREEMPTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt the law of any State or local subdivision thereof to protect animals.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘animal crushing’ means actual conduct in which one or more living non-human mammals, birds, reptiles, or amphibians is purposely crushed, burned,

drowned, suffocated, impaled, or otherwise subjected to serious bodily injury (as defined in section 1365 and including conduct that, if committed against a person and in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, would violate section 2241 or 2242);

“(2) the term ‘animal crush video’ means any photograph, motion-picture film, video or digital recording, or electronic image that—

“(A) depicts animal crushing; and

“(B) is obscene; and

“(3) the term ‘euthanizing an animal’ means the humane destruction of an animal accomplished by a method that—

“(A) produces rapid unconsciousness and subsequent death without evidence of pain or distress; or

“(B) uses anesthesia produced by an agent that causes painless loss of consciousness and subsequent death.”

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 48 and inserting the following:

“48. Animal crushing.”

The bill (S. 1831), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
TRAINING CENTERS REFORM
AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015**

**FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
TRAINING CENTERS REFORM
AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016**

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3842 and S. 2781 and the Senate proceed to their immediate consideration en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bills by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3842) to improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2781) to improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Perdue amendments be agreed to, and the bills, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments (Nos. 5171 and 5170) were agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 5171

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 3, line 19, insert “delegated” after “carry out”.

On page 4, strike lines 5 through 12 and insert the following:

“(B) maximizes opportunities for small business participation;

On page 11, beginning on line 25, strike “and to compensate such employees for time spent traveling from their homes to work sites”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5170

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 3, line 15, insert “delegated” after “carry out”.

On page 4, strike lines 1 through 8 and insert the following:

“(B) maximizes opportunities for small business participation;

On page 11, beginning on line 20, strike “and to compensate such employees for time spent traveling from their homes to work sites”.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the measures.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bills having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bills pass en bloc?

The bill (H.R. 3842), as amended, was passed.

The bill (S. 2781), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 2781

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers Reform and Improvement Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTERS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 884 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 464) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 884. FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTERS.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall maintain in the Department the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (referred to in this section as ‘FLETC’), headed by a Director, who shall report to the Secretary.

“(b) POSITION.—The Director shall occupy a career-reserved position within the Senior Executive Service.

“(c) FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR.—The Director shall—

“(1) develop training goals and establish strategic and tactical organizational program plans and priorities;

“(2) provide direction and management for FLETC’s training facilities, programs, and support activities while ensuring that organizational program goals and priorities are executed in an effective and efficient manner;

“(3) develop homeland security and law enforcement training curricula, including curricula related to domestic preparedness and response to threats or acts of terrorism, for Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial, and international law enforcement and security agencies and private sector security agencies;

“(4) monitor progress toward strategic and tactical FLETC plans regarding training curricula, including curricula related to domestic preparedness and response to threats or acts of terrorism, and facilities;

“(5) ensure the timely dissemination of homeland security information as necessary to Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial, and international law enforcement and security agencies and the private sector to achieve the training goals for such entities, in accordance with paragraph (1);

“(6) carry out delegated acquisition responsibilities in a manner that—

“(A) fully complies with—

“(i) Federal law;

“(ii) the Federal Acquisition Regulation, including requirements regarding agency obligations to contract only with responsible prospective contractors; and

“(iii) Department acquisition management directives; and

“(B) maximizes opportunities for small business participation;

“(7) coordinate and share information with the heads of relevant components and offices on digital learning and training resources, as appropriate;

“(8) advise the Secretary on matters relating to executive level policy and program administration of Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial, and international law enforcement and security training activities and private sector security agency training activities, including training activities related to domestic preparedness and response to threats or acts of terrorism;

“(9) collaborate with the Secretary and relevant officials at other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, to improve international instructional development, training, and technical assistance provided by the Federal Government to foreign law enforcement; and

“(10) carry out such other functions as the Secretary determines are appropriate.

“(d) TRAINING RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director is authorized to provide training to employees of Federal agencies who are engaged, directly or indirectly, in homeland security operations or Federal law enforcement activities, including such operations or activities related to domestic preparedness and response to threats or acts of terrorism. In carrying out such training, the Director shall—

“(A) evaluate best practices of law enforcement training methods and curriculum content to maintain state-of-the-art expertise in adult learning methodology;

“(B) provide expertise and technical assistance, including on domestic preparedness and response to threats or acts of terrorism, to Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial, and international law enforcement and security agencies and private sector security agencies; and

“(C) maintain a performance evaluation process for students.

“(2) RELATIONSHIP WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—The Director shall consult with relevant law enforcement and security agencies in the development and delivery of FLETC’s training programs.

“(3) TRAINING DELIVERY LOCATIONS.—The training required under paragraph (1) may be conducted at FLETC facilities, at appropriate off-site locations, or by distributed learning.

“(4) STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may—

“(i) execute strategic partnerships with State and local law enforcement to provide such law enforcement with specific training,

including maritime law enforcement training; and

“(ii) coordinate with the Under Secretary responsible for overseeing critical infrastructure protection, cybersecurity, and other related programs of the Department and with private sector stakeholders, including critical infrastructure owners and operators, to provide training pertinent to improving coordination, security, and resiliency of critical infrastructure.

“(B) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—The Director shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, upon request, information on activities undertaken in the previous year pursuant to subparagraph (A).

“(5) FLETC DETAILS TO DHS.—The Director may detail employees of FLETC to positions throughout the Department in furtherance of improving the effectiveness and quality of training provided by the Department and, as appropriate, the development of critical departmental programs and initiatives.

“(6) DETAIL OF INSTRUCTORS TO FLETC.—Partner organizations that wish to participate in FLETC training programs shall assign nonreimbursable detailed instructors to FLETC for designated time periods to support all training programs at FLETC, as appropriate. The Director shall determine the number of detailed instructors that is proportional to the number of training hours requested by each partner organization scheduled by FLETC for each fiscal year. If a partner organization is unable to provide a proportional number of detailed instructors, such partner organization shall reimburse FLETC for the salary equivalent for such detailed instructors, as appropriate.

“(7) PARTNER ORGANIZATION EXPENSES REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Partner organizations shall be responsible for the following expenses:

“(i) Salaries, travel expenses, lodging expenses, and miscellaneous per diem allowances of their personnel attending training courses at FLETC.

“(ii) Salaries and travel expenses of instructors and support personnel involved in conducting advanced training at FLETC for partner organization personnel and the cost of expendable supplies and special equipment for such training, unless such supplies and equipment are common to FLETC-conducted training and have been included in FLETC’s budget for the applicable fiscal year.

“(B) EXCESS BASIC AND ADVANCED FEDERAL TRAINING.—All hours of advanced training and hours of basic training provided in excess of the training for which appropriations were made available shall be paid by the partner organizations and provided to FLETC on a reimbursable basis in accordance with section 4104 of title 5, United States Code.

“(8) PROVISION OF NON-FEDERAL TRAINING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director is authorized to charge and retain fees that would pay for its actual costs of the training for the following:

“(i) State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement personnel.

“(ii) Foreign law enforcement officials, including provision of such training at the International Law Enforcement Academies wherever established.

“(iii) Private sector security officers, participants in the Federal Flight Deck Officer program under section 44921 of title 49, United States Code, and other appropriate private sector individuals.

“(B) WAIVER.—The Director may waive the requirement for reimbursement of any cost under this section and shall maintain records regarding the reasons for any requirements so waived.

“(9) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Director is authorized to reimburse travel or other expenses for non-Federal personnel who attend activities related to training sponsored by FLETC, at travel and per diem rates established by the General Services Administration.

“(10) STUDENT SUPPORT.—In furtherance of its training mission, the Director is authorized to provide the following support to students:

“(A) Athletic and related activities.

“(B) Short-term medical services.

“(C) Chaplain services.

“(11) AUTHORITY TO HIRE FEDERAL ANNUITANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director is authorized to appoint and maintain, as necessary, Federal annuitants who have expert knowledge and experience to meet the training responsibilities under this subsection.

“(B) NO REDUCTION IN RETIREMENT PAY.—A Federal annuitant employed pursuant to this paragraph shall not be subject to any reduction in pay for annuity allocable to the period of actual employment under the provisions of section 8344 or 8468 of title 5, United States Code, or similar provisions of any other retirement system for employees.

“(C) RE-EMPLOYED ANNUITANTS.—A Federal annuitant employed pursuant to this paragraph shall not be considered an employee for purposes of subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, or such other retirement system (referred to in subparagraph (B)) as may apply.

“(D) COUNTING.—Federal annuitants shall be counted on a full-time equivalent basis.

“(E) LIMITATION.—No appointment under this paragraph may be made which would result in the displacement of any employee.

“(12) TRAVEL FOR INTERMITTENT EMPLOYEES.—The Director is authorized to reimburse intermittent Federal employees traveling from outside a commuting distance (to be predetermined by the Director) for travel expenses.

“(e) ON-FLETC HOUSING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, individuals attending training at any FLETC facility shall, to the extent practicable and in accordance with FLETC policy, reside in on-FLETC or FLETC-provided housing.

“(f) ADDITIONAL FISCAL AUTHORITIES.—In order to further the goals and objectives of FLETC, the Director is authorized to—

“(1) expend funds for public awareness and to enhance community support of law enforcement training, including the advertisement of available law enforcement training programs;

“(2) accept and use gifts of property, both real and personal, and to accept gifts of services, for purposes that promote the functions of the Director pursuant to subsection (c) and the training responsibilities of the Director under subsection (d);

“(3) accept reimbursement from other Federal agencies for the construction or renovation of training and support facilities and the use of equipment and technology on government-owned property;

“(4) obligate funds in anticipation of reimbursements from agencies receiving training at FLETC, except that total obligations at the end of a fiscal year may not exceed total budgetary resources available at the end of such fiscal year;

“(5) in accordance with the purchasing authority provided under section 505 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2004 (Public Law 108-90; 6 U.S.C. 453a)—

“(A) purchase employee and student uniforms; and

“(B) purchase and lease passenger motor vehicles, including vehicles for police-type use;

“(6) provide room and board for student interns; and

“(7) expend funds each fiscal year to honor and memorialize FLETC graduates who have died in the line of duty.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) BASIC TRAINING.—The term ‘basic training’ means the entry-level training required to instill in new Federal law enforcement personnel fundamental knowledge of criminal laws, law enforcement and investigative techniques, laws and rules of evidence, rules of criminal procedure, constitutional rights, search and seizure, and related issues.

“(2) DETAILED INSTRUCTORS.—The term ‘detailed instructors’ means personnel who are assigned to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers for a period of time to serve as instructors for the purpose of conducting basic and advanced training.

“(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers.

“(4) DISTRIBUTED LEARNING.—The term ‘distributed learning’ means education in which students take academic courses by accessing information and communicating with the instructor, from various locations, on an individual basis, over a computer network or via other technologies.

“(5) EMPLOYEE.—The term ‘employee’ has the meaning given such term in section 2105 of title 5, United States Code.

“(6) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term ‘Federal agency’ means—

“(A) an Executive Department as defined in section 101 of title 5, United States Code;

“(B) an independent establishment as defined in section 104 of title 5, United States Code;

“(C) a Government corporation as defined in section 9101 of title 31, United States Code;

“(D) the Government Printing Office;

“(E) the United States Capitol Police;

“(F) the United States Supreme Court Police; and

“(G) Government agencies with law enforcement related duties.

“(7) LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.—The term ‘law enforcement personnel’ means an individual, including criminal investigators (commonly known as ‘agents’) and uniformed police (commonly known as ‘officers’), who has statutory authority to search, seize, make arrests, or to carry firearms.

“(8) LOCAL.—The term ‘local’ means—

“(A) of or pertaining to any county, parish, municipality, city, town, township, rural community, unincorporated town or village, local public authority, educational institution, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law), regional or interstate government entity, any agency or instrumentality of a local government, or any other political subdivision of a State; and

“(B) an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or in Alaska a Native village or Alaska Regional Native Corporation.

“(9) PARTNER ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘partner organization’ means any Federal agency participating in FLETC’s training programs under a formal memorandum of understanding.

“(10) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States.

“(11) STUDENT INTERN.—The term ‘student intern’ means any eligible baccalaureate or graduate degree student participating in FLETC’s College Intern Program.

“(h) PROHIBITION ON NEW FUNDING.—No funds are authorized to carry out this section. This section shall be carried out using amounts otherwise appropriated or made available for such purpose.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by amending the item relating to section 884 to read as follows:

“Sec. 884. Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers.”

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GAO MANDATES REVISION ACT OF 2016

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 639, H.R. 5687.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5687) to eliminate or modify certain mandates of the Government Accountability Office.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5687) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MARINE DEBRIS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2016

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 691, S. 3086.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3086) to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Marine Debris Act Amendments of 2016”.

SEC. 2. NOAA MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM.

Subsection (b) of section 3 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (5)(C), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(6) work with other Federal agencies to develop outreach and education strategies to address both land- and sea-based sources of marine debris; and

“(7) work with the Department of State and other Federal agencies to promote international action to reduce the incidence of marine debris.”.

SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE ON THE INTERAGENCY MARINE DEBRIS COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

Section 5(b) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1954(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) the Department of State; and”.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 9 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1958) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year 2017 through 2021—

“(1) to the Administrator for carrying out sections 3, 5, and 6, \$10,000,000, of which no more than 10 percent may be for administrative costs; and

“(2) to the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, for the use of the Commandant of the Coast Guard in carrying out section 4, \$2,000,000, of which no more than 10 percent may be used for administrative costs.”.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sullivan amendment at the desk be agreed to, the committee-reported substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5172) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To authorize the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to assist with cleanup and response required by severe marine debris events)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.

Section 3 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) ASSISTANCE FOR SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the Administrator or at the request of the Governor of an affected State, the Administrator shall determine whether there is a severe marine debris event.

“(2) ASSISTANCE.—If the Administrator makes a determination under paragraph (1) that there is a severe marine debris event, the Administrator is authorized to make sums available to be used by the affected State or by the Administrator in cooperation with the affected State—

“(A) to assist in the cleanup and response required by the severe marine debris event; or

“(B) such other activity as the Administrator determines is appropriate in response to the severe marine debris event.

“(3) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of any activity carried out under the authority of this subsection shall not exceed 75 percent of the cost of that activity.”.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT TO RESPOND TO MARINE DEBRIS.

It is the sense of Congress that the President should—

(1) work with representatives of foreign countries that produce the largest amounts of unmanaged municipal solid waste that reaches the ocean to learn about, and find solutions to, the contributions of such countries to marine debris in the world's oceans;

(2) carry out studies to determine—

(A) the primary means by which solid waste enters the oceans;

(B) the manner in which waste management infrastructure can be most effective in preventing debris from reaching the oceans;

(C) the long-term economic impacts of marine debris on the national economies of each country set out in paragraph (1) and on the global economy; and

(D) the economic benefits of decreasing the amount of marine debris in the oceans;

(3) work with representatives of foreign countries that produce the largest amounts of unmanaged municipal solid waste that reaches the ocean to conclude one or more new international agreements—

(A) to mitigate the risk of land-based marine debris contributed by such countries reaching an ocean; and

(B) to increase technical assistance and investment in waste management infrastructure, if the President determines appropriate; and

(4) consider the benefits and appropriateness of having a senior official of the Department of State serve as a permanent member of the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee established under section 5 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1954).

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3086), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3086

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Marine Debris Act Amendments of 2016”.

SEC. 2. NOAA MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM.

Subsection (b) of section 3 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (5)(C), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) work with other Federal agencies to develop outreach and education strategies to address both land- and sea-based sources of marine debris; and

“(7) work with the Department of State and other Federal agencies to promote international action to reduce the incidence of marine debris.”.

SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.

Section 3 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) ASSISTANCE FOR SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the Administrator or at the request of the Governor of an affected State, the Administrator shall determine whether there is a severe marine debris event.

“(2) ASSISTANCE.—If the Administrator makes a determination under paragraph (1) that there is a severe marine debris event, the Administrator is authorized to make sums available to be used by the affected State or by the Administrator in cooperation with the affected State—

“(A) to assist in the cleanup and response required by the severe marine debris event; or

“(B) such other activity as the Administrator determines is appropriate in response to the severe marine debris event.

“(3) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of any activity carried out under the authority of this subsection shall not exceed 75 percent of the cost of that activity.”.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT TO RESPOND TO MARINE DEBRIS.

It is the sense of Congress that the President should—

(1) work with representatives of foreign countries that produce the largest amounts of unmanaged municipal solid waste that reaches the ocean to learn about, and find solutions to, the contributions of such countries to marine debris in the world's oceans;

(2) carry out studies to determine—

(A) the primary means by which solid waste enters the oceans;

(B) the manner in which waste management infrastructure can be most effective in preventing debris from reaching the oceans;

(C) the long-term economic impacts of marine debris on the national economies of each country set out in paragraph (1) and on the global economy; and

(D) the economic benefits of decreasing the amount of marine debris in the oceans;

(3) work with representatives of foreign countries that produce the largest amounts of unmanaged municipal solid waste that reaches the ocean to conclude one or more new international agreements—

(A) to mitigate the risk of land-based marine debris contributed by such countries reaching an ocean; and

(B) to increase technical assistance and investment in waste management infrastructure, if the President determines appropriate; and

(4) consider the benefits and appropriateness of having a senior official of the Department of State serve as a permanent member of the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee established under section 5 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1954).

SEC. 5. INCLUSION OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE ON THE INTERAGENCY MARINE DEBRIS COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

Section 5(b) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1954(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) the Department of State; and”.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 9 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1958) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year 2017 through 2021—

“(1) to the Administrator for carrying out sections 3, 5, and 6, \$10,000,000, of which no more than 10 percent may be for administrative costs; and

“(2) to the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, for the use of the Commandant of the Coast Guard in carrying out section 4, \$2,000,000, of which no more than 10 percent may be used for administrative costs.”.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BONUS TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2016

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3112 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3112) to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3112) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3112

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Department of Veterans Affairs Bonus Transparency Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE AWARDS AND BONUSES AWARDED TO CERTAIN HIGH-LEVEL EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

§ 714. Annual report on performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that contains, for the most recent fiscal year ending before the submittal of the report, a description of the performance awards and bonuses awarded to Regional Office Directors of the Department, Directors of Medical Centers of the Department, and Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks.

“(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following with respect to each performance award or bonus awarded to an individual described in such subsection:

“(1) The amount of each award or bonus.

“(2) The job title of the individual awarded the award or bonus.

“(3) The location where the individual awarded the award or bonus works.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 7 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 713 the following new item:

“714. Annual report on performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees.”.

DANIEL L. KINNARD VA CLINIC

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 960 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 960) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Newark, Ohio, as the Daniel L. Kinnard VA Clinic.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 960) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**APOLLO 11 50TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT**

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2726, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2726) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (H.R. 2726) was passed.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SEC SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE
ACT OF 2016**

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3784 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3784) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and a Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3784) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SIDNEY OSLIN SMITH, JR. FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4618 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4618) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 121 Spring Street SE in Gainesville, Georgia, as the “Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4618) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**BOTTLES AND BREASTFEEDING
EQUIPMENT SCREENING ACT**

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5065 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5065) to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to notify air carriers and security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration of such Administration’s guidelines regarding permitting baby formula, breast milk, purified deionized water, and juice on airplanes, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5065) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**UNITED STATES-ISRAEL
ADVANCED RESEARCH PARTNER-
SHIP ACT OF 2016**

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5877, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5877) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 to promote cooperative homeland security research and antiterrorism programs relating to cybersecurity, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5877) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN DAY

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 335 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 335) supporting the goals and ideals of National Aviation Maintenance Technician Day, honoring the invaluable contributions of Charles Edward Taylor, regarded as the father of aviation maintenance, and recognizing the essential role of aviation maintenance technicians in ensuring the safety and security of civil and military aircraft.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 335) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of December 15, 2015, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

INCREASING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ACCOUNTABILITY TO VETERANS ACT OF 2015

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 290 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 290) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability

of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Moran substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5173) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 290), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JEFF MILLER AND RICHARD BLUMENTHAL VETERANS HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6416, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6416) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Joint Explanatory Statement in relation to H.R. 6416, the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR H.R. 6416, THE JEFF MILLER AND RICHARD BLUMENTHAL VETERANS HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016

H.R. 6416 reflects a Compromise Agreement reached by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives on the following bills introduced during the 114th Congress: S. 244, S. 425 as amended, S. 1203 as amended, S. 1731 as amended, S. 2921, S. 3021, S. 3438 as amended, H.R. 272, H.R. 421 as amended, H.R. 627, H.R. 675 as amended, H.R. 677 as amended, H.R. 1313, H.R. 1338 as amended, H.R. 1384, H.R. 1607 as amended, H.R. 1769 as amended, H.R. 1994 as amended, H.R. 2256 as amended, H.R. 2360 as amended, H.R. 2915 as amended, H.R. 3016 as amended, H.R. 3106 as amended, H.R. 3216, H.R. 3715 as amended, H.R. 4011, H.R. 4150 as amended, H.R. 4757 as amended, H.R. 5047, H.R. 5099 as amended, H.R. 5229 as amended, H.R. 5286, and H.R. 5526.

S. 425 as amended was ordered favorably reported out of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate on December 9, 2015,

and was reported out on December 7, 2016; S. 1203 as amended passed the Senate on November 10, 2015; S. 1731 as amended passed the Senate on October 29, 2015; S. 2921, which incorporated provisions derived from numerous House and Senate bills listed above, was introduced on May 11, 2016, and was reported out of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate on May 16, 2016; S. 3438 as amended passed the Senate on November 29, 2016; H.R. 675 as amended passed the House on July 28, 2015; H.R. 677 as amended passed the House on February 9, 2016; H.R. 1313 passed the House on May 18, 2015; H.R. 1338 as amended passed the House on November 16, 2015; H.R. 1384 passed the House on November 16, 2015; H.R. 1607 as amended passed the House on July 27, 2015; H.R. 1769 as amended was reported out of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House on May 24, 2016; H.R. 1994 as amended passed the House on July 29, 2015; H.R. 2256 as amended passed the House on July 21, 2015; H.R. 2360 as amended passed the House on February 9, 2016; H.R. 2915 as amended passed the House on February 9, 2016; H.R. 3016 as amended passed the House on February 9, 2016; H.R. 3106 as amended passed the House on February 9, 2016; H.R. 3216 passed the House on September 26, 2016; H.R. 3715 as amended passed the House on May 23, 2016; H.R. 4150 as amended was reported out of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House on November 14, 2016; H.R. 4757 as amended passed the House on November 29, 2016; H.R. 5047 passed the House on November 30, 2016; H.R. 5099 as amended was reported out of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House on November 14, 2016; and H.R. 5229 as amended passed the House on May 23, 2016.

The Committees have prepared the following explanation of H.R. 6416 to reflect a Compromise Agreement between the Committees. Differences between the provisions contained in the Compromise Agreement and the related provisions of the House Bills and the Senate Bills are noted in this document, except for clerical corrections, conforming changes made necessary by the Compromise Agreement, and minor drafting, technical, and clarifying changes.

TITLE I—DISABILITY COMPENSATION MATTERS EXPEDITED PAYMENT OF SURVIVORS' BENEFITS *Current Law*

Section 5101 of title 38, United States Code (hereinafter, "U.S.C."), requires a claimant to file a formal claim as a condition of receiving Department of Veterans Affairs (hereinafter, "VA" or "the Department") benefits.

Senate Bill

Section 301 of S. 2921 would amend section 5101 of title 38, U.S.C., to authorize VA to pay benefits under chapter 13 (dependency and indemnity compensation) and chapter 15 (pension) and sections 2302 (funeral expenses), 2307 (burial benefits), and 5121 (accrued benefits) of title 38, U.S.C., to a survivor of a veteran who has not filed a formal claim if VA determines that the record contains sufficient evidence to establish the survivor's entitlement to those benefits. For purposes of establishing an effective date under section 5110 of title 38, U.S.C., the earlier of the following dates would be treated as the date of receipt of the survivor's application for benefits: the date the survivor or the survivor's representative notifies VA of the veteran's death through a death certificate or other relevant evidence that establishes entitlement to survivors' benefits or the head of any other department or agency of the Federal Government notifies VA of

the veteran's death. These changes would apply with respect to claims for benefits based on a death occurring on or after the date of enactment. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs would be required to submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on benefits paid pursuant to this authority.

House Bill

Section 5 of H.R. 677 as amended generally contains the same provisions as the Senate Bill, except that, for purposes of establishing an effective date under section 5110 of title 38, U.S.C., the earlier of the following dates would be treated as the date of receipt of the survivor's application for benefits: the date the survivor or the survivor's representative notifies VA of the veteran's death through a death certificate or relevant medical evidence indicating that the death was due to a service-connected or compensable disability or the head of any other department or agency of the Federal Government notifies VA of the veteran's death.

Compromise Agreement

Section 101 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS VIDEO HEARINGS

Current Law

Under current law, section 7107(d) of title 38, U.S.C., an individual who appeals to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (hereinafter, "Board") may request a hearing at the Board's location in Washington, DC, or at a VA facility outside of Washington, DC (a field hearing). Further, under section 7107(e) of title 38, U.S.C., VA may provide equipment so that hearings outside of the Washington, DC, area can be conducted through video teleconference technology with Board members located in DC. If VA has made that technology available, the Chairman of the Board may allow appellants the opportunity to participate in a hearing using video teleconference technology, rather than having an in-person hearing with a Board member.

Senate Bill

Section 303 of S. 2921 would amend section 7107 of title 38, U.S.C., to provide that, for purposes of scheduling a hearing at the earliest possible date, the Board would determine the location and type of hearing to be conducted. It would further provide that an appellant may request a different location or type of hearing and the Board must grant such a request, as well as ensure the hearing is scheduled at the earliest possible date without any undue delay or other prejudice to the appellant. Amended section 7107 of title 38, U.S.C., would further provide that any hearing conducted through picture and voice transmission must be conducted in the same manner as, and must be considered the equivalent of, a personal hearing.

House Bill

Section 10 of H.R. 677 as amended is substantively identical to the provision in the Senate Bill.

Compromise Agreement

Section 102 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in both bills.

Requirement that Secretary of Veterans Affairs publish the average time required to adjudicate early-filed and later-filed appeals

Current Law

Under current law, section 7105(b) of title 38, U.S.C., a claimant has 1 year to file a Notice of Disagreement after the date on which VA mails notice of an initial decision on a claim for benefits.

Senate Bill

Section 306 of S. 2921 would require VA, on an on-going basis, to make available to the public the average length of time it takes for VA to adjudicate a timely appeal and the average length of time it takes VA to adjudicate an untimely appeal. This requirement would take effect 1 year after enactment and would apply until 3 years after enactment. VA would be required to submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on whether publication of that data has had an effect on the number of timely appeals that are filed. This section would define a "timely" appeal for these purposes as meaning an appeal filed not more than 180 days after the date VA mails notice of the initial decision and an "untimely" appeal as meaning an appeal filed more than 180 days after VA mails notice of the initial decision.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 103 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill, except that it would use the phrase "early-filed" to describe appeals filed not more than 180 days after the date VA mails notice of the initial decision and "later-filed" to describe appeals filed more than 180 days after VA mails notice of the initial decision.

Comptroller General review of claims processing performance of regional offices of Veterans Benefits Administration

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provisions.

Senate Bill

Section 307 of S. 2921 would require the Government Accountability Office (hereinafter, "GAO") to complete a review of VA's regional offices in order to help the Veterans Benefits Administration achieve more consistent performance in the processing of claims for disability compensation. The review must be completed by not later than 15 months after the date that is 270 days after the date of enactment. GAO would be required to submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the results of that review.

House Bill

Section 14 of H.R. 677 as amended would establish a commission or task force to evaluate the backlog of claims at VA, including analyzing the most effective means to quickly and accurately resolve claims and options to improve the process.

Compromise Agreement

Section 104 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

Report on staffing levels at regional offices of Department of Veterans Affairs under National Work Queue

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provisions.

Senate Bill

Section 310 of S. 2921 would require VA, not later than 15 months after enactment, to submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the criteria and procedures that VA will use to determine appropriate staffing levels at the regional offices while using the National Work Queue for the distribution of claims processing work.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 105 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

Inclusion in annual budget submission of information on capacity of Veterans Benefits Administration to process benefits claims.

Current Law

Under current law, section 1105(a) of title 31, U.S.C., the President is required to submit to Congress an annual budget.

Senate Bill

Section 309 of S. 2921 would require VA to include in its annual budget submission information on the capacity of the Veterans Benefits Administration to process claims for VA benefits, including an estimate of the average number of claims for benefits that a single full-time equivalent employee can process in a year (excluding claims completed during mandatory overtime), based on a time and motion study and such other information as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs considers appropriate; a description of the actions VA will take to improve the processing of claims; and an assessment of the actions VA identified in the previous year that would be taken to improve claims processing and the effects of those actions. This requirement would apply with respect to the budget submitted for fiscal year 2017 and any fiscal year thereafter.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 106 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill, except that it would apply with respect to any fiscal year after fiscal year 2018.

REPORT ON PLANS OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO REDUCE INVENTORY OF NON-RATING WORKLOAD; SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING MONDAY MORNING WORKLOAD REPORT

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provision.

Senate Bill

Section 312 of S. 2921 would require VA, not later than 120 days after enactment, to submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report that details VA's plans to reduce the inventory of work items listed in the Monday Morning Workload Report under End Products 130 (Dependency—compensation), 137 (Dependency—pension), 173 (Predecisional hearings), 290 (Misc. determinations), 400 (Correspondence), 600 (Due process—compensation), 607 (Due process—pension), 690 (Cost of Living Adjustments and Social Security number verification), 930 (Review, including quality assurance), and 960 (Correction of errors).

Section 313 of S. 2921 would express the sense of Congress that VA should include in its Monday Morning Workload Report additional information about fully-developed claims and appeals.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provisions.

Compromise Agreement

Section 107 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

ANNUAL REPORT ON PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING VETERANS BENEFITS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provision.

Senate Bill

Section 311 of S. 2921 would require VA to submit reports to Congress annually on the progress in implementing the Veterans Benefits Management System (hereinafter, "VBMS"). The report would include an assessment of the current functionality of VBMS, recommendations submitted to VA by employees involved in claims processing for legislative or administrative action considered appropriate to improve the processing of claims, and recommendations submitted to VA by veterans service organizations who use VBMS for legislative or administrative action considered appropriate to improve the system. The reporting requirement would sunset 3 years after enactment.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 108 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

IMPROVEMENTS TO AUTHORITY FOR PERFORMANCE OF MEDICAL DISABILITIES EXAMINATIONS BY CONTRACT PHYSICIANS

Current Law

Under section 504 of Public Law 104-275, VA was authorized to conduct a pilot program to use mandatory funding to provide compensation and pension medical examinations through the use of contractors. Under section 704 of Public Law 108-183, VA is authorized to use appropriated funds to obtain compensation and pension medical examinations by contractors. Currently, a physician providing an evaluation under these authorities must be licensed in the state or territory in which the examination takes place.

Senate Bill

Section 304 of S. 2921 would modify these authorities to provide that, notwithstanding any law regarding the licensure of physicians, a physician described below may conduct an examination pursuant to a contract entered into under the authority granted in Public Law 104-275 or Public Law 108-183 at any location in any state, the District of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, so long as the examination is within the scope of the authorized duties under such contract. This new authority would apply to a physician who has a current license to practice the health care profession of the physician, is performing authorized duties for VA pursuant to a contract for compensation and pension examinations, and is not barred from practicing his or her health care profession in any state, the District of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

House Bill

Section 11 of H.R. 677 as amended contains language substantively identical to the Senate Bill.

Compromise Agreement

Section 109 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in both bills.

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF PROCESS BY WHICH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ASSESSES IMPAIRMENTS THAT RESULT FROM TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY FOR PURPOSES OF AWARDED DISABILITY COMPENSATION

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provision.

Senate Bill

S. 244 would require VA to enter into an agreement with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies to perform a comprehensive review of examinations furnished by VA to individuals who submit claims for compensation for traumatic brain injury to assess their cognitive impairments.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 110 of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the language in the Senate Bill, except that it would require a study to encompass all potential residuals of traumatic brain injury and includes technical changes.

REPORTS ON CLAIMS FOR DISABILITY COMPENSATION

Current Law

Under current law, section 5100 of title 38, U.S.C., the term "claimant" means "any individual applying for, or submitting a claim for, any benefit under the laws administered by the Secretary."

Senate Bill

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

House Bill

Sections 3 and 4 of H.R. 677 as amended would define the term formal claim and require VA to submit to Congress quarterly reports on formal and informal claims.

Compromise Agreement

Section 111 of the Compromise Agreement would require VA to submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on VA's policies with respect to the processing of reasonably raised unrelated claims and would require VA, annually for 5 years, to submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on complete and incomplete claims for disability compensation submitted to VA.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provision.

Senate Bill

Section 314 of S. 2921 would express the sense of Congress appreciating the service of men and women disabled due to service in the Armed Forces, supporting the annual recognition of such American veterans who are disabled for life, and encouraging the American people to honor such veterans each year.

House Bill

Section 17 of H.R. 677 as amended contains language substantively identical to the Senate Bill.

Compromise Agreement

Section 112 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill with an updated estimate of the number of veterans living with service-connected disabilities.

SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION RELATING TO CLAIMS FOR DISABILITIES INCURRED OR AGGRAVATED BY MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provision.

Senate Bill

Section 315 of S. 2921 would express the sense of Congress that VA should submit to Congress information on claims for disability compensation based on post-traumatic stress disorder alleged to have been incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma.

House Bill

Section 2 of H.R. 1607 as amended would require VA to submit to Congress annual reports on claims for disability compensation based on a mental health condition alleged to have been incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma.

Compromise Agreement

Section 113 of the Compromise Agreement would express the sense of Congress that VA should submit to Congress information on claims for disability compensation based on a mental health condition alleged to have been incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma.

TITLE II—UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY INCREASE IN NUMBER OF JUDGES ON UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

Current Law

Under section 7253(a) of title 38, U.S.C., the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (hereinafter, "Veterans Court") was originally authorized to be composed of not more than seven judges. In 2001, the Veterans Court was temporarily expanded from seven to nine authorized judges for the period spanning January 2002 through August 2005 by Public Law 107-103. In 2008, the Veterans Court was again expanded from seven to nine authorized judges until January 2013 by Public Law 110-389.

Senate Bill

Section 701 of S. 2921 would amend section 7253, U.S.C., to expand the number of authorized judges at the Veterans Court to nine through January 1, 2021. It also would require the chief judge of the Veterans Court to report to Congress not later than June 30, 2020, on the temporary expansion, including an assessment on the effect of the expansion to ensure appeals are handled in a timely manner, a description of the types of ways in which the complexity levels of appeals may vary based on appellants' eras of service, and a recommendation on whether the number of judges should be adjusted at the end of the expansion time.

House Bill

Section 201 of H.R. 675 as amended would expand the number of authorized judges at the Veterans Court to nine through January 1, 2020.

Compromise Agreement

Section 201 of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the language in the Senate Bill.

LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM RELATING TO JUDGES OF UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

Current Law

Under chapter 87 of title 5, U.S.C., certain Federal employees are eligible to purchase

Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance. Section 604(a)(5) of title 28, U.S.C., provides that the Administrative Office of the United States Courts will pay for certain judges age 65 and older any increase in the cost of Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance imposed after April 24, 1999.

Senate Bill

Section 702 of S. 2921 generally mirrors the House Bill except that it specifies that the Veterans Court would pay for the post-1999 increases.

House Bill

Section 203 of H.R. 675 as amended would amend section 7281 of title 38, U.S.C., to provide that the government would be required to pay for any post-1999 increases in the life insurance premiums for judges of the Veterans Court who are age 65 and older.

Compromise Agreement

Section 202 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENLARGE SURVIVORS' ANNUITY

Current Law

Under section 7297 of title 38, U.S.C., a judge of the Veterans Court may elect to pay for a survivor annuity that would be paid to the judge's surviving spouse upon the death of the judge.

Senate Bill

Section 703 of S. 2921 contains language that mirrors the House Bill.

House Bill

Section 204 of H.R. 675 as amended would authorize a covered judge to purchase, in three-month increments, up to an additional year of service credit for each year of Federal judicial service completed. A covered judge is defined as: (1) a judge in regular active service; (2) a retired judge who is recall-eligible; or (3) a retired judge who would be recall-eligible but for meeting the aggregate recall service requirements under section 7257(b)(3) of title 38, U.S.C., or is permanently disabled as described by section 7257(b)(4) of title 38, U.S.C.

Compromise Agreement

Section 203 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in both bills.

SELECTION OF CHIEF JUDGE OF UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

Current Law

Under current law, section 7253(d) of title 38, U.S.C., the chief judge of the Veterans Court is the judge in regular active service who is senior in commission among judges who has served for at least 1 year as a judge and who has not previously served as chief judge. The chief judge serves for a term of 5 years or until the judge turns 70 years old, whichever occurs first.

Senate Bill

Section 704 of S. 2921 would amend section 7253(d), U.S.C., to add a prerequisite that a judge also must have at least 3 years remaining in his or her term of office in order to serve as the chief judge. It would also specify that, if there is no judge who meets all of the criteria to serve as chief judge, the chief judge will be the judge in regular active service who is senior in commission, has not previously served as chief judge, and either has 3 years remaining or has served for at least 1 year as a judge. If no judge meets those criteria, the chief judge would be the judge most senior in commission who has not previously served as chief judge. These changes would apply with respect to selec-

tion of a chief judge occurring on or after January 1, 2020.

House Bill

Section 206 of H.R. 675 as amended would revise the qualifications for the chief judge of the Veterans Court. This section would require that the chief judge: (1) be 64 years of age and under; (2) have at least 3 years remaining in term of office; and (3) have not previously served as chief judge. In any case in which there is no judge of the Veterans Court who meets all of these requirements, the judge of the Veterans Court in regular active service who is senior in commission and has not served previously as chief judge and has either served for at least 1 year as a judge of the court or is 64 years of age and under and has at least 3 years remaining in term of office, would act as the chief judge.

Compromise Agreement

Section 204 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

TITLE III—BURIAL BENEFITS AND OTHER MATTERS

EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HEADSTONES, MARKERS, AND MEDALLIONS

Current Law

Current law, section 2306 of title 38, U.S.C., requires VA to provide, upon request, a headstone or marker for the grave of an eligible individual in a private cemetery. VA may also provide, upon request, a medallion signifying the status of the deceased as a veteran, to be affixed to the privately purchased headstone or marker of the deceased in lieu of providing a government-furnished headstone or marker. This medallion is only available for the headstone or marker of an individual who dies on or after November 1, 1990.

Senate Bill

Section 801 of S. 2921 would amend section 2306(d)(4) of title 38, U.S.C., to specify that medallions may be provided for deceased individuals who served in the Armed Forces on or after April 6, 1917, in lieu of a government furnished headstone or marker.

House Bill

Section 2 of H.R. 677 as amended is substantively identical to section 801 of S. 2921. Section 1 of H.R. 4757 as amended adds a new paragraph (5) to section 2306(d) of title 38, U.S.C., requiring VA to provide a headstone, marker, or medallion signifying the deceased's status as a medal of honor recipient when furnishing a headstone, marker, or medallion for placement in a private cemetery.

Compromise Agreement

Section 301 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the House Bills and combines section 2 of H.R. 677 as amended with section 1 of H.R. 4757 as amended.

EXPANSION OF PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Current Law

Section 112 of title 38, U.S.C., authorizes a program to honor the memory of deceased veterans with honorable discharges and persons who died in active military, naval, or air service by providing a Presidential certificate to surviving family and friends.

Senate Bill

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provisions.

House Bill

Section 2 of H.R. 4757 as amended would amend section 112 of title 38, U.S.C., by adding eligible groups of individuals from para-

graphs (2), (3), and (7) of section 2402(a) of title 38, U.S.C.

Compromise Agreement

Section 302 of the Compromise Agreement replaces all eligibility criteria in section 112 of title 38, U.S.C., with eligibility based on a reference to paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (7) of section 2402(a) of that title.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STUDY ON MATTERS RELATING TO BURIAL OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF VETERANS IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES

Current Law

Under section 2302 of title 38, U.S.C., VA may pay for the reimbursement of the costs of a burial receptacle when a deceased veteran has no next of kin nor sufficient resources to furnish the burial receptacle. Section 2414 of that title requires VA to collect information from the local medical examiner, funeral director, or other responsible entity on whether or not the veteran was cremated and what steps were taken to ensure the deceased veteran had no next of kin.

Senate Bill

Section 804 of S. 2921 would require VA to complete a study on matters relating to the interment of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries and submit a report to Congress on the findings of the study. The study would include the scope of related issues including the estimated number of unclaimed remains, effectiveness of VA procedures to work with persons or entities in custody of unclaimed remains, and an assessment of state and local laws affecting VA's ability to inter unclaimed remains. This section would take effect 1 year after enactment and the report would be required 1 year after it takes effect.

House Bill

Section 2 of H.R. 1338 as amended is substantively identical to the Senate Bill in the requirements of the study. The House Bill does not delay the effective date of the provision after enactment.

Compromise Agreement

Section 303 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

STUDY ON PROVISION OF INTERMENTS IN VETERANS' CEMETERIES DURING WEEKENDS

Current Law

Chapter 24 of title 38, U.S.C., establishes the National Cemetery Administration, directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to administer the national cemeteries, and authorizes VA to provide aid to states and tribal organizations for the establishment, expansion, and improvement of veterans' cemeteries.

Senate Bill

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provisions.

House Bill

H.R. 3715 as amended would amend section 2404 of title 38, U.S.C., to direct VA to permit interments in national cemeteries and state veterans' cemeteries during weekends other than Federal holiday weekends at the request of the veteran's next of kin. VA would be required to notify an individual requesting interment of a veteran of the opportunity to request a weekend interment.

Compromise Agreement

Section 304 of the Compromise Agreement would require VA to conduct a study on the feasibility and the need for providing increased interment options on weekends. The study would need to include information

about requests for weekend burials over the past 10 years as well as a comparison of practices related to weekend burials at non-VA cemeteries. VA would be required to complete the study and provide a report to Congress within 180 days of enactment. Honoring as veterans certain persons who performed service in the Reserve components of the Armed Forces.

Current Law

Under current law, section 101(2) of title 38, U.S.C., for purposes of determining eligibility for benefits administered by VA, a veteran is defined as “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.” As such, a member of the Reserve components who is eligible for retirement pay, or in receipt of retired pay, who did not have qualifying active duty service, is not recognized as a veteran for purposes of eligibility for certain VA benefits.

Senate Bill

Section 701 of S. 1203 as amended would recognize the service of certain individuals in the Reserve components of the Armed Forces by honoring them as veterans. This section, in a non-codified provision, would honor as a veteran those individuals who are entitled under chapter 1223 of title 10, U.S.C., to retired pay for irregular service or who would be entitled to retired pay, but for age. Those who are honored as “veterans” under this section would not be entitled to any VA benefit by reason of such recognition.

House Bill

H.R. 1384 would amend title 38, U.S.C., to honor as a veteran those individuals who are entitled under chapter 1223 of title 10, U.S.C., to retired pay for irregular service or who would be entitled to retired pay, but for age. Those who are honored as “veterans” under this section would not be entitled to any VA benefit by reason of such recognition.

Compromise Agreement

Section 305 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

TITLE IV—EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR MARINE GUNNERY SERGEANT JOHN DAVID FRY SCHOLARSHIP

Current Law

Section 3311(b)(9) of title 38, U.S.C., as amended by section 701(d) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 128 Stat. 1796; 38 U.S.C. 3311 note), authorizes educational assistance to the surviving spouse and child of an active duty servicemember who dies in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001. The delimitation date for use of this benefit by a surviving spouse is 15 years from the date of death of the active duty servicemember.

Senate Bill

Section 401 of S. 2921 would amend section 3317 of title 38, U.S.C., to allow Fry Scholarship recipients to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program. It would also amend section 701(d) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146) to treat deaths of servicemembers that occurred between September 11, 2001, and December 31, 2005, as if they had occurred on January 1, 2006, for purposes of that section. The changes made by section 401 would apply to terms of study beginning on or after January 1, 2015.

House Bill

Section 302 of H.R. 3016 as amended is substantively identical to the Senate Bill.

Compromise Agreement

Section 401 of the Compromise Agreement includes the provision amending section 701(d) of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146) to treat deaths of servicemembers that occurred between September 11, 2001, and December 31, 2005, as if they had occurred on January 1, 2006, for purposes of that section. It does not include the provision amending section 3317 of title 38, U.S.C., to allow Fry Scholarship recipients to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

APPROVAL OF COURSES OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR PURPOSES OF THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Current Law

Subchapter I of chapter 36 of title 38, U.S.C., provides criteria under which a course of education or training may be approved or disapproved for the use of veterans educational assistance. Assistance provided under the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program is not subject to these same criteria.

Senate Bill

Section 404 of S. 2921 amends section 3104(b) of title 38, U.S.C., to require, to the maximum extent practicable, that an education or training program pursued under Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment must be an approved course for purposes of the Montgomery GI Bill or the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Section 404 would grant the Secretary of Veterans Affairs authority to waive this new requirement. This section would take effect 1 year after the provision's enactment.

House Bill

Section 303 of H.R. 3016 as amended is substantively identical to the Senate Bill.

Compromise Agreement

Section 402 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in both bills.

AUTHORITY TO PRIORITIZE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BASED ON NEED

Current Law

Section 3104 of title 38, U.S.C., describes the services and assistance that VA may provide under the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program. It does not include authority for VA to prioritize the provision of these services to veterans.

Senate Bill

Section 405 of S. 2921 would add a new subsection to section 3104 of title 38, U.S.C., granting the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the authority to prioritize the provision of Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment services to veterans. The Secretary would be authorized to consider the disability rating, employment handicap, qualification for an independent living program, income, and any other appropriate factor in establishing priority. The Secretary would be required to submit a plan to Congress no later than 90 days prior to any planned change in prioritizing services.

House Bill

Section 304 of H.R. 3016 as amended is substantively identical to the Senate Bill.

Compromise Agreement

Section 403 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in both bills.

REPORTS ON PROGRESS OF STUDENTS RECEIVING POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Current Law

Current law requires educational and training institutions to report to VA the en-

rollment of students receiving VA educational assistance, to include changes to enrollments within a term and completion of the educational objective.

Senate Bill

Section 410 of S. 2921 would require educational institutions to submit an annual report to VA not later than 1 year after enactment on the academic progress of students for whom it receives payments under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs would be required to include this information in the annual report to Congress on the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no similar provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 404 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

RECODIFICATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF ELECTION PROCESS FOR POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Current Law

The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-252) established the process by which individuals may elect from multiple educational assistance programs for which they are eligible the one they wish to use. The election is irrevocable.

Senate Bill

Section 406 of S. 2921 would codify in a redesignated section 3325 of title 38, U.S.C., the provisions now found in section 5003(c) of Public Law 110-252 and would add a provision to that new section providing that, in the case of an individual who on or after January 1, 2016, submits to VA an election of which education program to use that VA determines is clearly against the interests of the individual or who fails to make an election, VA may make an alternative election on behalf of the individual that VA determines is in the best interests of the individual. This section would also require VA to promptly notify the veteran of such alternate election and allow the veteran 30 days to modify the election.

House Bill

Section 305 of H.R. 3016 as amended is substantively identical to the Senate Bill.

Compromise Agreement

Section 405 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language of both bills.

WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCE

Current Law

Current law, section 3485 of title 38, U.S.C., authorizes VA to pay a work-study allowance to individuals receiving VA educational assistance if they meet certain enrollment requirements and work for up to 25 hours per week at an approved VA work-study location in a VA facility or educational institution.

Senate Bill

Section 407 of S. 2921 would amend section 3485 of title 38, U.S.C., to provide an additional period of 5 years, from June 30, 2016, to June 30, 2021, during which a student may receive a work-study allowance for performing outreach services for a State approving agency, providing hospital and domiciliary care and medical treatment to veterans in a State home, or performing an activity relating to the administration of a national cemetery or a state veterans' cemetery.

House Bill

Section 308 of H.R. 3016 as amended is substantively identical to the Senate Bill.

Compromise Agreement

Section 406 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in both bills, except

that the 5-year period would run from June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2022.

CENTRALIZED REPORTING OF VETERAN ENROLLMENT BY CERTAIN GROUPS, DISTRICTS, AND CONSORTIUMS OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Current Law

Current law, section 3684 of title 38, U.S.C., requires educational and training institutions to report to VA the enrollment of students receiving VA educational assistance and to certify their compliance with the requirements of approval for VA educational assistance in order to receive payments.

Senate Bill

Section 421 of S. 2921 would modify section 3684 of title 38, U.S.C., so that an “educational institution” for purposes of reporting to VA enrollments in education programs would include a group, district, or consortium of separately accredited educational institutions located in the same state that are organized in a manner that facilitates the centralized reporting of enrollments in the group, district, or consortium of institutions.

House Bill

Section 401 of H.R. 3016 as amended is substantively identical to the Senate Bill.

Compromise Agreement

Section 407 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in both bills.

ROLE OF STATE APPROVING AGENCIES

Current Law

Under current law, section 3672 of title 38, U.S.C., certain types of education courses meeting criteria in chapter 36 of title 38, U.S.C., are deemed approved for the use of VA educational assistance.

Senate Bill

Section 423 of S. 2921 would amend section 3672 of title 38, U.S.C., so that an education program would be deemed approved for purposes of VA education benefits only if a State approving agency determines that the program meets the deemed-approved criteria. It would also modify section 3675 of title 38, U.S.C., so that a program that is not subject to approval under section 3672 of title 38, U.S.C., may be approved by a State approving agency or VA acting in the role of a State approving agency when the criteria for approval of accredited programs at for-profit institutions are met.

House Bill

Section 403 of H.R. 3016 as amended is substantively identical to the Senate Bill.

Compromise Agreement

Section 408 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in both bills.

MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL FOR PURPOSES OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO PREPARE INDIVIDUALS FOR LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION

Current Law

Current law, sections 3675 and 3676 of title 38, U.S.C., lists a number of requirements for accredited and non-accredited education and training programs to be approved for VA educational assistance, including for licensure and certification programs.

Senate Bill

Section 425 of S. 2921 would amend chapter 36 of title 38, U.S.C., to require both accredited and non-accredited programs that are designed to prepare an individual for licensure or certification in a state to meet any instructional curriculum licensure or certifi-

cation requirements of the state in order to be approved for purposes of VA education benefits. It would also require programs designed to prepare an individual for employment pursuant to standards developed by a board or agency of a state in an occupation that requires approval or licensure to be approved or licensed by the board or agency of the state in order to be approved for purposes of VA education benefits. It would also require that any course of education designed to prepare a student for licensure to practice law be accredited by a recognized party. It would add a new subsection (f) to section 3676 of title 38, U.S.C., providing that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs would be authorized to waive either of those requirements in certain circumstances and would add specific criteria for disapproving such courses in section 3679 of title 38, U.S.C. This section would not apply to individuals continuously enrolled in a course if that course is later disapproved pursuant to this section.

House Bill

H.R. 2360 as amended contains similar language to the Senate Bill, but lacks the language specifying the requirements apply to courses preparing for licensure to practice law and to standard college degree programs at accredited public or not-for-profit educational institutions.

Compromise Agreement

Section 409 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

CRITERIA USED TO APPROVE COURSES

Current Law

Current law, section 3676 of title 38, U.S.C., requires non-accredited courses to meet a number of criteria in order to be approved for VA educational assistance. Included in these are any additional criteria as may be deemed necessary by the State approving agency.

Senate Bill

Section 424 of S. 2921 would modify section 3676 of title 38, U.S.C., so that additional criteria may be required only if the Secretary, in consultation with the State approving agency and pursuant to regulations prescribed to carry out this requirement, determines that the additional criteria are necessary and treat public, private, and proprietary for-profit educational institutions equitably. Section 424 would modify section 3675 of title 38, U.S.C., so that accredited courses must also meet those additional criteria to be approved.

House Bill

Section 404 of H.R. 3016 as amended is substantively identical to the Senate Bill.

Compromise Agreement

Section 410 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in both bills.

COMPLIANCE SURVEYS

Current Law

Section 3693 of title 38, U.S.C., requires VA to conduct compliance surveys of institutions that enroll eligible veterans in education programs approved for VA educational assistance. VA must conduct compliance surveys each year for institutions enrolling 300 or more eligible veterans or offering courses other than standard college degrees.

Senate Bill

Section 426 of S. 2921 would amend section 3693 of title 38, U.S.C., to provide that VA generally must conduct an annual compliance survey of educational institutions and training establishments offering approved

courses if at least 20 veterans or other VA beneficiaries are enrolled in its courses; VA must design the compliance survey to ensure that institutions or establishments and approved courses are in compliance with all applicable provisions of chapters 30 through 36 of title 38, U.S.C.; VA must survey each institution or establishment not less than once during every 2-year period; VA must assign not fewer than one education compliance specialist to work on compliance surveys in any year for each 40 compliance surveys required; and VA must, in consultation with State approving agencies, annually determine the parameters of the surveys and not later than September 1 of each year make available to the State approving agencies a list of educational institutions and training establishments that will be surveyed during the fiscal year following the date of making the list available.

House Bill

Section 405 of H.R. 3016 as amended is substantively identical to the Senate Bill.

Compromise Agreement

Section 411 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in both bills.

MODIFICATION OF REDUCTION IN REPORTING FEE MULTIPLIERS FOR PAYMENTS BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Current Law

Current law, section 3684 of title 38, U.S.C., directs VA to pay educational institutions a fee for each educational assistance beneficiary whose enrollment the institution certifies to VA. The current fees are \$9 or \$12 per student depending on whether or not the school receives an assistance payment in care of the beneficiary.

Senate Bill

Section 902 of S. 2921 would change the rates of the reporting fees that are paid to educational institutions beginning on September 26, 2016. The rates would change from \$9 and \$13 per student to \$8 and \$12 per student until September 25, 2025.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no similar provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 412 of the Compromise Agreement would change the rates of the reporting fees to \$6 and \$12 per student through September 25, 2017. From September 26, 2017, to September 25, 2026, the reporting fees would be paid at a rate of \$7 and \$12 per student.

COMPOSITION OF VETERANS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Current Law

Current law, section 3692 of title 38, U.S.C., requires VA to include veterans who are representative of World War II, the Korean conflict era, the post-Korean conflict era, the Vietnam era, the post-Vietnam era, and the Persian Gulf War when forming the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education.

Senate Bill

The Senate Bills contain no relevant provision.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no relevant provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 413 of the Compromise Agreement includes language from a VA legislative proposal that would amend section 3692(a) of title 38, U.S.C., to modify the requirements on the composition of the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education. The current

requirement to include veterans representing specific conflict eras, such as World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, would be replaced with a more flexible requirement to include veterans representing those who have used, are using, or may in the future use VA educational assistance benefits.

SURVEY OF INDIVIDUALS USING THEIR ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provision.

Senate Bill

Section 427 of S. 2921 would require VA to contract with a non-government entity to conduct a survey of individuals who are using or have used VA educational benefits. The survey would have to be contracted within 9 months of enactment, provided to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives at least 30 days in advance of data collection, completed within 6 months, and conducted by electronic means. The survey would include demographic information, opinion on effectiveness of transition assistance programs, and resources used to decide on a program of education and which education benefit to use, among other survey requirements. VA would be required to report to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives on the findings of this survey within 90 days of its completion.

House Bill

Section 406 of H.R. 3016 as amended is substantively identical to the Senate Bill.

Compromise Agreement

Section 414 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in both bills.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

Current Law

Current law, section 3697A of title 38, U.S.C., directs VA to provide educational and vocational counseling to veterans within 1 year of separation from the military and to other eligible individuals using VA educational assistance.

Senate Bill

The Senate Bills contain no similar provisions.

House Bill

H.R. 5047 would require VA counselors providing educational or vocational counseling under section 3697A of title 38, U.S.C., to provide, as part of that counseling, information on articulation agreements at each educational institution in which the individual is interested. VA must also include information on articulation agreements when it provides a certification of eligibility for educational assistance.

Compromise Agreement

Section 415 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the House Bill.

RETENTION OF ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE DURING CERTAIN ADDITIONAL PERIODS OF ACTIVE DUTY

Current Law

Current law, sections 16131 and 16133 of title 10, U.S.C., allows used entitlement to the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserves to be retained by an individual when their

enrollment is interrupted by orders to active duty under certain sections of title 10, U.S.C. *Senate Bill*

Section 408 of S. 2921 would add 10 U.S.C. 12304a and 12304b to the list of authorities in 10 U.S.C. 16131 and 16133 under which a reservist may regain lost payments and lost entitlement for the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve education program when that activation authority prevented the reservist from completing his or her studies.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no similar provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 416 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

TECHNICAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO IN-STATE TUITION RATE FOR INDIVIDUALS TO WHOM ENTITLEMENT IS TRANSFERRED UNDER ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Current Law

Current law, section 3679 of title 38, U.S.C., as amended by section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 128 Stat. 1796; 38 U.S.C. 3311 note), requires VA to disapprove any program in which a veteran within 3 years of separation or their dependent using transferred education benefits is charged more than the in-state tuition rate charged to residents of the state for that same program.

Senate Bill

Section 428 of S. 2921 would amend section 3679(c)(2)(B) of title 38, U.S.C., to specify that a covered individual includes someone using education benefits transferred to them under section 3319 of title 38, U.S.C., when the person who transferred benefits is a veteran within 3 years of separation from active duty or a member of the uniformed services described in section 3319(b) of title 38, U.S.C. Under this section, VA must disapprove courses in which these covered individuals are charged more than the in-state tuition rate charged to residents of the state for the same program. This change would apply with courses and terms beginning after July 1, 2017.

House Bill

Section 408 of H.R. 3016 as amended is similar to the language in the Senate Bill but would require disapproval when the in-state tuition rate is not applied for any individual using transferred education benefits under section 3319 of title 38, U.S.C., without regard to how many years have passed since the veteran's military separation.

Compromise Agreement

Section 417 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

STUDY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF VETERANS TRANSITION EFFORTS

Current Law

Current law, section 1144 of title 10, U.S.C., requires the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, and Labor to provide transition assistance training to transitioning members of the Armed Forces.

Senate Bill

The Senate Bills contain no similar provision.

House Bill

H.R. 5229 as amended would require VA, in coordination with the Departments of Defense and Labor, to conduct a study evalu-

ating military transition assistance programs with emphasis on their effectiveness for certain groups of minority veterans. VA would be required to report to Congress its findings and any recommendations within 18 months of enactment. The House Bill would also prohibit the authorization of additional funds to carry out these requirements.

Compromise Agreement

Section 418 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the House Bill.

TITLE V—SMALL BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

MODIFICATION OF TREATMENT UNDER CONTRACTING GOALS AND PREFERENCES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Current Law

Under current law, section 8127 of title 38, U.S.C., if the death of a veteran causes a small business to be less than 51 percent owned by one or more veterans, the surviving spouse of such veteran who acquires ownership rights shall be treated as if the surviving spouse were that veteran for the purpose of maintaining the status of the small business concern as a small business concern owned and controlled by veterans. The current transition period from the date of the veteran's death is the earliest of the following dates: the date on which the surviving spouse remarries; the date on which the surviving spouse relinquishes an ownership interest in the small business concern; or the date that is 10 years after the date of the veteran's death.

Current law only applies to a surviving spouse of a veteran with a service-connected disability rated as 100 percent disabling or who dies as a result of a service-connected disability.

Senate Bill

Sections 501 and 502 of S. 1203 as amended would modify the ownership requirements for small business contracts and preferences. In the case of a veteran who dies as a result of a service-connected disability with a 100 percent rating, the surviving spouse would also be allowed to assume control of the business for 10 years after the date of the veteran's death. For a veteran who passes away with less than 100 percent disability, who does not die of a service-connected disability, a transition period of 3 years after the veteran's death would be authorized.

House Bill

H.R. 1313 is substantively identical to the Senate Bill.

Compromise Agreement

Section 501 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in both bills.

LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF JOB COUNSELING, TRAINING, AND PLACEMENT SERVICE FOR VETERANS

Current Law

Current law, section 4103A of title 38, U.S.C., provides intensive services for veterans with significant barriers to employment to meet their employment needs and facilitate placements.

Senate Bill

Section 502 of S. 2921 would add section 4115 to chapter 41 of title 38, U.S.C., which would require the Secretary of Labor to contract with a non-government entity to conduct a 5-year longitudinal study of job counseling, training, and placement service for veterans. The study would collect information relating to length of military service, disability, unemployment, income levels, home ownership, use of job counseling and training services,

and demographic information. The Secretary would report the findings to Congress by not later than July 1 of each year for the 5-year period and include in the report the number of job fairs attended by One-Stop Career Center employees where they had contact with veterans and the number of veterans contacted at each job fair.

House Bill

Section 502 of H.R. 3016 as amended is substantively similar to the Senate Bill but would not require the study or inclusion of job fairs attended by One-Stop Career Center employees.

Compromise Agreement

Section 502 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Current Law

Current law places no restrictions on administrative leave.

Senate Bill

Section 124 of S. 2921 would restrict the ability of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to place employees on administrative leave for no more than 14 days in a given year. The Secretary may waive the limitation but would be required to provide the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a detailed explanation for extending the administrative leave. The explanation would be required to include the position and location where the individual is employed. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary would also be required to submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report listing the position of each employee of the Department (if any) who has been placed on administrative leave for a period longer than 14 business days during such fiscal year.

House Bill

Section 7 of H.R. 1994 as amended is similar to the Senate Bill, except that it would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to also report the name of any individual who was placed on administrative leave for longer than 14 days to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives. The House Bill also would not require an additional report from the Secretary at the end of each fiscal year of each individual placed on administrative leave for a time that is greater than 14 days in the prior fiscal year.

Compromise Agreement

Section 503 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the House Bill, except that it would not require the Secretary to provide any individual's name who is placed on administrative leave for a time that is greater than 14 days and would only require the Secretary to report an individual's job title, pay grade, and location.

REQUIRED COORDINATION BETWEEN DIRECTORS FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING WITH STATE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Current Law

Current law, section 4103 of title 38, U.S.C., directs the Department of Labor to assign directors of veterans' employment and training to each state.

Senate Bill

Section 501 of S. 2921 would require the Department of Labor's director of veterans' employment and training for each state to co-

ordinate their activities with the state agencies for labor and veterans affairs. Section 501 would take effect 1 year after the enactment date.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no similar provisions.

Compromise Agreement

Section 504 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

TITLE VI—HEALTH CARE MATTERS

SUBTITLE A—MEDICAL CARE

REQUIREMENT FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE ACCOUNT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Current Law

Section 117 of title 38, U.S.C., provides for the advance appropriations of certain VA appropriations accounts. Providing appropriations in advance ensures that medical care and certain benefits continue if annual appropriations bills or a continuing resolution to provide funding are not signed into law before the end of the fiscal year. Public Law 114-41, the Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015, provided a new appropriations account to fund medical care that is not provided at a VA facility.

Senate Bill

Section 274 of S. 2921 would provide for the advance appropriation of funding for the Medical Community Care Appropriations account.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 601 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE IMMUNIZATIONS FOR VETERANS

Current Law

Section 1701 of title 38, U.S.C., provides definitions for medical care and hospital care. To promote health and prevent diseases among veterans, VA delivers preventive health services, which includes providing immunizations against infectious diseases. Recommendations on immunizations for adults are made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, an entity that advises the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That advisory committee publishes an immunization schedule for adults.

Senate Bill

Section 201 of S. 2921 would amend section 1701 of title 38, U.S.C., to clarify that the term "preventive health services" encompasses immunizations against infectious diseases, including each immunization on the recommended adult immunization schedule at the time such immunization is indicated on that schedule. The section would also require VA to report to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives on programs conducted the previous fiscal year to ensure veterans have access to the recommended immunizations. Section 201 would also ensure that a veteran would not receive an immunization that the veteran does not wish to receive.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 602 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

PRIORITY OF MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS IN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Current Law

Section 1705 of title 38, U.S.C., provides for eligibility for the VA health care system. Medal of honor recipients are eligible to be enrolled in the VA healthcare system under priority group three and are required to pay applicable VA copayments for certain care.

Senate Bill

Section 203 of S. 2921 would increase medal of honor recipients from priority group three to priority group one in the VA health care system. Medal of honor recipients would be elevated to the highest priority group within the Veterans Health Administration and would not be required to pay co-payments for care they received.

House Bill

Section 102 of H.R. 3016 as amended contains an identical provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 603 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in both bills.

REQUIREMENT THAT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COLLECT HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACT INFORMATION FROM VETERANS

Current Law

Public Law 114-223 restricts VA's use of fiscal year 2017 funding for the provision of hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services under chapter 17 of title 38, U.S.C., for non-service connected disabilities under section 1729(a)(2) of title 38, U.S.C., unless the veteran has provided third-party reimbursement information.

Senate Bill

Section 241 of S. 2921 would amend title 38, U.S.C., and add a new section 1705A. This section would require VA to collect from individuals information on health-plan contracts and would allow VA to take any action necessary to collect the information. In addition, this section would denote that the Secretary may not deny services to an individual if he or she fails to provide this information.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 604 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate Bill.

MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED IN CLASSIFIED MISSIONS

Current Law

Section 7301 of title 38, U.S.C., established within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs the primary function to provide complete medical and hospital services for the medical care and treatment of veterans. Section 1701 of title 38, U.S.C., defines "hospital care" to include "mental health services, consultation, professional counseling, marriage and family counseling."

Senate Bill

Section 212 of S. 2921 would amend title 38, U.S.C., by adding a new section, 1720H, to direct VA to establish standards and procedures in consultation with the Department of Defense to ensure that veterans who participated in classified missions or served in sensitive units may access mental health care in a manner that fully accommodates their obligation to not improperly disclose classified information.

House Bill

Section 3 of H.R. 2915 as amended contains an identical provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 605 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate and House Bills.

EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND WOMEN IN LABOR

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provisions.

Senate Bill

Section 246 of S. 2921 would add a new section, 1784A, to title 38, U.S.C., to require any VA facility with an emergency department to provide stabilizing care in the form of an examination or treatment for an emergency medical condition for any individual who is on the campus of the hospital and requests treatment or has a request for treatment made on his/her behalf.

House Bill

Section 2 of H.R. 3216 would add a new section 1730B to title 38, U.S.C., to require a VA facility with an emergency department to provide stabilizing care to an enrolled veteran in the form of examination or treatment for an emergent medical condition for a veteran that requests treatment or a treatment request is made by an individual acting on behalf of the veteran.

Compromise Agreement

Section 606 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill. It is the intent of Congress that VA obtain other health insurance information from individuals receiving care under this provision consistent with the authority in section 604 of the Compromise Agreement.

SUBTITLE B—VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

TIME PERIOD COVERED BY ANNUAL REPORT ON READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICE

Current Law

Section 7309 of title 38, U.S.C., requires the Readjustment Counseling Service (hereinafter, "RCS") to submit an annual report covering the activities of the RCS for the preceding calendar year.

Senate Bill

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 611 of the Compromise Agreement contains a new provision that would amend section 7309 of title 38, U.S.C., to change the time period covered by the annual report to include the activities of the RCS in the preceding fiscal year.

ANNUAL REPORT ON VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND FURNISHING OF HOSPITAL CARE, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND NURSING HOME CARE

Current Law

Title 38, U.S.C., contains a number of requirements for VA to submit reports to Congress regarding the Department's activities.

Senate Bill

Section 248 of S. 2921 would amend title 38, U.S.C., by adding a new section, 7330B, which would require VA to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the provision of hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care by the Veterans Health Administration. An annual report would be due not later than March 1 of each year from 2018 through 2022.

House Bill

Section 2 of H.R. 2256 as amended contains an identical provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 612 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate and House Bills.

EXPANSION OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO INCLUDE DOCTORAL DEGREES

Current Law

Section 7402(b)(11) of title 38, U.S.C., authorizes the appointment in the Veterans Health Administration of licensed professional mental health counselors (hereinafter, "LPMHC") provided the LPMHCs hold a master's degree in mental health counseling.

Senate Bill

Section 214 of S. 2921 would amend section 7402(b)(11) of title 38, U.S.C., to expand the qualifications for an individual to be appointed as a VA licensed professional mental health counselor to include individuals with a doctoral degree in mental health counseling.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 613 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

MODIFICATION OF HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR PHYSICIANS EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Current Law

Section 7423(a) of title 38, U.S.C., establishes the hours that are used to determine whether an employee is a full-time employee. A full-time employee is one who works 80 hours over a 2 week period.

Senate Bill

Section 221 of S. 2921 would amend section 7423(a) of title 38, U.S.C., to provide an exception to the requirement that the hours of employment for a full-time VA physician or physician assistant must consist of not less than 80 hours in a biweekly pay period. Specifically, VA may modify the hours of employment for a full-time physician or physician assistant to be more or less than 80 hours in a biweekly pay period if the total hours for the employee does not exceed 2,080 hours in a calendar year.

House Bill

Section 2 of H.R. 4150 as amended would amend section 7423(a) of title 38, U.S.C., to provide an exception to the requirement that the hours of employment for a full-time physician or physician assistant must consist of not less than 80 hours in a pay period. Section 2 would also ban the accrual of overtime because of the modification of the hours of employment.

Compromise Agreement

Section 614 of the Compromise Agreement amends section 7423(a) of title 38, U.S.C., to provide an exception to the requirement that the hours of employment for a full-time physician must consist of not less than 80 hours in a pay period, on the condition that the physician provides VA with an advance written notice. It is the intent of Congress that the advance written notice required by this section be a one-time notice to VA that the physician is willing to modify his or her hours of employment as needed to ensure proper staffing at the Department.

REPEAL OF COMPENSATION PANELS TO DETERMINE MARKET PAY FOR PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS

Current Law

Section 7431 of title 38, U.S.C., establishes a pay system for VA physicians and dentists. The section also mandates that a panel comprised of physicians or dentists make recommendations on market pay for physicians or dentists.

Senate Bill

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

House Bill

Section 4 of H.R. 5526 would amend section 7431 of title 38, U.S.C., to repeal the requirement that physician or dental compensation panels be considered when setting market pay for physicians or dentists.

Compromise Agreement

Section 615 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the House Bill.

CLARIFICATION REGARDING LIABILITY FOR BREACH OF AGREEMENT UNDER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEE INCENTIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Current Law

Section 7671 of title 38, U.S.C., authorizes VA to carry out the Employee Incentive Scholarship Program as a tool to recruit and retain health professionals. This program provides education and training scholarships for qualified Veterans Health Administration employees. Under section 7675 of title 38, U.S.C., program participants are liable for the amount which was paid to them or on their behalf if they fail to maintain appropriate academic standing, are dismissed for disciplinary reasons from the educational institution, voluntarily terminate the education or training prior to completion, fail to meet licensure requirements, or if the participant is a part-time student who fails to maintain VA employment while enrolled in a training course.

Senate Bill

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 616 of the Compromise Agreement would amend section 7675 of title 38, U.S.C., to include full-time students as among VA Employee Incentive Scholarship participants liable for the amount which was paid to them or on their behalf, in the event the participant fails to maintain VA employment.

EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR INCREASE IN GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION RESIDENCY POSITIONS AT MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Current Law

The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 7302 note) requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the number of graduate medical education residency positions by 1,500 residency slots during the 5 year period that began 1 year after enactment of Public Law 113-146.

Senate Bill

Section 223 of S. 2921 would amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 7302 note) to allow VA an additional 5 years to increase the number of graduate medical education residency positions at medical facilities of VA by 1,500 positions. It would also

extend for 5 years the requirement that VA submit an annual report to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives on graduate medical education residency positions at VA medical facilities.

House Bill

H.R. 4011 contains an identical provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 617 of the Compromise Agreement is identical to both the House and Senate provisions.

REPORT ON PUBLIC ACCESS TO RESEARCH BY
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Current Law

Section 7303 of title 38, U.S.C., requires VA to carry out a program of medical research in connection with the provision of medical care and treatment to veterans in order to more effectively carry out the primary function of the Veterans Health Administration to contribute to the Nation's knowledge about disease and disability.

Senate Bill

Section 296 of S. 2921 would provide that, not later than 180 days and 1 year after enactment, VA must submit a report on increasing public access to scientific publications and digital data from research funded by VA.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 618 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN MAJOR MEDICAL
FACILITY PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Current Law

Section 8104(a)(2) of title 38, U.S.C., requires statutory authorization for all VA major medical facility construction projects.

Senate Bill

S. 3438 as amended would authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a major medical facility project in Reno, Nevada, and Long Beach, California.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provisions.

Compromise Agreement

Section 619 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

SUBTITLE C—TOXIC EXPOSURE
DEFINITIONS

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provision.

Senate Bill

Section 281 of S. 2921 would define the terms Armed Forces, descendant, toxic exposure, and veteran for purposes of this subtitle.

House Bill

Section 2 of H.R. 1769 and section 301 of H.R. 5286 would define the terms Armed Force, descendant, exposed, exposure, toxic substance, and veteran for purposes of this subtitle.

Compromise Agreement

Section 631 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE ASSESSMENT
ON RESEARCH RELATING TO THE DESCENDANTS
OF INDIVIDUALS WITH TOXIC EXPOSURE

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provision.

Senate Bill

Section 282 of S. 2921 would require that, not later than 180 days after enactment, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Medicine (hereinafter, "NAM") to conduct an assessment on scientific research relating to the descendants of individuals with toxic exposure. If an agreement cannot be entered into, the Secretary must seek to enter into such an agreement with another appropriate organization.

Section 282 would require that the assessment include review of the scientific literature regarding toxicological and epidemiological research on descendants of individuals with toxic exposure; an assessment of areas requiring further study; and an assessment of the scope and methodology required to conduct adequate research including the types of individuals to be studied, the number of veterans and descendants to be studied, alternatives for participation, amount of time and resources needed, and the appropriate Federal agencies needed to participate. Section 282 also would require the establishment of categories, including definitions for each category, to be used in assessing the evidence that a particular health condition is related to toxic exposure and an analysis of the feasibility of conducting scientific research, the value and relevance of the information that could result from the research, and the feasibility and advisability of assessing additional information held by a Federal agency that may be sensitive. The assessment also would include the identification of a research entity or entities with expertise in conducting research on health conditions of descendants of individuals with toxic exposure and the ability to conduct the recommended research.

Not later than 2 years after entering into an agreement, section 282 would require the organization to provide a report that includes the results of the assessment conducted regarding the scope and methodology required to conduct adequate research and a determination regarding whether the results of such assessment indicate that it is feasible to conduct further research, including an explanation of the basis for determination. Not later than 90 days after receiving the results of the assessment and determination, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs must submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a certification of the understanding of the Secretary regarding the feasibility of conducting further research regarding health conditions of descendants of veterans with toxic exposure.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 632 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

ADVISORY BOARD ON RESEARCH RELATING TO
HEALTH CONDITIONS OF DESCENDANTS OF
VETERANS WITH TOXIC EXPOSURE WHILE
SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provision.

Senate Bill

Section 283 of S. 2921 would require that, unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs certifies that it is not feasible to conduct further research, not later than 180 days after receiving the assessment from the NAM, the

Secretary establish an advisory board to advise the Secretary in the selection of a research entity or entities, advise the entity or entities in conducting research and advise the Secretary with respect to the activities of the entity or entities. The advisory board would consist of 13 voting members with not less than two members of organizations with tax exempt status, two descendants of veterans with toxic exposure, and seven health professionals, scientists or academics with expertise in research. It is the intent of the Senate that the Secretary select health professionals, scientists, or academics to serve on the advisory board that are highly qualified in their respective fields and have peer-reviewed published work. The advisory board would advise the Secretary in the selection of a research entity or entities, advise the entity and assess the activities of the entity in conducting research, develop a research strategy for the entity or entities, advise the Secretary with respect to the activities of the entity or entities, submit recommendations for the annual report, and meet not less frequently than semiannually with the Secretary and representatives of the entity or entities.

House Bill

Section 4 of H.R. 1769 and section 303 of H.R. 5286 would require that, within 180 days of enactment, VA establish an advisory board to oversee and assess the National Center established under section 3 of H.R. 1769 and section 302 of H.R. 5286. It would require that, within 120 days of enactment, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and other heads of Federal agencies as the Secretary determines appropriate select no less than 13 voting members with not less than three members of organizations with tax exempt status, not less than one descendant of a veteran exposed to toxic substances who has manifested a structural or functional birth defect or a health condition that is related to the toxic exposure, or a parent or child of that descendant, not less than six health professionals, scientists, or academics who are not employees of the Federal Government and have expertise in research. The Secretary may select additional members from among social workers and advocates for veterans or members of the Armed Forces who are not employees of the Federal Government and nonvoting members who are employees of the Federal Government with expertise in research. The advisory board would meet quarterly with the National Center, review the annual report submitted by the National Center and advise the Secretary with respect to the National Center's work and issues related to the health conditions of descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances, including any determinations or recommendations that the advisory board may have with respect to the feasibility and advisability of the Department providing health care services to descendants. No later than 1 year after the establishment of the advisory board and not less than 1 year thereafter, the board would be required to submit a report with recommendations for administrative and legislative action to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives and to the Secretary.

Compromise Agreement

Section 633 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill, as well as the intent expressed by the Senate.

RESEARCH RELATING TO HEALTH CONDITIONS OF
DESCENDANTS OF VETERANS WITH TOXIC EX-
POSURE WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED
FORCES

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provision.

Senate Bill

Section 284 of S. 2921 would require, unless the Secretary certifies that it is not feasible to conduct further research, not later than 1 year after receiving the results and determination from the NAM, the Secretary to enter into an agreement with one or more research entities to conduct research on health conditions of descendants of veterans with toxic exposure while serving as members of the Armed Forces.

The research entity or entities would assess, using the categories established in section 282, the extent to which a health condition of a descendant of a veteran is related to toxic exposure of the veteran while serving as a member of the Armed Forces. The entity would be allowed to study individuals as identified in the assessment in section 282, which includes veterans with toxic exposure and the descendants of those veterans. The Senate encourages the research entity, as feasible, to examine the role of epigenetics on male reproduction as it relates to toxic exposure among veterans. The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs would be required to make available to the research entity records held by VA, the Department of Defense, the Armed Forces, or any other Federal agency, as appropriate, that the research entity determines are necessary. The Secretaries would jointly establish a mechanism for access.

Not later than 1 year after commencing the research, and not later than September 30 each year thereafter, the research entity would, in consultation with the advisory board, submit to the Secretary and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the functions of the research entity during the preceding year. The report would include a summary of the research efforts, a description of any findings made, and recommendations for administrative or legislative action made by the advisory board, which may include recommendations for further research. Upon request from any 501(c)(19) tax exempt organization, the Secretary may transmit to the organization a copy of the report.

House Bill

Section 3 of H.R. 1769 and section 302 of H.R. 5286 would require that, no later than 1 year after enactment, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs select, in consultation with the advisory board established under section 4 of H.R. 1769 and section 303 of H.R. 5286, a VA medical center to serve as the national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of descendants of individuals exposed to toxic substances while serving as a member of the Armed Forces that are related to such exposure. The National Center must be selected from among VA's medical centers with expertise in diagnosing and treating functional and structural birth defects, or expertise in caring for individuals exposed to toxic substances and diagnosing and treating any health conditions resulting from such exposure or medical centers that are affiliated with research medical centers or teaching hospitals with such expertise. The Center would be required to study individuals that are a descendant of a member of the Armed Forces and such member was exposed to a toxic substance

while serving as a member of the Armed Forces and such descendant is afflicted with a health condition that is related to the exposure of such member to such toxic substance and individuals that were exposed to a toxic substance while serving as a member of the Armed Forces and are afflicted with a health condition that is related to the exposure. Not less than once a year, the National Center must submit to Congress and the advisory board a report that includes the research efforts that have been completed during that year, and efforts that are ongoing as of the date of submittal of the report.

Section 5 of H.R. 1769 and section 305 of H.R. 5286 would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a declassification review to determine what information may be made publicly available relating to any known incident in which no less than 100 members of the Armed Forces were exposed to a toxic substance that resulted in at least one case of a disability that a specialist in the field of occupational medicine has determined to be credibly associated with that toxic substance. To the extent possible and consistent with national security, the Secretary would be required to make publicly available the information declassified following the review.

Section 5 of H.R. 1769 and section 305 of H.R. 5286 would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Defense, to conduct a national outreach and education campaign directed toward members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their family members to communicate (1) information on incidents of exposure of members of the Armed Forces to toxic substances, health conditions resulting from such exposure, and the potential long-term effects of such exposure on the individuals exposed to those substances and the descendants of those individuals and (2) information on the National Center established under section 302 for individuals eligible to participate in studies conducted at the National Center.

Compromise Agreement

Section 634 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill, as well as the intent expressed by the Senate.

TITLE VII—HOMELESSNESS MATTERS

SUBTITLE A—ACCESS OF HOMELESS VETERANS
TO BENEFITS

EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF HOMELESS VET-
ERAN FOR PURPOSES OF BENEFITS UNDER THE
LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Current Law

Section 2002 of title 38, U.S.C., defines "homeless veteran," for purposes of eligibility for VA homeless programs, as the term is defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (section 11302(a) of title 42, U.S.C.). Congress amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act in 2009 to include homeless individuals or families fleeing their residence as a result of domestic or other life-threatening situations. VA's definition of homeless veteran has not been updated to reflect this change.

Senate Bill

Section 601 of S. 2921 would amend section 2002 in title 38, U.S.C., so that the VA definition of homeless would include those individuals described in section 11302(b) of title 42, U.S.C., such as those fleeing domestic violence.

Section 4 of S. 1731 as amended would define veteran for purposes of certain VA pro-

grams, including the Grant and Per Diem (hereinafter, "GPD") program and the Supportive Services for Very-Low Income Veteran Families (hereinafter, "SSVF") program, as a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, regardless of length of service, and who was discharged or released. This would not include a person who received a dishonorable discharge or a discharge by reason of a general court martial.

House Bill

Section 1 of H.R. 272 and section 3 of H.R. 2256 as amended would amend section 2002 in title 38, U.S.C., so that the VA definition of homeless would include those individuals described in section 11302(b) of title 42, U.S.C., such as those fleeing domestic violence. The House Bills are similar to section 601 of S. 2921. The House Bills contain no comparable provision to section 4 of S. 1731 as amended.

Compromise Agreement

Section 701(1) of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in both the Senate and House Bills. Section 701(2) follows the language in the Senate Bill.

AUTHORIZATION TO FURNISH CERTAIN BENEFITS
TO HOMELESS VETERANS WITH DISCHARGES OR
RELEASES UNDER OTHER THAN HONORABLE
CONDITIONS

Current Law

Section 5303 of title 38, U.S.C., requires that individuals be barred from receiving VA benefits under certain conditions.

Senate Bill

Section 3 of S. 1731 as amended would amend section 5303 of title 38, U.S.C., to exempt homeless veterans from being disqualified from receiving services through VA's GPD program and SSVF program as a result of a discharge or dismissal from the Armed Forces under conditions other than honorable, except for discharge by reason of a general court-martial.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 702 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

WAIVER OF MINIMUM PERIOD OF CONTINUOUS AC-
TIVE DUTY IN ARMED FORCES FOR CERTAIN
BENEFITS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Current Law

Section 5303A of title 38, U.S.C., requires veterans who entered into service after September 7, 1980, to have completed the shorter of 24 months of continuous active duty or the full period for which the veteran was called to active duty to be eligible for VA health benefits. Section 5303A of title 38, U.S.C., includes a number of exceptions to this requirement.

Senate Bill

Section 2 of S. 1731 as amended would amend section 5303A(b)(3) of title 38, U.S.C., to include among the exceptions to the minimum period of continuous active duty service requirement, homeless veterans eligible for VA's GPD program and SSVF program.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 703 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

TRAINING OF PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND GRANT RECIPIENTS
Current Law

Section 2012 of title 38, U.S.C., requires VA to award grants and provide per diem payments to public and non-profit private entities operating transitional housing facilities and supportive services programs for veterans. Section 2044 of title 38, U.S.C., requires VA to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide and coordinate the provision of supportive services for very low-income veteran families occupying permanent housing.

Senate Bill

Section 5 of S. 1731 as amended would require VA to provide training and education on the implementation of this title and the amendments made by this subtitle to VA staff supporting or administering VA homeless programs and recipients of grants or other funding to carry out the GPD or SSVF program.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 704 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

REGULATIONS

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provisions.

Senate Bill

Section 7 of S. 1731 as amended would require VA to prescribe regulations not later than 270 days after the date of enactment to ensure that VA is in compliance with this title and the amendments made by this subtitle.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 705 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provisions.

Senate Bill

Section 8 of S. 1731 as amended would require that this subtitle and amendments made by the subtitle apply to individuals seeking VA homeless benefits under chapter 20 of title 38, U.S.C., before, on, and after the date of enactment.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 706 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill. The intent of Congress is that those previously found ineligible for services through VA's GPD and SSVF programs would have the opportunity to receive a new review for eligibility should they still need services from either of those programs.

SUBTITLE B—OTHER HOMELESSNESS MATTERS
INCREASED PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE THAT BECOMES PERMANENT HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Current Law

Current law, section 2012 of title 38, U.S.C., requires VA to award grants and provide per

diem payments to public and non-profit private entities operating transitional housing facilities and supportive services programs for veterans. The per diem payment, which is set at a maximum of \$43.32 per day, per veteran housed, is calculated based on the daily cost of care, but may not exceed the rate paid to State homes for domiciliary care.

Senate Bill

Section 602 of S. 2921 would amend section 2012(a)(2) of title 38, U.S.C., to increase the maximum per diem rate for homeless veteran service providers participating in the Transition in Place program to compensate for an increase in operational costs. Section 602 would also authorize the per diem rate VA provides to certain entities that provide services to homeless veterans to exceed the rate paid to State homes in the case of services provided to a homeless veteran who is placed in housing that will become permanent housing upon termination of those services (transition-in-place). In those cases, the maximum per diem would be 150 percent of the State home rate.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 711 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

PROGRAM TO IMPROVE RETENTION OF HOUSING BY FORMERLY HOMELESS VETERANS AND VETERANS AT RISK OF BECOMING HOMELESS

Current Law

Current law, section 2012 of title 38, U.S.C., requires VA to award grants and provide per diem payments to public and non-profit private entities operating transitional housing facilities and supportive services programs for veterans.

Senate Bill

Section 604 of S. 2921 would amend title 38, U.S.C., to redesignate current section 2013 as 2014 and insert a new section 2013 to require VA to carry out a program to increase housing stability and retention by providing grants to community organizations that provide case management to formerly homeless veterans. These organizations should include those that are successfully providing or have successfully provided transitional housing services under sections 2012 or 2016 of title 38, U.S.C. This section would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to give grant provision priority to an organization that voluntarily stops receiving per diem payments and converts an existing transitional housing facility into a permanent housing facility. This section would also require VA to submit a report to Congress within 1 year of enactment to assess the new program.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 712 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provisions.

Senate Bill

Subsection (a) of section 606 of S. 2921 would add a new section 2067 to title 38, U.S.C., to codify the existing National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans (hereinafter, "NCHAV"). This would require the

Secretary of Veterans Affairs to oversee a center that operates independently of other VA homelessness programs. Subsection (a) of new section 2067 of title 38, U.S.C., would require that the NCHAV implement the following functions: carry out and promote research into the causes of and contributing factors to veteran homelessness; assess the effectiveness of VA programs to meet the needs of homeless veterans; identify and disseminate best practices with regard to housing stabilization, income support, employment assistance, community partnerships, and other matters as the Secretary deems appropriate; integrate evidence-based best practices, policies, and programs into VA programs for homeless veterans and ensure VA staff and community partners are effectively able to implement them; and serve as a resource center for all research and training activities carried out by VA, Federal entities, and community partners to promote the exchange of information with respect to veteran homelessness.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 713 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

REQUIREMENT FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ASSESS COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Current Law

Section 2012 of title 38, U.S.C., requires VA to award grants and provide per diem payments to public and non-profit private entities operating transitional housing facilities and supportive services programs for veterans.

Senate Bill

Section 610 of S. 2921 would require VA to assess and measure the capacity of GPD programs, including how well they achieve their stated goals at the national level, placements in permanent housing and employment, and increases in the regular income of participants in the programs. In conducting the required assessment, VA should develop and use tools to examine the capacity of the programs at the national and local levels. The section would also require VA to utilize information collected under this section to set specific goals to ensure the GPD programs are effectively serving homeless veterans, to assess whether the programs are meeting the specific goals, to inform funding allocations for the programs, and to improve the referral of homeless veterans to GPD programs. VA would be required to submit a report to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives on the assessment and include recommendations for legislative and administrative actions for improving the programs.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 714 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill.

REPORT ON OUTREACH RELATING TO INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF HOUSING AVAILABLE TO VETERANS

Current Law

Current law contains no relevant provisions.

Senate Bill

Section 611 of S. 2921, in a freestanding provision, would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to the Committee on

Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report describing and assessing VA outreach to realtors, landlords, property management companies, and developers to educate them about the housing needs of veterans as well as the benefits of having veterans as tenants.

House Bill

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

Compromise Agreement

Section 715 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the Senate Bill, except that it would require the report to also be submitted to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Financial Services Committee of the House of Representatives.

TITLE VIII—OTHER MATTERS

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CONSTRUCTION REFORMS

Current Law

Section 8104(a)(2) of title 38, U.S.C., requires statutory authorization for all VA major medical facility construction projects and requires VA to notify the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives prior to obligating any unobligated amounts in the Construction, Major Projects account that are a direct result of bid savings from a major construction project.

Senate Bill

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

House Bill

Section 2 of H.R. 3106 as amended would require the use of industry standards, standard designs, and best practices for VA medical facility construction projects; require VA to ensure that relevant employees have ongoing professional training and development regarding industry standards and best practices; prohibit VA from obligating/expending funds for advance planning or design for any super construction project until 60 days after congressional notification; prohibit VA from obligating funds for a major medical facility project/super construction project by more than 10 percent of the amount approved by law without congressional approval; prohibit VA from using bid savings amounts/funds for other than their original purpose before 30 days after notifying the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate unless each committee approves the obligation; require VA to report to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the use of bid savings; require quarterly reports on super construction projects; and require VA to complete a master plan for each VA medical facility.

Section 3 of H.R. 3106 as amended would create, within VA's Office of the Inspector General, an Assistant Inspector General for Construction to conduct, supervise, and coordinate audits, evaluations, and investigations into the planning, design, contracting, execution, and construction of VA facilities and infrastructure.

Compromise Agreement

Section 801 of the Compromise Agreement follows the language in the House Bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 6416) was passed.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMBAT-INJURED VETERANS TAX FAIRNESS ACT OF 2016

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5015, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5015) to restore amounts improperly withheld for tax purposes from severance payments to individuals who retired or separated from service in the Armed Forces for combat-related injuries, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5015) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 635, S. Res. 636, S. Res. 637, S. Res. 638, and S. Res. 639.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to. (The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 5456

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in just a few minutes, because it is very late or

very early, if one might characterize the hour of the morning, I will be offering a unanimous consent request to pass Calendar No. 527, H.R. 5456, the Family First Prevention Services Act.

Just to give a short description of this bill, there has been an enormous amount of bipartisan effort and good will to enact this legislation that many policy experts consider the most significant improvement in child welfare policy in decades.

In the other body, the legislation passed unanimously, and there was superb work done by Chairman BRADY, the Speaker, Congressman RYAN, VERN BUCHANAN. There was a whole host of colleagues on the Democratic side, SANDY LEVIN, LLOYD DOGGETT, and Leader PELOSI, a whole host of Members and enormous effort. You had the leadership, the Ways and Means Committee. They came together and passed the legislation unanimously.

The reason they did is, 500 organizations, groups representing children and pediatricians and the Catholic bishops, the Children's Defense Fund, all came together. They said the current policy today with respect to vulnerable children just defies common sense. In effect, you cannot get help to the families when it really is most critical.

When a family member or parent, for example, is dealing with drug abuse or mental health or a challenge where, if they were able to get a modest amount of assistance, the family could come together again and be healthy, the youngster would be able to stay in the home. Very often, in these kinds of instances, a grandparent or an uncle, if we made some modest changes in Federal policy, could step up as well—something I feel very strongly about having written the kinship care law a number of years ago to reward grandparents, aunts, and uncles when they could meet the strict standards for qualifying to take care of a youngster in these circumstances.

Chairman HATCH, Chairman GRASSLEY, and many of our senior Members have worked very hard with me and our colleague Senator BENNET from Colorado, who has devoted an enormous amount of attention to the needs of youngsters. I have been on the floor tonight really for the last 5 or 6 hours trying to resolve remaining concerns.

Now, we had a hotline months and months ago on this bill, and there really wasn't much reaction at the outset, and finally there were three Members who had concerns, and we moved to address them. Chairman BRADY has been particularly gracious on the other side of the Capitol, saying if a State needed more time, if there were questions with respect to whether they could meet some of the criteria, he was open to giving them that kind of additional time.

I will tell my colleagues: I told my constituents this fall that probably

nothing is more important to me than to come back here and pursue what I call principled bipartisanship. Bipartisanship is not about taking each other's bad ideas. Anybody can do that. That is a piece of cake. Principled bipartisanship is about taking good ideas from both sides of the aisle.

For example, I know that with the Presiding Officer, there was a question about the type of providers in his home State that might be eligible for this service. So we said we had heard from a number of conservatives that they wanted to make sure that one type of provider over another wasn't favored. So we said all of the providers can participate as long as they meet the quality standards. That was essentially a conservative concept.

We had a number on our side of the aisle who wanted to make sure there really were wrap-around services for these kinds of families. There is good foster care. Nobody has ever said that is not the case. But we know that Federal policy shouldn't create an incentive to rip these families apart. It should create incentives to keep families together.

So I wanted to come tonight and make one more appeal to pass what is, according to many of the most authoritative experts of child welfare, the most significant improvement in child welfare law in decades.

There are no objections on our side of the aisle. This is the second time I brought up this unanimous consent request, and no Senator has come to the floor on the other side of the aisle to raise an objection in terms of policy and substance. Frankly, I wish that somebody would, because I think we could accommodate them. Because of the graciousness of Chairman BRADY, the Republican chair on the other side, I think we could accommodate them. But no Senator has come now, for the second time this week, to actually offer a substantive objection.

So if you want what I call principled bipartisanship, which is what Chairman HATCH, Chairman GRASSLEY, Chairman BRADY—so many colleagues on both sides of the aisle have been working for—we have to have colleagues who will come and actually voice their substantive objection. I am making it clear again tonight that if anyone on the other side of the aisle has a substantive objection, my guess is we could resolve it, because there has been a lot of goodwill on both sides. But if people won't come and make a substantive objection, then it is hard to know what might satisfy them and allow us to proceed with this very important child welfare reform.

So I want it understood that I am going to prosecute this case of improving the lives of these vulnerable youngsters and these families for as long as I have the honor to represent Oregon in the Senate. I think this is what public

service is supposed to be all about. I will continue to work in a bipartisan way. I think that is how we tackle the big issues, the big challenges facing our country. Nobody really has enough votes to have it all their way. Certainly, if you want a policy that you can sustain, it has to be bipartisan.

So we are going to stay at this until we get it done.

With that in mind, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 527, H.R. 5456, the Family First Prevention Services Act, that the Wyden substitute amendment be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I do not personally object to this bill, but on behalf of Senator ENZI, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:56 a.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 3:35 a.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. TILLIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE DEATH OF JOHN GLENN, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF OHIO AND THE FIRST INDIVIDUAL FROM THE UNITED STATES TO ORBIT THE EARTH

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 640, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 640) recognizing the death of John Glenn, former Senator for the State of Ohio and the first individual from the United States to orbit the Earth.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 640) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I appreciate the fact that the Senate has just adopted a resolution honoring John Glenn. In fact, if you look at this resolution, at the end of it, it indicates that the adjournment today will be an adjournment in further respect to the memory of the late John Glenn. I appreciate the fact that the Senate has done that as well.

I spoke on the floor yesterday regarding my friend John Glenn, and my colleague SHERROD BROWN and I have introduced this resolution. Senator BROWN also spoke with regard to John Glenn's incredible life history. This is a true icon whom we have lost, sadly, this week at the age of 95.

He was a true hero in so many respects. Long before he was an astronaut, he was a hero as a marine aviator. He actually flew 59 combat missions in World War II. He also flew combat missions in the Korean war and was highly decorated. After that, he was a test pilot. In fact, he broke the transcontinental speed record as a test pilot before becoming an astronaut.

As an astronaut, we all know the story of *Friendship 7*, a capsule about the size of two or three of these desks. You can see it at the Air and Space Museum. He somehow was able to get inside of this capsule and orbit the Earth at a time when the United States was in a space race with the Soviet Union, and his splashing down in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of the Caribbean was considered to be a major change in terms of the U.S. positioning on space and our ability to show that yes, U.S. technology and innovation could work.

He then came to the U.S. Congress to speak to a joint session of Congress. Imagine that. At age 40, you have an astronaut speaking to a joint session—something normally reserved for heads of state.

He then was successful in business and decided that he actually would want to try his hand in politics. After his military service, he decided to try public service and of course became a Senator from the State of Ohio. I had the honor, and I am humbled, to be in the seat he once held.

A couple of weeks ago, I called Senator Glenn to ask him to walk down this aisle with me on January 3 of next year in just a few weeks while I was being sworn in for the second time in his seat. I will say he was not just reelected, he was reelected with resounding numbers. At the end of the day, he ended up being the longest serving U.S. Senator ever in the history of our State.

After this amazing career in the military, as an astronaut, and then serving in the Senate, he ended up being the longest representative ever from the Buckeye State. What an amazing guy.

After he left, he went to the Ohio State University and asked if they would like to start a leadership institute to encourage public service called the Glenn Institute, and it later became the Glenn School. I actually taught there. Before running for the U.S. Senate, I taught four courses there; I co-taught with a wonderful professor there at the Glenn School. I also joined the board of advisors at John Glenn's request, and I am still on that board. In fact, we had a meeting in October, only about 6 weeks ago, where John Glenn presided. He chaired the meeting, as he always does. He was in good humor. He was energetic. He was energized about a new project—a leadership institute for young legislators to help encourage even more people to not just get into public service but to gain the skills to be better public servants. That is what really excited him.

I had the privilege of getting to know him through the work we did also in the U.S. Senate and in the House of Representatives. I was in the House, he was in the Senate. One of the passions he had was to ensure that we had good government in this country, and that included not having the Federal Government send unfunded mandates down to the State and local governments. So I was the House author on the Republican side, he was the Senate author on the Democratic side, and that legislation was passed to curb unfunded mandates and went to the desk of President Clinton for signature. I got to be in the Rose Garden with Senator Glenn for that signing ceremony. What an honor to be with him. He was a guy who was willing to take on tasks like that, even when, perhaps, it wasn't as popular in his party as it was in ours.

So I stand here today as someone who has benefited from the model of service that he has shown our country. I will say, too, that my wife Jane and I benefited from the model Annie Glenn and John Glenn have shown. I believe they were married for 76 years, and they knew each other when they were children. Never was Annie Glenn far from his side—an incredible woman in her own right, a brave and courageous woman who overcame some obstacles in her life that became very public. Her stuttering, and her ability to get over that disability, gave hope to so many people. Young people particularly all over the country continue to look to Annie Glenn as a great hero. But Annie Glenn was not just at his side; they were partners in everything, and she was the indispensable partner.

Our condolences today from the entire U.S. Senate to Annie Glenn, to the Glenn family, whom he loved so dearly, and to our State of Ohio, which has lost a true icon, a true American hero.

Tom Wolfe wrote a book called "The Right Stuff." John Glenn was one of those *Friendship* astronauts who were

part of the right stuff. Today, as we adjourn, we pay tribute to John Glenn, who had the right stuff and who showed us how someone, as a public servant, can make a difference and encourage others to do the same.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:43 a.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 6:22 a.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. TILLIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

HONORING IN PRAISE AND REMEMBRANCE THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE, STEADY LEADERSHIP, AND REMARKABLE, 70-YEAR REIGN OF KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, we have our work cut out for us this morning.

I start by asking unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 710, S. Con. Res. 57.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 57) honoring in praise and remembrance the extraordinary life, steady leadership, and remarkable, 70-year reign of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the Hatch amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 57) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5174) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make a correction)

In the 8th whereas clause, strike "2006" and insert "2009".

S. CON. RES. 57

Whereas His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej enjoyed a special relationship with the United States, having been born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1927 while his father was completing his medical studies at Harvard University;

Whereas King Bhumibol Adulyadej ascended to the throne on June 9, 1946, and

celebrated his 70th year as King of Thailand in 2016;

Whereas at the time of his death, King Bhumibol Adulyadej was the longest-serving head of state in the world and the longest-reigning monarch in the history of Thailand;

Whereas His Majesty dedicated his life to the well-being of the Thai people and the sustainable development of Thailand;

Whereas His Majesty led by example and virtue with the interest of the people at heart, earning His Majesty the deep reverence of the Thai people and the respect of people around the world;

Whereas His Majesty reached out to the poorest and most vulnerable people of Thailand, regardless of their status, ethnicity, or religion, listened to their problems, and empowered them to take their lives into their own hands;

Whereas in 2006, His Majesty received the first United Nations Human Development Award, recognizing him as the "Development King" for the extraordinary contribution of His Majesty to human development;

Whereas His Majesty was recognized internationally in the areas of intellectual property, innovation, and creativity, and in 2009, the World Intellectual Property Organization presented His Majesty with the Global Leadership Award;

Whereas His Majesty was an anchor of peace and stability for Thailand during the turbulent decades of the Cold War;

Whereas His Majesty was always a trusted friend of the United States in advancing a strong and enduring alliance and partnership between the United States and Thailand;

Whereas His Majesty addressed a joint session of Congress on June 29, 1960, during which His Majesty reaffirmed the strong friendship and goodwill between the United States and Thailand;

Whereas the United States and Thailand remain strong security allies, as memorialized in the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty (commonly known as the "Manila Pact of 1954") and later expanded under the Thanat-Rusk Communiqué of 1962;

Whereas for decades, Thailand has hosted the annual Cobra Gold military exercises, the largest multilateral exercises in Asia, to improve regional defense cooperation;

Whereas Thailand has allowed the Armed Forces of the United States to use the Utapao Air Base to coordinate international humanitarian relief efforts;

Whereas President George W. Bush designated Thailand as a major non-NATO ally on December 30, 2003;

Whereas close cooperation and mutual sacrifices in the face of common threats have bound the United States and Thailand together and established a firm foundation for the advancement of a mutually beneficial relationship; and

Whereas, on October 13, 2016, at the age of 88, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej passed away, leaving behind a lasting legacy for Thailand: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) honors the extraordinary life, steady leadership, and remarkable, 70-year reign of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand;

(2) extends our deepest sympathies to the members of the Royal Family and to the people of Thailand in their bereavement; and

(3) celebrates the alliance and friendship between Thailand and the United States that reflects common interests, a 183-year diplomatic history, and a multifaceted partnership that has contributed to peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

FRANK R. WOLF INTERNATIONAL
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 705, H.R. 1150.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1150) to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; policy; sense of Congress.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

**TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ACTIVITIES**

- Sec. 101. Office on International Religious Freedom; Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.
- Sec. 102. Annual Report on International Religious Freedom.
- Sec. 103. Training for Foreign Service officers; report.
- Sec. 104. Prisoner lists and issue briefs on religious freedom concerns.

TITLE II—NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
Sec. 201. Special Adviser for International Religious Freedom.

TITLE III—PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

- Sec. 301. Non-state actor designations.
- Sec. 302. Presidential actions in response to particularly severe violations of religious freedom.
- Sec. 303. Report to Congress.
- Sec. 304. Presidential waiver.
- Sec. 305. Publication in the Federal Register.

**TITLE IV—PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM**

Sec. 401. Assistance for promoting religious freedom.

**TITLE V—DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR
PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

Sec. 501. Designated Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Religious Freedom.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 601. Miscellaneous provisions.
- Sec. 602. Clerical amendments.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; POLICY; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) *FINDINGS.*—Section 2(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by inserting “The freedom of thought, conscience, and religion is un-

derstood to protect theistic and non-theistic beliefs and the right not to profess or practice any religion.” before “Governments”;

(2) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the following: “A policy or practice of routinely denying applications for visas for religious workers in a country can be indicative of a poor state of religious freedom in that country.”; and

(3) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by inserting “and the specific targeting of non-theists, humanists, and atheists because of their beliefs” after “religious persecution”; and

(B) by inserting “and in regions where non-state actors exercise significant political power and territorial control” before the period at the end.

(b) *POLICY.*—Section 2(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E);

(2) by striking the matter preceding subparagraph (A), as redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The following shall be the policy of the United States:”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) *EVOLVING POLICIES AND COORDINATED DIPLOMATIC RESPONSES.*—Because the promotion of international religious freedom protects human rights, advances democracy abroad, and advances United States interests in stability, security, and development globally, the promotion of international religious freedom requires new and evolving policies and diplomatic responses that—

“(A) are drawn from the expertise of the national security agencies, the diplomatic services, and other governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations; and

“(B) are coordinated across and carried out by the entire range of Federal agencies.”.

(c) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a policy or practice by the government of any foreign country of routinely denying visa applications for religious workers can be indicative of a poor state of religious freedom in that country; and

(2) the United States Government should seek to reverse any such policy by reviewing the entirety of the bilateral relationship between such country and the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6402) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (13) as paragraph (16);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (10), (11), and (12) as paragraphs (12), (13), and (14), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

“(10) *INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.*—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

“(11) *NON-STATE ACTOR.*—The term ‘non-state actor’ means a nonsovereign entity that—

“(A) exercises significant political power and territorial control;

“(B) is outside the control of a sovereign government; and

“(C) often employs violence in pursuit of its objectives.”;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (14), as redesignated, the following:

“(15) *SPECIAL WATCH LIST.*—The term ‘Special Watch List’ means the Special Watch List described in section 402(b)(1)(A)(iii).”; and

(5) in paragraph (16), as redesignated—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as clauses (v) and (vi), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after clause (iii) the following: “(iv) not professing a particular religion, or any religion.”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by inserting “conscience, non-theistic views, or” before “religious belief or practice”; and

(ii) by inserting “forcibly compelling non-believers or non-theists to recant their beliefs or to convert,” after “forced religious conversion.”.

**TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ACTIVITIES**

**SEC. 101. OFFICE ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM; AMBASSADOR AT LARGE
FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 101 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting “, and shall report directly to the Secretary of State” before the period at the end;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “responsibility” and inserting “responsibilities”;

(ii) by striking “shall be to advance” and inserting the following: “shall be to—

“(A) advance”;

(iii) in subparagraph (A), as redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) integrate United States international religious freedom policies and strategies into the foreign policy efforts of the United States.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “the principal adviser to” before “the Secretary of State”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) contacts with nongovernmental organizations that have an impact on the state of religious freedom in their respective societies or regions, or internationally.”;

(D) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(E) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) *COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES.*—In order to promote religious freedom as an interest of United States foreign policy, the Ambassador at Large—

“(A) shall coordinate international religious freedom policies across all programs, projects, and activities of the United States; and

“(B) should participate in any interagency processes on issues in which the promotion of international religious freedom policy can advance United States national security interests, including in democracy promotion, stability, security, and development globally.”; and

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “staff for the Office” and all that follows and inserting “adequate staff for the Office, including full-time equivalent positions and any other temporary staff positions needed to compile, edit, and manage the Annual Report under the direct supervision of the Ambassador at Large, and for the conduct of investigations by the Office and for necessary travel to carry out this Act. The Secretary of State should provide the Ambassador at Large with sufficient funding to carry out the duties described in this section, including, as necessary, representation funds. On the date on which the President’s annual budget request is submitted to Congress, the Secretary shall submit an annual report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes a report on staffing levels for the International Religious Freedom Office.”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) periodic severe understaffing in the past has hindered the vital work of the International Religious Freedom Office; and

(2) maintaining an adequate staffing level at the Office, such as was in place during fiscal year 2016, is necessary for the Office to carry on its vital work.

SEC. 102. ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 102(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “September 1” and inserting “May 1”;

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (iii), by striking “; and” and inserting “as well as the routine denial of visa applications for religious workers.”;

(B) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (vii); and

(C) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

“(iv) particularly severe violations of religious freedom in that country if such country does not have a functioning government or the government of such country does not control its territory;

“(v) the identification of prisoners, to the extent possible, in that country pursuant to section 108(d);

“(vi) any action taken by the government of that country to censor religious content, communications, or worship activities online, including descriptions of the targeted religious group, the content, communication, or activities censored, and the means used; and”;

(3) in subparagraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(A) by inserting “persecution of lawyers, politicians, or other human rights advocates seeking to defend the rights of members of religious groups or highlight religious freedom violations, prohibitions on ritual animal slaughter or male infant circumcision,” after “entire religions.”; and

(B) by inserting “policies that ban or restrict the public manifestation of religious belief and the peaceful involvement of religious groups or their members in the political life of each such foreign country,” after “such groups.”;

(4) in subparagraph (C), by striking “A description of United States actions and” and inserting “A detailed description of United States actions, diplomatic and political coordination efforts, and other”;

(5) in subparagraph (F)(i)—

(A) by striking “section 402(b)(1)” and inserting “section 402(b)(1)(A)(ii)”;

(B) by adding at the end the following: “Any country in which a non-state actor designated as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act is located shall be included in this section of the report.”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the original intent of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) was to require annual reports from both the Department of State and the Commission on International Religious Freedom to be delivered each year, during the same calendar year, and with at least 5 months separating these reports, in order to provide updated information for policymakers, Members of Congress, and non-governmental organizations; and

(2) given that the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices no longer contain updated information on religious freedom conditions globally, it is important that the Department of State coordinate with the Commission to

fulfill the original intent of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

SEC. 103. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS; REPORT.

(a) AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN SERVICE ACT OF 1980.—Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively;

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “The Secretary of State” and inserting “HUMAN RIGHTS, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING.—The Secretary of State”;

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(a) ADDITIONAL TRAINING.—Not later than the one year after the date of the enactment of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center shall begin mandatory training on religious freedom for all Foreign Service officers, including all entry level officers, all officers prior to departure for posting outside the United States, and all outgoing deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors. Such training shall be a separate, independent, and required segment of each of—

“(1) the A-100 course attended by all Foreign Service officers;

“(2) the courses required of every Foreign Service officer prior to a posting outside the United States, with segments tailored to the particular religious demography, religious freedom conditions, and United States strategies for advancing religious freedom, in each receiving country; and

“(3) the courses required of all outgoing deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors.

“(b) DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM.—In developing curriculum for the training under subsection (b)(2), the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, on behalf of the Secretary of State and in consultation with the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom established under section 201(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, shall develop a curriculum for training United States Foreign Service officers in the scope and strategic value of international religious freedom, how violations of international religious freedom harm fundamental United States interests, how the advancement of international religious freedom can advance such interests, how United States international religious freedom policy should be carried out in practice by United States diplomats and other Foreign Service officers, and the relevance and relationship of international religious freedom to United States defense, diplomacy, development, and public affairs efforts. The Secretary of State shall ensure the availability of sufficient resources to develop and implement such curriculum.

“(c) INFORMATION SHARING.—The curriculum and training materials developed pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) should be made available to all other Federal agencies.”;

(4) in subsection (e), as redesignated, by striking “The Secretary of State” and inserting “REFUGEES.—The Secretary of State”;

(5) in subsection (f), as redesignated, by striking “The Secretary of State” and inserting “CHILD SOLDIERS.—The Secretary of State”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with the assistance of the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, and the Director of the Foreign Service Institute, located at the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center, shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that contains a comprehensive plan for undertaking

training for Foreign Service officers under section 708 of the Foreign Services Act of 1980, as amended by subsection (a).

SEC. 104. PRISONER LISTS AND ISSUE BRIEFS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONCERNS.

Section 108 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6417) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “faith,” and inserting “activities, religious freedom advocacy, or efforts to protect and advance the universally recognized right to the freedom of religion.”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “, as appropriate, provide” and insert “make available”;

and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) VICTIMS LIST MAINTAINED BY THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make publicly available, to the extent possible, online and in official publications, lists of persons it determines are imprisoned or detained, have disappeared, been placed under house arrest, been tortured, or subjected to forced renunciations of faith for their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy by the government of a foreign country that the Commission recommends for designation as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under section 402(b)(1)(A)(ii) or by a non-state actor that the Commission recommends for designation as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act and include as much publicly available information as possible on the conditions and circumstances of such persons.

“(2) DISCRETION.—In compiling lists under paragraph (1), the Commission shall exercise all appropriate discretion, including consideration of the safety and security of, and benefit to, the persons who may be included on the lists and the families of such persons.”.

TITLE II—NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SEC. 201. SPECIAL ADVISER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

The position described in section 101(k) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 2031(k)) should assist the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom to coordinate international religious freedom policies and strategies throughout the executive branch and within any interagency policy committee of which the Ambassador at Large is a member.

TITLE III—PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

SEC. 301. NON-STATE ACTOR DESIGNATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, concurrent with the annual foreign country review required under section 402(b)(1)(A) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)(A)), shall—

(1) review and identify any non-state actors operating in any such reviewed country or surrounding region that have engaged in particularly severe violations of religious freedom; and

(2) designate, in a manner consistent with such Act, each such non-state actor as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom.

(b) REPORT.—Whenever the President designates a non-state actor under subsection (a) as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom, the President, as soon as practicable after the designation is made, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the reasons for such designation.

(c) ACTIONS.—The President should take specific actions, when practicable, to address severe violations of religious freedom of non-state actors that are designated under subsection (a)(2).

(d) DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary of State should include information detailing the reasons the President designated a non-state actor as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under subsection (a) in the Annual Report required under section 102(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)(1)).

(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Secretary of State should work with Congress and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom—

(A) to create new political, financial, and diplomatic tools to address severe violations of religious freedom by non-state actors; and

(B) to update the actions the President can take under section 405 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6445);

(2) governments must ultimately be held accountable for the abuses that occur in their territories; and

(3) any actions the President takes after designating a non-state actor as an entity of particular concern should also involve high-level diplomacy with the government of the country in which the non-state actor is operating.

(f) DETERMINATIONS OF RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.—In order to appropriately target Presidential actions under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.), the President, with respect to each non-state actor designated as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under subsection (a), shall seek to determine the specific officials or members that are responsible for the particularly severe violations of religious freedom engaged in or tolerated by such non-state actor.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “appropriate congressional committees”, “non-state actor”, and “particularly severe violations of religious freedom” have the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6402), as amended by section 3 of this Act.

SEC. 302. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

Section 402 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which each Annual Report is submitted under section 102(b), the President shall—

“(i) review the status of religious freedom in each foreign country to determine whether the government of that country has engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom in each such country during the preceding 12 months or longer;

“(ii) designate each country the government of which has engaged in or tolerated violations described in clause (i) as a country of particular concern for religious freedom; and

“(iii) designate each country that engaged in or tolerated severe violations of religious freedom during the previous year, but does not meet, in the opinion of the President at the time of publication of the Annual Report, all of the criteria described in section 3(15) for designation under clause (ii) as being placed on a ‘Special Watch List.’”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “prior to September 1 of the respective year” and inserting “before the date on which each Annual Report is submitted under section 102(b)”;

(B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the President designates a country as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under paragraph (1)(A)(ii), the President, not later than 90 days after such designation, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

“(i) the designation of the country, signed by the President;

“(ii) the identification, if any, of responsible parties determined under paragraph (2); and

“(iii) a description of the actions taken under subsection (c), the purposes of the actions taken, and the effectiveness of the actions taken.

“(B) REMOVAL OF DESIGNATION.—A country that is designated as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) shall retain such designation until the President determines and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that the country should no longer be so designated.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) EFFECT ON DESIGNATION AS COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.—The presence or absence of a country from the Special Watch List in any given year shall not preclude the designation of such country as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) in any such year.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(5), by striking “the President must designate the specific sanction or sanctions which he determines satisfy the requirements of this subsection.” and inserting “the President shall designate the specific sanction or sanctions that the President determines satisfy the requirements under this subsection and include a description of the impact of such sanction or sanctions on each country.”.

SEC. 303. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Section 404(a)(4)(A) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6444(a)(4)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) the impact on the advancement of United States interests in democracy, human rights, and security, and a description of policy tools being applied in the country, including programs that target democratic stability, economic growth, and counterterrorism.”.

SEC. 304. PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.

Section 407 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6447) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsection (c)”;

(B) by inserting “, for a single, 180-day period,” after “may waive”;

(C) by striking paragraph (1); and

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively;

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—Subject to subsection (c), the President may waive, for any additional specified period of time after the 180-day period described in subsection (a), the application of any of the actions described in paragraphs (9) through (15) of section 405(a) (or a commensurate substitute action) with respect to a country, if the President determines and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that—

“(1) the respective foreign government has ceased the violations giving rise to the Presidential action; or

“(2) the important national interest of the United States requires the exercise of such waiver authority.”;

(4) in subsection (c), as redesignated, by inserting “or (b)” after “subsection (a)”;

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) ongoing and persistent waivers of the application of any of the actions described in paragraphs (9) through (15) of section 405(a) (or commensurate substitute action) with respect to a country do not fulfill the purposes of this Act; and

“(2) because the promotion of religious freedom is a compelling interest of United States foreign policy, the President, the Secretary of State, and other executive branch officials, in consultation with Congress, should seek to find ways to address existing violations, on a case-by-case basis, through the actions described in section 405 or other commensurate substitute action.”.

SEC. 305. PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.

Section 408(a)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6448(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “Any designation of a non-state actor as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act and, if applicable and to the extent practicable, the identities of individuals determined to be responsible for violations described in subsection (f) of such section.”.

TITLE IV—PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

SEC. 401. ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—It is the sense of Congress that for each fiscal year that begins on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State should make available, from amounts available—

(1) sufficient funds for the vigorous promotion of international religious freedom and for projects to advance United States interests in the protection and advancement of international religious freedom, in particular, through grants to groups that—

(A) are capable of developing legal protections or promoting cultural and societal understanding of international norms of religious freedom;

(B) seek to address and mitigate religiously motivated and sectarian violence and combat violent extremism; or

(C) seek to strengthen investigations, reporting, and monitoring of religious freedom violations, including genocide perpetrated against religious minorities; and

(2) sufficient funds for the establishment of an effective Religious Freedom Defense Fund, to be administered by the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, to provide grants for—

(A) victims of religious freedom abuses and their families to cover legal and other expenses that may arise from detention, imprisonment, torture, fines, and other restrictions; and

(B) projects to help create and support training of a new generation of defenders of religious freedom, including legal and political advocates, and civil society projects which seek to create advocacy networks, strengthen legal representation, train and educate new religious freedom defenders, and build the capacity of religious communities and rights defenders to protect against religious freedom violations, mitigate societal or sectarian violence, or minimize legal or other restrictions of the right to freedom of religion.

(b) PREFERENCE.—It is the sense of Congress that, in providing grants under subsection (a),

the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom should, as appropriate, give preference to projects targeting religious freedom violations in countries—

(1) designated as countries of particular concern for religious freedom under section 402(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)); or

(2) included on the Special Watch List described in section 402(b)(1)(A)(iii) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, as added by section 302(1)(A)(i) of this Act.

(c) ADMINISTRATION AND CONSULTATIONS.—

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—Amounts made available under subsection (a) shall be administered by the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.

(2) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing priorities and policies for providing grants authorized under subsection (a), including programming and policy, the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom should consult with other Federal agencies, including the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and, as appropriate, nongovernmental organizations.

TITLE V—DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

SEC. 501. DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

Title VI of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6471 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 605 as section 606; and

(2) by inserting after section 604 the following:

“SEC. 605. DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

“(a) LIST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Ambassador at Large and in consultation with relevant government and nongovernment experts, shall establish and maintain a list of foreign individuals to whom a consular post has denied a visa on the grounds of particularly severe violations of religious freedom under section 212(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(G)), or who are subject to financial sanctions or other measures for particularly severe violations of freedom religion.

“(2) REFERENCE.—The list required under paragraph (1) shall be known as the ‘Designated Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Religious Freedom’.

“(b) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that contains the list required under subsection (a), including, with respect to each foreign individual on the list—

“(A) the name of the individual and a description of the particularly severe violation of religious freedom committed by the individual;

“(B) the name of the country or other location in which such violation took place; and

“(C) a description of the actions taken pursuant to this Act or any other Act or Executive order in response to such violation.

“(2) SUBMISSION AND UPDATES.—The Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

“(A) the initial report required under paragraph (1) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act; and

“(B) updates to the report every 180 days thereafter and as new information becomes available.

“(3) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) should be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

“(4) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

“(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

“(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

“(D) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.”

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
SEC. 601. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Title VII of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6481 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 702. VOLUNTARY CODES OF CONDUCT FOR UNITED STATES INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

“(a) FINDING.—Congress recognizes the enduring importance of United States institutions of higher education worldwide—

“(1) for their potential for shaping positive leadership and new educational models in host countries; and

“(2) for their emphasis on teaching universally recognized rights of free inquiry and academic freedom.

“(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that United States institutions of higher education operating campuses outside the United States or establishing any educational entities with foreign governments, particularly with or in countries the governments of which engage in or tolerate severe violations of religious freedom as identified in the Annual Report, should seek to adopt a voluntary code of conduct for operating in such countries that should—

“(1) uphold the right of freedom of religion of their employees and students, including the right to manifest that religion peacefully as protected in international law;

“(2) ensure that the religious views and peaceful practice of religion in no way affect, or be allowed to affect, the status of a worker’s or faculty member’s employment or a student’s enrollment; and

“(3) make every effort in all negotiations, contracts, or memoranda of understanding engaged in or constructed with a foreign government to protect academic freedom and the rights enshrined in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

“SEC. 703. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM THROUGH UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY.

“It is the sense of Congress that the annual national security strategy report of the President required under section 108 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3043)—

“(1) should promote international religious freedom as a foreign policy and national security priority; and

“(2) should articulate that promotion of the right to freedom of religion is a strategy that—

“(A) protects other, related human rights, and advances democracy outside the United States; and

“(B) makes clear its importance to United States foreign policy goals of stability, security, development, and diplomacy;

“(3) should be a guide for the strategies and activities of relevant Federal agencies; and

“(4) should inform the Department of Defense quadrennial defense review under section 118 of title 10, United States Code, and the Department of State Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review.”

SEC. 602. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

The table of contents of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 note) is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 605 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 606. Studies on the effect of expedited removal provisions on asylum claims.”;

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 604 the following:

“Sec. 605. Designated Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Religious Freedom.”;

and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 702. Voluntary codes of conduct for United States institutions of higher education operating outside the United States.

“Sec. 703. Sense of Congress regarding national security strategy to promote religious freedom through United States foreign policy.”

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn, the Corker substitute amendment at the desk be considered, the Corker amendment at the desk be agreed to, the substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

(Amendment No. 5175 is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The amendment (No. 5176) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To clarify religious freedom training requirements for Foreign Service officers)

Beginning on page 13, strike line 12 and all that follows through page 16, line 20, and insert the following:

(a) AMENDMENTS TO FOREIGN SERVICE ACT OF 1980.—Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively;

(B) by striking “(a) The Secretary of State” and inserting the following:

“(a) HUMAN RIGHTS, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State”;

and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TRAINING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the training required under paragraph (1)(B), the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center shall, not later than the one year after the date of the enactment of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, conduct training on religious freedom for all Foreign Service officers, including all entry level officers, all officers prior to departure for posting outside the United States, and all outgoing deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors. Such training shall be included in—

“(i) the A-100 course attended by all Foreign Service officers;

“(ii) the courses required of every Foreign Service officer prior to a posting outside the

United States, with segments tailored to the particular religious demography, religious freedom conditions, and United States strategies for advancing religious freedom, in each receiving country; and

“(iii) the courses required of all outgoing deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors.

“(B) DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM.—In carrying out the training required under paragraph (1)(B), the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, in coordination with the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center and other Federal officials, as appropriate, and in consultation with the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom established under section 201(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(a)), shall make recommendations to the Secretary of State regarding a curriculum for the training of United States Foreign Service officers under paragraph (1)(B) on the scope and strategic value of international religious freedom, how violations of international religious freedom harm fundamental United States interests, how the advancement of international religious freedom can advance such interests, how United States international religious freedom policy should be carried out in practice by United States diplomats and other Foreign Service officers, and the relevance and relationship of international religious freedom to United States defense, diplomacy, development, and public affairs efforts. The Secretary of State should ensure the availability of sufficient resources to develop and implement such curriculum.

“(C) INFORMATION SHARING.—The curriculum and training materials developed under this paragraph shall be shared with the United States Armed Forces and other Federal departments and agencies with personnel who are stationed overseas, as appropriate, to provide training on—

“(i) United States religious freedom policies;

“(ii) religious traditions;

“(iii) religious engagement strategies;

“(iv) religious and cultural issues; and

“(v) efforts to counter violent religious extremism.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “The Secretary of State” and inserting “REFUGEES.—The Secretary of State”; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “The Secretary of State” and inserting “CHILD SOLDIERS.—The Secretary of State”.

The amendment (No. 5175) in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 1150), as amended, was passed.

ENCOURAGING REUNIONS OF DIVIDED KOREAN AMERICAN FAMILIES

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 711, H. Con. Res. 40.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 40) encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 40) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

UNITED STATES-CARIBBEAN STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 713, H.R. 4939.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4939) to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “United States-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region and with civil society, including the private sector, in both the United States and the Caribbean, in a concerted effort to—

(1) enhance diplomatic relations between the United States and the Caribbean region;

(2) increase economic cooperation between the United States and the Caribbean region;

(3) support regional economic, political, and security integration efforts in the Caribbean region;

(4) encourage enduring economic development and increased regional economic diversification and global competitiveness;

(5) reduce levels of crime and violence, curb the trafficking of illicit drugs, strengthen the rule of law, and improve citizen security;

(6) improve energy security by increasing access to diverse, reliable, and affordable power;

(7) advance cooperation on democracy and human rights at multilateral fora;

(8) continue support for public health advances and cooperation on health concerns and threats to the Caribbean region; and

(9) expand Internet access throughout the region, especially to countries lacking the appropriate infrastructure.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a multi-year strategy for United States engagement to support the efforts of interested nations in the Caribbean region that—

(1) identifies Department of State and USAID priorities, in coordination with other executive branch agencies, for United States policy towards the Caribbean region;

(2) outlines an approach to partner with governments of the Caribbean region to improve citizen security, reduce the trafficking of illicit drugs, strengthen the rule of law, and improve the effectiveness and longevity of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative;

(3) establishes a comprehensive, integrated, multi-year strategy to encourage efforts of the Caribbean region to implement regional and national strategies that improve energy security, by increasing access to all available sources of energy, including by taking advantage of the indigenous energy sources of the Caribbean and the ongoing energy revolution in the United States;

(4) outlines an approach to improve diplomatic engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, including with respect to key votes on human rights and democracy at the United Nations and the Organization of American States;

(5) Describes how the United States can develop an approach to supporting Caribbean countries in efforts they are willing to undertake with their own resources to diversify their economies;

(6) describes ways to ensure the active participation of citizens of the Caribbean in existing program and initiatives administered by the Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; and

(7) reflects the input of other executive branch agencies, as appropriate.

SEC. 4. BRIEFINGS.

The Secretary of State shall offer to the appropriate congressional committees annual briefings that review Department of State efforts to implement the strategy for United States engagement with the Caribbean region in accordance with section 3.

SEC. 5. PROGRESS REPORT.

Not later than 2 years after the submission of the strategy required under section 3, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on progress made toward implementing the strategy.

SEC. 6. REPORTING COST OFFSET.

Section 601(c)(4) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4001(c)(4)) is amended by striking “the following:” and all that follows through “(B) A workforce plan” and inserting “a workforce plan”.

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) CARIBBEAN REGION.—The term “Caribbean region” means the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative beneficiary countries.

(3) SECURITY ASSISTANCE.—The term “security assistance” has the meaning given such term in section 502B(d)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)(2)).

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Corker amendment be agreed to, the

committee-reported substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5177) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To revise the multi-year strategy requirement regarding diplomatic engagement with Caribbean region governments)

On page 11, beginning on line 3, strike "with respect to" and all that follows through line 5 and insert "with respect to human rights and democracy".

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 4939), as amended, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE A CERTAIN CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 1635

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 181, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 181) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a certain correction in the enrollment of S. 1635.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 181) was agreed to.

HOUSE BILLS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills received from the House en bloc: H.R. 4352, H.R. 5099, H.R. 5790, H.R. 6130, H.R. 6323, H.R. 6400, H.R. 6431, H.R. 6450, H.R. 6451, H.R. 6452, and H.R. 6477.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FASTER CARE FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2016

The bill (H.R. 4352) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program establishing a patient self-scheduling appointment system, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

COMMUNITIES HELPING INVEST THROUGH PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2016

The bill (H.R. 5099) to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2016

The bill (H.R. 5790) to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, for a long time, my friend Senator LEAHY and I have worked hard to improve protections for FBI employees who report waste, fraud, and abuse.

In March 2015, we held a hearing in the Judiciary Committee examining the FBI whistleblower program. That hearing addressed Department of Justice and Government Accountability Office reviews of the program. Both of those reviews found significant problems. The biggest problem is a long-standing loophole the Department created in its interpretation of the statutory protections for FBI whistleblowers. The Department's rules only protect FBI employees who experience reprisal after they report wrongdoing to a handful of offices or individuals. But those rules do not recognize that almost all whistleblowers first report wrongdoing to their immediate supervisor. Then they go up the chain of command. It is just human nature that, when you spot a problem at work, you tell your boss.

FBI policy even encourages employees to report through their chain of command. Yet under the current rules, those same employees have no remedy if they suffer reprisal for disclosing waste, fraud, or abuse to their boss. According to the Government Accountability Office, in 5 years, roughly one-third of FBI reprisal complaints were dismissed because the employee made the report to the "wrong person" in their management chain. It doesn't matter if the original disclosure uncovered actual wrongdoing. If the employee who reported it experiences retaliation, there is nothing they can do

about it. Worse, FBI employees are the only employees in the Federal Government without these protections.

Even whistleblowers in the intelligence community, thanks to the President's Policy Directive No. 19, are protected when they make disclosures to their supervisors. But the employees of the FBI have been left behind. The problem stems from an apparent compromise Congress reached in 1978 as part of the Civil Service Reform Act. There were some in the Congress at the time that wanted to exempt the FBI completely from important whistleblower protections.

But this was 1978, only a few years after J. Edgar Hoover's reign over the FBI ended. It had become very clear in those years that the FBI was not immune to abuses of power. So the FBI got its own provision in the U.S. Code, separate from the protections that apply to most other nonmilitary Federal employees. The point was to provide protections similar to those available for other Federal employees.

But, when the Department wrote its rules, it strictly limited the number of people FBI employees could report to. The Department said that it should not protect disclosures to supervisors because that would mean the same people who are prohibited from engaging in reprisal—supervisors—would receive disclosures. But that was not the intent. The whole point of the whistleblower protection laws is to protect the whistleblower from the person who is going to retaliate against them for disclosing waste, fraud, or abuse. That is typically the person who receives their disclosures—which is almost always a direct supervisor.

But the Department's current rules leave those employees out in the cold. The result? As I said, roughly one-third of FBI employee reprisal complaints have been dismissed because they did what FBI policy tells them to do. They reported to their chain of command. This result is absurd and not what Congress intended.

Congress wanted to encourage disclosures of wrongdoing so that problems could be more easily identified and then fixed. How can you fix problems if your employees do not have a logical, safe way to raise them? The answer is that you can't.

Moreover, there are many other federal law enforcement agencies that function under the same whistleblower protections as non-law enforcement agencies. There is no logical reason for the FBI to have unique, separate, and inadequate standards for protecting whistleblower disclosures.

So I and Senator LEAHY drafted the FBI Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act. The bill amends the FBI whistleblower statute to clarify, once and for all, that FBI whistleblowers are protected for disclosing waste, fraud, and abuse in their chain

of command. This change was recommended by the Government Accountability Office in its 2015 review.

It is also supported by the Office of Special Counsel, the Department's Office of the Inspector General, and numerous good government and whistleblower advocacy groups. Even FBI Director James Comey and Attorney General Loretta Lynch have both testified before the Judiciary Committee that disclosures to supervisors should be protected. Now, we passed a version of this bill out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously. That version would have made additional meaningful changes to the FBI whistleblower program.

The bill adopted by the Committee would also have addressed the other problems identified in the Justice Department report and the Government Accountability Office study.

Most importantly, the bill that passed the Committee would have dealt with the lengthy delays in the Department's internal investigation and adjudication process. We also wanted to provide FBI whistleblowers with some relief when the inspector general finds in their favor. That way, FBI would be encouraged to settle cases instead of wasting taxpayer money defending reprisal. We wanted to require the Department to make its decisions on these cases publicly available. That way, the FBI would not be the only party in these cases with access to case precedent.

We also wanted to be sure that FBI employees had opportunities for a fair and independent hearing and the ability to seek relief from a court of appeals. In that case, at least someone outside the Department would be able to hold the Department and the FBI accountable. But, behind the scenes, the FBI and the Justice Department objected to these provisions—although they never provided any official written comment on the bill. They claimed our reforms would jeopardize national security.

But they never, ever said how. In nearly a year, they could not produce one single specific, coherent concern with the process that we developed. They had no response to the fact that classified information has not been an issue in FBI cases. Reprisal complaints generally can be considered without ever addressing classified information. The Department's own rules tell employees not to file classified information as part of the whistleblower program; and there has never been an FBI case that required the consideration of classified information.

The FBI even initially objected to the provision recommended by GAO that would protect disclosures to supervisors. The FBI claimed that their employees' work was too sensitive. But that claim holds no water because employees in the intelligence community

are protected for reporting wrongdoing to their supervisors.

Now, we have waited nearly a year for constructive, good-faith feedback on our other reforms, but have received none. And unfortunately, we have not been able to reach a unanimous agreement on those issues this year or obtain time for debate and a vote on the floor. I am very disappointed. However, we still found a way forward on one key provision of this legislation. FBI employees have waited long enough to be protected for the same disclosures as everyone else in the Federal Government. Year after year, decade after decade, so many FBI employees have been retaliated against with no legal recourse.

Well, that ends now. We can keep working together on other, much-needed reforms, and we will. We are not finished with the great work left to do to improve FBI whistleblower protections. Other issues identified by the Government Accountability Office and by the Justice Department itself still need to be addressed.

But with the passage of the amendment to our bill, FBI employees will finally have a remedy if they are retaliated against for reporting waste, fraud, and abuse to their supervisors—just like every other Federal employee in the vast American bureaucracy. I am thankful for the support and hard work of Senator LEAHY on these issues for so many years and for working so closely with me on this legislation. I also am very thankful for Representative CHAFFETZ's leadership on this issue in the House. I know that he and Representatives JEFFRIES and CUMMINGS have been great advocates for this change.

Most of all, I am grateful for the FBI whistleblowers I have worked with over the years, folks like Fred Whitehurst, Jane Turner, Michael German, Robert Kobus, Darin Jones, and so many more. This would never have come to pass without your leadership, persistence, and personal sacrifice. It has been a long road, but it has been a privilege to travel it with you.

We are not done yet. But now, we are one very big step closer.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, whistleblowers play an essential role in providing transparency and accountability in the Federal Government and exposing waste, fraud, and abuse. It is important that all government employees have safe and effective avenues to come forward when they have evidence of wrongdoing, and to encourage them to come forward they must be afforded protections from retaliation. Unfortunately, under current law, FBI employees who report waste or misconduct are not afforded the same whistleblower protections as all other Federal employees. That is why I worked closely with Senator GRASSLEY to author the FBI Whistleblower Protection Enhancements Act of 2016.

The bill Senator GRASSLEY and I drafted was a comprehensive package. Not only did it extend protections to FBI employees who report waste, fraud, or abuse to supervisors in their chain of command, but it also provided clear guidance on the investigation and adjudication of retaliation claims so that those same employees are not denied whistleblower protections without reason or without opportunity to appeal. Unfortunately, the bill we have passed today has been stripped of many of these worthy reforms. While I am pleased we will finally update the law to provide whistleblower protections for FBI employees who blow the whistle within their chain of command, I am disappointed that the bill we have before of contains only a fraction of the reform that Senator GRASSLEY and I worked so hard to move through the Senate Judiciary Committee.

This is a small but important step forward, but it is not sufficient. The Senate must work to pass comprehensive reform so that FBI employees are able to blow the whistle and not face repercussions for doing so. I hope we can revisit this important issue in the next Congress.

HOLOCAUST EXPROPRIATED ART RECOVERY ACT OF 2016

The bill (H.R. 6130) to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

TIBOR RUBIN VA MEDICAL CENTER

The bill (H.R. 6323) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system in Long Beach, California, the "Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center," was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

TO REVISE THE BOUNDARIES OF CERTAIN JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM UNITS IN NEW JERSEY

The bill (H.R. 6400) to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

PROMOTING TRAVEL, COMMERCE, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2016

The bill (H.R. 6431) to ensure United States jurisdiction over offenses committed by United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives, was ordered to

a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Congress has now passed the bipartisan Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act. In 2015, I hailed the signing of a new agreement between the United States and Canada designed to improve cross-border travel, commerce, and security between our two countries. Since then, there has been legislation introduced in both the Senate and the House to allow for full implementation of that expanded Canada preclearance agreement. Thirty business associations both in the United States and Canada support this legislation, and the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security and Justice fully support its passage.

Let's be clear about one thing: U.S. preclearance operations are already under way, in Canada and elsewhere. Preclearance facilities allow travelers to pass through U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP, inspections on foreign soil, prior to traveling to the United States. Preclearance operations relieve congestion at U.S. destination airports, facilitate commerce, save money, and strengthen national security. The United States currently stations CBP officers in select locations in Canada to inspect passengers and cargo bound for the United States before departing Canada. This legislation will pave the way for additional U.S. preclearance facilities in Canada in the marine, land, air and rail sectors. In particular, this legislation will advance important projects in Vermont: the creation of a preclearance facility at Montreal's Central Station, reestablishing train service between Vermont and Montreal; and improvements to air service between Burlington International Airport and Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport.

This legislation will promote two key national goals: enhancing our national security and increasing efficiency for travelers and commercial exchanges. With respect to national security, by placing CBP personnel at the point of departure, screening occurs before a person boards a flight, increasing our ability to prevent those who should not be flying to the United States from doing so. In 2014, preclearance stopped more than 10,000 inadmissible travelers worldwide before they left foreign soil. And with respect to commerce, the United States and Canada enjoy one of the largest bilateral economic relationships in the world, with \$1.4 trillion in bilateral trade and investment and two-way trade in goods and services valued at \$759 billion in 2014. Each day, more than \$1.8 billion in goods and services and nearly 390,000 people cross the U.S.-Canadian border. Preclearance helps further facilitate this important economic relationship.

Preclearance is an issue about which both Democrats and Republicans can

and do agree. It will enhance border security and stimulate economic growth. I look forward to the President signing this bill into law.

INSPECTOR GENERAL EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2016

The bill (H.R. 6450) to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, the Senate passed the Inspector General Empowerment Act. This is a crucial piece of legislation to enable inspectors general to function independently and to weed out waste, fraud, and abuse within the government. I thank Senator MCCAIN for working with me constructively to resolve the concerns he raised last week and for honoring the agreement we made in December 2015.

Following Senator MCCAIN's objection to my attempt to pass the IG bill by a live UC last Thursday, our staffs met and reached a compromise. We agreed to remove some provisions of the bill related to IG leave policy and IG reporting requirements. Although we disagreed on those provisions, I am glad that we agreed to preserve the most important parts of the bill.

Namely, we preserved the provisions of the bill that provide inspectors general with timely access to all records of the agency that they are charged with overseeing. In addition, the bill contains numerous other provisions that strengthen IG independence and equip IGs with the necessary tools to weed out waste, fraud, and abuse within the Federal Government.

The bill requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study on prolonged IG vacancies and to provide recommendations for reducing these vacancies. It exempts IGs from getting computer matching agreements and from complying with the Paperwork Reduction Act, in order to ensure that IGs can obtain information and perform investigations without first obtaining agency approval. It improves the process by which IGs police the conduct of other IGs, to require that investigations are conducted in a more timely fashion. It promotes greater transparency by requiring IGs to report to Congress semiannually on impediments to their work, such as agency interference, reports that are not made otherwise available to the public, and whistleblower retaliation. Finally, it requires IGs to send IG recommendations to the heads of agencies and to Congress and to publicly post reports, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

It is a waste of time and money to have agencies at war with their inspectors general over access to informa-

tion. The inspectors general need to spend their time identifying and helping agencies eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse—not fighting for access to the information needed to do their job. The bureaucrats need to learn Congress intended for the law to mean exactly what it says.

Unless a provision of law specifically mentions the inspector general and prevents access to certain kinds of documents, then those records should be provided. "All records" means "all records."

I thank my cosponsors who worked diligently with me over the past year-and-a-half to help this bill pass in the Senate.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have long fought to promote transparency and accountability in our Federal Government. From standing up to defend and strengthen the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA, to protecting government whistleblowers, promoting transparency and accountability are among my top priorities. This Congress, Senator Grassley and I joined together to introduce the FBI Whistleblower Protection Act. And today we have again worked together to advance legislation to support inspectors general and ensure accountability. I support the revised IG Empowerment Act and hope it can be signed into law before the end of the year.

Inspectors general play a critical role in promoting government transparency and accountability. They help ensure that Federal agencies and their employees operate efficiently, effectively, and within the scope of the law. The goal of the IG Empowerment Act is to strengthen the Office of Inspectors General and increase their independence, and it is a goal I support. One very important provision would help clarify that IGs should have access to all documents they need to conduct their investigations, audits, and reviews. This is something I agree with. Senator GRASSLEY and I held a bipartisan hearing on this issue and agreed to work together to find a solution to this problem.

While we need to make sure that the IGs have the tools they need to do their job, the Fourth Amendment demands that we not grant administrative subpoena power lightly. Such power should be granted sparingly and be narrowly tailored to protect individuals' civil liberties. The bill we advance today strikes the right balance to support IGs without giving them a blank check to subpoena any individual outside of the government and compel them to testify in person.

We have made good progress in advancing protransparency legislation this year. My bipartisan FOIA Improvement Act with Senator CORNYN was signed into law in July. And just this week, we learned that a dangerous FOIA-related provision in the defense

bill was stripped from the conference report. This kind of progress can only be made through bipartisan work and good faith negotiating. I am glad we will make similar progress with the IG Empowerment Act that I hope all Senators will support today.

FEDERAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REFORM ACT OF 2016

The bill (H.R. 6451) to improve the Government-wide management of Federal property, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

ENSURING ACCESS TO PACIFIC FISHERIES ACT

The bill (H.R. 6452) to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

FOREIGN CULTURAL EXCHANGE JURISDICTIONAL IMMUNITY CLARIFICATION ACT

The bill (H.R. 6477) to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bills en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bills having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bills pass en bloc?

The bills (H.R. 4352, H.R. 5099, H.R. 5790, H.R. 6130, H.R. 6323, H.R. 6400, H.R. 6431, H.R. 6450, H.R. 6451, H.R. 6452, and H.R. 6477) were passed.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OVERTIME PAY FOR SECRET SERVICE AGENTS ACT OF 2016

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6302, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6302), to provide an increase in premium pay for United States Secret Serv-

ice agents performing protective services during 2016, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Johnson substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; the title amendment be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5178) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. PREMIUM PAY EXCEPTION IN 2016 FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "covered employee" means any officer, employee, or agent employed by the United States Secret Service who performs protective services for an individual or event protected by the United States Secret Service during 2016.

(b) EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITATION ON PREMIUM PAY FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during 2016, section 5547(a) of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to any covered employee to the extent that its application would prevent a covered employee from receiving premium pay, as provided under the amendment made by paragraph (2).

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 118 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (as enacted into law by section 1(3) of Public Law 106-554; 114 Stat. 2763A-134) is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting "or, if the employee qualifies for an exception to such limitation under section 2(b)(1) of the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016, to the extent that such aggregate amount would exceed the rate of basic pay payable for a position at level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5313 of title 5, United States Code" after "of that limitation".

(c) TREATMENT OF ADDITIONAL PAY.—If subsection (b) results in the payment of additional premium pay to a covered employee of a type that is normally creditable as basic pay for retirement or any other purpose, that additional pay shall not—

(1) be considered to be basic pay of the covered employee for any purpose; or

(2) be used in computing a lump-sum payment to the covered employee for accumulated and accrued annual leave under section 5551 or section 5552 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) AGGREGATE LIMIT.—With respect to the application of section 5307 of title 5, United States Code, the payment of any additional premium pay to a covered employee as a result of subsection (b) shall not be counted as part of the aggregate compensation of the covered employee.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect as if enacted on December 31, 2015.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 6302), as amended, was passed.

The amendment (No. 5179) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title to read as follows: "A bill to provide an increase in premium pay for protective services during 2016, and for other purposes.".

MARINE LANCE CORPORAL SQUIRE "SKIP" WELLS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5612 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5612) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2886 Sandy Plains Road in Marietta, Georgia, as the "Marine Lance Corporal Squire 'Skip' Wells Post Office Building."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5612) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 718, S. 2852.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2852) to expand the Government's use and administration of data to facilitate transparency, effective governance, and innovation, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary Government Data Act" or the "OPEN Government Data Act".

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings; agency defined.

Sec. 3. Rule of construction.

Sec. 4. Federal information policy definitions.

Sec. 5. Requirement for making open and machine-readable the default for Government data.

Sec. 6. Responsibilities of the Office of Electronic Government.

Sec. 7. Data inventory and planning.

Sec. 8. Technology portal.

Sec. 9. Enhanced responsibilities for chief information officers and chief information officers council duties.

Sec. 10. Evaluation of agency analytical capabilities.

Sec. 11. Effective date.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; AGENCY DEFINED.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Federal Government data is a valuable national resource. Managing Federal Government data to make it open, available, discoverable, and useable to the general public, businesses, journalists, academics, and advocates promotes efficiency and effectiveness in Government, creates economic opportunities, promotes scientific discovery, and most importantly, strengthens our democracy.

(2) Maximizing the usefulness of Federal Government data that is appropriate for release rests upon making it readily available, discoverable, and usable—in a word: open. Information presumptively should be available to the general public unless the Federal Government reasonably foresees that disclosure could harm a specific, articulable interest protected by law or the Federal Government is otherwise expressly prohibited from releasing such data due to statutory requirements.

(3) The Federal Government has the responsibility to be transparent and accountable to its citizens.

(4) Data controlled, collected, or created by the Federal Government should be originated, transmitted, and published in modern, open, and electronic format, to be as readily accessible as possible, consistent with data standards imbued with authority under this Act and to the extent permitted by law.

(5) The effort to inventory Government data will have additional benefits, including identifying opportunities within agencies to reduce waste, increase efficiencies, and save taxpayer dollars. As such, this effort should involve many types of data, including data generated by applications, devices, networks, and equipment, which can be harnessed to improve operations, lower energy consumption, reduce costs, and strengthen security.

(6) Communication, commerce, and data transcend national borders. Global access to Government information is often essential to promoting innovation, scientific discovery, entrepreneurship, education, and the general welfare.

(b) AGENCY DEFINED.—In this Act, the term “agency” has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code, and includes the Federal Election Commission.

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to require the disclosure of information or records that are exempt from public disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Freedom of Information Act”).

SEC. 4. FEDERAL INFORMATION POLICY DEFINITIONS.

Section 3502 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking “; and” at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(15) the term ‘data’ means recorded information, regardless of form or the media on which the data is recorded;

“(16) the term ‘data asset’ means a collection of data elements or data sets that may be grouped together;

“(17) the term ‘Enterprise Data Inventory’ means the data inventory developed and maintained pursuant to section 3523;

“(18) the term ‘machine-readable’ means a format in which information or data can be easily processed by a computer without human intervention while ensuring no semantic meaning is lost;

“(19) the term ‘metadata’ means structural or descriptive information about data such as content, format, source, rights, accuracy, provenance, frequency, periodicity, granularity, publisher or responsible party, contact information, method of collection, and other descriptions;

“(20) the term ‘nonpublic data asset’—

“(A) means a data asset that may not be made available to the public for privacy, security, confidentiality, regulation, or other reasons as determined by law; and

“(B) includes data provided by contractors that is protected by contract, license, patent, trademark, copyright, confidentiality, regulation, or other restriction;

“(21) the term ‘open format’ means a technical format based on an underlying open standard that is—

“(A) not encumbered by restrictions that would impede use or reuse; and

“(B) based on an underlying open standard that is maintained by a standards organization;

“(22) the term ‘open Government data’ means a Federal Government public data asset that is—

“(A) machine-readable;

“(B) available in an open format; and

“(C) part of the worldwide public domain or, if necessary, published with an open license;

“(23) the term ‘open license’ means a legal guarantee applied to a data asset that is made available to the public that such data asset is made available—

“(A) at no cost to the public; and

“(B) with no restrictions on copying, publishing, distributing, transmitting, citing, or adapting; and

“(24) the term ‘public data asset’ means a collection of data elements or a data set maintained by the Government that—

“(A) may be released; or

“(B) has been released to the public in an open format and is discoverable through a search of Data.gov.”.

SEC. 5. REQUIREMENT FOR MAKING OPEN AND MACHINE-READABLE THE DEFAULT FOR GOVERNMENT DATA.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§3522. Requirements for Government data

“(a) MACHINE-READABLE DATA REQUIRED.—Government data assets made available by an agency shall be published as machine-readable data.

“(b) OPEN BY DEFAULT.—When not otherwise prohibited by law, and to the extent practicable, Government data assets shall—

“(1) be available in an open format; and

“(2) be available under open licenses.

“(c) OPEN LICENSE OR WORLDWIDE PUBLIC DOMAIN DEDICATION REQUIRED.—When not otherwise prohibited by law, and to the extent practicable, Government data assets published by or for an agency shall be made available under an open license or, if not made available under an open license and appropriately released, shall be considered to be published as part of the worldwide public domain.

“(d) INNOVATION.—Each agency may engage with nongovernmental organizations, citizens, non-profit organizations, colleges and universities, private and public companies, and other

agencies to explore opportunities to leverage the agency’s public data asset in a manner that may provide new opportunities for innovation in the public and private sectors in accordance with law and regulation.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3521 the following:

“3522. Requirements for Government data.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Notwithstanding section 11, the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to any contract entered into by an agency on or after such effective date.

(d) USE OF OPEN DATA ASSETS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each agency shall ensure that any activities by the agency or any new contract entered into by the agency meet the requirements of section 3522 of title 44, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICE OF ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT.

(a) COORDINATION OF FEDERAL INFORMATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT POLICY.—Section 3503 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) COORDINATION OF FEDERAL INFORMATION RESOURCES MANAGEMENT POLICY.—The Federal Chief Information Officer shall work in coordination with the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and with the heads of other offices within the Office of Management and Budget to oversee and advise the Director on Federal information resources management policy.”.

(b) AUTHORITY AND FUNCTIONS OF DIRECTOR.—Section 3504(h) of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, the Federal Chief Information Officer,” after “the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology”;

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) oversee the completeness of the Enterprise Data Inventory and the extent to which the agency is making all data collected and generated by the agency available to the public in accordance with section 3523.”.

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) coordinate the development and review of Federal information resources management policy by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and the Federal Chief Information Officer.”.

(c) CHANGE OF NAME OF THE OFFICE OF ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3601 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (1);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3), as so redesignated, the following:

“(4) ‘Federal Chief Information Officer’ means the Federal Chief Information Officer of the Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer established under section 3602.”.

(2) OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.—Section 3602 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the heading, by striking “**Electronic Government**” and inserting “**the Federal Chief Information Officer**”;

(B) in subsection (a), by striking “Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(C) in subsection (b), by striking “an Administrator” and inserting “a Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(D) in subsection (c), by striking “The Administrator” and inserting “The Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(E) in subsection (d), by striking “The Administrator” and inserting “The Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(F) in subsection (e), by striking “The Administrator” and inserting “The Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(G) in subsection (f)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “the Administrator shall” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer shall”; and

(ii) in paragraph (16), by striking “the Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “the Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(H) in subsection (g), by striking “the Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “the Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer”.

(3) CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS COUNCIL.—Section 3603 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “The Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “The Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “The Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “The Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(C) in subsection (f)(3), by striking “the Administrator” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer”.

(4) E-GOVERNMENT FUND.—Section 3604 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “Administrator” each place it appears and inserting “Federal Chief Information Officer”; and

(C) in subsection (c), by striking “the Administrator” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer”.

(5) PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND PROCESSES.—Section 3605 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “The Administrator” and inserting “The Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “, the Administrator,” and inserting “, the Federal Chief Information Officer,”; and

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking “The Administrator” and inserting “The Federal Chief Information Officer”; and

(II) by striking “proposals submitted to the Administrator” and inserting “proposals submitted to the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “the Administrator” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer”; and

(iii) in paragraph (4), by striking “the Administrator” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer”.

(6) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 36 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 3602 and inserting the following:

“3602. Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer.”.

(B) POSITIONS AT LEVEL III.—Section 5314 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “Federal Chief Information Officer”.

(C) OFFICE OF ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT.—Section 507 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “The Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “The Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer”.

(D) ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES.—Section 305 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking “Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “Federal Chief Information Officer”.

(E) CAPITAL PLANNING AND INVESTMENT CONTROL.—Section 11302(c)(4) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking “Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government” each place it appears and inserting “Federal Chief Information Officer”.

(F) RESOURCES, PLANNING, AND PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT.—The second subsection (c) of section 11319 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking “Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government” each place it appears and inserting “Federal Chief Information Officer”.

(G) ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(i) Section 2222(i)(6) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 3601(4)” and inserting “section 3601(3)”.

(ii) Section 506D(k)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3100(k)(1)) is amended by striking “section 3601(4)” and inserting “section 3601(3)”.

(7) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments made by this subsection are for the purpose of changing the name of the Office of Electronic Government and the Administrator of such office and shall not be construed to affect any of the substantive provisions of the provisions amended or to require a new appointment by the President.

SEC. 7. DATA INVENTORY AND PLANNING.

(A) ENTERPRISE DATA INVENTORY.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, as amended by section 5, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§3523. Enterprise data inventory

“(a) AGENCY DATA INVENTORY REQUIRED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to develop a clear and comprehensive understanding of the data assets in the possession of an agency, the head of each agency, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall develop and maintain an enterprise data inventory (in this section referred to as the ‘Enterprise Data Inventory’) that accounts for any data asset created, collected, under the control or direction of, or maintained by the agency after the effective date of this section, with the ultimate goal of including all data assets, to the extent practicable.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The Enterprise Data Inventory shall include each of the following:

“(A) Data assets used in agency information systems, including program administration, statistical, and financial activity.

“(B) Data assets shared or maintained across agency programs and bureaus.

“(C) Data assets that are shared among agencies or created by more than 1 agency.

“(D) A clear indication of all data assets that can be made publicly available under section 552 of title 5 (commonly referred to as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’).

“(E) A description of whether the agency has determined that an individual data asset may be

made publicly available and whether the data asset is currently available to the public.

“(F) Non-public data assets.

“(G) Government data assets generated by applications, devices, networks, and equipment, categorized by source type.

“(b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Chief Information Officer of each agency shall use the guidance provided by the Director issued pursuant to section 3504(a)(1)(C)(ii) to make public data assets included in the Enterprise Data Inventory publicly available in an open format and under an open license.

“(c) NON-PUBLIC DATA.—Non-public data included in the Enterprise Data Inventory may be maintained in a non-public section of the inventory.

“(d) AVAILABILITY OF ENTERPRISE DATA INVENTORY.—The Chief Information Officer of each agency—

“(1) shall make the Enterprise Data Inventory available to the public on Data.gov;

“(2) shall ensure that access to the Enterprise Data Inventory and the data contained therein is consistent with applicable law and regulation; and

“(3) may implement paragraph (1) in a manner that maintains a non-public portion of the Enterprise Data Inventory.

“(e) REGULAR UPDATES REQUIRED.—The Chief Information Officer of each agency shall—

“(1) to the extent practicable, complete the Enterprise Data Inventory for the agency not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section; and

“(2) add additional data assets to the Enterprise Data Inventory for the agency not later than 90 days after the date on which the data asset is created or identified.

“(f) USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES.—When practicable, the Chief Information Officer of each agency shall use existing procedures and systems to compile and publish the Enterprise Data Inventory for the agency.”.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, as amended by section 5, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3522 the following:

“3523. Enterprise data inventory.”.

(b) STANDARDS FOR ENTERPRISE DATA INVENTORY.—Section 3504(a)(1) of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (B)(vi), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) issue standards for the Enterprise Data Inventory described in section 3523, including—

“(i) a requirement that the Enterprise Data Inventory include a compilation of metadata about agency data assets; and

“(ii) criteria that the head of each agency shall use in determining whether to make a particular data asset publicly available in a manner that takes into account—

“(I) the expectation of confidentiality associated with an individual data asset;

“(II) security considerations, including the risk that information in an individual data asset in isolation does not pose a security risk but when combined with other available information may pose such a risk;

“(III) the cost and value to the public of converting the data into a manner that could be understood and used by the public;

“(IV) the expectation that all data assets that would otherwise be made available under section 552 of title 5 (commonly referred to as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’) be disclosed; and

“(V) any other considerations that the Director determines to be relevant.”.

(c) FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—Section 3506 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “security;” and inserting the following: “security by—

“(i) using open format for any new Government data asset created or obtained on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this clause; and

“(ii) to the extent practicable, encouraging the adoption of open form for all open Government data created or obtained before the date of enactment of this clause;”.

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “subchapter; and” and inserting “subchapter and a review of each agency’s Enterprise Data Inventory described in section 3523;”.

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) in consultation with the Director, develop an open data plan as a part of the requirement for a strategic information resources management plan described in paragraph (2) that, at a minimum and to the extent practicable—

“(A) requires the agency to develop processes and procedures that—

“(i) require each new data collection mechanism to use an open format; and

“(ii) allow the agency to collaborate with non-Government entities, researchers, businesses, and private citizens for the purpose of understanding how data users value and use open Government data;

“(B) identifies and implements methods for collecting and analyzing digital information on data asset usage by users within and outside of the agency, including designating a point of contact within the agency to assist the public and to respond to quality issues, usability, recommendations for improvements, and complaints about adherence to open data requirements in accordance with subsection (d)(2);

“(C) develops and implements a process to evaluate and improve the timeliness, completeness, accuracy, usefulness, and availability of open Government data;

“(D) requires the agency to update the plan at an interval determined by the Director;

“(E) includes requirements for meeting the goals of the agency open data plan including technology, training for employees, and implementing procurement standards, in accordance with existing law, that allow for the acquisition of innovative solutions from the public and private sector; and

“(F) prohibits the dissemination and accidental disclosure of nonpublic data assets.”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “With respect to” and inserting “Except as provided under subsection (j), with respect to”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “shall”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “shall” before “ensure”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “sources” and inserting “sources and uses”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, including providing access to open Government data online” after “economical manner”;

(C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “shall” before “regularly”;

(D) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting “shall” before “provide”; and

(ii) by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(E) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “may” before “not”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) shall take the necessary precautions to ensure that the agency maintains the production and publication of data assets which are directly related to activities that protect the safety of human life or property, as identified by the open data plan of the agency required by subsection (b)(6); and

“(6) may engage the public in using open Government data and encourage collaboration by—

“(A) publishing information on open Government data usage in regular, timely intervals, but not less than annually;

“(B) receiving public input regarding priorities for the analysis and disclosure of data assets to be published;

“(C) assisting civil society groups and members of the public working to expand the use of open Government data; and

“(D) hosting challenges, competitions, events, or other initiatives designed to create additional value from open Government data.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(j) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subsection (c), an agency is not required to meet the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3) of such subsection if—

“(1) the waiver of those requirements is approved by the head of the agency;

“(2) the collection of information is—

“(A) online and electronic;

“(B) voluntary and there is no perceived or actual tangible benefit to the provider of the information;

“(C) of an extremely low burden that is typically completed in 5 minutes or less; and

“(D) focused on gathering input about the performance of, or public satisfaction with, an agency providing service; and

“(3) the agency publishes representative summaries of the collection of information under subsection (c).”.

(d) REPOSITORY.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall collaborate with the Office of Government Information Services and the Administrator of General Services to develop and maintain an online repository of tools, best practices, and schema standards to facilitate the adoption of open data practices. The repository shall—

(1) include definitions, regulation and policy, checklists, and case studies related to open data, this Act, and the amendments made by this Act; and

(2) facilitate collaboration and the adoption of best practices across the Federal Government relating to the adoption of open data practices.

(e) SYSTEMATIC AGENCY REVIEW OF OPERATIONS.—Section 305 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following: “To the extent practicable, each agency shall use existing data to support such reviews if the data is accurate and complete.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) determining the status of achieving the mission, goals, and objectives of the agency as described in the strategic plan of the agency published pursuant to section 306;”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) OPEN DATA COMPLIANCE REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 2 years thereafter, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall electronically publish a report on agency performance and compliance with the Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary Government Data Act and the amendments made by that Act.”.

(f) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report that identifies—

(1) the value of information made available to the public as a result of this Act and the amendments made by this Act;

(2) whether it is valuable to expand the publicly available information to any other data assets; and

(3) the completeness of the Enterprise Data Inventory at each agency required under section 3523 of title 44, United States Code, as added by this section.

SEC. 8. TECHNOLOGY PORTAL.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3511 the following:

“§ 3511A. Technology portal

“(a) DATA.GOV REQUIRED.—The Administrator of General Services shall maintain a single public interface online as a point of entry dedicated to sharing open Government data with the public.

“(b) COORDINATION WITH AGENCIES.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall determine, after consultation with the head of each agency and the Administrator of General Services, the method to access any open Government data published through the interface described in subsection (a).”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3511 the following:

“3511A. Technology portal.”.

(c) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall meet the requirements of section 3511A(a) of title 44, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 9. ENHANCED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS AND CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS COUNCIL DUTIES.

(a) AGENCY CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—Section 11315(b) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) data asset management, format standardization, sharing of data assets, and publication of data assets;

“(5) the compilation and publication of the Enterprise Data Inventory for the agency required under section 3523 of title 44;

“(6) ensuring that agency data conforms with open data best practices;

“(7) ensuring compliance with the requirements of subsections (b), (c), (d), and (f) of section 3506 of title 44;

“(8) engaging agency employees, the public, and contractors in using open Government data and encourage collaborative approaches to improving data use;

“(9) supporting the agency Performance Improvement Officer in generating data to support the function of the Performance Improvement Officer described in section 1124(a)(2) of title 31;

“(10) reviewing the information technology infrastructure of the agency and the impact of such infrastructure on making data assets accessible to reduce barriers that inhibit data asset accessibility;

“(11) ensuring that, to the extent practicable, the agency is maximizing its own use of data, including data generated by applications, devices, networks, and equipment owned by the Government and such use is not otherwise prohibited, to reduce costs, improve operations, and strengthen security and privacy protections; and

“(12) identifying points of contact for roles and responsibilities related to open data use and implementation as required by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.”.

(2) **ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.**—Section 11315 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the terms ‘data’, ‘data asset’, ‘Enterprise Data Inventory’, and ‘open Government data’ have the meanings given those terms in section 3502 of title 44.”.

(b) **AMENDMENT.**—Section 3603(f) of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(B) Work with the Office of Government Information Services and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to promote data interoperability and comparability of data assets across the Government.”.

SEC. 10. EVALUATION OF AGENCY ANALYTICAL CAPABILITIES.

(a) **AGENCY REVIEW OF EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS CAPABILITIES; REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chief Operating Officer of each agency shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget a report on the review described in subsection (b).

(b) **REQUIREMENTS OF AGENCY REVIEW.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall assess the coverage, quality, methods, effectiveness, and independence of the agency’s evaluation research and analysis efforts, including each of the following:

(1) A list of the activities and operations of the agency that are being evaluated and analyzed and the activities and operations that have been evaluated and analyzed during the previous 5 years.

(2) The extent to which the evaluations research and analysis efforts and related activities of the agency support the needs of various divisions within the agency.

(3) The extent to which the evaluation research and analysis efforts and related activities of the agency address an appropriate balance between needs related to organizational learning, ongoing program management, performance management, strategic management, interagency and private sector coordination, internal and external oversight, and accountability.

(4) The extent to which the agency uses methods and combinations of methods that are appropriate to agency divisions and the corresponding research questions being addressed, including an appropriate combination of formative and summative evaluation research and analysis approaches.

(5) The extent to which evaluation and research capacity is present within the agency to include personnel, agency process for planning and implementing evaluation activities, disseminating best practices and findings, and incorporating employee views and feedback.

(6) The extent to which the agency has the capacity to assist front-line staff and program offices to develop the capacity to use evaluation research and analysis approaches and data in the day-to-day operations.

(c) **GAO REVIEW OF AGENCY REPORTS.**—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of

this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that summarizes agency findings and highlights trends from the reports submitted pursuant to subsection (a) and, if appropriate, recommends actions to further improve agency capacity to use evaluation techniques and data to support evaluation efforts.

SEC. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2852), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

FEDERAL ASSETS SALE AND TRANSFER ACT OF 2016

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 562, H.R. 4465.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4465) to decrease the deficit by consolidating and selling Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4465) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EMMETT TILL UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 2854.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2854) entitled “An Act to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007.”, do pass with an amendment.

Mr. PORTMAN. I move to concur in the House amendment and know of no further debate on the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM ACT OF 2016

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 2971.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2971) entitled “An Act to authorize the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.”, do pass with an amendment.

Mr. PORTMAN. I move to concur in the House amendment; and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION TRANSITION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 696, S. 3346.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3346) to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2016”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. Fiscal year 2017.

TITLE II—SUSTAINING NATIONAL SPACE COMMITMENTS

Sec. 201. Sense of Congress on sustaining national space commitments.

Sec. 202. Findings.

TITLE III—MAXIMIZING UTILIZATION OF THE ISS AND LOW-EARTH ORBIT

Sec. 301. Operation of the ISS.

Sec. 302. Transportation to ISS.
 Sec. 303. ISS transition plan.
 Sec. 304. Indemnification; NASA launch services and reentry services.

TITLE IV—ADVANCING HUMAN DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION

Subtitle A—Human Exploration Goals and Objectives

Sec. 411. Human exploration long-term goals.
 Sec. 412. Goals and objectives.
 Sec. 413. Vision for space exploration.
 Sec. 414. Exploration plan and programs.
 Sec. 415. Stepping stone approach to exploration.

Subtitle B—Assuring Core Capabilities for Exploration

Sec. 421. Space Launch System and Orion.
Subtitle C—Journey to Mars
 Sec. 431. Space technology infusion.
 Sec. 432. Findings on human space exploration.
 Sec. 433. Strategic framework for human spaceflight and exploration.
 Sec. 434. Advanced space suit capability.
 Sec. 435. Asteroid robotic redirect mission.

Subtitle D—Scott Kelly Human Spaceflight and Exploration Act

Sec. 441. Short title.
 Sec. 442. Findings; sense of Congress.
 Sec. 443. Medical monitoring and research relating to human space flight.

TITLE V—ADVANCING SPACE SCIENCE

Sec. 501. Maintaining a balanced space science portfolio.
 Sec. 502. Planetary science.
 Sec. 503. James Webb Space Telescope.
 Sec. 504. Sense of Congress on Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope.
 Sec. 505. Sense of Congress on Mars 2020 rover.
 Sec. 506. Europa.

TITLE VI—MAXIMIZING EFFICIENCY

Subtitle A—Agency Information Technology and Cybersecurity

Sec. 611. Information technology governance.
 Sec. 612. Information technology strategic plan.
 Sec. 613. Cybersecurity.
 Sec. 614. Oversight implementation progress.
 Sec. 615. Software oversight.
 Sec. 616. Security management of foreign national access.
 Sec. 617. Cybersecurity of web applications.

Subtitle B—Collaboration Among Mission Directorates and Other Matters

Sec. 621. Collaboration among mission directorates.
 Sec. 622. NASA launch capabilities collaboration.
 Sec. 623. Commercial space launch cooperation.
 Sec. 624. Detection and avoidance of counterfeit parts.
 Sec. 625. Education and outreach.
 Sec. 626. Leveraging commercial satellite servicing capabilities across mission directorates.
 Sec. 627. Flight opportunities.
 Sec. 628. Sense of Congress on small class launch missions.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The term “Administration” means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(2) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(3) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(4) **CIS-LUNAR SPACE.**—The term “cis-lunar space” means the region of space from the Earth out to and including the region around the surface of the Moon.

(5) **DEEP SPACE.**—The term “deep space” means the region of space beyond low-Earth orbit, to include cis-lunar space.

(6) **GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUT.**—The term “government astronaut” has the meaning given the term in section 50902 of title 51, United States Code.

(7) **ISS.**—The term “ISS” means the International Space Station.

(8) **ISS MANAGEMENT ENTITY.**—The term “ISS management entity” means the organization with which the Administrator has a cooperative agreement under section 504(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18354(a)).

(9) **NASA.**—The term “NASA” means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(10) **ORION.**—The term “Orion” means the multipurpose crew vehicle described under section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

(11) **SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.**—The term “Space Launch System” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18302).

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 101. FISCAL YEAR 2017.

There are authorized to be appropriated to NASA for fiscal year 2017, \$19,508,000,000, as follows:

- (1) For Exploration, \$4,532,000,000.
- (2) For Space Operations, \$4,950,700,000.
- (3) For Science, \$5,395,000,000.
- (4) For Aeronautics, \$601,000,000.
- (5) For Space Technology, \$686,500,000.
- (6) For Education, \$108,000,000.
- (7) For Safety, Security, and Mission Services, \$2,796,700,000.
- (8) For Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration, \$400,000,000.
- (9) For Inspector General, \$38,100,000.

TITLE II—SUSTAINING NATIONAL SPACE COMMITMENTS

SEC. 201. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SUSTAINING NATIONAL SPACE COMMITMENTS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States, in collaboration with its international, academic, and industry partners, should sustain and build upon our national space commitments and investments across Administrations with a continuity of purpose to advance recent achievements of space exploration and space science to extend humanity’s reach into deep space, including cis-lunar space, the Moon, the surface and moons of Mars, and beyond;

(2) NASA leaders can best leverage investments in the United States space program by continuing to develop a balanced portfolio for space exploration and space science, including continued development of the Space Launch System, Orion, Commercial Crew Program, Commercial Resupply Services Program, the James Webb Space Telescope, and the ongoing operations of the ISS;

(3) a national, government-led space program that builds on current science and exploration programs, advances human knowledge and capabilities, and opens the frontier beyond Earth for ourselves, our international partners, commercial enterprise, and science is of critical importance to our national destiny and to a future guided by United States values and freedoms;

(4) continuity of purpose and effective execution of core NASA programs are essential for efficient use of resources in pursuit of timely and tangible accomplishments;

(5) NASA could improve its efficiency and effectiveness by working with industry to streamline existing programs and requirements, procurement practices, institutional footprint, and bureaucracy while preserving effective program oversight, accountability, and safety;

(6) United States government astronauts changed the trajectory of human history toward the promise of the stars, and it is imperative that the United States maintain and enhance its leadership in space exploration and continue to expand freedom and opportunities in space for all Americans that are consistent with the Constitution of the United States; and

(7) NASA is and should remain a multimission agency with a balanced and robust set of core missions in science, space technology, aeronautics, human space flight and exploration, and education.

SEC. 202. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Challenges of the past, such as the cancellation of major programs, have disrupted completion of major space systems thereby—

(A) impeding planning and pursuit of national objectives in human space exploration;

(B) placing the Nation’s investment in space exploration at risk; and

(C) degrading the aerospace industrial base.

(2) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18301 et seq.) reflects a broad, bipartisan agreement on the path forward for NASA’s core missions in science, space technology, aeronautics, human space flight and exploration, and education, which serves as the foundation for the policy updates by this Act.

(3) Sustaining the investment and maximizing utilization of the ISS and ISS National Laboratory with our international and industry partners is—

(A) consistent with the goals and objectives of the United States space program; and

(B) imperative to continuing United States global leadership in human space exploration, science, research, technology development, and education opportunities that contribute to development of the next generation of American scientists, engineers, and leaders, and to creating the opportunity for economic development of low-Earth orbit.

(4) NASA has made measurable progress in development and testing of the Space Launch System and Orion exploration systems with the near-term objectives of the initial integrated test flight and launch in 2018, a human mission in 2021, and continued missions with an annual cadence in cis-lunar space and eventually to the surface of Mars.

(5) The Commercial Crew Program is on schedule to reestablish the capability to launch United States government astronauts from United States soil into low-Earth orbit by the end of 2018.

(6) The Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, in its 2015 Annual Report, urged continuity of purpose noting concerns over the potential for cost overruns and schedule slips that could accompany significant changes to core NASA programs.

TITLE III—MAXIMIZING UTILIZATION OF THE ISS AND LOW-EARTH ORBIT

SEC. 301. OPERATION OF THE ISS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) after 15 years of continuous human presence in low-Earth orbit, the ISS continues to overcome challenges and operate safely;

(2) expansion of partnerships, scientific research, commercial applications, and exploration tested capabilities of the ISS is essential to ensuring the greatest return on investments made by the United States and its international space partners in the development, assembly, and operations of that unique facility;

(3) a stable and successful Commercial Resupply Services Program and Commercial Crew Program are critical to ensuring timely provisioning of the ISS and to reestablishing the capability to launch United States government astronauts from United States soil into low-Earth orbit;

(4) sustaining United States leadership and progress in human space exploration is enabled in part by continuing utilization of the ISS—

(A) to facilitate the commercialization and economic development of low-Earth orbit;

(B) to serve as a testbed for technologies, and to conduct scientific research and development; and

(C) as an orbital facility enabling research upon—

(i) the health, well-being, and performance of humans in space; and

(ii) the development of in-space systems enabling human space exploration beyond low-Earth orbit;

(5) the Administrator should continue to support the development of the Commercial Crew Program as planned to end reliance upon Russian transport of United States government astronauts to the ISS which has not been possible since the retirement of the Space Shuttle program in 2011; and

(6) the ISS should continue to provide a platform for fundamental, microgravity, discovery-based space life and physical sciences research that is critical for enabling space exploration, protecting humans in space, increasing pathways for commercial space development that depend on advances in basic research, and contribute to advancing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research.

(b) CONTINUATION OF THE ISS.—Congress reaffirms the policy set forth in section 501 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18351) that it shall be the policy of the United States, in consultation with its international partners in the ISS program, to support full and complete utilization of the ISS through at least 2024.

SEC. 302. TRANSPORTATION TO ISS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON COMMERCIAL CREW PROGRAM AND COMMERCIAL RESUPPLY SERVICES PROGRAM.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) NASA should build upon the success of the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services and Commercial Resupply Services programs that have allowed private sector companies to partner with NASA to deliver cargo and scientific experiments to the ISS since 2012;

(2) once certified to meet NASA's safety and reliability requirements and fully operational to meet ISS crew transfer needs, the Commercial Crew Program transportation systems should serve as the primary means of transporting United States government astronauts and international partner astronauts from United States soil to and from the ISS;

(3) Commercial Crew Program transportation systems should have the capability of serving as ISS emergency crew rescue vehicles;

(4) the 21st Century Launch Complex Program has enabled significant modernization and infrastructure improvements at launch sites across the United States to support NASA's Commercial Resupply Services Program and other civil and commercial space flight missions; and

(5) the 21st Century Launch Complex Program should be continued in a manner that leverages State and private investments to achieve the goals of the program.

(b) UNITED STATES POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States that, to foster the competitive development, operation, improvement and commercial availability of space transportation services, services for Federal Government access to and return from the ISS, whenever practicable, shall be procured via fair and open competition for well-defined, milestone-based, Fed-

eral Acquisition Regulation-based contracts under section 201(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18311(a)).

(c) COMMERCIAL CARGO PROGRAM.—Section 401 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18341) is amended by striking "Commercial Orbital Transportation Services" and inserting "Commercial Resupply Services".

(d) CREW SAFETY.—The Administrator shall protect the safety of United States crews by ensuring commercial crew systems meet all applicable human rating requirements in accordance with section 403(b)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18342(b)(1)).

SEC. 303. ISS TRANSITION PLAN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that NASA has been both the primary supplier and consumer of human space flight capabilities and services of the ISS and in low-Earth orbit.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that an orderly transition is needed for United States human space flight activities in low-Earth orbit from the current regime, that relies heavily on NASA sponsorship, to a regime where NASA is one of many customers of a low-Earth orbit commercial human space flight enterprise.

(c) REPORTS.—Section 50111 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c) ISS TRANSITION PLAN.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in coordination with the ISS management entity, ISS partners, the scientific user community, and the commercial space sector, shall develop a plan to transition in a step-wise approach from the current regime that relies heavily on NASA sponsorship to a regime where NASA is one of many customers of a low-Earth orbit commercial human space flight enterprise.

"(2) REPORTS.—Not later than December 1, 2017, and triennially thereafter until 2023, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

"(A) an identification of low-Earth orbit capabilities necessary to meet the Administration's deep space human space flight exploration objectives and mission requirements beyond the period of operation and utilization of the ISS described in section 503 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18353), if any;

"(B) steps NASA is taking and will take, including demonstrations that could be conducted on the ISS, to stimulate and facilitate commercial demand and supply of products and services in low-Earth orbit;

"(C) an assessment of current and projected commercial activities in low-Earth orbit, including on the ISS, and their potential for meeting the capabilities identified in subparagraph (A);

"(D) an identification of barriers preventing the commercialization of low-Earth orbit, including issues relating to policy, regulations, commercial intellectual property, data, and confidentiality, that could inhibit the use of the ISS as a commercial incubator;

"(E) an evaluation of the feasible and preferred service life of the ISS beyond the period described in section 503 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18353), through at least 2028, as a unique scientific, commercial, and exploration-related facility, including—

"(i) a general discussion of international partner capabilities and prospects for extending the partnership, to include the potential for participation by additional countries, for the purposes of the human development and exploration of deep space;

"(ii) a review of essential systems, equipment upgrades, or potential maintenance that would

be necessary to extend ISS operations and utilization;

"(iii) an evaluation of the cost and schedule requirements associated with the development and delivery of essential systems, equipment upgrades, or potential maintenance identified under clause (ii);

"(iv) an identification of possible international, academic, or industry partner contributions, cost-share, and program transitions to provide the upgrades identified under clause (ii);

"(v) impacts on the goals and objectives of the ISS National Laboratory and the management entity responsible for operation of the ISS National Laboratory;

"(vi) impacts on services provided by the Commercial Resupply Services Program and Commercial Crew Program to the ISS;

"(vii) impacts on the use of the ISS as a testbed to transition functions of the ISS to the commercial space sector and enhance economic development of low-Earth orbit, including the evolution of self-sustaining commercial activities;

"(viii) an assessment on the technical limiting factors of the ISS lifetime, including a list of critical components and their expected lifetime and availability;

"(ix) an evaluation of the potential for expanding the use of ISS facilities to accommodate the needs of researchers and other users, including changes to policies, regulations, and laws that would stimulate greater private and public involvement on the ISS; and

"(x) such other information as may be necessary to fully describe the justification for and feasibility of extending the service life of the ISS, including the potential scientific or technological benefits to the Federal Government, public, or to academic or commercial entities;

"(F) an evaluation of the functions, roles, and responsibilities for management and operation of the ISS and a determination of—

"(i) those functions, roles, and responsibilities the Federal Government should retain during the lifecycle of the ISS;

"(ii) those functions, roles, and responsibilities that could be transferred to the commercial space sector;

"(iii) the metrics that would indicate the commercial space sector's readiness and ability to assume the functions, roles, and responsibilities described in clause (ii); and

"(iv) any necessary changes to any agreements or other documents and the law to enable the activities described in subparagraphs (B) and (C); and

"(G) a description of the progress on meeting human exploration research objectives on ISS and prospects for accomplishing future exploration and other research objectives on future commercially supplied low-Earth orbit platforms or migration of those objectives to cis-lunar space.

"(3) DEMONSTRATIONS.—Demonstrations identified under paragraph (2) may—

"(A) test the capabilities described in paragraph (2)(A); and

"(B) demonstrate or test capabilities, including commercial modules or deep space habitats, Environmental Control and Life Support Systems, orbital satellite assembly, exploration space suits, a node that enables a wide variety of activity, including multiple commercial modules and airlocks, additional docking or berthing ports for commercial crew and cargo, opportunities for the commercial space sector to cost share for transportation and other services on the ISS, and other commercial activities."

SEC. 304. INDEMNIFICATION; NASA LAUNCH SERVICES AND REENTRY SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

§20148. Indemnification; NASA launch services and reentry services

“(a) *IN GENERAL*.—Under such regulations in conformity with this section as the Administrator shall prescribe taking into account the availability, cost, and terms of liability insurance, any contract between the Administration and a provider may provide that the United States will indemnify the provider against successful claims (including reasonable expenses of litigation or settlement) by third parties for death, bodily injury, or loss of or damage to property resulting from launch services and reentry services carried out under the contract that the contract defines as unusually hazardous or nuclear in nature, but only to the extent the total amount of successful claims related to the activities under the contract—

“(1) is more than the amount of insurance or demonstration of financial responsibility described in subsection (c)(3); and

“(2) is not more than the amount specified in section 50915(a)(1)(B).

“(b) *TERMS OF INDEMNIFICATION*.—A contract made under subsection (a) that provides indemnification shall provide for—

“(1) notice to the United States of any claim or suit against the provider for death, bodily injury, or loss of or damage to property; and

“(2) control of or assistance in the defense by the United States, at its election, of that claim or suit and approval of any settlement.

“(c) *LIABILITY INSURANCE OF THE PROVIDER*.—

“(1) *IN GENERAL*.—The provider under subsection (a) shall obtain liability insurance or demonstrate financial responsibility in amounts to compensate for the maximum probable loss from claims by—

“(A) a third party for death, bodily injury, or property damage or loss resulting from a launch service or reentry service carried out under the contract; and

“(B) the United States Government for damage or loss to Government property resulting from a launch service or reentry service carried out under the contract.

“(2) *MAXIMUM PROBABLE LOSSES*.—

“(A) *IN GENERAL*.—The Administrator shall determine the maximum probable losses under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) not later than 90 days after the date that the provider requests such a determination and submits all information the Administrator requires.

“(B) *REVISIONS*.—The Administrator may revise a determination under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph if the Administrator determines the revision is warranted based on new information.

“(3) *AMOUNT OF INSURANCE*.—For the total claims related to one launch or reentry, a provider shall not be required to obtain insurance or demonstrate financial responsibility of more than—

“(A)(i) \$500,000,000 under paragraph (1)(A); or

“(ii) \$100,000,000 under paragraph (1)(B); or

“(B) the maximum liability insurance available on the world market at reasonable cost.

“(4) *COVERAGE*.—An insurance policy or demonstration of financial responsibility under this subsection shall protect the following, to the extent of their potential liability for involvement in launch services or reentry services:

“(A) The Government.

“(B) Personnel of the Government.

“(C) Related entities of the Government.

“(D) Related entities of the provider.

“(E) Government astronauts.

“(d) *NO INDEMNIFICATION WITHOUT CROSS-WAIVER*.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Administrator shall not indemnify a provider under this section unless there is a cross-waiver between the Administration and the provider as described in subsection (e).

“(e) *CROSS-WAIVERS*.—

“(1) *IN GENERAL*.—The Administrator, on behalf of the United States and its departments, agencies, and instrumentalities, shall reciprocally waive claims with a provider under which each party to the waiver agrees to be responsible, and agrees to ensure that its related entities are responsible, for damage or loss to its property, or for losses resulting from any injury or death sustained by its employees or agents, as a result of activities arising out of the performance of the contract.

“(2) *LIMITATION*.—The waiver made by the Government under paragraph (1) shall apply only to the extent that the claims are more than the amount of insurance or demonstration of financial responsibility required under subsection (c)(1)(B).

“(f) *WILLFUL MISCONDUCT*.—Indemnification under subsection (a) may exclude claims resulting from the willful misconduct of the provider or its related entities.

“(g) *CERTIFICATION OF JUST AND REASONABLE AMOUNT*.—No payment may be made under subsection (a) unless the Administrator or the Administrator’s designee certifies that the amount is just and reasonable.

“(h) *PAYMENTS*.—

“(1) *IN GENERAL*.—Upon the approval by the Administrator, payments under subsection (a) may be made from funds appropriated for such payments.

“(2) *LIMITATION*.—The Administrator shall not approve payments under paragraph (1), except to the extent provided in an appropriation law or to the extent additional legislative authority is enacted providing for such payments.

“(3) *ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS*.—If the Administrator requests additional appropriations to make payments under this subsection, then the request for those appropriations shall be made in accordance with the procedures established under section 50915.

“(i) *RULES OF CONSTRUCTION*.—

“(1) *IN GENERAL*.—The authority to indemnify under this section shall not create any rights in third persons that would not otherwise exist by law.

“(2) *OTHER AUTHORITY*.—Nothing in this section may be construed as prohibiting the Administrator from indemnifying a provider or any other NASA contractor under other law, including under Public Law 85-804 (50 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.).

“(3) *ANTI-DEFICIENCY ACT*.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section—

“(A) all obligations under this section are subject to the availability of funds; and

“(B) nothing in this section may be construed to require obligation or payment of funds in violation of sections 1341, 1342, 1349 through 1351, and 1511 through 1519 of title 31, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ‘Anti-Deficiency Act’).

“(j) *RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS*.—The Administrator may not provide indemnification under this section for an activity that requires a license or permit under chapter 509.

“(k) *DEFINITIONS*.—In this section:

“(1) *GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUT*.—The term ‘government astronaut’ has the meaning given the term in section 50902.

“(2) *LAUNCH SERVICES*.—The term ‘launch services’ has the meaning given the term in section 50902.

“(3) *PROVIDER*.—The term ‘provider’ means a person that provides domestic launch services or domestic reentry services to the Government.

“(4) *REENTRY SERVICES*.—The term ‘reentry services’ has the meaning given the term in section 50902.

“(5) *RELATED ENTITY*.—The term ‘related entity’ means a contractor or subcontractor.

“(6) *THIRD PARTY*.—The term ‘third party’ means a person except—

“(A) the United States Government;

“(B) related entities of the Government involved in launch services or reentry services;

“(C) a provider;

“(D) related entities of the provider involved in launch services or reentry services; or

“(E) a government astronaut.”

(b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT*.—The table of contents for subchapter III of chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 20147 the following:

“20148. Indemnification; NASA launch services and reentry services.”

TITLE IV—ADVANCING HUMAN DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION

Subtitle A—Human Exploration Goals and Objectives

SEC. 411. HUMAN EXPLORATION LONG-TERM GOALS.

Section 202(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18312(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) *LONG-TERM GOALS*.—The long-term goals of the human space flight and exploration efforts of NASA shall be—

“(1) to expand permanent human presence beyond low-Earth orbit and to do so, where practical, in a manner involving international, academic, and industry partners; and

“(2) the peaceful settlement of a location in space or on another celestial body and a thriving space economy in the 21st century.”

SEC. 412. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.

Section 202(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18312(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) to achieve human exploration of Mars, including the establishment of a capability to extend human presence, including potential human habitation, on the surface of Mars.”

SEC. 413. VISION FOR SPACE EXPLORATION.

Section 20302 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “in cis-lunar space or” after “sustained human presence”; and

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) *FUTURE EXPLORATION OF MARS*.—The Administrator shall manage human space flight programs, including the Space Launch System and Orion, to enable humans to explore Mars and other destinations by defining a series of sustainable steps and conducting mission planning, research, and technology development on a timetable that is technically and fiscally possible, consistent with section 70504.”

SEC. 414. EXPLORATION PLAN AND PROGRAMS.

Section 70502(2) of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(2) implement an exploration research and technology development program to enable human and robotic operations consistent with section 20302(b) of this title;”

SEC. 415. STEPPING STONE APPROACH TO EXPLORATION.

Section 70504 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§70504. *Stepping stone approach to exploration*

“(a) *IN GENERAL*.—In order to maximize the cost-effectiveness of the long-term exploration and utilization activities of the United States, the Administrator shall take all necessary steps, including engaging international, academic,

and industry partners, to ensure that activities in the Administration's human exploration program balance how those activities might also help meet the requirements of future exploration and utilization activities leading to human habitation on the surface of Mars.

“(b) **COMPLETION.**—Within budgetary considerations, once an exploration-related project enters its development phase, the Administrator shall seek, to the maximum extent practicable, to complete that project without undue delays.”

Subtitle B—Assuring Core Capabilities for Exploration

SEC. 421. SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM AND ORION.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) NASA has made steady progress in developing and testing the Space Launch System and Orion exploration systems with the successful Exploration Flight Test of Orion in December of 2014, the final qualification test firing of the 5-segment Space Launch System boosters in June 2016, and a full thrust, full duration test firing of the RS-25 Space Launch System core stage engine in August 2016.

(2) Through the 21st Century Launch Complex program and Exploration Ground Systems programs, NASA has made significant progress in transforming exploration ground systems infrastructure to meet NASA's mission requirements for the Space Launch System and Orion and to modernize NASA's launch complexes to the benefit of the civil, defense, and commercial space sectors.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM, ORION, AND EXPLORATION GROUND SYSTEMS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) as the United States works to send humans on a series of missions on or near Mars in the 2030s, the United States national space program should continue to make progress on its commitment by fully developing the Space Launch System, Orion, and related Exploration Ground Systems;

(2) using the Space Launch System and Orion for a wide range of contemplated missions will facilitate the national defense, science, and exploration objectives of the United States; and

(3) the United States should have continuity of purpose for Space Launch System and Orion in deep space exploration missions, using them beginning with the uncrewed mission, EM-1, planned for 2018, followed by the crewed mission, EM-2, in cis-lunar space planned for 2021, and for subsequent missions beginning with EM-3 extending into cis-lunar space and eventually to Mars.

(c) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **EXPLORATION MISSIONS.**—The Administrator shall continue development of—

(A) an uncrewed exploration mission to demonstrate the capability of both the Space Launch System and Orion as an integrated system by 2018;

(B) a crewed exploration mission to demonstrate the Space Launch System, including the Core Stage and Exploration Upper Stages, and the crewed Orion mission by 2021;

(C) subsequent missions beginning with EM-3 using the Space Launch System and Orion to extend into cis-lunar space and eventually to Mars; and

(D) a deep space habitat as the next element in a deep space exploration architecture along with the Space Launch System and Orion.

(2) **OTHER USES.**—The Administrator shall assess the utility of the Space Launch System for use by the science community and for other Federal Government launch needs, including consideration of overall cost and schedule savings from reduced transit times and increased science returns enabled by the unique capabilities of the Space Launch System.

Subtitle C—Journey to Mars

SEC. 431. SPACE TECHNOLOGY INFUSION.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that advancing propulsion technology would improve the efficiency of trips to Mars and could shorten travel time to Mars, reduce astronaut health risks, and reduce radiation exposure, consumables, and mass of materials required for the journey.

(b) **POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States that the Administrator shall develop technologies to support the Administration's core missions, as described in section 2(3) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18301(3)), and support sustained investments in early stage innovation, fundamental research, and technologies to expand the boundaries of the national aerospace enterprise.

(c) **PROPULSION TECHNOLOGIES.**—A goal of propulsion technologies developed under subsection (b) shall be to significantly reduce human travel time to Mars.

SEC. 432. FINDINGS ON HUMAN SPACE EXPLORATION.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In accordance with section 204 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (124 Stat. 2813), the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, through its Committee on Human Spaceflight, conducted a review of the goals, core capabilities, and direction of human space flight, and published the findings and recommendations in a 2014 report entitled, “Pathways to Exploration: Rationales and Approaches for a U.S. Program of Human Space Exploration”.

(2) The Committee on Human Spaceflight included leaders from the aerospace, scientific, security, and policy communities.

(3) With input from the public, the Committee on Human Spaceflight concluded that many practical and aspirational rationales for human space flight together constitute a compelling case for continued national investment and pursuit of human space exploration toward the horizon goal of Mars.

(4) According to the Committee on Human Spaceflight, the rationales include economic benefits, national security, national prestige, inspiring students and other citizens, scientific discovery, human survival, and a sense of shared destiny.

(5) The Committee on Human Spaceflight affirmed that Mars is the appropriate long-term goal for the human space flight program.

(6) The Committee on Human Spaceflight recommended that NASA define a series of sustainable steps and conduct mission planning and technology development as needed to achieve the long-term goal of placing humans on the surface of Mars.

(7) Expanding human presence beyond low-Earth orbit and advancing toward human missions to Mars requires early planning and timely decisions to be made in the near-term on the necessary courses of action for commitments to achieve short-term and long-term goals and objectives.

(8) In addition to the 2014 report described in paragraph (1), there are several independently developed reports or concepts that describe potential Mars architectures or concepts and identify Mars as the long-term goal for human space exploration, including NASA's “The Global Exploration Roadmap” of 2013, “NASA's Journey to Mars—Pioneering Next Steps in Space Exploration” of 2015, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory's “Minimal Architecture for Human Journeys to Mars” of 2015, and Explore Mars' “The Humans to Mars Report 2016”.

SEC. 433. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT AND EXPLORATION.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) expanding human presence beyond low-Earth orbit and advancing toward human missions to Mars in the 2030s requires early planning and timely decisions to be made in the near-term on the necessary courses of action for commitments to achieve short-term and long-term goals and objectives;

(2) for strong and sustained United States leadership, a need exists to advance a strategic framework, addressing exploration objectives in collaboration with international, academic, and industry partners;

(3) an approach that incrementally advances toward a long-term goal is one in which nearer-term developments and implementation would influence future development and implementation; and

(4) a strategic framework should begin with low-Earth orbit, then address progress beyond low-Earth orbit to cis-lunar space in greater detail, and then address future missions ultimately aimed at human arrival and activities on or near Mars.

(b) **STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall develop a strategic framework, including a critical decision plan, to expand human presence beyond low-Earth orbit, including to cis-lunar space, the moons of Mars, the surface of Mars, and beyond.

(2) **SCOPE.**—The strategic framework shall include—

(A) an integrated set of exploration, science, and other goals and objectives of a United States human space exploration program with the long-term goal of human missions near to or on the surface of Mars in the 2030s;

(B) opportunities for international, academic, and industry partnerships for exploration-related systems, services, research, and technology if those opportunities provide cost-savings, accelerate program schedules, or otherwise benefit the exploration objectives developed under subparagraph (A);

(C) precursor missions in cis-lunar space and other missions or activities necessary to meet the exploration objectives developed under subparagraph (A), including anticipated timelines and missions for the Space Launch System and Orion;

(D) capabilities and technologies, including the Space Launch System, Orion, a deep space habitat, and other capabilities, that enable the exploration objectives developed under subparagraph (A);

(E) a description of how cis-lunar elements, objectives, and activities advance the human exploration of Mars;

(F) an assessment of potential human health and other risks, including radiation exposure; and

(G) mitigation plans, whenever possible, to address the risks identified in subparagraph (F).

(3) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In developing the strategic framework, the Administrator shall consider—

(A) using key exploration capabilities, namely the Space Launch System and Orion;

(B) using existing commercially available technologies and capabilities or those technologies and capabilities being developed by industry for commercial purposes;

(C) an organizational approach to ensure collaboration and coordination among NASA's Mission Directorates under section 621, when appropriate, including to collect and return to Earth a sample from the Martian surface;

(D) building upon the initial uncrewed mission, EM-1, and first crewed mission, EM-2, of the Space Launch System and Orion to establish a sustainable cadence of missions extending

human exploration missions into cis-lunar space, including anticipated timelines and milestones;

(E) developing the precursor missions and activities that will demonstrate, test, and develop key technologies and capabilities essential for achieving human missions to Mars, including long-duration human operations beyond low-Earth orbit, space suits, solar electric propulsion, deep space habitats, environmental control life support systems, Mars lander and ascent vehicle, entry, descent, landing, ascent, Mars surface systems, and in-situ resource utilization;

(F) demonstrating and testing 1 or more habitat modules in cis-lunar space to prepare for Mars missions;

(G) using public-private, firm fixed-price partnerships, where practicable;

(H) collaborating with international, academic, and industry partners, when appropriate;

(I) risks to human health and sensitive on-board technologies, including radiation exposure;

(J) evaluating the risks identified through research outcomes under the NASA Human Research Program's Behavioral Health Element; and

(K) the recommendations and ideas of several independently developed reports or concepts that describe potential Mars architectures or concepts and identify Mars as the long-term goal for human space exploration, including the reports described under section 432(8).

(4) **CRITICAL DECISION PLAN ON HUMAN SPACE EXPLORATION.**—As part of the strategic framework, the Administrator shall include a critical decision plan—

(A) identifying and defining key decisions guiding human space exploration priorities and plans that need to be made before June 30, 2020, including decisions that may guide human space exploration capability development, precursor missions, long-term missions, and activities;

(B) defining decisions needed to maximize efficiencies and resources for reaching the near, intermediate, and long-term goals and objectives of human space exploration; and

(C) identifying and defining timelines and milestones for a sustainable cadence of missions beginning with EM-3 for the Space Launch System and Orion to extend human exploration from cis-lunar space to the surface of Mars.

(5) **REPORTS.**—The Administrator shall submit an initial strategic framework, including a critical decision plan, to the appropriate committees of Congress before December 1, 2017, and an updated strategic framework biennially thereafter.

SEC. 434. ADVANCED SPACE SUIT CAPABILITY.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a detailed plan for achieving an advanced space suit capability that aligns with the crew needs for exploration enabled by the Space Launch System and Orion, including an evaluation of the merit of delivering the planned suit system for use on the ISS.

SEC. 435. ASTEROID ROBOTIC REDIRECT MISSION.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) NASA initially estimated that the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission would launch in December 2020 and cost no more than \$1,250,000,000, excluding launch and operations.

(2) On July 15, 2016, NASA conducted its Key Decision Point-B review of the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission or approval for Phase B in mission formulation.

(3) During the Key Decision Point-B review, NASA estimated that costs have grown to \$1,400,000,000 excluding launch and operations for a launch in December 2021 and the agency

must evaluate whether to accept the increase or reduce the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission's scope to stay within the cost cap set by the Administrator.

(4) In April 2015, the NASA Advisory Council—

(A) issued a finding that—

(i) high-performance solar electric propulsion will likely be an important part of an architecture to send humans to Mars; and

(ii) maneuvering a large test mass is not necessary to provide a valid in-space test of a new solar electric propulsion stage;

(B) determined that a solar electric propulsion mission will contribute more directly to the goal of sending humans to Mars if the mission is focused entirely on development and validation of the solar electric propulsion stage; and

(C) determined that other possible motivations for acquiring and maneuvering a boulder, such as asteroid science and planetary defense, do not have value commensurate with their probable cost.

(5) The Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission is competing for resources with other critical exploration development programs, including the Space Launch System, Orion, commercial crew, and a habitation module.

(6) In 2014, the NASA Advisory Council recommended that NASA conduct an independent cost and technical assessment of the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission.

(7) NASA completed the assessment under paragraph (6) and reviewed it as part of the agency's Key Decision Point-B review.

(8) In 2015, the NASA Advisory Council recommended that NASA preserve the following key objectives if the program needed to be descoped:

(A) Development of high power solar electric propulsion.

(B) Ability to maneuver in a low gravity environment in deep space.

(9) In January 2015 and July 2015, the NASA Advisory Council expressed its concern to NASA about the potential for growing costs for the program and highlighted that choices would need to be made about the program's content.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the technological and scientific goals of the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission may not be commensurate with the cost; and

(2) alternative missions may provide a more cost effective and scientifically beneficial means to demonstrate the technologies needed for a human mission to Mars that would otherwise be demonstrated by the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission.

(c) **EVALUATION AND REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

(1) conduct an evaluation of—

(A) alternative approaches to the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission for demonstrating the technologies and capabilities needed for a human mission to Mars that would otherwise be demonstrated by the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission;

(B) the scientific and technical benefits of the alternatives approaches identified in subparagraph (A) compared to the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission to future human exploration;

(C) the commercial benefits of the alternative approaches identified in subparagraph (A), including the impact on the development of domestic solar electric propulsion technology to bolster United States competitiveness in the global marketplace; and

(D) a comparison of the estimated costs of the alternative approaches identified in subparagraph (A); and

(2) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the evaluation under paragraph (1), including any recommendations.

Subtitle D—Scott Kelly Human Spaceflight and Exploration Act

SEC. 441. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Scott Kelly Human Spaceflight and Exploration Act”.

SEC. 442. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Human space exploration can pose significant challenges and is full of substantial risk, which has ultimately claimed the lives of 24 National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronauts serving in the line of duty.

(2) As United States government astronauts participate in long-duration and exploration spaceflight missions they may experience increased health risks, such as vision impairment, bone demineralization, and behavioral health and performance risks, and may be exposed to galactic cosmic radiation. Exposure to high levels of radiation and microgravity can result in acute and long-term health consequences that can increase the risk of cancer and tissue degeneration and have potential effects on the musculoskeletal system, central nervous system, cardiovascular system, immune function, and vision.

(3) To advance the goal of long-duration and exploration spaceflight missions, United States government astronaut Scott Kelly participated in a 1-year twins study in space while his identical twin brother, former United States government astronaut Mark Kelly, acted as a human control specimen on Earth, providing an understanding of the physical, behavioral, microbiological, and molecular reaction of the human body to an extended period of time in space.

(4) Since the Administration currently provides medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment for United States government astronauts during their active employment, given the unknown long-term health consequences of long-duration space exploration, the Administration has requested statutory authority from Congress to provide medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment to former United States government astronauts for psychological and medical conditions associated with human space flight.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to seek the unknown and lead the world in space exploration and scientific discovery as the Administration prepares for long-duration and exploration spaceflight in deep space and an eventual mission to Mars;

(2) data relating to the health of astronauts will become increasingly valuable to improving our understanding of many diseases humans face on Earth;

(3) the Administration should provide the type of monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment described in subsection (a) only for conditions the Administration considers unique to the training or exposure to the spaceflight environment of United States government astronauts and should not require any former United States Government astronauts to participate in the Administration's monitoring;

(4) such monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment should not replace a former United States government astronaut's private health insurance;

(5) expanded data acquired from such monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment should be used to tailor treatment, inform the requirements for new spaceflight medical hardware, and develop controls in order to prevent disease occurrence in the astronaut corps;

(6) the Administration's existing radiation exposure standards, which have been used for missions pertaining to the Space Shuttle and the ISS, would limit missions to durations of 150 to 250 days and would pose significant challenges to long-duration or exploration spaceflight or a multiyear mission to Mars; and

(7) the 340-day space mission of Scott Kelly aboard the ISS—

(A) was pivotal for the goal of the United States for humans to explore deep space and Mars as the mission generated new insight into how the human body adjusts to weightlessness, isolation, radiation, and the stress of long-duration space flight; and

(B) will help support the physical and mental well-being of astronauts during longer space exploration missions in the future.

SEC. 443. MEDICAL MONITORING AND RESEARCH RELATING TO HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subchapter III of chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code, as amended by section 304 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“§20149. Medical monitoring and research relating to human space flight

“(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may provide for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of a United States government astronaut, or a former United States government astronaut or payload specialist, for conditions that the Administrator considers associated with human space flight, including scientific and medical tests for psychological and medical conditions.

“(b) *EXCLUSIONS.*—The Administrator may not—

“(1) provide for medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment of a United States government astronaut, or a former United States government astronaut or payload specialist, under subsection (a) for any psychological or medical condition that is not associated with human space flight; or

“(2) require a former United States government astronaut or payload specialist to participate in the monitoring authorized under subsection (a).

“(c) *PRIVACY.*—Consistent with applicable provisions of law relating to privacy, the Administrator shall protect the privacy of all medical records generated under subsection (a) and accessible to the Administration.

“(d) *REGULATIONS.*—The Administrator shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.”.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code, as amended by section 304 of this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 20148 the following:

“20149. Medical monitoring and research relating to human space flight.”.

TITLE V—ADVANCING SPACE SCIENCE

SEC. 501. MAINTAINING A BALANCED SPACE SCIENCE PORTFOLIO.

(a) *SCIENCE PORTFOLIO.*—Section 803 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–267; 124 Stat. 2832) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 803. OVERALL SCIENCE PORTFOLIO.

“Congress restates its sense that—

“(1) a balanced and adequately funded set of activities, consisting of research and analysis grant programs, technology development, suborbital research activities, and small, medium, and large space missions, contributes to a robust and productive science program and serves as a catalyst for innovation and discovery; and

“(2) the Administrator should set science priorities by following the guidance provided by the scientific community through the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s decadal surveys.”.

(b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—The item relating to section 803 in the table of contents in section 1(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010

(Public Law 111–267; 124 Stat. 2806) is amended by striking “Overall science portfolio-sense of the Congress” and inserting “Overall science portfolio”.

SEC. 502. PLANETARY SCIENCE.

(a) *FINDINGS.*—Congress finds that—

(1) Administration support for planetary science is critical to enabling greater understanding of the solar system and the origin of the Earth;

(2) the United States leads the world in planetary science and can augment its success in that area with appropriate international, academic, and industry partnerships;

(3) a mix of small, medium, and large planetary science missions is required to sustain a steady cadence of planetary exploration; and

(4) robotic planetary exploration is a key component of preparing for future human exploration.

(b) *MISSION PRIORITIES.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—In accordance with the priorities established in the most recent decadal survey for planetary science, the Administrator shall ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, the completion of a balanced set of Discovery, New Frontiers, and flagship missions.

(2) *MISSION PRIORITY ADJUSTMENTS.*—Consistent with the set of missions described in paragraph (1), and while maintaining the continuity of scientific data and steady development of capabilities and technologies, the Administrator may seek, if necessary, adjustments to mission priorities, schedule, and scope in light of changing budget projections.

SEC. 503. JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the James Webb Space Telescope should significantly advance our understanding of star and planet formation, improve our knowledge of the early universe, and support United States leadership in astrophysics; and

(2) consistent with annual Government Accountability Office reviews of the James Webb Space Telescope program, the Administrator should continue robust surveillance of the performance of the James Webb Space Telescope project and continue to improve the reliability of cost estimates and contractor performance data and other major spaceflight projects in order to enhance NASA’s ability to successfully deliver the James Webb Space Telescope on-time and within budget.

SEC. 504. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON WIDE-FIELD INFRARED SURVEY TELESCOPE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope (commonly known as “WFIRST”) mission has the potential to enable scientific discoveries that will transform our understanding of the universe; and

(2) the Administrator, to the extent practicable, should make progress on the technologies and capabilities needed to position the Administration to meet the objectives, as outlined in the 2010 National Academies’ Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey, in a way that maximizes the scientific productivity of meeting those objectives for the resources invested.

SEC. 505. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON MARS 2020 ROVER.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Mars 2020 mission, to develop a Mars rover and to enable the return of samples to Earth, should remain a priority for NASA; and

(2) the Mars 2020 mission—

(A) should significantly increase our understanding of Mars;

(B) should help determine whether life previously existed on that planet; and

(C) should provide opportunities to gather knowledge and demonstrate technologies that address the challenges of future human expeditions to Mars.

SEC. 506. EUROPA.

(a) *FINDINGS.*—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Studies of Europa, Jupiter’s moon, indicate that Europa may provide a habitable environment, as it contains key ingredients known to support life on Earth, including liquid water, heat, chemistry, and time.

(2) In 2012, using the Hubble Space Telescope, NASA scientists observed water vapor around the south polar region of Europa, which provides potential evidence of water plumes in that region.

(3) For decades, the Europa mission has consistently ranked as a high priority mission for the scientific community.

(4) The Europa mission was ranked as the top priority mission in the previous Planetary Science Decadal Survey and ranked as the second-highest priority in the current Planetary Science Decadal Survey.

(b) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Europa mission could provide another avenue in which to capitalize on our Nation’s current investment in the Space Launch System that would significantly reduce the transit time for such a deep space mission; and

(2) a scientific, robotic exploration mission to Europa, as prioritized in both Planetary Science Decadal Surveys, should be supported.

TITLE VI—MAXIMIZING EFFICIENCY

Subtitle A—Agency Information Technology and Cybersecurity

SEC. 611. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE.

The Administrator, in consultation with the chief information officer of NASA, shall—

(1) ensure the NASA Chief Information Officer has a significant role in the management, governance, and oversight processes related to information technology operations and investments and information security programs for the protection of NASA systems;

(2) establish the NASA Chief Information Officer as a direct report to the Administrator;

(3) ensure the NASA Chief Information Officer has the appropriate resources and insight to oversee NASA information technology and information security operations and investments;

(4) provide an information technology program management framework to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of information technology investments, including relying on metrics for identifying and reducing potential duplication, waste, and cost;

(5) establish a monetary threshold for all agency information technology investments and related contracts, including non-highly and highly specialized and specialized information technology, regardless of the procurement instrument, over which the NASA Chief Information Officer shall have final approval;

(6) improve the operational linkage between the NASA Chief Information Officer and each NASA mission directorate, center, and mission support office to ensure both agency and mission needs are considered in agency-wide information technology and information security management and oversight;

(7) review the portfolio of information technology investments and spending, including information technology-related investments included as part of activities within NASA mission directorates that may not be considered information technology, to ensure investments are recognized and reported appropriately based on guidance from the Office of Management and Budget;

(8) consider appropriate revisions to the charters of information technology boards and councils that inform information technology investment and operation decisions; and

(9) consider whether the NASA Chief Information Officer should have a seat on any boards or councils described in paragraph (8).

SEC. 612. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to subsection (b), the NASA Chief Information Officer, in consultation with the chief information officer of each Administration center, shall develop an information technology strategic plan to guide NASA information technology management and strategic objectives.

(b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—In developing the strategic plan, the NASA Chief Information Officer shall ensure that the strategic plan is consistent with—

(1) the deadline under section 306(a) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) the requirements under section 3506 of title 44, United States Code.

(c) *CONTENTS.*—The strategic plan shall include—

(1) near and long-term goals and objectives for leveraging information technology;

(2) a plan for how the NASA Chief Information Officer will submit to Congress of a list of information technology projects, including completion dates and risk level in accordance with guidance from the Office of Management and Budget;

(3) an implementation overview for an agency-wide centralized approach to information technology investments and operations, including reducing barriers to cross-center collaboration;

(4) coordination by the NASA Chief Information Officer with centers and mission directorates to ensure that information technology policies are effectively and efficiently implemented across the agency;

(5) a plan to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of information technology investments, including a description of how unnecessarily duplicative, wasteful, legacy, or outdated information technology across NASA will be identified and eliminated, and a schedule for the identification and elimination of such information technology;

(6) a plan for improving the information security of agency information and agency information systems, including improving security control assessments and role-based security training of employees; and

(7) submission by the NASA Chief Information Officer to Congress of information regarding high risk projects and cybersecurity risks.

(d) *CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.*—The NASA Chief Information Officer shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the strategic plan under subsection (a) and any updates thereto.

SEC. 613. CYBERSECURITY.

(a) *FINDING.*—The security of NASA information and information systems is vital to the success of the mission of the agency.

(b) *INFORMATION SECURITY PLAN.*—Section 1207 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18445) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (c) as subsections (b) through (d), respectively;

(2) by inserting before subsection (b), as redesignated, the following:

“(a) **AGENCY-WIDE INFORMATION SECURITY PLAN.**—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2016, the Administrator shall implement the information security plan developed under paragraph (2) and take such further actions as the Administrator considers necessary to improve the information security system in accordance with this section.

“(2) *INFORMATION SECURITY PLAN.*—Subject to paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), the chief information officer of NASA, shall develop an agency-wide information security plan to enhance in-

formation security for NASA information and information infrastructure.

“(3) *REQUIREMENTS.*—In developing the plan under paragraph (2), the chief information officer shall ensure that the plan—

“(A) is consistent with policies, standards, guidelines, and directives on information security under subchapter II of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code;

“(B) is consistent with the standards and guidelines under section 11331 of title 40, United States Code; and

“(C) meets applicable National Institute of Standards and Technology information security standards and guidelines.

“(4) *APPROVAL.*—The chief information officer shall submit the plan to the Administrator for approval prior to its implementation.

“(5) *CONTENTS.*—The plan shall include—

“(A) an overview of the requirements of the information security system;

“(B) an agency-wide risk management framework for information security;

“(C) a description of the information security system management controls and common controls that are necessary to ensure compliance with information security-related requirements;

“(D) an identification and assignment of roles, responsibilities, and management commitment for information security at the agency;

“(E) coordination among organizational entities, including between each center, facility, mission directorate, and mission support office, and among agency entities responsible for different aspects of information security;

“(F) heightened consideration of the need to protect the information security of mission-critical systems and activities and high-impact and moderate-impact information systems; and

“(G) a schedule of frequent reviews and updates, as necessary, of the plan.”; and

(3) in subsection (b), as redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) an update on the agency’s efforts to apply additional information security protections to secure high-impact and moderate-impact information systems and mission-critical systems and activities, including those systems that control spacecraft and maintain critical data sources.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “section 3545” and inserting “section 3555”.

SEC. 614. OVERSIGHT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and periodically thereafter until the information security plan under section 1207 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18445), as amended, is developed and implemented agency-wide, the Administrator shall provide to the appropriate committees of Congress an update on the progress made toward implementation of or response to—

(1) the information security plan under that section; and

(2) the information security-related recommendations made by the NASA Inspector General and the Comptroller General in the 5 years preceding the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 615. SOFTWARE OVERSIGHT.

The Administrator shall—

(1) develop a strategic plan to transition NASA from legacy software by adopting a service-based acquisition model in line with industry best practices;

(2) develop and implement an agency-wide software license management policy to improve

centralization, lifecycle management, and procurement education, including education on contract negotiations, relevant laws and regulations, and agency-wide contract terms and conditions; and

(3) direct an agency-wide inventory of NASA’s total software licenses and spending, including costs, benefits, usage, and trending data.

SEC. 616. SECURITY MANAGEMENT OF FOREIGN NATIONAL ACCESS.

The Administrator shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress when the agency has implemented the information technology security recommendations from the National Academy of Public Administration on foreign national access management, based on reports from January 2014 and March 2016.

SEC. 617. CYBERSECURITY OF WEB APPLICATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the NASA Chief Information Officer shall—

(1) develop a plan, including such actions and milestones as are necessary, to fully remediate security vulnerabilities of NASA web applications within a timely fashion after discovery; and

(2) implement the recommendation from the NASA Inspector General in the audit report dated July 10, 2014, (IG-14-023) to remove from the Internet or secure with a web application firewall all NASA web applications in development or testing mode.

Subtitle B—Collaboration Among Mission Directorates and Other Matters**SEC. 621. COLLABORATION AMONG MISSION DIRECTORATES.**

The Administrator shall encourage an interdisciplinary approach among all NASA mission directorates and divisions, whenever appropriate, for projects or missions—

(1) to improve coordination, and encourage collaboration and early planning on scope;

(2) to determine areas of overlap or alignment;

(3) to find ways to leverage across divisional perspectives to maximize outcomes; and

(4) to be more efficient with resources and funds.

SEC. 622. NASA LAUNCH CAPABILITIES COLLABORATION.

(a) *FINDINGS.*—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Launch Services Program is responsible for the acquisition, management, and technical oversight of commercial launch services for NASA’s science and robotic missions.

(2) The Commercial Crew Program is responsible for the acquisition, management, and technical oversight of commercial crew transportation systems.

(3) The Launch Services Program and Commercial Crew Program have worked together to gain exceptional technical insight into the contracted launch service providers that are common to both programs.

(4) The Launch Services Program has a long history of oversight of 12 different launch vehicles and over 80 launches.

(5) Co-location of the Launch Services Program and Commercial Crew Program has enabled the Commercial Crew Program to efficiently obtain the launch vehicle technical expertise of and provide engineering and analytical support to the Commercial Crew Program.

(b) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Launch Services Program and Commercial Crew Program each benefit from communication and coordination of launch manifests, technical information, and common launch vehicle insight between the programs; and

(2) such communication and coordination is enabled by the co-location of the programs.

(c) *IN GENERAL.*—The Administrator shall pursue a strategy for acquisition of crewed

transportation services and non-crewed launch services that continues to enhance communication, collaboration, and coordination between the Launch Services Program and the Commercial Crew Program.

SEC. 623. COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH COOPERATION.

(a) **FINDING.**—Congress recognized the benefit of commercial space launch cooperation between the Federal Government and the private sector when it granted the Secretary of Defense authority to foster cooperation between the Department of Defense and certain covered entities relating to space transportation infrastructure under section 2276 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Administrator should take into account the unique needs and obligations that multi-user, public State spaceports may have with the State government as well as current and prospective contractual arrangements with commercial and government customers when developing and carrying out agreements under section 50507 of title 51, United States Code, with State spaceports operating on NASA facilities; and

(2) the authority granted under section 50507 of title 51, United States Code, is not intended to supersede or conflict with the congressional intent and purposes codified in chapter 509 of that title, the responsibilities of the Secretary of Transportation under section 50913 of that title, or with the intent of section 50504 of that title.

(c) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 505 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§50507. Commercial launch cooperation

“(a) AUTHORITY FOR AGREEMENTS RELATING TO SPACE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.—The Administrator—

“(1) may enter into an agreement with a covered entity to provide the covered entity with support and services related to the space transportation infrastructure of the Administration—

“(A) to maximize the use of the space transportation infrastructure of the Administration by the private sector in the United States;

“(B) to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the space transportation infrastructure of the Administration;

“(C) to reduce the cost of services provided by the Administration related to space transportation infrastructure at launch support facilities and space recovery support facilities; and

“(D) to encourage commercial space activities by enabling investment by covered entities in the space transportation infrastructure of the Administration; and

“(2) at the request of the covered entity, may include that support and services in the contracted space launch and reentry range support requirements of the Administration if—

“(A) the Administrator determines that including that support and services in the requirements—

“(i) is in the best interest of the Federal Government;

“(ii) does not interfere with the requirements of the Administration;

“(iii) does not compete with the commercial space activities of other covered entities; and

“(iv) does not result in the Administration retaining ownership of assets which are no longer needed to meet a programmatic mission of the Administration; and

“(B) any commercial requirement included in the agreement has full non-Federal funding before the execution of the agreement.

“(b) CONTRIBUTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may enter into an agreement with a covered entity on a cooperative and voluntary basis to accept funds, services, and equipment to carry out the purposes in subsection (a)(1).

“(2) USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS.—Any funds, services, or equipment accepted by the Administrator under this subsection—

“(A) may be used only for the objectives specified in this section in accordance with terms of use set forth in the agreement entered into under this subsection; and

“(B) shall be managed by the Administrator in accordance with procedures prescribed under subsection (d).

“(3) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO AGREEMENTS.—An agreement entered into with a covered entity under this subsection shall—

“(A) address the terms of use, ownership, and disposition of the funds, services, or equipment contributed under the agreement;

“(B) include a provision that the covered entity will not recover the costs of its contribution through any other agreement with the United States; and

“(C) include a provision that the contribution of a covered entity will not preclude access to or use by another covered entity.

“(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than January 31 of each year, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the process used to establish agreements under subsections (a) and (b), including noticing announcements of opportunities and criteria for selecting a covered entity, and the funds, services, and equipment accepted and used by the Administrator under this section during the preceding fiscal year.

“(d) PROCEDURES.—The Administrator shall prescribe procedures to carry out this section consistent with sections 50504 and 50913.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED ENTITY.—In this section, the term ‘covered entity’ means—

“(A) a non-Federal entity that—

“(i) is organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States; and

“(ii) is engaged in commercial space activities; or

“(B) an entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, a non-Federal entity described in subparagraph (A).

“(2) LAUNCH SUPPORT FACILITIES.—The term ‘launch support facilities’ has the meaning given the term in section 50501.

“(3) SPACE RECOVERY SUPPORT FACILITIES.—The term ‘space recovery support facilities’ has the meaning given the term in section 50501.

“(4) SPACE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ‘space transportation infrastructure’ has the meaning given that term in section 50501.”

(d) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for chapter 505 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to section 50506 the following:

“50507. Commercial space launch cooperation.”

SEC. 624. DETECTION AND AVOIDANCE OF COUNTERFEIT PARTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) A 2012 investigation by the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate of counterfeit electronic parts in the Department of Defense supply chain from 2009 through 2010 uncovered 1,800 cases and over 1,000,000 counterfeit parts and exposed the threat such counterfeit parts pose to service members and national security.

(2) Since 2010, the Comptroller General of the United States has identified in 3 separate reports the risks and challenges associated with counterfeit parts and counterfeit prevention at both the Department of Defense and NASA, including inconsistent definitions of counterfeit parts, poorly targeted quality control practices, and potential barriers to improvements to these practices.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the presence of counterfeit elec-

tronic parts in the NASA supply chain poses a danger to United States government astronauts, crew, and other personnel and a risk to the agency overall.

(c) REGULATIONS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall revise the NASA Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation to improve the detection and avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts in the supply chain.

(2) **CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES.**—In revising the regulations under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall—

(A) require each covered contractor—

(i) to detect and avoid the use or inclusion of any counterfeit parts in electronic parts or products that contain electronic parts;

(ii) to take such corrective actions as the Administrator considers necessary to remedy the use or inclusion described in clause (i); and

(iii) including a subcontractor, to notify the applicable NASA contracting officer not later than 30 calendar days after the date the covered contractor becomes aware, or has reason to suspect, that any end item, component, part or material contained in supplies purchased by NASA, or purchased by a covered contractor or subcontractor for delivery to, or on behalf of, NASA, contains a counterfeit electronic part or suspect counterfeit electronic part; and

(B) prohibit the cost of counterfeit electronic parts, suspect counterfeit electronic parts, and any corrective action described under subparagraph (A)(ii) from being included as allowable costs under agency contracts, unless—

(i)(I) the covered contractor has an operational system to detect and avoid counterfeit electronic parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts that has been reviewed and approved by NASA or the Department of Defense; and

(II) the covered contractor has provided the notice under subparagraph (A)(iii); or

(ii) the counterfeit electronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic parts were provided to the covered contractor as Government property in accordance with part 45 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(3) **SUPPLIERS OF ELECTRONIC PARTS.**—In revising the regulations under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall—

(A) require NASA and covered contractors, including subcontractors, at all tiers—

(i) to obtain electronic parts that are in production or currently available in stock from—

(I) the original manufacturers of the parts or their authorized dealers; or

(II) suppliers who obtain such parts exclusively from the original manufacturers of the parts or their authorized dealers; and

(ii) to obtain electronic parts that are not in production or currently available in stock from suppliers that meet qualification requirements established under subparagraph (C);

(B) establish documented requirements consistent with published industry standards or Government contract requirements for—

(i) notification of the agency; and

(ii) inspection, testing, and authentication of electronic parts that NASA or a covered contractor, including a subcontractor, obtains from any source other than a source described in subparagraph (A);

(C) establish qualification requirements, consistent with the requirements of section 2319 of title 10, United States Code, pursuant to which NASA may identify suppliers that have appropriate policies and procedures in place to detect and avoid counterfeit electronic parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts; and

(D) authorize a covered contractor, including a subcontractor, to identify and use additional suppliers beyond those identified under subparagraph (C) if—

(i) the standards and processes for identifying such suppliers comply with established industry standards;

(ii) the covered contractor assumes responsibility for the authenticity of parts provided by such suppliers under paragraph (2); and

(iii) the selection of such suppliers is subject to review and audit by NASA.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED CONTRACTOR.—The term “covered contractor” means a contractor that supplies an electronic part, or a product that contains an electronic part, to NASA.

(2) ELECTRONIC PART.—The term “electronic part” means a discrete electronic component, including a microcircuit, transistor, capacitor, resistor, or diode, that is intended for use in a safety or mission critical application.

SEC. 625. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) United States competitiveness in the 21st century requires engaging the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this section as “STEM”) talent in all States;

(2) the Administration is uniquely positioned to educate and inspire students and the broader public on STEM subjects and careers;

(3) the Administration’s Education and Communication Offices, Mission Directorates, and Centers have been effective in delivering educational content because of the strong engagement of Administration scientists and engineers in the Administration’s education and outreach activities; and

(4) the Administration’s education and outreach programs, including the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and the Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, reflect the Administration’s successful commitment to growing and diversifying the national science and engineering workforce.

(b) CONTINUATION OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall continue engagement with the public and education opportunities for students via all the Administration’s mission directorates to the maximum extent practicable.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the Administration’s near-term outreach plans for advancing space law education.

SEC. 626. LEVERAGING COMMERCIAL SATELLITE SERVICING CAPABILITIES ACROSS MISSION DIRECTORATES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Refueling and relocating aging satellites to extend their operational lifetimes is a capacity that NASA will substantially benefit from and is important for lowering the costs of ongoing scientific, national security, and commercial satellite operations.

(2) The technologies involved in satellite servicing, such as dexterous robotic arms, propellant transfer systems, and solar electric propulsion, are all critical capabilities to support a human exploration mission to Mars.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) satellite servicing is a vital capability that will bolster the capacity and affordability of NASA’s ongoing scientific and human exploration operations while simultaneously enhancing the ability of domestic companies to compete in the global marketplace; and

(2) future NASA satellites and spacecraft across mission directorates should be constructed in a manner that allows for servicing in

order to maximize operational longevity and affordability.

(c) LEVERAGING OF CAPABILITIES.—The Administrator shall identify orbital assets in both the Science Mission Directorate and the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate that could benefit from satellite servicing-related technologies, and shall work across all NASA mission directorates to evaluate opportunities for the private sector to perform such services or advance technical capabilities by leveraging the technologies and techniques developed by NASA programs and other industry programs.

SEC. 627. FLIGHT OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) DEVELOPMENT OF PAYLOADS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to conduct necessary research, the Administrator shall continue and, as the Administrator considers appropriate, expand the development of technology payloads for—

(A) scientific research; and

(B) investigating new or improved capabilities.

(2) FUNDS.—For the purpose of carrying out paragraph (1), the Administrator shall make funds available for—

(A) flight testing;

(B) payload development; and

(C) hardware related to subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(b) REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.—Congress reaffirms that the Administrator should provide flight opportunities for payloads to microgravity environments and suborbital altitudes as authorized by section 907 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18405).

SEC. 628. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SMALL CLASS LAUNCH MISSIONS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Venture Class Launch Services contracts awarded under the Launch Services Program will expand opportunities for future dedicated launches of CubeSats and other small satellites and small orbital science missions; and

(2) principal investigator-led small orbital science missions, including CubeSat class, Small Explorer (SMEX) class, and Venture class, offer valuable opportunities to advance science at low cost, train the next generation of scientists and engineers, and enable participants to acquire skills in systems engineering and systems integration that are critical to maintaining the Nation’s leadership in space and to enhancing United States innovation and competitiveness abroad.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; the Cruz-Nelson substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 5180) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The bill (S. 3346), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY OF THE SENATE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 641, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 641) celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 641) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

HOUSE BILLS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: H.R. 5948, H.R. 6138, H.R. 6282, and H.R. 6304.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed en bloc and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JONATHAN “J.D.” DE GUZMAN POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5948) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 830 Kuhn Drive in Chula Vista, California, as the “Jonathan ‘J.D.’ De Guzman Post Office Building,” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

U.S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION “SEABEES” FALLEN HEROES POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 6138) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 560 East Pleasant Valley Road, Port Hueneme, California, as the U.S. Naval Construction

Battalion "Seabees" Fallen Heroes Post Office Building, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DR. ROSCOE C. BROWN, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 6282) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2024 Jerome Avenue, in Bronx, New York, as the "Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Post Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ADOLFO "HARPO" CELAYA POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 6304) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 North Main Street in Florence, Arizona, as the "Adolfo 'Harpo' Celaya Post Office," was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PRESERVING REHABILITATION INNOVATION CENTERS ACT OF 2015

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 1168 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1168) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to rehabilitation innovation centers under the Medicare program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Kirk amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5181) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Preserving Rehabilitation Innovation Centers Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In the United States, there are an estimated 1,181 inpatient rehabilitation facilities. Among these facilities is a small group of inpatient rehabilitation institutions that are contributing to the future of rehabilitation care medicine, as well as to patient recovery, scientific innovation, and quality of life.

(2) This unique category of inpatient rehabilitation institutions treats the most complex patient conditions, such as traumatic brain injury, stroke, spinal cord injury, childhood disease, burns, and wartime injuries.

(3) These leading inpatient rehabilitation institutions are all not-for-profit or Government-owned institutions and serve a high volume of Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries.

(4) These leading inpatient rehabilitation institutions have been recognized by the Federal Government for their contributions to cutting-edge research to develop solutions that enhance quality of care, improve patient outcomes, and reduce health care costs.

(5) These leading inpatient rehabilitation institutions help to improve the practice and standard of rehabilitation medicine across the Nation in urban, suburban, and rural communities by training physicians, medical students, and other clinicians, and providing care to patients from all 50 States.

(6) It is vital that these leading inpatient rehabilitation institutions are supported so they can continue to lead the Nation's efforts to—

(A) advance integrated, multidisciplinary rehabilitation research;

(B) provide cutting-edge medical care to the most complex rehabilitation patients;

(C) serve as education and training facilities for the physicians, nurses, and other health professionals who serve rehabilitation patients;

(D) ensure Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries receive state-of-the-art, high-quality rehabilitation care by developing and disseminating best practices and advancing the quality of care utilized by post-acute providers in all 50 States; and

(E) support other inpatient rehabilitation institutions in rural areas to help ensure access to quality post-acute care for patients living in these communities.

SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT RELATING TO THE COSTS INCURRED BY, AND THE MEDICARE PAYMENTS MADE TO, REHABILITATION INNOVATION CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(j) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(j)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (9); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following new paragraph:

"(8) STUDY AND REPORT RELATING TO THE COSTS INCURRED BY, AND THE MEDICARE PAYMENTS MADE TO, REHABILITATION INNOVATION CENTERS.—

"(A) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to assess the costs incurred by rehabilitation innovation centers (as defined in subparagraph (C)) that are beyond the prospective rate for each of the following activities:

"(i) Furnishing items and services to individuals under this title.

"(ii) Conducting research.

"(iii) Providing medical training.

"(B) REPORT.—Not later than July 1, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study under subparagraph (A), together with recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Secretary determines appropriate.

"(C) REHABILITATION INNOVATION CENTER DEFINED.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term 'rehabilitation innovation center' means a rehabilitation facility that, determined as of the date of the enactment of this

paragraph, is described in clause (ii) or clause (iii).

"(ii) NOT-FOR-PROFIT.—A rehabilitation facility described in this clause is a facility that—

"(I) is classified as a not-for-profit entity under the IRF Rate Setting File for the Correction Notice for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2012 (78 Fed. Reg. 59256);

"(II) holds at least one Federal rehabilitation research and training designation for research projects on traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, or stroke rehabilitation research from the Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers or the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center at the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research at the Department of Education, based on such data submitted to the Secretary by a facility, in a form, manner, and time frame specified by the Secretary;

"(III) has a minimum Medicare case mix index of 1.1144 for fiscal year 2012 according to the IRF Rate Setting File described in subclause (I); and

"(IV) had at least 300 Medicare discharges or at least 200 Medicaid discharges in a prior year as determined by the Secretary.

"(iii) GOVERNMENT-OWNED.—A rehabilitation facility described in this clause is a facility that—

"(I) is classified as a Government-owned institution under the IRF Rate Setting File described in clause (ii)(I);

"(II) holds at least one Federal rehabilitation research and training designation for research projects on traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, or stroke rehabilitation research from the Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers, the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center, or the Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems at the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research at the Department of Education, based on such data submitted to the Secretary by a facility, in a form, manner, and time frame specified by the Secretary;

"(III) has a minimum Medicare case mix index of 1.1144 for 2012 according to the IRF Rate Setting File described in clause (ii)(I); and

"(IV) has a Medicare disproportionate share hospital (DSH) percentage of at least 0.6300 according to the IRF Rate Setting File described in clause (ii)(I)."

The bill (S. 1168), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3021 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3021) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to pursue independent study programs at certain educational institutions that are not institutions of higher learning.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Inhofe-Blumenthal substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5182) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 3021), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ESSENTIAL TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL ASSESSMENT ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 436, H.R. 710.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 710) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act".

SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY ASSESSMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL PROGRAM.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall commission a 2-phase comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential Program (referred to in this section as the "TWIC Program" under section 70105 of title 46, United States Code) at enhancing security and reducing security risks for facilities and vessels regulated pursuant to chapter 701 of title 46, United States Code.

(b) *LOCATION.*—The assessment commissioned pursuant to subsection (a) shall be conducted by a national laboratory or a university-based center within the Department of Homeland Security centers of excellence network.

(c) *CONTENTS.*—The assessment commissioned pursuant to subsection (a) shall include—

- (1) in phase 1, a review of the credentialing process, including—
 - (A) the appropriateness of vetting standards;
 - (B) whether the fee structure adequately reflects the current costs of vetting; and
 - (C) whether there is unnecessary overlap between other transportation security credentials;
- (2) in phase 2, which shall follow the implementation of the TWIC reader rule—

(A) an evaluation of the extent to which the TWIC Program, as implemented, addresses known or likely security risks in the maritime environment; and

(B) the technology, business process, and operational impacts of the use of the transportation worker identification credentials and TWIC readers in the maritime environment;

(3) an evaluation of the extent to which deficiencies identified by the Comptroller General have been addressed; and

(4) a cost-benefit analysis of the TWIC Program, as implemented.

(d) *CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN; PROGRAM REFORMS.*—If, as part of the assessment submitted by the Secretary under subsection (a), the Secretary identifies a deficiency in effectiveness of the TWIC Program, the Secretary, not later than 120 days after such submission, shall submit a corrective action plan to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that—

(1) responds to findings of the assessment commissioned under this section;

(2) includes an implementation plan with benchmarks;

(3) may include programmatic reforms, revisions to regulations, or proposals for legislation; and

(4) shall be considered in any rulemaking by the Department of Homeland Security relating to the TWIC Program.

(e) *INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.*—If a corrective action plan is required under subsection (d), the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, not later than 120 days after the submission of such plan, shall—

(1) review the extent to which such plan implements—

(A) recommendations issued by the national laboratory or university-based center of excellence, as applicable, in the assessment submitted under subsection (a); and

(B) recommendations issued by the Comptroller General before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives about the responsiveness of such plan to such recommendations.

(f) *TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL RULES.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not issue additional rules relating to the issuance of transportation worker identification credentials or the use of TWIC readers until—

(A) the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security notifies the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that the submission under subsection (d) is responsive to the recommendations of the Inspector General; and

(B) the Secretary issues an updated list of TWIC readers that are compatible with active transportation worker security credentials.

(2) *LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.*—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to any final rule issued pursuant to the notice of proposed rulemaking on Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)-Reader Requirements published by the Coast Guard on March 22, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 17781).

(g) *INSPECTOR GENERAL OVERSIGHT.*—Not later than 18 months after the date of the

issuance of the corrective action plan under subsection (d), and every 6 months thereafter during the 3-year period following the date of the issuance of the first report under this subsection, the Inspector General shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that describes implementation of such plan.

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and this Act and such amendments shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Thune substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 5183) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL SECURITY CARD PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSESSMENT.

(a) *CREDENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall commence actions, consistent with section 70105 of title 46, United States Code, to improve the Transportation Security Administration's process for vetting individuals with access to secure areas of vessels and maritime facilities.

(2) *REQUIRED ACTIONS.*—The actions described under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) conducting a comprehensive risk analysis of security threat assessment procedures, including—

(i) identifying those procedures that need additional internal controls; and

(ii) identifying best practices for quality assurance at every stage of the security threat assessment;

(B) implementing the additional internal controls and best practices identified under subparagraph (A);

(C) improving fraud detection techniques, such as—

(i) by establishing benchmarks and a process for electronic document validation;

(ii) by requiring annual training for Trusted Agents; and

(iii) by reviewing any security threat assessment-related information provided by Trusted Agents and incorporating any new threat information into updated guidance under subparagraph (D);

(D) updating the guidance provided to Trusted Agents regarding the vetting process and related regulations;

(E) finalizing a manual for Trusted Agents and adjudicators on the vetting process; and

(F) establishing quality controls to ensure consistent procedures to review adjudication decisions and terrorism vetting decisions.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit a report to Congress that evaluates the implementation of the actions described in paragraph (1).

(b) COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY ASSESSMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY CARD PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall commission an assessment of the effectiveness of the transportation security card program (referred to in this section as “Program”) required under section 70105 of title 46, United States Code, at enhancing security and reducing security risks for facilities and vessels regulated under chapter 701 of that title.

(2) LOCATION.—The assessment commissioned under paragraph (1) shall be conducted by a research organization with significant experience in port or maritime security, such as—

(A) a national laboratory;

(B) a university-based center within the Science and Technology Directorate’s centers of excellence network; or

(C) a qualified federally-funded research and development center.

(3) CONTENTS.—The assessment commissioned under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) review the credentialing process by determining—

(i) the appropriateness of vetting standards;

(ii) whether the fee structure adequately reflects the current costs of vetting;

(iii) whether there is unnecessary redundancy or duplication with other Federal- or State-issued transportation security credentials; and

(iv) the appropriateness of having varied Federal and State threat assessments and access controls;

(B) review the process for renewing applications for Transportation Worker Identification Credentials, including the number of days it takes to review application, appeal, and waiver requests for additional information; and

(C) review the security value of the Program by—

(i) evaluating the extent to which the Program, as implemented, addresses known or likely security risks in the maritime and port environments;

(ii) evaluating the potential for a non-biometric credential alternative;

(iii) identifying the technology, business process, and operational impacts of the use of the transportation security card and transportation security card readers in the maritime and port environments;

(iv) assessing the costs and benefits of the Program, as implemented; and

(v) evaluating the extent to which the Secretary of Homeland Security has addressed the deficiencies in the Program identified by the Government Accountability Office and the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security before the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) DEADLINES.—The assessment commissioned under paragraph (1) shall be completed not later than 1 year after the date on which the assessment is commissioned.

(5) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date that the assessment is completed, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee

on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives the results of the assessment commissioned under this subsection.

(c) CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN; PROGRAM REFORMS.—If the assessment commissioned under subsection (b) identifies a deficiency in the effectiveness of the Program, the Secretary of Homeland Security, not later than 60 days after the date on which the assessment is completed, shall submit a corrective action plan to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that—

(1) responds to findings of the assessment;

(2) includes an implementation plan with benchmarks;

(3) may include programmatic reforms, revisions to regulations, or proposals for legislation; and

(4) shall be considered in any rulemaking by the Department of Homeland Security relating to the Program.

(d) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—If a corrective action plan is submitted under subsection (c), the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall—

(1) not later than 120 days after the date of such submission, review the extent to which such plan implements the requirements under subsection (c); and

(2) not later than 18 months after the date of such submission, and annually thereafter for 3 years, submit a report to the congressional committees set forth in subsection (c) that describes the progress of the implementation of such plan.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 710), as amended, was passed.

TRIBAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND ROADS ENHANCEMENT AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 378, S. 1776.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1776) to enhance tribal road safety, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Tribal Infrastructure and Roads Enhancement and Safety Act” or “TIRES Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) INDIAN RESERVATION.—The term “Indian reservation” has the meaning given the term

“reservation” in section 3 of the Indian Financing Act of 1974 (25 U.S.C. 1452).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. APPLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS TO CERTAIN TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

(a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, a highway project, including projects administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, located on a road eligible for assistance under section 202 of title 23, United States Code, is deemed to be an action categorically excluded from the requirements relating to environmental assessments or environmental impact statements under section 1508.4 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), if the project—

(A) qualifies for categorical exclusion under—

(i) MAP–21 (Public Law 112–141; 126 Stat. 405) or an amendment made by that Act; or

(ii) section 771.117 of title 23, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); or

(B) would meet those requirements if the project sponsor were a State agency.

(2) MAP–21 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS TO CERTAIN TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.—Section 1317 of MAP–21 (23 U.S.C. 109 note; 126 Stat. 550) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “; and” and inserting a period;

(B) beginning in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later than” and all that follows through “(1) designate” and inserting the following:

“(a) DESIGNATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall designate”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “subsection (a)”;

(ii) by striking “(2) not later than” and inserting the following:

“(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall, not later than”;

(D) in subsection (a) (as designated by subparagraph (B)), by adding at the end the following:

“(2) APPLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS TO CERTAIN TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.—With respect to a project described in paragraph (1) that is located on a road eligible for assistance under section 202 of title 23, United States Code, for the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of the TIRES Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount referred to in paragraph (1)(A) shall be adjusted to reflect changes for the 12-month period ending the preceding November 30 in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.”.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary may issue guidance or rules for the administration of this section.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The categorical exclusions described in subsection (a), and the amendments made by subsection (a), take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) FAILURE OF SECRETARY TO ACT.—The failure of the Secretary to promulgate any final regulations or guidance shall not affect the qualification for the categorical exclusions described in subsection (a).

SEC. 4. STREAMLINING FOR TRIBAL PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS WITHIN EXISTING OPERATIONAL RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

Section 1316 of MAP–21 (23 U.S.C. 109 note; 126 Stat. 549) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “(b) DEFINITION OF AN OPERATIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY.—In this section, the” and inserting the following:

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
“(1) OPERATIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) INCLUSION.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), if a real property interest on an Indian reservation has not been formally designated an operational right-of-way, an Indian tribe may determine the scope and boundaries of that real property interest as an operational right-of-way, subject to the approval of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Secretary.

“(2) TRIBAL PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘tribal public safety project’ means a project subject to this section that—

“(i) corrects or improves a hazardous road location or feature; or

“(ii) addresses a highway safety problem.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘tribal public safety project’ includes a project for 1 or more of the following:

“(i) An intersection safety improvement.

“(ii) Pavement and shoulder widening, including addition of a passing lane to remedy an unsafe condition.

“(iii) Installation of a rumble strip or other warning device, if the rumble strip or other warning device does not adversely affect the safety or mobility of bicyclists, pedestrians, or the disabled.

“(iv) Installation of a skid-resistant surface at an intersection or other location with a high frequency of accidents.

“(v) An improvement for pedestrian or bicyclist safety or safety of the disabled.

“(vi) Construction of any project for the elimination of hazards at a railway-highway crossing that is eligible for funding under section 130 of title 23, United States Code, including the separation or protection of grades at railway-highway crossings.

“(vii) Construction of a railway-highway crossing safety feature, including installation of protective devices.

“(viii) The conduct of a model traffic enforcement activity at a railway-highway crossing.

“(ix) Construction of a traffic calming feature.

“(x) Elimination of a roadside obstacle.

“(xi) Improvement of highway signage and pavement markings.

“(xii) Installation of a priority control system for emergency vehicles at signalized intersections.

“(xiii) Installation of a traffic control or other warning device at a location with high accident potential.

“(xiv) Safety-conscious planning.

“(xv) Improvements in the collection and analysis of crash data.

“(xvi) Planning integrated interoperable emergency communications equipment, operational activities, or traffic enforcement activities, including police assistance, relating to workzone safety.

“(xvii) Installation of guardrails, barriers, including barriers between construction work zones and traffic lanes for the safety of motorists and workers, and crash attenuators.

“(xviii) The addition or retrofitting of structures or other measures to eliminate or reduce accidents involving vehicles and wildlife.

“(xix) Installation and maintenance of signs, including fluorescent, yellow-green signs, at pedestrian-bicycle crossings and in school zones.

“(xx) Construction and yellow-green signs at pedestrian-bicycle crossings and in school zones.

“(xxi) Construction and operational improvements on high-risk rural roads.

“(xxii) Any other project that the Secretary determines qualifies.”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (a) and (b) as subsections (b) and (a), respectively, and moving the subsections so as to appear in alphabetical order;

(3) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated), in the subsection heading, by striking “IN GENERAL” and inserting “DESIGNATION”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) PROJECTS WITHIN EXISTING OPERATIONAL RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—

“(1) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection applies to a project within an existing operational right-of-way on an Indian reservation (as defined in section 3 of the Indian Financing Act of 1974 (25 U.S.C. 1452)) that is—

“(A) for a maintenance or preservation activity, whether or not federally funded, within the existing operational right-of-way, including for roadside ditches; or

“(B) a project that—

“(i) is a tribal public safety project or a project that the tribal department of transportation or the equivalent (or in the case of an Indian tribe without a tribal department of transportation or equivalent, an official representing the Indian tribe) certifies to the Secretary as providing a safety benefit to the public; and

“(ii) is an action that—

“(I) is categorically excluded under section 771.117 of title 23, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); or

“(II) would be categorically excluded under section 771.117 of title 23, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), if the applicant were a State agency.

“(2) FINAL ACTION.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), a Federal agency shall take final action on an application by an Indian tribe for a permit, approval, or jurisdictional determination for a project described in paragraph (1) not later than 45 days after the date of receipt of the application.

“(3) EXTENSIONS.—A Federal agency may extend the period to take final action on an application by an Indian tribe under paragraph (2) by an additional 30 days by providing to the Secretary and the Indian tribe notice of the extension, including a statement of the need for the extension.

“(4) CONSTRUCTIVE APPROVAL.—If a Federal agency does not take final action on an application by an Indian tribe under paragraphs (2) and (3)—

“(A) the permit or approval for the project described in paragraph (1) shall be considered approved; and

“(B) the Indian tribe shall notify the Secretary of approval under this paragraph.

“(5) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the ‘TIRES Act’, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes the operation of this subsection, including any recommendations.”.

SEC. 5. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS REDUCTION IN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE.

Section 202(a)(6) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking “6 percent” and inserting “5 percent for each fiscal year”.

SEC. 6. OPTION OF ASSUMING NEPA APPROVAL AUTHORITY.

(a) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.—In this section, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Transportation, as applicable.

(b) ASSUMPTION OF FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—An Indian tribe participating in tribal self-governance or a contract or agreement under subsection (a)(2) or (b)(7) of section 202 of title 23, United States Code, and carrying out construction projects on the Indian reservation over which the Indian tribe has jurisdiction, may elect to assume all Federal responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), division A of sub-

title III of title 54, United States Code, and other applicable Federal law that would apply if the Secretary were to undertake a construction project if the Indian tribe—

(1) designates an officer—

(A) to represent the Indian tribe; and

(B) to assume the status of a responsible Federal official under those laws; and

(2) accepts the jurisdiction of the Federal court for the purpose of enforcement of the responsibilities of the responsible Federal official under those laws.

SEC. 7. TRIBAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DATA REPORT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) in many States, the Native American population is disproportionately represented in fatalities and crash statistics;

(2) improved crash reporting by tribal law enforcement agencies would facilitate safety planning and would enable Indian tribes to apply more successfully for State and Federal funds for safety improvements;

(3) the causes of underreporting of crashes on Indian reservations include—

(A) tribal law enforcement capacity, including—

(i) staffing shortages and turnover; and

(ii) lack of equipment, software, and training; and

(B) lack of standardization in crash reporting forms and protocols; and

(4) without more accurate reporting of crashes on Indian reservations and rural roads located in or around Alaska Native villages and within the boundaries of Regional Corporations (within the meaning of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.)), it is difficult or impossible to fully understand the nature of the problem and develop appropriate counter-

measures, which may include effective transportation safety planning and programs aimed at—

(A) DUI prevention;

(B) pedestrian safety;

(C) roadway safety improvements;

(D) seat belt usage; and

(E) proper use of child restraints.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Attorney General, and Indian tribes, shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the quality of transportation safety data collected by States and counties for transportation safety systems and the relevance of that data to improving the collection and sharing of data on crashes on or near—

(A) Indian reservations; or

(B) rural roads located in or around Alaska Native villages and within the boundaries of Regional Corporations (within the meaning of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.)).

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the report described in paragraph (1) are—

(A) to improve the collection and sharing of data on crashes on or near Indian reservations; and

(B) to develop data that Indian tribes can use to recover damages to tribal property caused by motorists.

(3) PAPERLESS DATA REPORTING.—In preparing the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide Indian tribes with options and best practices for transition to a paperless transportation safety data reporting system that—

(A) improves the collection of crash reports;

(B) stores, archives, queries, and shares crash records; and

(C) uses data exclusively—

(i) to address traffic safety issues on—

(I) Indian reservations; and

(II) rural roads located in or around Alaska Native villages and within the boundaries of Regional Corporations (within the meaning of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.)); and

(ii) to identify and improve problem areas on—

(I) public roads on Indian reservations; and

(II) rural roads located in or around Alaska Native villages and within the boundaries of Regional Corporations (within the meaning of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.)).

(4) **ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY RESOURCES.**—The Secretary shall include in the report under paragraph (1) the identification of Federal transportation funds provided to Indian tribes by agencies in addition to the Department of the Interior.

SEC. 8. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS ROAD SAFETY STUDY.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, the Attorney General, and States, shall—

(1) complete a study that identifies and evaluates options for improving safety on—

(A) public roads on or near Indian reservations; and

(B) rural roads located in or around Alaska Native villages and within the boundaries of Regional Corporations (within the meaning of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.)); and

(2) submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the results of the study.

SEC. 9. TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 1101(a)(3) of MAP-21 (Public Law 112–141; 126 Stat. 414) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) **TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.**—For the tribal transportation program under section 202 of title 23, United States Code (other than subsection (d) of that section), there are authorized to be appropriated—

“(i) \$468,180,000 for fiscal year 2016;

“(ii) \$477,540,000 for fiscal year 2017;

“(iii) \$487,090,000 for fiscal year 2018;

“(iv) \$496,830,000 for fiscal year 2019;

“(v) \$506,770,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

“(vi) \$516,905,400 for fiscal year 2021.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) **TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITY BRIDGE PROGRAM.**—For the tribal transportation facility bridge program under section 202(d) of title 23, United States Code, there are authorized to be appropriated—

“(i) \$16,000,000 for fiscal year 2016;

“(ii) \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 2017;

“(iii) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;

“(iv) \$22,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

“(v) \$24,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

“(vi) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.”.

(3) **TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITY BRIDGE PROGRAM.**—Section 202(d) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITY BRIDGE PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall use funds made available to carry out this subsection—

“(A) to carry out any planning, design, engineering, preconstruction, construction, and inspection of new or replacement tribal transportation facility bridges;

“(B) to replace, rehabilitate, seismically retrofit, paint, apply calcium magnesium acetate, sodium acetate/formate, or other environ-

mentally acceptable, minimally corrosive anti-icing and deicing composition; or

“(C) to implement any countermeasure for deficient tribal transportation facility bridges, including multiple-pipe culverts.”.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn; that the Barrasso substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 5184) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The bill (S. 1776), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CROSS-BORDER TRADE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 875, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 875) to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 875) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXEMPTING EXPORTATION OF CERTAIN ECHINODERMS AND MOLLUSKS FROM LICENSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4245, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4245) to exempt exportation of certain echinoderms and mollusks from li-

censing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I further ask that the King amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5185) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. EXPEDITED EXPORTATION OF CERTAIN SPECIES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (referred to in this section as the “Director”) shall issue a proposed rule to amend section 14.92 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, to establish expedited procedures relating to the export permission requirements of section 9(d)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1538(d)(1)) for fish or wildlife described in subsection (c).

(b) *EXEMPTIONS.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—As part of the rulemaking under subsection (a), subject to paragraph (2), the Director may provide an exemption from the requirement to procure—

(A) permission under section 9(d)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1538(d)(1)); or

(B) an export license under subpart I of part 14 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) *LIMITATIONS.*—The Director shall not provide an exemption under paragraph (1)—

(A) unless the Director determines that the exemption will not have a significant negative impact on the conservation of the species that is the subject of the exemption; or

(B) to an entity that has been convicted of a violation of a Federal law relating to the importation, transportation, or exportation of wildlife during a period of not less than 5 years ending on the date on which the entity applies for exemption under paragraph (1).

(c) *COVERED FISH OR WILDLIFE.*—The fish or wildlife described in this subsection are the species commonly known as sea urchins and sea cucumbers (including any product of a sea urchin or sea cucumber) that—

(1) do not require a permit under part 16, 17, or 23 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(2) are exported for purposes of human or animal consumption.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 4245), as amended, was passed.

AUTHORIZING TAKING PICTURES AND FILMING IN THE SENATE CHAMBER, THE SENATE WING OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL, AND SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 642, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 642) authorizing taking pictures and filming in the Senate Chamber, the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol, and Senate Office Buildings for production of a film and a book on the history of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 642) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

AMERICAN INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 695, S. 3084.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3084) to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "American Innovation and Competitiveness Act".

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.
Sec. 3. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE I—MAXIMIZING BASIC RESEARCH

Sec. 101. Reaffirmation of merit-based peer review.

Sec. 102. Transparency and accountability.

Sec. 103. EPSCoR reaffirmation and update.

Sec. 104. Cybersecurity research.

Sec. 105. Networking and information technology research and development update.

- Sec. 106. High-energy physics coordination.
Sec. 107. Laboratory program improvements.
Sec. 108. International activities.
Sec. 109. Standard Reference Data Act update.
Sec. 110. NSF mid-scale project investments.
Sec. 111. Oversight of NSF large-scale research facility projects.
Sec. 112. Conflicts of interest.
Sec. 113. Management of the NSF Antarctic Program.
Sec. 114. NIST campus security.
Sec. 115. Federal coordination of sustainable chemistry research and development.

TITLE II—ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY BURDEN REDUCTION

- Sec. 201. Interagency working group on research regulation.
Sec. 202. Scientific and technical collaboration.
Sec. 203. NIST grants and cooperative agreements update.
Sec. 204. Repeal of certain obsolete reports.
Sec. 205. Repeal of certain provisions.
Sec. 206. Grant subrecipient transparency and oversight.
Sec. 207. Micro-purchase threshold for procurement solicitations by research institutions.

TITLE III—SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH EDUCATION

- Sec. 301. Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program update.
Sec. 302. Space grants.
Sec. 303. STEM Education Advisory Panel.
Sec. 304. Committee on STEM Education.
Sec. 305. Grant programs to expand STEM opportunities.
Sec. 306. Centers of excellence for inclusion in STEM.
Sec. 307. NIST education and outreach.
Sec. 308. Presidential awards for excellence in STEM mentoring.
Sec. 309. Working group on inclusion in STEM fields.
Sec. 310. Improving undergraduate STEM experiences.
Sec. 311. Computer science education research.
Sec. 312. Informal STEM education.
Sec. 313. Developing STEM apprenticeships.
Sec. 314. NSF report on broadening participation.
Sec. 315. NOAA ocean and atmospheric science education programs.

TITLE IV—LEVERAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- Sec. 401. Prize competition authority update.
Sec. 402. Crowdsourcing and citizen science.
Sec. 403. NIST other transaction authority update.
Sec. 404. NIST Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology update.

TITLE V—MANUFACTURING

- Sec. 501. Hollings manufacturing extension partnership improvements.
Sec. 502. Federal loan guarantees for innovative technologies in manufacturing.
Sec. 503. Manufacturing communities.

TITLE VI—INNOVATION, COMMERCIALIZATION, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

- Sec. 601. Innovation corps.
Sec. 602. Translational research grants.
Sec. 603. Optics and photonics technology innovations.
Sec. 604. Authorization of appropriations for the Regional Innovation Program.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, unless expressly provided otherwise:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and

Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(2) FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY.—The term "Federal science agency" has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6623).

(3) FOUNDATION.—The term "Foundation" means the National Science Foundation.

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institution of higher education" has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(5) NIST.—The term "NIST" means the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(6) STEM.—The term "STEM" has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the American COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

(7) STEM EDUCATION.—The term "STEM education" has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the STEM Education Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) FISCAL YEAR 2017.—

(1) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce \$974,000,000 for NIST for fiscal year 2017.

(2) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Foundation \$7,510,000,000 for fiscal year 2017.

(b) FISCAL YEAR 2018.—

(1) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce \$1,013,000,000 for NIST for fiscal year 2018.

(2) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Foundation \$7,810,000,000 for fiscal year 2018.

TITLE I—MAXIMIZING BASIC RESEARCH
SEC. 101. REAFFIRMATION OF MERIT-BASED PEER REVIEW.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Foundation's intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria remain appropriate for evaluating grant proposals, as concluded by the 2011 National Science Board Task Force on Merit Review;

(2) evaluating proposals on the basis of the Foundation's intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria assures that—

(A) proposals funded by the Foundation are of high quality and advance scientific knowledge; and

(B) the Foundation's overall funding portfolio addresses societal needs through research findings or through related activities; and

(3) as evidenced by the Foundation's contributions to scientific advancement, economic development, human health, and national security, its peer review and merit review processes have successfully identified and funded scientifically and societally relevant research and should be preserved.

(b) MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA.—The Foundation shall maintain the intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria, among other specific criteria as appropriate, as the basis for evaluating grant proposals in the merit review process.

(c) UPDATES.—If after the date of enactment of this Act a change is made to the merit-review process, the Director shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress not later than 30 days after the date of the change.

SEC. 102. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the Foundation has improved transparency and accountability of the outcomes made through the merit review process.

(b) GUIDANCE.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Foundation shall issue and periodically update, as appropriate, policy guidance for both Foundation staff and other Foundation merit review process participants, clarifying the importance of transparency and accountability of the outcomes made through the merit review process.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The guidance under paragraph (1) shall require that each abstract for a Foundation-funded research project—

(A) provide a clear justification for any Federal funds that will be expended, including by—

(i) describing how the project—

(I) reflects the mission statement of the Foundation; and

(II) addresses both of the National Science Board-approved merit review criteria; and

(ii) clearly identifying the research priorities of the project in a manner that can be easily understood by both technical and non-technical audiences; and

(B) be publicly available at the time of award.

(c) **EXAMINATION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Science Board shall—

(1) examine the efforts by the Foundation to improve transparency and accountability in the merit-review process; and

(2) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the examination, including any recommendations for how to further improve transparency and accountability of the outcomes made through the merit-review process.

SEC. 103. EPSCoR REAFFIRMATION AND UPDATE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Section 517(a) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-9(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “The National” and inserting “the National”; and

(B) by striking “education,” and inserting “education”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “with 27 States” and all that follows through the semicolon at the end and inserting “with 28 States and jurisdictions, taken together, receiving only about 12 percent of all National Science Foundation research funding;”;

(3) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) each of the States described in paragraph (2) receives only a fraction of 1 percent of the Foundation’s research dollars each year;”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) first established at the National Science Foundation in 1979, the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (referred to in this section as ‘EPSCoR’) assists States and jurisdictions historically underserved by Federal research and development funding in strengthening their research and innovation capabilities;

“(5) the EPSCoR structure requires each participating State to develop a science and technology plan suited to State and local research, education, and economic interests and objectives;

“(6) EPSCoR has been credited with advancing the research competitiveness of participating States, improving awareness of science, promoting policies that link scientific investment and economic growth, and encouraging partnerships between government, industry, and academia;

“(7) EPSCoR proposals are evaluated through a rigorous and competitive merit-review process to ensure that awarded research and development efforts meet high scientific standards; and

“(8) according to the National Academy of Sciences, EPSCoR has strengthened the national research infrastructure and enhanced the educational opportunities needed to develop the science and engineering workforce.”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) since maintaining the Nation’s scientific and economic leadership requires the participation of talented individuals nationwide, EPSCoR investments into State research and education capacities are in the Federal interest and should be sustained; and

(B) EPSCoR should maintain its experimental component by supporting innovative methods for improving research capacity and competitiveness.

(2) **DEFINITION OF EPSCoR.**—In this subsection, the term “EPSCoR” has the meaning given the term in section 502 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p note).

(c) **AWARD STRUCTURE UPDATES.**—Section 517 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-9) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **AWARD STRUCTURE UPDATES.**—In implementing the mandate to maximize the impact of Federal EPSCoR support on building competitive research infrastructure, and based on the inputs and recommendations of previous EPSCoR reviews, the head of each Federal agency administering an EPSCoR program shall—

“(1) consider modifications to EPSCoR proposal solicitation, award type, and project evaluation—

“(A) to more closely align with current agency priorities and initiatives;

“(B) to focus EPSCoR funding on achieving critical scientific, infrastructure, and educational needs of that agency;

“(C) to encourage collaboration between EPSCoR-eligible institutions and researchers, including with institutions and researchers in other States and jurisdictions;

“(D) to improve communication between State and Federal agency proposal reviewers; and

“(E) to continue to reduce administrative burdens associated with EPSCoR;

(2) consider modifications to EPSCoR award structures—

“(A) to emphasize long-term investments in building research capacity, potentially through the use of larger, renewable funding opportunities; and

“(B) to allow the agency, States, and jurisdictions to experiment with new research and development funding models; and

(3) consider modifications to the mechanisms used to monitor and evaluate EPSCoR awards—

“(A) to increase collaboration between EPSCoR-funded researchers and agency staff, including by providing opportunities for mentoring young researchers and for the use of Federal facilities;

“(B) to identify and disseminate best practices; and

“(C) to harmonize metrics across participating Federal agencies, as appropriate.”.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) **CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS.**—Section 517 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-9), as amended, is further amended—

(A) by striking subsection (c);

(B) by redesignating subsections (d) through (g) as subsections (c) through (f), respectively;

(C) in subsection (c), as redesignated—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “Experimental Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research” and inserting “EPSCoR”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraphs (A) and (E), by striking “EPSCoR and Federal EPSCoR-like programs” and inserting “each EPSCoR”;

(II) in subparagraph (D), by striking “EPSCoR and other Federal EPSCoR-like programs” and inserting “each EPSCoR”;

(III) in subparagraph (E), by striking “EPSCoR or Federal EPSCoR-like programs” and inserting “each EPSCoR”; and

(IV) in subparagraph (G), by striking “EPSCoR programs” and inserting “each EPSCoR”; and

(D) by amending subsection (d), as redesignated, to read as follows:

“(d) **FEDERAL AGENCY REPORTS.**—Each Federal agency that administers an EPSCoR shall submit to Congress, as part of its Federal budget submission—

“(1) a description of the program strategy and objectives;

“(2) a description of the awards made in the previous fiscal year, including—

“(A) the total amount made available, by State, under EPSCoR;

“(B) the total amount of agency funding made available to all institutions and entities within each EPSCoR State;

“(C) the efforts and accomplishments to more fully integrate the EPSCoR States in major agency activities and initiatives;

“(D) the percentage of EPSCoR reviewers from EPSCoR States; and

“(E) the number of programs or large collaborator awards involving a partnership of organizations and institutions from EPSCoR and non-EPSCoR States; and

“(3) an analysis of the gains in academic research quality and competitiveness, and in science and technology human resource development, achieved by the program over the last 5 fiscal years.”;

(E) in subsection (e)(1), as redesignated, by striking “Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research or a program similar to the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research” and inserting “EPSCoR”.

(2) **RESULTS OF AWARD STRUCTURE PLAN.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the EPSCoR Interagency Coordinating Committee shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the updates made to the award structure under 517(f) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-9(f)), as amended by this subsection.

(e) DEFINITION OF EPSCoR.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 502 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p note) is amended by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) **EPSCoR.**—The term ‘EPSCoR’ means—

“(A) the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research established by the Foundation; or

“(B) a program similar to the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research at another Federal agency.”.

(2) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Section 113 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1862g) is amended—

(A) in the heading, by striking “**EXPERIMENTAL**” and inserting “**ESTABLISHED**”;

(B) in subsection (a), by striking “an Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research” and inserting “a program to stimulate competitive research (known as the ‘Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research’)”; and

(C) in subsection (b), by striking “the program” and inserting “the Program”.

SEC. 104. CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH.

(a) **FOUNDATION CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH.**—Section 4(a)(1) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 7403(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (O), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (P), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(Q) security of election-dedicated voting system software and hardware; and

“(R) role of the human factor in cybersecurity and the interplay of computers and humans and the physical world.”.

(b) NIST CYBERSECURITY PRIORITIES.—

(1) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AWARENESS.—The Director of NIST, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall continue to raise public awareness of the voluntary, industry-led cybersecurity standards and best practices for critical infrastructure developed under section 2(c)(15) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)(15)).

(2) QUANTUM COMPUTING.—Under section 2(b) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(b)) and section 20 of that Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-3), the Director of NIST shall—

(A) research information systems for future cybersecurity needs; and

(B) coordinate with relevant stakeholders to develop a process—

(i) to research and identify or, if necessary, develop cryptography standards and guidelines for future cybersecurity needs, including quantum-resistant cryptography standards; and

(ii) to provide recommendations to Congress, Federal agencies, and industry for a secure and smooth transition to the standards under clause (i).

(3) VOTING.—Section 2(c) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (16) through (23) as paragraphs (17) through (24), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (15) the following:

“(16) perform research to support the development of voluntary, consensus-based, industry-led standards and recommendations on the security of computers, computer networks, and computer data storage used in voting systems to ensure voters can vote securely and privately.”.

SEC. 105. NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE.

(a) NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Section 101(a)(1) of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “IN GENERAL.—” before “The President”;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in subparagraph (I), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(J) provide for research on the interplay of computing and people, including social computing and human-robot interaction;

“(K) provide for research on cyber-physical systems and improving the methods available for the design, development, and operation of those systems that are characterized by high reliability, safety, and security;

“(L) provide for the understanding of the science, engineering, policy, and privacy protection related to networking and information technology;

“(M) provide for the understanding of the human facets of cyber threats and secure cyber systems;

“(N) provide for the transition of high-performance computing in hardware, system software, development tools, and applications into development and operations; and

“(O) foster public-private collaboration with government, industry research laboratories, academia, and nonprofit organizations to maximize research and development efforts and the bene-

fits of networking and information technology, including high-performance computing.”.

(b) REVIEW AND PLAN.—Section 101 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) PERIODIC REVIEWS.—The heads of the applicable agencies and departments working through the National Science and Technology Council and the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program shall—

“(1) not later than 1 year after the date the advisory committee submits a report under subsection (b)(2), assess the structure of the Program, including the Program Component Areas and associated contents and funding levels, taking into consideration any relevant recommendations of the advisory committee; and

“(2) ensure that the Program includes foundational and interdisciplinary information technology research and development activities.

“(e) STRATEGIC PLANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The heads of the applicable agencies and departments, working through the National Science and Technology Council and the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program shall develop and implement strategic plans to guide emerging activities in specific Program Component Areas, as the advisory committee determines relevant under subsection (b), of Federal networking and information technology research and development, and to guide the activities described in subsection (a)(1).

“(2) UPDATES.—The heads of the applicable agencies and departments shall update the strategic plans as appropriate.

“(3) CONTENTS.—Each strategic plan shall—

“(A) specify near-term and long-term objectives for the Program, the anticipated schedule for achieving the near-term and long-term objectives, and the metrics to be used for assessing progress toward the near-term and long-term objectives;

“(B) specify how the near-term and long-term objectives complement research and development areas in which academia and the private sector is actively engaged;

“(C) describe how the heads of the applicable agencies and departments will support mechanisms for foundational and interdisciplinary research and development in networking and information technology, including through collaborations—

“(i) across Federal agencies and departments;

“(ii) across Program Component Areas; and

“(iii) with industry, Federal and private research laboratories, research entities, universities, institutions of higher education, relevant nonprofit organizations, and international partners of the United States;

“(D) describe how the heads of the applicable agencies and departments will foster the rapid transfer of research and development results into new technologies and applications;

“(E) describe how the Program will address long-term challenges for which solutions require large-scale, long-term, foundational and interdisciplinary research and development; and

“(F) place emphasis on innovative and high-risk projects having the potential for substantial societal returns on the research investment.

“(4) PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORTS.—In developing, implementing, and updating strategic plans, the heads of the applicable agencies and departments, working through the National Science and Technology Council and Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program, shall coordinate with industry, academia, and other interested stakeholders to ensure, to the extent practicable, that the Federal networking and information technology research and development activities

carried out under this section do not duplicate the efforts of the private sector.

“(5) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In developing and updating strategic plans, the heads of the applicable agencies and departments shall solicit recommendations and advice from—

“(A) the advisory committee under subsection (b); and

“(B) a wide range of stakeholders, including industry, academia, including representatives of minority serving institutions and community colleges, National Laboratories, and other relevant organizations and institutions.

“(f) REPORTS.—The heads of the applicable agencies and departments, working through the National Science and Technology Council and the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program, shall submit to the advisory committee, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives—

“(1) the strategic plans developed under subsection (e)(1); and

“(2) each update under subsection (e)(2).

“(g) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS.—In this section, the term ‘applicable agencies and departments’ means the Federal agencies and departments identified in subsection (a)(3)(B) or designated under clause (iii) of that subsection.”.

(c) RESEARCH COORDINATION.—Section 101(a)(2) of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “REQUIREMENTS.—” before “The Director”; and

(2) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) provide for the coordination of Federal networking and information technology research, development, networking, and other activities—

“(i) among the applicable agencies and departments under the Program; and

“(ii) to the extent practicable, with other Federal agencies not identified in subsection (a)(3)(B), other Federal and private research laboratories, industry, research entities, universities, institutions of higher education, relevant nonprofit organizations, and international partners of the United States;”.

(d) BUDGET.—Section 101(a)(3) of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “CONTENTS OF ANNUAL REPORTS.—” before “The annual”;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking clauses (i) through (xi) and inserting the following—

“(i) the Department of Commerce;

“(ii) the Department of Defense;

“(iii) the Department of Education;

“(iv) the Department of Energy;

“(v) the Department of Health and Human Services;

“(vi) the Department of Homeland Security;

“(vii) the Department of Justice;

“(viii) the Environmental Protection Agency;

“(ix) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

“(x) the National Archives and Records Administration;

“(xi) the National Science Foundation; and

“(xii) such other agencies and departments as the President or the Director considers appropriate;”;

(3) in subparagraph (C), by striking “is submitted,” and inserting “is submitted, the levels for the previous fiscal year.”;

(4) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking “is submitted,” and inserting “is submitted, the levels for the previous fiscal year.”; and

(B) by striking “and” after the semicolon;
(5) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(6) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E) include a description of how the objectives for each Program Component Area, and the objectives for activities that involve multiple Program Component Areas, relate to the objectives of the Program identified in the strategic plan under subsection (e);”.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING ACT OF 1991.—The High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5501 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 2 (15 U.S.C. 5501)—

(A) in paragraphs (2) and (5), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology, including high-performance computing,”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology, including high-performance computing”;

(2) in section 3 (15 U.S.C. 5502)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and paragraph (1), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology” each place it appears; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “high-performance computing and” and inserting “networking and information technology and”; and

(ii) by striking “high-performance computing network” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(3) in section 4 (15 U.S.C. 5503)—

(A) in paragraphs (2) and (3), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(B) by striking paragraph (5);

(C) in paragraph (6), by striking “National High-Performance Computing” and inserting “Networking and Information Technology Research and Development”; and

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (4), (3), (5), and (6), respectively;

(4) in section 101 (15 U.S.C. 5511)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “**NATIONAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING**” and inserting “**NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**”;

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “**NATIONAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING**” and inserting “**NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**”;

(ii) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “National High-Performance Computing” and inserting “Networking and Information Technology Research and Development”;

(II) in subparagraph (A), by striking “high-performance computing, including networking” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(III) in subparagraphs (B) and (C), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “high-end computing, including high-performance computing,”; and

(IV) in subparagraph (G), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology, including high-performance computing,”; and

(iii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking “high-performance computing research, development, networking” and inserting “networking and information technology research and development”;

(II) in subparagraph (E), by striking “high-performance computing and networking sys-

tems” and inserting “high-end computing and networking systems”; and

(III) in subparagraph (F), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “high-end, including high-performance, computing”;

(C) in subsection (b)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “high-performance computing” each place it appears and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(D) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “Committee on Science and Technology” and inserting “Committee on Science, Space, and Technology”; and

(E) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(5) in section 201(a)(1) (15 U.S.C. 5521(a)(1)), by striking “high-performance computing and advanced high-speed computer networking” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(6) in section 202(a) (15 U.S.C. 5522(a)), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(7) in section 203 (15 U.S.C. 5523(a))—

(A) by striking “high-performance computing and networking” and inserting “networking and information technology”; and

(B) by striking “high-performance computing systems” and inserting “high-end, including high-performance, computing systems”;

(8) in section 204 (15 U.S.C. 5524)—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “high-performance computing systems and networks” and inserting “networking and information technology systems”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “high-performance computing systems in networks” and inserting “networking and information technology systems”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “high-performance computing systems” and inserting “networking and information technology”; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “**HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING AND NETWORK**” and inserting “**NETWORK AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY**”; and

(ii) by striking “sensitive information in Federal computer systems” and inserting “agency information and information systems”; and

(9) in section 207 (15 U.S.C. 5527)—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “section 2315(a) of title 10” and inserting “section 3552(b)(6)(A) of title 44”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “high-performance computing systems” and inserting “networking and information technology”.

(f) ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) NATIONAL NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.—Section 101 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511), as amended, is further amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**.” before “The President shall”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting “**ADDITIONAL DUTIES**.” before “In addition to”; and

(iii) in paragraph (3), by inserting “**FACA**.” before “Section 14”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “**REPORTS**.” before “Each Federal”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting “**OMB REVIEW**.” before “The Office”.

(2) MISCELLANEOUS.—

(A) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.—Section 4(b)(5)(K) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(b)(5)(K)) is amended by striking “high-per-

formance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”.

(B) NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—Section 13202(b) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 17912(b)) is amended by striking “National High-Performance Computing Program” and inserting “Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program”.

(C) FEDERAL CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Section 201(a)(4) of the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014 (15 U.S.C. 7431(a)(4)) is amended by striking “clauses (i) through (x) of section 101(a)(3)(B) of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(3)(B)) or designated under clause (xi) of that section” and inserting “clauses (i) through (xi) of section 101(a)(3)(B) of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(3)(B)) or designated under clause (xii) of that section”.

(D) NATIONAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORK.—Section 102 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5512) is repealed.

(E) NEXT GENERATION INTERNET.—Section 103 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5513) is repealed.

(F) FOSTERING UNITED STATES COMPETITIVENESS IN HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.—Section 208 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5528) is repealed.

SEC. 106. HIGH-ENERGY PHYSICS COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Physical Science Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council shall define and continue to coordinate Federal efforts, including activities of relevant advisory committees, related to high-energy physics research to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of United States investment in high-energy physics.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Physical Science Subcommittee include—

(1) to advise and assist the Committee on Science and the National Science and Technology Council on United States policies, procedures, and plans in the physical sciences, including high-energy physics; and

(2) to identify emerging opportunities, stimulate international cooperation, and foster the development of the physical sciences in the United States, including—

(A) in high-energy physics research, including related underground science and engineering research;

(B) in physical infrastructure and facilities;

(C) in information and analysis; and

(D) in coordination activities.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In regard to coordinating Federal efforts related to high-energy physics research, the Physical Science Subcommittee shall—

(1) provide recommendations on planning for construction and stewardship of large facilities participating in high-energy physics;

(2) provide recommendations on research coordination and collaboration among the programs and activities of Federal agencies;

(3) establish goals and priorities for high-energy physics, related underground science, and research and development that will strengthen United States competitiveness in high-energy physics;

(4) propose methods for engagement with international, Federal, and State agencies and Federal laboratories not represented on the National Science and Technology Council to identify and reduce regulatory, logistical, and fiscal barriers that inhibit United States leadership in high-energy physics and related underground science; and

(5) develop, and update as necessary, a strategic plan to guide Federal programs and activities in support of high-energy physics research, including—

(A) the efforts taken in support of subsection (b) since the last strategic plan;

(B) an evaluation of the current research needs for maintaining United States leadership in high-energy physics; and

(C) an identification of future priorities in the area of high-energy physics.

SEC. 107. LABORATORY PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Director of NIST, acting through the Associate Director for Laboratory Programs, shall develop and implement a comprehensive strategic plan for laboratory programs that expands—

(1) interactions with academia, international researchers, and industry; and

(2) commercial and industrial applications.

(b) *OPTIMIZING COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS.*—In accordance with the purpose under section 1(b)(3) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271(b)(3)), the comprehensive strategic plan shall—

(1) include performance metrics for the dissemination of fundamental research results, measurements, and standards research results to industry, including manufacturing, and other interested parties;

(2) document any positive benefits of research on the competitiveness of the parties described in paragraph (1); and

(3) clarify the current approach to the technology transfer activities of NIST.

SEC. 108. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Section 17(a) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) *FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS.*—The Secretary is authorized, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to expend such sums, within the limit of appropriated funds, through direct support for activities of international organizations and foreign national metrology institutes with which the Institute cooperates to advance measurement methods, standards, and related basic technologies and, as the Secretary may deem desirable, through the grant of fellowships or any other form of financial assistance, to defray the expenses of foreign nationals not in service to the Government of the United States while they are performing scientific or engineering work at the Institute or participating in the exchange of scientific or technical information at the Institute.”

SEC. 109. STANDARD REFERENCE DATA ACT UPDATE.

Section 2 of the Standard Reference Data Act (15 U.S.C. 290a) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

“For the purposes of this Act:

“(1) *STANDARD REFERENCE DATA.*—The term ‘standard reference data’ means data that is—

“(A) either—

“(i) quantitative information related to a measurable physical or chemical property of a substance or system of substances of known composition and structure;

“(ii) measurable characteristics of a physical artifact or artifacts;

“(iii) engineering properties or performance characteristics of a system; or

“(iv) 1 or more digital data objects that serve—

“(I) to calibrate or characterize the performance of a detection or measurement system; or

“(II) to interpolate or extrapolate, or both, data described in subparagraph (A) through (C); and

“(B) that is critically evaluated as to its reliability under section 3 of this Act.

“(2) *SECRETARY.*—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Commerce.”

SEC. 110. NSF MID-SCALE PROJECT INVESTMENTS.

(a) *FINDINGS.*—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Foundation funds major research facilities, infrastructure, and instrumentation that provide unique capabilities at the frontiers of science and engineering.

(2) Modern and effective research infrastructure is critical to maintaining United States leadership in science and engineering.

(3) Many proposed instruments, equipment, or upgrades to major research facilities fall between programs currently funded by the Foundation, creating a gap between Major Research Instrumentation and Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction, including projects that have been identified as cost-effective additions of high priority to the advancement of scientific understanding.

(4) The 2010 Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey recommended a vigorous mid-scale innovations program.

(b) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—It is the sense of Congress that the addition of a competitive mid-scale funding opportunity that includes research, instruments, and infrastructure is essential to the portfolio of the Foundation and advancing scientific understanding.

(c) *MID-SCALE PROJECTS.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Foundation shall evaluate the existing and future needs, across all disciplines supported by the Foundation, for mid-scale projects.

(2) *STRATEGY.*—The Director of the Foundation shall develop a strategy to meet the needs identified in paragraph (1).

(3) *BRIEFING.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Foundation shall provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress on the evaluation under paragraph (1) and the strategy under paragraph (2).

(4) *DEFINITION OF MID-SCALE PROJECTS.*—In this subsection, the term “mid-scale projects” means research, instrumentation, and infrastructure investments that fall between the instrumentation funded by the major research instrumentation program and the very large projects funded by the major research equipment and facilities construction program as described in section 507 of the AMERICA Competes Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–358; 124 Stat. 4008).

SEC. 111. OVERSIGHT OF NSF LARGE-SCALE RESEARCH FACILITY PROJECTS.

(a) *FACILITIES OVERSIGHT.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Director of the Foundation shall strengthen oversight and accountability over the full life-cycle of large-scale research facility projects, including planning, development, procurement, construction, operations, and support, and shut-down of such facilities, in order to maximize research investment.

(2) *REQUIREMENTS.*—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Director shall—

(A) prioritize the scientific outcomes of large-scale research facility projects and the internal management and financial oversight of the projects;

(B) clarify the roles and responsibilities of all organizations, including offices, panels, committees, and directorates, involved in supporting large-scale research facility projects, including the role of the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction Panel;

(C) establish policies and procedures for the planning, management, and oversight of large-scale research facility projects at each phase of the life-cycle of the project;

(D) ensure that policies for estimating and managing costs and schedules are consistent

with the best practices described in the Government Accountability Office Cost Estimating and Assessment Guide, the Government Accountability Office Schedule Assessment Guide, and the Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. Part 200);

(E) establish the appropriate project management and financial management expertise required for Foundation staff to oversee large-scale research facility projects effectively, including by improving project management training and certification; and

(F) coordinate the sharing of the best management practices and lessons learned from large-scale research facility projects.

(b) *FACILITIES FULL LIFE-CYCLE COSTS.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to subsection (c)(1), the Director of the Foundation shall require that any pre-award analysis of a large-scale research facility includes the development and consideration of the full life-cycle cost (as defined in section 2 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 1862k note)) in accordance with section 14 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n–4).

(2) *IMPLEMENTATION.*—Based on the pre-award analysis described in paragraph (1), the Director shall include projected operational costs within the Foundation’s out years as part of the President’s yearly budget submissions to Congress.

(c) *COST OVERSIGHT.*—

(1) *PRE-AWARD ANALYSIS.*—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Director of the Foundation and the National Science Board may not approve any proposed large-scale research facility project unless—

(i) an analysis of the proposed budget has been conducted to ensure the proposal is complete and reasonable;

(ii) the analysis under clause (i) follows the Government Accountability Office Cost Estimating and Assessment Guide;

(iii) except as provided under subparagraph (C), an analysis of the accounting systems has been conducted;

(iv) an independent cost estimate of the construction of the project has been conducted using the same detailed technical information as the project proposal estimate to determine whether the estimate is well-supported and realistic; and

(v) the Foundation and the National Science Board has considered the analyses under clauses (i) and (iii) and the independent cost estimate under clause (iv) and resolved any major issues identified therein.

(B) *AUDITS.*—A Foundation analysis under subparagraph (A)(i) may include an audit.

(C) *EXCEPTION.*—The Director, at the Director’s discretion, may waive the requirement under subparagraph (A)(iii) if a similar analysis of the accounting systems was conducted in the prior years.

(2) *CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT.*—The Director shall require for each large-scale research facility project—

(A) periodic external reviews on project management and performance;

(B) adequate internal controls, policies, and procedures, and reliable accounting systems in preparation for the incurred cost audits under subparagraph (D);

(C) annual incurred cost submissions of financial expenditures; and

(D) an incurred cost audit of the project—

(i) at least once during construction at a time determined based on risk analysis and length of the award, except that the length of time between audits may not exceed 3 years; and

(ii) at the completion of the construction phase.

(3) *OPERATIONS COST ESTIMATE.*—The Director shall require an independent cost estimate of the

operational proposal for each large-scale research facility project.

(d) CONTINGENCY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall strengthen internal controls to improve oversight of contingency on a large-scale research facility project.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Foundation shall—

(A) retain control over a portion of the budget contingency funds of each awardee;

(B) distribute the retained funds with other incremental funds as needed; and

(C) track contingency use.

(e) OVERSIGHT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS.—The Director of the Foundation shall—

(1) not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and periodically thereafter until the completion date, provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress on the response to or progress made toward implementation of—

(A) this section;

(B) all of the issues and recommendations identified in cooperative agreement audit reports and memoranda issued by the Inspector General of the National Science Foundation in the last 5 years; and

(C) all of the issues and recommendations identified by a panel of the National Academy of Public Administration in the December 2015 report entitled “National Science Foundation: Use of Cooperative Agreements to Support Large Scale Investment in Research”; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, notify the appropriate committees of Congress when the Foundation has implemented the recommendations identified in a panel of the National Academy of Public Administration report issued December 2015.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) LARGE-SCALE RESEARCH FACILITY PROJECT.—The term “large-scale research facility project” means a science and engineering facility project funded by the major research equipment and facilities construction account, or any successor thereto.

SEC. 112. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.

The Director of the Foundation shall update the policy and procedure of the Foundation relating to conflicts of interest to improve documentation and management of any known conflict of interest of an individual on temporary assignment at the Foundation, including an individual on assignment under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.).

SEC. 113. MANAGEMENT OF THE NSF ANTARCTIC PROGRAM.

(a) REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation shall continue to review the efforts by the Foundation to sustain and strengthen scientific efforts in the face of logistical challenges for the United States Antarctic Program.

(2) ISSUES TO BE EXAMINED.—In conducting the review, the Director shall examine, at a minimum, the following:

(A) Implementation by the Foundation of issues and recommendations identified by—

(i) the Inspector General of the National Science Foundation in audit reports and memoranda on the United States Antarctic Program in the last 4 years;

(ii) the U.S. Antarctic Program Blue Ribbon Panel report, More and Better Science in Ant-

arctica through Increased Logistical Effectiveness, issued July 23, 2012; and

(iii) the National Research Council report, Future Science Opportunities in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, issued September 2011.

(B) Efforts by the Foundation to track its progress in addressing the issues and recommendations under subparagraph (A).

(C) Efforts by the Foundation to address other opportunities and challenges, including efforts on scientific research, coordination with other Federal agencies and international partners, logistics and transportation, health and safety of participants, oversight and financial management of awardees and contractors, and resources and policy challenges.

(b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the ongoing review, including findings and any recommendations.

SEC. 114. NIST CAMPUS SECURITY.

(a) SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY.—Consistent with the enforcement authority delegated by the Secretary of Homeland Security under section 1315 of title 40, United States Code, the Department of Commerce Office of Security shall directly manage the law enforcement and security programs of NIST through an assigned Director of Security for NIST.

(b) REPORTS.—The Director of Security for NIST shall provide an activities and security report on a quarterly basis for the first year after the date of enactment of this Act, and on an annual basis thereafter, to the Under Secretary for Standards and Technology.

SEC. 115. FEDERAL COORDINATION OF SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the science of chemistry is vital to improving the quality of human life and plays an important role in addressing critical global challenges, including water quality, energy, health care, and agriculture;

(2) sustainable chemistry can reduce risk to human health and the environment, reduce waste and improve pollution prevention, promote safe and efficient manufacturing, and promote efficient use of resources in developing new materials, processes, and technologies that support viable long-term solutions;

(3) sustainable chemistry can stimulate innovation, encourage new and creative approaches to problems, create jobs, and save money; and

(4) a coordinated national effort on sustainable chemistry will allow for a greater return on Federal research investment in this space.

(b) NATIONAL COORDINATION FOR SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall convene an entity under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to coordinate Federal programs and activities in support of sustainable chemistry, including, as appropriate, at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Department of Defense, the National Institutes of Health, and other related Federal agencies.

(2) CHAIRS.—The entity described in paragraph (1) shall be chaired by representatives from the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, or other agencies, as appropriate.

(3) DUTIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The entity described in paragraph (1) shall—

(i) develop a working definition of sustainable chemistry, after seeking advice and input from stakeholders as described in clause (iv);

(ii) coordinate and support existing Federal research, development, education, and training efforts in sustainable chemistry;

(iii) develop a strategic plan to guide Federal programs and activities in support of sustainable chemistry research, development, technology transfer, education, and training as described in subsection (c), including support for public-private partnerships; and

(iv) as appropriate, consult and coordinate with stakeholders qualified to provide advice and information on the development of the definition of sustainable chemistry and the strategic plan.

(B) STAKEHOLDERS.—In choosing the stakeholders described in subparagraph (A)(iv), the entity described in paragraph (1) is strongly encouraged to include representatives from—

(i) industry (including small- and medium-sized enterprises from across the value chain);

(ii) the scientific community (including the National Academy of Sciences, scientific professional societies, and academia);

(iii) the defense community;

(iv) State, tribal, and local governments;

(v) State or regional sustainable chemistry programs;

(vi) non-governmental organizations; and

(vii) other appropriate organizations.

(c) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the entity described in subsection (b)(1) shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a 5-year strategic plan that shall include—

(A) a summary of Federally funded sustainable chemistry research, development, demonstration, technology transfer, commercialization, education, and training activities;

(B) a summary of the financial resources allocated to sustainable chemistry activities;

(C) an evaluation of best practices and coordination among participating agencies; and

(D) a framework for advancing sustainable chemistry, including strategies for and benefits of Federal support for—

(i) sustainable chemistry research and development conducted at Federal and national laboratories, Federal agencies, and public and private institutions of higher education;

(ii) technology transfer and commercialization of sustainable chemistry, including incentives and impediments to development of sustainable chemicals, best practices, and costs and benefits;

(iii) education and training of undergraduate and graduate students and professional scientists and engineers, including through partnerships with industry, in sustainable chemistry science and engineering;

(iv) economic, legal, and other appropriate social science research to identify barriers to commercialization and methods to advance commercialization of sustainable chemistry; and

(v) public-private partnerships in support of sustainable chemistry research, development, education, and training.

(2) SUBMISSION TO GAO.—The entity described in subsection (b)(1) shall submit the strategic plan described in paragraph (1) to the Government Accountability Office for consideration in future Congressional inquiries.

(d) SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY BASIC RESEARCH.—Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall continue to carry out the Sustainable Chemistry Basic Research program authorized under section 509 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p–3).

TITLE II—ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY BURDEN REDUCTION

SEC. 201. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON RESEARCH REGULATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Scientific and technological advancement have been the largest drivers of economic growth in the last 50 years, with the Federal Government being the largest investor in basic research.

(2) Federally funded grants are increasingly competitive, with the Foundation funding only approximately 1 in every 5 grant proposals.

(3) Researchers spend as much as 42 percent of their time complying with Federal regulations, including administrative tasks such as applying for grants or meeting reporting requirements.

(4) The time spent on the activities described in paragraph (3) affects efficiency and reduces valuable research time.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that administrative burdens faced by researchers may be reducing the return on investment of federally funded research and development.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall establish an interagency working group (referred to in this section as the “Working Group”) to reduce administrative burdens on federally funded researchers while protecting the public interest in the transparency of and accountability for federally funded activities.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall—

(A) regularly review relevant, administration-related regulations imposed on federally funded researchers; and

(B) recommend those regulations or processes that may be eliminated, streamlined, or otherwise improved for the purpose described in subsection (c).

(2) GRANT REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, shall—

(i) conduct a comprehensive review of Federal science agency grant proposal documents; and

(ii) develop, to the extent practicable, a simplified, uniform grant format to be used by all Federal science agencies.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the uniform grant format, the Working Group shall consider whether to implement—

(i) procedures for preliminary project proposals in advance of peer-review selection;

(ii) increased use of “Just-In-Time” procedures for documentation that does not bear directly on the scientific merit of a proposal;

(iii) simplified initial budget proposals in advance of peer review selection; and

(iv) detailed budget proposals for applicants that peer review selection identifies as likely to be funded.

(3) CENTRALIZED RESEARCHER PROFILE DATABASE.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Working Group shall establish, to the extent practicable, a secure, centralized database for investigator biosketches, curriculum vitae, licenses, publications, and other documents considered relevant by the Working Group.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the centralized database under subparagraph (A), the Working Group shall consider incorporating existing investigator databases.

(C) GRANT PROPOSALS.—To the extent practicable, all grant proposals shall utilize the centralized researcher profile database established under subparagraph (A).

(D) REQUIREMENTS.—Each investigator shall—

(i) be responsible for ensuring the investigator’s profile is current and accurate; and

(ii) be assigned a unique identifier linked to the database and accessible to all Federal funding agencies.

(4) CENTRALIZED ASSURANCES REPOSITORY.—The Working Group shall—

(A) establish a central repository for all of the assurances required for Federal research grants; and

(B) provide guidance to universities and Federal science agencies on the use of the centralized assurances repository.

(5) COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, shall—

(i) conduct a comprehensive review of the mandated progress reports for federally funded research; and

(ii) develop a strategy to simplify investigator progress reports.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the strategy, the Working Group shall consider limiting progress reports to performance outcomes.

(C) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out its responsibilities under subsection (d)(1), the Working Group shall consult with academic researchers outside the Federal Government, including—

(1) federally funded researchers;

(2) non-federally funded researchers;

(3) institutions of higher education and their representative associations;

(4) scientific and engineering disciplinary societies and associations;

(5) nonprofit research institutions;

(6) industry, including small businesses;

(7) federally funded research and development centers; and

(8) members of the public with a stake in ensuring effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability in the performance of scientific research.

(f) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and periodically thereafter, the Working Group shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an annual report on its responsibilities under this section, including recommendations under subsection (d)(1)(B).

SEC. 202. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COLLABORATION.

(a) DEFINITION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL WORKSHOP.—In this section, the term “scientific and technical workshop” means a symposium, seminar, or any other organized, formal gathering where scientists or engineers working in STEM research and development fields assemble to coordinate, exchange and disseminate information or to explore or clarify a defined subject, problem or area of knowledge in the STEM fields.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to encourage broad dissemination of Federal research findings and engagement of Federal researchers with the scientific and technical community.

(c) AUTHORITY.—Laboratory, test center, and field center directors and other similar heads of offices may approve scientific and technical workshop attendance if—

(1) that attendance would meet the mission of the laboratory or test center; and

(2) sufficient laboratory or test center funds are available for that purpose.

(d) ATTENDANCE POLICIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the heads of other relevant Federal science agencies, shall revise current policies and streamline processes, in accordance with the policy under subsection (b), for attendance at scientific and technical work-

shops while ensuring appropriate oversight, accountability, and transparency.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In revising the policy under paragraph (1), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall consider the goal of adjudicating a request to attend a scientific and technical workshop not later than 30 days after the date of the request.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date the Director of the Office of Management and Budget revises the policies under paragraph (1), the head of each Federal science agency shall update that agency’s policies for attendance at scientific and technical workshops.

(e) NIST WORKSHOPS.—Section 2(c) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)), as amended by section 104 of this Act, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (19) through (24) as paragraphs (22) through (27), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (18) the following:

“(19) host, participate in, and support scientific and technical workshops (as defined in section 202 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act);

“(20) collect and retain any fees charged by the Secretary for hosting a scientific and technical workshop described in paragraph (19);

“(21) notwithstanding title 31 of the United States Code, use the fees described in paragraph (20) to pay for any related expenses, including subsistence expenses for participants;”.

SEC. 203. NIST GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS UPDATE.

Section 8(a) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3706(a)) is amended by striking “The total amount of any such grant or cooperative agreement may not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the program.”.

SEC. 204. REPEAL OF CERTAIN OBSOLETE REPORTS.

(a) REPEAL OF CERTAIN OBSOLETE REPORTS.—

(1) NIST REPORTS.—

(A) REPORT ON DONATION OF EDUCATIONALLY USEFUL FEDERAL EQUIPMENT TO SCHOOLS.—Section 6(b) of the Technology Administration Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1) IN GENERAL.—” and indenting appropriately; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (2).

(B) THREE-YEAR PROGRAMMATIC PLANNING DOCUMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Section 23 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278i) is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d).

(ii) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 10(h)(1) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278(h)(1)) is amended by striking the last sentence.

(2) MULTIAGENCY REPORT ON INNOVATION ACCELERATION RESEARCH.—Section 1008 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 6603) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (c); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(3) NSF REPORTS.—

(A) FUNDING FOR SUCCESSFUL STEM EDUCATION PROGRAMS; REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Section 7012 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o–4) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(B) ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION; EVALUATION AND REPORT.—Section 7031 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o–11) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(C) MATH AND SCIENCE PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM COORDINATION REPORT.—Section 9(c) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n(c)) is amended—

(i) by striking paragraph (4); and
 (ii) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4).

(b) NATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE REPORTS.—The 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by amending section 2(c)(4) (15 U.S.C. 7501(c)(4)) to read as follows:

“(4) develop, not later than 5 years after the date of the release of the most-recent strategic plan, and update every 5 years thereafter, a strategic plan to guide the activities described under subsection (b) that describes—

“(A) the near-term and long-term objectives for the Program;

“(B) the anticipated schedule for achieving the near-term objectives; and

“(C) the metrics that will be used to assess progress toward the near-term and long-term objectives;

“(D) how the Program will move results out of the laboratory and into application for the benefit of society;

“(E) the Program’s support for long-term funding for interdisciplinary research and development in nanotechnology; and

“(F) the allocation of funding for interagency nanotechnology projects;”

(2) by amending section 4(d) (15 U.S.C. 7503(d)) to read as follows:

“(d) REPORTS.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the most recent assessment under subsection (c), and quadrennially thereafter, the Advisory Panel shall submit to the President, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report its assessments under subsection (c) and its recommendations for ways to improve the Program.”; and

(3) in section 5 (15 U.S.C. 7504)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “TRIENNIAL” and inserting “QUADRENNIAL”;

(B) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “triennial” and inserting “quadrennial”;

(C) in subsection (b), by striking “triennial” and inserting “quadrennial”;

(D) in subsection (c), by striking “triennial” and inserting “quadrennial”; and

(E) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date the first evaluation under subsection (a) is received, and quadrennially thereafter, the Director of the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office shall report to the President its assessments under subsection (c) and its recommendations for ways to improve the Program.

“(2) CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date the President receives the report under paragraph (1), the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall transmit a copy of the report to Congress.”

(c) MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION.—Section 14 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n–4) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) PRIORITIZATION OF PROPOSED MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORITIES.—The Director shall—

“(A) develop a list indicating by number the relative priority for funding under the major research equipment and facilities construction account that the Director assigns to each project the Board has approved for inclusion in a future budget request; and

“(B) submit the list described in subparagraph (A) to the Board for approval.

“(2) CRITERIA.—The Director shall include in the criteria for developing the list under paragraph (1) the readiness of plans for construction and operation, including confidence in the estimates of the full life-cycle cost (as defined in section 2 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 1862k note)) and the proposed schedule of completion.

“(3) UPDATES.—The Director shall update the list prepared under paragraph (1) each time the Board approves a new project that would receive funding under the major research equipment and facilities construction account and periodically submit any updated list to the Board for approval.”

(2) by striking subsection (e);

(3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and

(4) by amending subsection (c), as redesignated, to read as follows:

“(c) BOARD APPROVAL OF MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES PROJECTS.—The Board shall explicitly approve any project to be funded out of the major research equipment and facilities construction account before any funds may be obligated from such account for such project.”

SEC. 205. REPEAL OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

(a) TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 28 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) ADDITIONAL AWARD CRITERIA.—Section 4226(b) of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (15 U.S.C. 278n note) is repealed.

(B) MANAGEMENT COSTS.—Section 2(d) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(d)) is amended by striking “sections 25, 26, and 28” and inserting “sections 25 and 26”.

(C) ANNUAL AND OTHER REPORTS TO SECRETARY AND CONGRESS.—Section 10(h)(1) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278(h)(1)) is amended by striking “, including the Program established under section 28,”.

(b) TEACHERS FOR A COMPETITIVE TOMORROW.—Sections 6111 through 6116 of the America COMPETES Act (20 U.S.C. 9811, 9812, 9813, 9814, 9815, 9816) and the items relating to those sections in the table of contents under section 2 of that Act (Public Law 110–69; 121 Stat. 572) are repealed.

SEC. 206. GRANT SUBRECIPIENT TRANSPARENCY AND OVERSIGHT.

By not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Foundation shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an audit of the Foundation’s policies and procedures governing the monitoring of pass-through entities with respect to subrecipients. The audit shall include the following:

(1) Information regarding the Foundation’s process to oversee—

(A) the compliance of pass-through entities pursuant to section 200.331 and subpart F of part 200 of chapter II of subtitle A of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, and the other requirements of such title 2 for subrecipients;

(B) whether pass-through entities have processes and controls in place regarding financial compliance of subrecipients, where appropriate; and

(C) whether pass-through entities have processes and controls in place to maintain approved grant objectives for subrecipients, where appropriate.

(2) Any recommendations to increase the transparency and oversight of the selection process, grant objectives, and financial oversight of the pass-through entities, while balancing administrative burdens.

SEC. 207. MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD FOR PROCUREMENT SOLICITATIONS BY RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS.

(a) MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD.—The micro-purchase threshold for procurement activities administered under sections 6303 through 6305 of title 31, United States Code, awarded by the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Institute of Standards and Technology to institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))), or related or affiliated nonprofit entities, or to nonprofit research organizations or independent research institutes is—

(1) \$10,000 (as adjusted periodically to account for inflation); or

(2) such higher threshold as determined appropriate by the head of the relevant executive agency and consistent with audit findings under chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code, internal institutional risk assessment, or State law.

(b) UNIFORM GUIDANCE.—The Uniform Guidance shall be revised to conform with the requirements of this section. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term “Uniform Guidance” means the uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for Federal awards contained in part 200 of title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

TITLE III—SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH EDUCATION

SEC. 301. ROBERT NOYCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE.

Section 10A of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n–1a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(k) STEM TEACHER SERVICE AND RETENTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall develop and implement practices for increasing the proportion of individuals receiving fellowships under this section who—

“(A) fulfill the service obligation required under subsection (h); and

“(B) remain in the teaching profession in a high need local educational agency beyond the service obligation.

“(2) PRACTICES.—The practices described under paragraph (1) may include—

“(A) partnering with nonprofit or professional associations or with other government entities to provide individuals receiving fellowships under this section with opportunities for professional development, including mentorship programs that pair those individuals with currently employed and recently retired science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science professionals;

“(B) increasing recruitment from high need districts;

“(C) establishing a system to better collect, track, and respond to data on the career decisions of individuals receiving fellowships under this section;

“(D) conducting research to better understand factors relevant to teacher service and retention, including factors specifically impacting the retention of teachers from underrepresented groups, including women and minorities; and

“(E) conducting pilot programs to improve teacher service and retention.”

SEC. 302. SPACE GRANTS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program has been an important program by which the Federal Government has partnered with universities, colleges, industry, and other organizations to provide hands-on STEM experiences, fostering of multidisciplinary space research, and supporting graduate fellowships in space-related fields, among other purposes.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Section 40303 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION COSTS.—In carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the Administrator—

“(1) shall maximize appropriated funds for grants and contracts made under section 40304 in each fiscal year; and

“(2) in each fiscal year, the Administrator shall limit its program administration costs to no more than 5 percent of funds appropriated for this program for that fiscal year.

“(e) REPORTS.—For any fiscal year in which the Administrator cannot meet the administration cost target under subsection (d)(2), if the Administration is unable to limit program costs under subsection (b), the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report, including—

“(1) a description of why the Administrator did not meet the cost target under subsection (d); and

“(2) the measures the Administrator will take in the next fiscal year to meet the cost target under subsection (d) without drawing upon other Federal funding.”.

SEC. 303. STEM EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, Director of the Foundation, the Secretary of Education, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall jointly establish an advisory panel (referred to in this section as the “STEM Education Advisory Panel”) to advise the Committee on STEM Education of the National Science and Technology Council (referred to in this section as “CoSTEM”) on matters relating to STEM education.

(b) MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The STEM Education Advisory Panel shall be composed of not less than 11 members.

(2) APPOINTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Director of the Foundation, in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the heads of the Federal science agencies, shall appoint the members of the STEM Education Advisory Panel.

(B) CONSIDERATION.—In selecting individuals to appoint under subparagraph (A), the Director of the Foundation shall seek and give consideration to recommendations from Congress, industry, the scientific community, including the National Academy of Sciences, scientific professional societies, academia, State and local governments, organizations representing groups underrepresented in STEM fields, such as women and minorities, and such other organizations as the Director considers appropriate.

(C) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members shall—

(i) primarily be individuals from academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, and industry, including in-school, out-of-school, and informal education practitioners; and

(ii) be individuals who are qualified to provide advice and information on STEM education research, development, training, implementation, interventions, professional development, or workforce needs or concerns.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) ASSESSMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The STEM Education Advisory Panel shall advise CoSTEM and periodically assess its progress in carrying out its responsibilities under section 101(b) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621(b)).

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In its advisory role, the STEM Education Advisory Panel shall consider—

(i) the appropriateness of criteria used by Federal agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of Federal STEM education programs and activities;

(ii) ways to leverage private and nonprofit STEM investments and encourage public-private partnerships to strengthen STEM education and help build the STEM workforce pipeline; and

(iii) how Federal agencies incentivize colleges and universities to improve retention of STEM students.

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The STEM Education Advisory Panel shall make recommendations to improve Federal STEM education programs and activities based on the assessment under paragraph (1).

(d) FUNDING.—The Director of the Foundation, the Secretary of Education, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall jointly make funds available on an annual basis to support the activities of the STEM Education Advisory Panel.

(e) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter, the STEM Education Advisory Panel shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, and CoSTEM a report on its assessment under subsection (c)(1) and recommendations under subsection (c)(2).

(f) TRAVEL EXPENSES OF NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Non-Federal members of the STEM Education Advisory Panel, while attending meetings of the panel or while otherwise serving at the request of a co-chairperson away from their homes or regular places of business, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for individuals in the Government serving without pay.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit members of the STEM Advisory Panel who are officers or employees of the United States from being allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with existing law.

SEC. 304. COMMITTEE ON STEM EDUCATION.

(a) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Section 101(b) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5)(D), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) collaborate with the STEM Education Advisory Panel established under section 303 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act and other outside stakeholders to ensure the engagement of the STEM education community;

“(8) review the measures used by a Federal agency to evaluate its STEM education activities and programs;

“(9) request and review feedback from States on how the States are utilizing Federal STEM education programs and activities; and

“(10) recommend the reform, termination, or consolidation of Federal STEM education activities and programs, taking into consideration the recommendations of the STEM Education Advisory Panel.”.

(b) REPORTS.—Section 101 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621) is amended—

(1) by striking “(c) REPORT.—” and inserting “(d) REPORTS.—”;

(2) by striking “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF OSTP.—” and inserting “(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF OSTP.—”;

(3) in subsection (d), as redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) a description of all consolidations and terminations of Federal STEM education programs and activities implemented in the previous fiscal year, including an explanation for the consolidations and terminations;

“(7) recommendations for reforms, consolidations, and terminations of STEM education programs or activities in the upcoming fiscal year; and

“(8) a description of any significant new STEM education public-private partnerships.”.

SEC. 305. GRANT PROGRAMS TO EXPAND STEM OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Economic projections by the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that by 2018, there could be 2.4 million unfilled STEM jobs.

(2) Women represent slightly more than half the United States population, and projections indicate that 54 percent of the population will be a member of a racial or ethnic minority group by 2050.

(3) Despite representing half the population, women comprise only about 30 percent of STEM workers according to a 2015 report by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics.

(4) A 2014 National Center for Education Statistics study found that women and underrepresented minorities leave the STEM fields at higher rates than their counterparts.

(5) The representation of women in STEM drops significantly at the faculty level. Overall, women hold only 25 percent of all tenured and tenure-track positions and 17 percent of full professor positions in STEM fields in our Nation’s universities and 4-year colleges.

(6) Black and Hispanic faculty together hold about 6.5 percent of all tenured and tenure-track positions and 5 percent of full professor positions.

(7) Many of the numbers in the American Indian or Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander categories for different faculty ranks were too small for the National Science Foundation to report publicly without potentially compromising confidential information about the individuals being surveyed.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) it is critical to our Nation’s economic leadership and global competitiveness that we educate, train, and retain more scientists, engineers, and computer scientists;

(2) there is currently a disconnect between the availability of and growing demand for STEM-skilled workers;

(3) women, minorities, and persons with disabilities are the largest untapped STEM talent pools in the United States; and

(4) given the shifting demographic landscape, the United States should encourage full participation of individuals described in paragraph (3) in STEM fields.

(c) REAFFIRMATION.—The Director of the Foundation shall continue to support existing programs designed to broaden participation of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities in STEM fields.

(d) PROGRAM TO BROADEN PARTICIPATION IN STEM FIELDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation shall award grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis, to eligible entities to increase the participation of women and groups underrepresented in STEM fields.

(2) APPLICATIONS.—An applicant seeking a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

(3) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Activities supported by grants under this section may include the following:

- (A) Online workshops.
- (B) Mentoring programs that partner science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science professionals with applicable students.
- (C) Internships for applicable undergraduate and graduate students in STEM fields.
- (D) Conducting outreach programs that provide applicable elementary school and secondary school students with opportunities to increase their exposure to STEM fields.
- (E) Programs to increase the recruitment and retention of underrepresented faculty.
- (F) Such additional programs as the Director of the Foundation may consider appropriate.
- (e) **GRANT PROGRAM FOR GRADES K THROUGH 8.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Foundation shall award grants to be used for research to advance the engagement of students in grades kindergarten through 8 in STEM that are designed to encourage interest, engagement, and skills development of students in STEM fields, particularly those who are members of groups underrepresented in STEM fields.

(2) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Activities supported by grants under this section may include—

- (A) development and implementation of programming described in paragraph (1) for the purpose of research;
- (B) use of a variety of engagement methods, including cooperative and hands-on learning;
- (C) exposure of students who are members of groups underrepresented in STEM fields to role models, including near-peers, in STEM fields;
- (D) mentors;
- (E) training of informal learning educators and youth-serving professionals using evidence-based methods consistent with the target student population being served;
- (F) education of students on the relevance and significance of STEM careers, provision of academic advice and assistance, and activities designed to help students make real-world connections to STEM content activities;
- (G) attendance of underrepresented students at events, competitions, and academic programs to provide content expertise and encourage career exposure in STEM;
- (H) activities designed to engage parents of underrepresented students;
- (I) innovative strategies to engage underrepresented students, such as using leadership skill outcome measures to encourage youth with the confidence to pursue STEM course work and academic study;
- (J) coordination with STEM-rich environments, including other nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations, classroom and out-of-classroom settings, institutions of higher education, vocational facilities, corporations, museums, or science centers; and
- (K) acquisition of instructional materials or technology-based tools to conduct applicable grant activity.

(3) **APPLICATIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), an applicant seeking a grant under the section shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The application shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- (i) A description of the target audience to be served by the program.
- (ii) A description of the process for recruitment and selection of students, as appropriate.
- (iii) A description of how such research activity may inform programming that engages underrepresented students in grades kindergarten through 8 in STEM.

(iv) A description of how such research activity may inform programming that promotes student academic achievement in STEM.

(v) An evaluation plan to determine the impact and efficacy of activities being researched.

(4) **CONSIDERATION.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Director shall give consideration to applicants which, for the purpose of grant activity, include or partner with an organization that has extensive experience and expertise in increasing the participation of underrepresented students in STEM.

(f) **ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISSEMINATION.**—

(1) **EVALUATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall evaluate the grants provided under this section.

(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In conducting the evaluation under subparagraph (A), the Director shall—

(i) use a common set of benchmarks and assessment tools to identify best practices and materials developed or demonstrated by the research; and

(ii) to the extent practicable, combine the research resulting from the grant activity under subsection (e) with the current research on serving underrepresented students in grades kindergarten through 8.

(2) **REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.**—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and make widely available to the public a report that includes—

(A) the results of the evaluation; and

(B) any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the program.

(g) **COORDINATION.**—In carrying out this section, the Director shall consult, cooperate, and coordinate, to enhance program effectiveness and to avoid duplication, with the programs and policies of other relevant Federal agencies.

(h) **DEFINITION OF GROUPS UNDERREPRESENTED IN STEM FIELDS.**—In this section, the term “groups underrepresented in STEM fields” has the meaning given the term “underrepresented in science and engineering” in section 637.4(b) of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 306. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR INCLUSION IN STEM.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Director of the Foundation shall carry out a program to award merit-reviewed, competitive grants to institutions of higher education, or consortia thereof, to establish not less than 1 Center of Excellence, (referred to in this section as the “Center”) to collect, maintain, and disseminate information to increase participation of women and groups underrepresented in STEM fields (as defined in section 305(d)(4)).

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the Center is to promote diversity in STEM fields by building on the success of the INCLUDES programs, providing technical assistance, maintaining best practices, and providing related training at federally-funded academic institutions.

(c) **PROGRAM.**—The Director of the Foundation shall establish each Center through a merit-reviewed, competitive award to an eligible entity for at least 3, but not more than 5 years.

(d) **PUBLIC DOMAIN.**—All program information developed, collected, or maintained by a Center, except for personally identifiable information, is and shall remain part of the public domain.

(e) **APPLICATION.**—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an eligible institution shall prepare and submit to the Director an application at such a time, in such form, and containing such information as the Director may require.

(f) **ACTIVITIES.**—Activities of a Center may include—

(1) conducting and disseminating research on—

(A) systemic factors and institutional policies that impede or facilitate the recruitment, retention, and success of underrepresented groups in STEM fields; and

(B) best practices for mitigating the systemic factors and institutional policies that impede inclusion of underrepresented groups in STEM fields;

(2) collaborating with institutions of higher education, Federal agencies, industry, and relevant stakeholders to develop policies and practices to facilitate the recruitment, retention, and success of underrepresented groups in STEM;

(3) providing educational opportunities for STEM faculty members, staff, students, trainees, fellows, and administrators to learn about inclusion in STEM and to improve STEM mentoring;

(4) developing and hosting intra- or inter-institutional workshops, and providing ongoing support to workshop participants, to propagate best practices in recruiting, retaining, and advancing STEM faculty members, staff, students, trainees, fellows, and administrators from underrepresented groups at institutions of higher education;

(5) assessing the effectiveness of efforts funded by a Center or related efforts designed to increase inclusion in STEM;

(6) assessing how modern STEM learning environments can increase the inclusion, engagement, and retention of students in STEM fields, particularly for women and groups underrepresented in STEM fields; and

(7) such other actions as a Center determines are necessary to further the inclusion of underrepresented groups in STEM.

SEC. 307. NIST EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.

(a) **REPEALS.**—The National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking section 18 (15 U.S.C. 278g–1); and

(2) by striking section 19A (15 U.S.C. 278g–2a).

(b) **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.**—The National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.), as amended, is further amended by inserting after section 17, the following:

“SEC. 18. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director is authorized to expend funds appropriated for activities of the Institute in any fiscal year, to support, promote, and coordinate activities and efforts to enhance public awareness and understanding of measurement sciences, standards and technology at the national measurement laboratories and otherwise in fulfillment of the mission of the Institute. The Director may carry out activities under this subsection, including education and outreach activities to the general public, industry and academia in support of the Institute’s mission.

“(b) **HIRING.**—The Director, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, may revise the procedures the Director applies when making appointments to laboratory positions within the competitive service—

“(1) to ensure corporate memory of and expertise in the fundamental ongoing work, and on developing new capabilities in priority areas;

“(2) to maintain high overall technical competence;

“(3) to improve staff diversity;

“(4) to balance emphases on the noncore and core areas; or

“(5) to improve the ability of the Institute to compete in the marketplace for qualified personnel.

“(c) **VOLUNTEERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director may establish a program to use volunteers in carrying out the programs of the Institute.

“(2) ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL.—The Director may accept, subject to regulations issued by the Office of Personnel Management, voluntary service for the Institute for such purpose if the service—

“(A) is to be without compensation; and

“(B) will not be used to displace any current employee or act as a substitute for any future full-time employee of the Institute.

“(3) FEDERAL EMPLOYEE STATUS.—Any individual who provides voluntary service under this subsection shall not be considered a Federal employee, except for purposes of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code (relating to compensation for injury), and sections 2671 through 2680 of title 28, United States Code (relating to tort claims).

“(d) RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may expend funds appropriated for activities of the Institute in any fiscal year, as the Director considers appropriate, for awards of research fellowships and other forms of financial and logistical assistance, including direct stipend awards to—

“(A) students at institutions of higher learning within the United States who show promise as present or future contributors to the mission of the Institute; and

“(B) United States citizens for research and technical activities of the Institute, including programs.

“(2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The selection of persons to receive such fellowships and assistance shall be made on the basis of ability and of the relevance of the proposed work to the mission and programs of the Institute.

“(3) FINANCIAL AND LOGISTICAL ASSISTANCE.—Notwithstanding section 1345 of title 31, United States Code, or any other law to the contrary, the Director may include as a form of financial or logistical assistance under this subsection temporary housing and transportation to and from Institute facilities.

“(e) EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.—The Director may—

“(1) facilitate education programs for undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and academic and industry employees;

“(2) sponsor summer internships for STEM high school teachers as appropriate;

“(3) develop programs for graduate student internships and visiting faculty researchers;

“(4) document publications, presentations, and interactions with visiting researchers and sponsoring interns as performance metrics for improving and continuing interactions with those individuals; and

“(5) facilitate laboratory tours and provide presentations for educational, industry, and community groups.”.

(c) POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 19 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–2) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 19. POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Institute and the National Academy of Sciences, jointly, shall establish and conduct a post-doctoral fellowship program, subject to the availability of appropriations.

“(b) ORGANIZATION.—The post-doctoral fellowship program shall include not less than 20 nor more than 120 new fellows per fiscal year.

“(c) EVALUATIONS.—In evaluating applications for post-doctoral fellowships under this section, the Director of the Institute and the President of the National Academy of Sciences shall give consideration to the goal of promoting the participation of underrepresented minorities in research areas supported by the Institute.”.

(d) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—

(1) RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AT INSTITUTES OF

HIGHER EDUCATION.—The repeal made by subsection (a)(1) of this section shall not affect any award of a research fellowship or other form of financial assistance made under section 18 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–1) before the date of enactment of this Act. Such award shall continue to be subject to the requirements to which such funds were subject under that section before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—The amendment made by subsection (c) of this section shall not affect any award of a post-doctoral fellowship or other form of financial assistance made under section 19 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–2) before the date of enactment of this Act. Such awards shall continue to be subject to the requirements to which such funds were subject under that section before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 308. PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN STEM MENTORING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation shall continue to administer awards on behalf of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to recognize outstanding mentoring in STEM fields.

(b) ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS.—The Director of the Foundation shall provide Congress with a list of award recipients, including the name, institution, and a brief synopsis of the impact of the mentoring efforts.

SEC. 309. WORKING GROUP ON INCLUSION IN STEM FIELDS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Office of Science and Technology Policy, in collaboration with Federal departments and agencies, shall establish an interagency working group to compile and summarize available research and best practices on how to promote diversity and inclusions in STEM fields and examine whether barriers exist to promoting diversity and inclusion within Federal agencies employing scientists and engineers.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The working group shall be responsible for reviewing and assessing research, best practices, and policies across Federal science agencies related to the inclusion of underrepresented groups in the Federal STEM workforce, including available research and best practices on how to promote diversity and inclusion in STEM fields, including—

(1) policies providing flexibility for scientists and engineers that are also caregivers, particularly on the timing of research grants;

(2) policies to address the proper handling of claims of sexual harassment;

(3) policies to minimize the effects of implicit bias and other systemic factors in hiring, promotion, evaluation and the workplace in general; and

(4) other evidence-based strategies that the working group considers effective for promoting diversity and inclusion in the STEM fields.

(c) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In carrying out the responsibilities under section (b), the working group shall solicit and consider input and recommendations from non-Federal stakeholders, including—

(1) the Council of Advisors on Science and Technology;

(2) federally funded and non-federally funded researchers, institutions of higher education, scientific disciplinary societies, and associations;

(3) nonprofit research institutions;

(4) industry, including small businesses;

(5) federally funded research and development centers;

(6) non-governmental organizations; and

(7) such other members of the public interested in promoting a diverse and inclusive Federal STEM workforce.

(d) PUBLIC REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and periodically thereafter, the working group shall publish a report on the review and assessment under subsection (b), including a summary of available research and best practices, any recommendations for Federal actions to promote a diverse and inclusive Federal STEM workforce, and updates on the implementation of previous recommendations for Federal actions.

(e) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The authority provided by subsection (a) terminates effective on the date that is 10 years after the date that the working group is established.

SEC. 310. IMPROVING UNDERGRADUATE STEM EXPERIENCES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that each Federal science agency should invest in and expand research opportunities for undergraduate students attending institutions of higher education during the undergraduate student's first 2 academic years of postsecondary education.

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each Federal agency shall submit to the President recommendations regarding how the agency could best fulfill the goals described in subsection (a).

(c) BROADER IMPACTS.—Section 526(a)(6) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–358; 124 Stat. 4019) is amended to read as follows:

“(6) Improved undergraduate STEM education and instruction.”.

SEC. 311. COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION RESEARCH.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that as the lead Federal agency for building the research knowledge base for computer science education, the Foundation is well positioned to make investments that will accelerate ongoing efforts to enable rigorous and engaging computer science throughout the Nation.

(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation shall award grants to eligible entities to research computer science education and computational thinking.

(2) RESEARCH.—The research described in paragraph (1) may include the development or adaptation, piloting or full implementation, and testing of—

(A) models of preservice preparation for teachers who will teach computer science and computational thinking;

(B) scalable and sustainable models of professional development and ongoing support for the teachers described in subparagraph (A);

(C) tools and models for teaching and learning aimed at supporting student success and inclusion in computing within and across diverse populations, particularly poor, rural, and tribal populations and other populations that have been traditionally underrepresented in computer science and STEM fields; and

(D) instructional materials and high-quality learning opportunities for teaching computer science and, especially in poor, rural, or tribal schools at the elementary school and middle school levels, for integrating computational thinking into STEM teaching and learning.

(c) COLLABORATIONS.—In carrying out the grants established in subsection (b), eligible entities may collaborate and partner with local or remote schools to support the integration of computing and computational thinking within pre-kindergarten through grade 12 STEM curricula and instruction.

(d) METRICS.—The Director of the Foundation shall develop metrics to measure the success of the grant program funded under this section in achieving program goals.

(e) REPORT.—The Director of the Foundation shall report, in the annual budget submission to

Congress, on the success of the program as measured by the metrics in subsection (d).

(f) **DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—In this section, the term “eligible entity” means an institution of higher education or a nonprofit research organization.

SEC. 312. INFORMAL STEM EDUCATION.

(a) **NATIONAL STEM PARTNERSHIP GRANTS.**—The Director of the National Science Foundation may award, through a cross-Directorate process including the Directorate for Education and Human Resources and at least one additional Directorate of the Foundation, competitive, merit-reviewed grants to support a national partnership of institutions involved in informal STEM learning.

(b) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Activities supported by grants under this section may include—

- (1) fostering and implementing on-going partnerships between institutions involved in informal STEM learning, institutions of higher education, and education research centers; and
- (2) developing, adapting, and making available informal STEM education activities and educational materials for broad implementation.

SEC. 313. DEVELOPING STEM APPRENTICESHIPS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The lack of data on the return on investment for United States employers using registered apprenticeships makes it difficult—

- (A) to communicate the value of these programs to businesses; and
 - (B) to expand registered apprenticeships.
- (2) The lack of data on the value and impact of employer-provided worker training, which is likely substantial, hinders the ability of the Federal Government to formulate policy related to workforce training.

(3) The Secretary of Commerce has initiated—
(A) the first study on the return on investment for United States employers using registered apprenticeships through case studies of firms in various sectors, occupations, and geographic locations to provide the business community with data on employer benefits and costs; and

(B) discussions with officials at relevant Federal agencies about the need to collect comprehensive data on—

- (i) employer-provided worker training; and
- (ii) existing tools that could be used to collect such data.

(b) **DEVELOPMENT OF APPRENTICESHIP INFORMATION.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall continue to research the value to businesses of utilizing apprenticeship programs, including—

(1) evidence of return on investment of apprenticeships, including estimates for the average time it takes a business to recover the costs associated with training apprentices; and

(2) data from the United States Census Bureau and other statistical surveys on employer-provided training, including apprenticeships and other on-the-job training and industry-recognized certification programs.

(c) **DISSEMINATION OF APPRENTICESHIP INFORMATION.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall disseminate findings from research on apprenticeships to businesses and other relevant stakeholders, including—

- (1) institutions of higher education;
- (2) State and local chambers of commerce; and
- (3) workforce training organizations.

(d) **STUDYING APPROACHES TO COLLECTING EMPLOYER-PROVIDED WORKER TRAINING DATA.**—The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor shall—

(1) collaborate to identify approaches to collecting employer-provided worker training data;

(2) provide a report to the relevant congressional committees on—

- (A) the existing tools available to collect such data; and
- (B) the time and cost of collecting such data; and

(3) provide recommendations to the relevant congressional committees on additional tools that may be needed to collect such data.

(e) **NEW APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM STUDY.**—The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor shall collaborate to study approaches for reducing the cost of creating new apprenticeship programs and hosting apprentices for businesses, particularly small businesses, including—

- (1) training sharing agreements;
- (2) group training models; and
- (3) pooling resources and best practices.

(f) **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION GRANTS.**—The Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 28. STEM APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Commerce may carry out a grant program to identify the need for skilled science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this section as ‘STEM’) workers and to expand STEM apprenticeship programs.

“(b) **ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘eligible recipient’ means—

- “(1) a State;
- “(2) an Indian tribe;
- “(3) a city or other political subdivision of a State;
- “(4) an entity that—

“(A) is a nonprofit organization, an institution of higher education, a public-private partnership, a science or research park, a Federal laboratory, or an economic development organization or similar entity; and

“(B) has an application that is supported by a State, a political subdivision of a State, or a native organization; or

“(5) a consortium of any of the entities described in paragraphs (1) through (5).

“(c) **NEEDS ASSESSMENT GRANTS.**—The Secretary of Commerce may provide a grant to an eligible recipient to conduct a needs assessment to identify—

“(1) the unmet need of a region’s employer base for skilled STEM workers;

“(2) the potential of STEM apprenticeships to address the unmet need described in paragraph (1); and

“(3) any barriers to addressing the unmet need described in paragraph (1).

“(d) **APPRENTICESHIP EXPANSION GRANTS.**—The Secretary of Commerce may provide a grant to an eligible recipient that has conducted a needs assessment as described in subsection (c)(1) to develop infrastructure to expand STEM apprenticeship programs.”

SEC. 314. NSF REPORT ON BROADENING PARTICIPATION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Science Foundation shall—

(1) review data on the participation in Foundation activities of institutions serving groups that are underrepresented in STEM disciplines, including poor, rural, and tribal populations; and

(2) submit to Congress a report on the findings from such review and a recommendation or recommendations regarding how the Foundation could improve outreach and inclusion of these groups in Foundation activities.

SEC. 315. NOAA OCEAN AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (a) of section 4002 of the America COMPETES Act (33 U.S.C. 893a) is amended by inserting after “from underrepresented groups” the following: “, including ethnic, racial, and economic minority groups.”

(b) **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM GOALS.**—Paragraph (4) of section 4002(b) of the America COMPETES Act (33 U.S.C. 893a(b)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (C) and subparagraph (D);

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) are designed considering the unique needs of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, translating such materials and other resources into appropriate multi-lingual curricula.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) are promoted widely, especially among underrepresented groups (including among racial and ethnic minority communities); and”.

(c) **METRICS.**—Section 4002 of the America COMPETES Act (33 U.S.C. 893a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(2) by adding after section (c) the following:

“(d) **METRICS.**—In executing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration science education plan under subsection (c), the Administrator shall maintain a comprehensive system for evaluating the Administration’s educational programs and activities. In so doing, the Administrator shall ensure that such education programs have measurable objectives and milestones as well as clear, documented metrics for evaluating programs. For each such education program or portfolio of similar programs, the Administrator shall—

“(1) encourage the collection of evidence as relevant to the measurable objectives and milestones; and

“(2) ensure that program or portfolio evaluations focus on educational outcomes and not just inputs, activities completed, or the number of participants.”.

TITLE IV—LEVERAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

SEC. 401. PRIZE COMPETITION AUTHORITY UPDATE.

Section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “PRIZES” and by inserting “PRIZE COMPETITIONS”;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “prize may be one or more of the following” and inserting “prize competition may be 1 or more of the following types of activities”;

(C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “competition” after “prize”; and

(D) in paragraphs (3) and (4), by striking “prizes” and inserting “prize competitions”;

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “in the Federal Register” and inserting “on a publicly accessible Government website, such as www.challenge.gov,”;

(B) in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), by inserting “prize” before “competition”; and

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking “prize” and inserting “cash prize purse or non-cash prize award”;

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “prize” and inserting “cash prize purse”; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “prize” before “competition”;

(4) in subsection (h), by inserting “prize” before “competition” each place it appears;

(5) in subsection (i)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “prize” before “competition”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “prize” before “competition” each place it appears;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) WAIVERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An agency may waive the requirement under paragraph (2).

“(B) LIST.—The Director shall include a list of all of the waivers granted under this paragraph during the preceding fiscal year, including a detailed explanation of the reason for granting the waiver.”;

(6) in subsection (j)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “prize” before “competition”;

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) LICENSES.—As appropriate and to further the goals of a prize competition, the Federal Government may—

“(A) negotiate a license for the use of intellectual property developed by a registered participant in a prize competition; or

“(B) require a registered participant in a prize competition to provide an open license to the public for the use of the intellectual property if that requirement is disclosed prior to registration.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ELECTRONIC CONSENT.—The Federal Government may obtain consent to the intellectual property and licensing terms of a prize competition from participants during the online registration for the prize competition.”;

(7) in subsection (k)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “each competition” and inserting “each prize competition” each place it appears;

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “prize” before “competition”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “prize” before “competitions” each place it appears;

(8) in subsection (l), by striking “an agreement with” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “a grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or other agreement with a private sector for-profit or nonprofit entity or State or local government agency to administer the prize competition, subject to the provisions of this section.”;

(9) in subsection (m)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Support for a prize competition under this section, including financial support for the design and administration of a prize competition or funds for a cash prize purse, may consist of Federal appropriated funds and funds provided by private sector for-profit and nonprofit entities. The head of an agency may request and accept funds from other Federal agencies, State, United States territory, local, or tribal government agencies, private sector for-profit entities, and nonprofit entities, to be available to the extent provided by appropriations Acts, to support such prize competitions. The head of an agency may not give any special consideration to any agency or entity in return for a donation.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “prize awards” and inserting “cash prize purses or non-cash prize awards”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) ANNOUNCEMENT.—No prize competition may be announced under subsection (f) until all the funds needed to pay out the announced amount of the cash prize purse have been appropriated or committed in writing by a private or State, United States territory, local, or tribal government source.”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “a prize” and inserting “a cash prize purse or non-cash prize award”;

(II) in clause (i), by inserting “competition” after “prize”; and

(III) in clause (ii), by inserting “or State, United States territory, local, or tribal government” after “private”;

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “a prize” and inserting “a cash prize purse or a non-cash prize award”; and

(II) by striking “Science and Technology” and inserting “Science, Space, and Technology”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “cash prizes” and inserting “cash prize purses or non-cash prize awards”;

(10) in subsection (n)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “SERVICE” and inserting “SERVICES”;

(B) by striking “the date of the enactment of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010,” and inserting “the date of enactment of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act.”; and

(C) by inserting “for both for-profit and non-profit entities and State, United States territory, local, and tribal government entities,” after “contract vehicle”;

(11) in subsection (o)(1), by striking “or providing a prize” and inserting “a prize competition or providing a cash prize purse or non-cash prize award”;

(12) in subsection (p)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “ANNUAL” and inserting “BIENNIAL”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “each year” and inserting “every other year”;

(ii) by striking “Science and Technology” and inserting “Science, Space, and Technology”; and

(iii) by striking “fiscal year” and inserting “2 fiscal years”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “The report for a fiscal year” and inserting “A report”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the heading, by striking “PRIZES” and inserting “PRIZE PURSES OR NON-CASH PRIZE AWARDS”;

(II) by striking “cash prizes” each place it appears and inserting “cash prize purses or non-cash prize awards”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) PLAN.—A description of crosscutting topical areas and agency-specific mission needs that may be the strongest opportunities for prize competitions during the upcoming 2 fiscal years.”.

SEC. 402. CROWDSOURCING AND CITIZEN SCIENCE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the authority granted to Federal agencies under the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–358; 124 Stat. 3982) to pursue the use of incentive prizes and challenges has yielded numerous benefits;

(2) crowdsourcing and citizen science projects have a number of additional unique benefits, including accelerating scientific research, increasing cost effectiveness to maximize the return on taxpayer dollars, addressing societal needs, providing hands-on learning in STEM, and connecting members of the public directly to Federal agency missions and to each other; and

(3) granting Federal agencies the direct, explicit authority to use crowdsourcing and citizen science will encourage its appropriate use to advance agency missions and stimulate and facilitate broader public participation in the innovation process, yielding numerous benefits to the Federal Government and citizens who participate in such projects.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CITIZEN SCIENCE.—The term “citizen science” means a form of open collaboration in

which individuals or organizations participate voluntarily in the scientific process in various ways, including—

(A) enabling the formulation of research questions;

(B) creating and refining project design;

(C) conducting scientific experiments;

(D) collecting and analyzing data;

(E) interpreting the results of data;

(F) developing technologies and applications;

(G) making discoveries; and

(H) solving problems.

(2) CROWDSOURCING.—The term “crowdsourcing” means a method to obtain needed services, ideas, or content by soliciting voluntary contributions from a group of individuals or organizations, especially from an online community.

(3) PARTICIPANT.—The term “participant” means any individual or other entity that has volunteered in a crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section.

(c) CROWDSOURCING AND CITIZEN SCIENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each Federal agency, or the heads of multiple Federal agencies working cooperatively, may utilize crowdsourcing and citizen science to conduct activities designed to advance the mission of the respective Federal agency or the joint mission of Federal agencies, as applicable.

(2) VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the head of a Federal agency may accept, subject to regulations issued by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, services from participants under this section if such services—

(A) are performed voluntarily as a part of a crowdsourcing or citizen science project authorized under paragraph (1);

(B) are not financially compensated for their time; and

(C) will not be used to displace any employee of the Federal Government.

(3) OUTREACH.—The head of each Federal agency engaged in a crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section shall make public and promote such project to encourage broad participation.

(4) CONSENT, REGISTRATION, AND TERMS OF USE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal agency is authorized to determine the appropriate level of consent, registration, or acknowledgment of the terms of use that are required from participants in crowdsourcing or citizen science projects under this section on a per-project basis.

(B) DISCLOSURES.—In seeking consent, conducting registration, or developing terms of use for a project under this subsection, a Federal agency shall disclose the privacy, intellectual property, data ownership, compensation, service, program, and other terms of use to the participant in a clear and reasonable manner.

(C) MODE OF CONSENT.—A Federal agency or Federal agencies, as applicable, may obtain consent electronically or in written form from participants under this section.

(5) PROTECTIONS FOR HUMAN SUBJECTS.—Any crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section that involves research involving human subjects shall be subject to part 46 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(6) DATA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A Federal agency shall, where appropriate and to the extent practicable, make data collected through a crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section available to the public, in a machine readable format, unless prohibited by law.

(B) NOTICE.—As part of the consent process, the Federal agency shall notify all participants—

(i) of the expected uses of the data compiled through the project;

(ii) if the Federal agency will retain ownership of such data;

(iii) if and how the data and results from the project would be made available for public or third party use; and

(iv) if participants are authorized to publish such data.

(7) **TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS.**—Federal agencies shall endeavor to make technologies, applications, code, and derivations of such intellectual property developed through a crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section available to the public.

(8) **LIABILITY.**—Each participant in a crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section shall agree—

(A) to assume any and all risks associated with such participation; and

(B) to waive all claims against the Federal Government and its related entities, except for claims based on willful misconduct, for any injury, death, damage, or loss of property, revenue, or profits (whether direct, indirect, or consequential) arising from participation in the project.

(9) **SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY.**—Federal agencies coordinating crowdsourcing or citizen science projects under this section shall make all practicable efforts to ensure that participants adhere to all relevant scientific integrity or other applicable ethics policies.

(10) **MULTI-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS.**—The head of each Federal agency engaged in crowdsourcing or citizen science under this section, or the heads of multiple Federal agencies working cooperatively, may enter into a contract or other agreement to share administrative duties for such activities with—

(A) a for profit or nonprofit private sector entity, including a private institution of higher education;

(B) a State, tribal, local, or foreign government agency, including a public institution of higher education; or

(C) a public-private partnership.

(11) **FUNDING.**—In carrying out crowdsourcing and citizen science projects under this section, the head of a Federal agency, or the heads of multiple Federal agencies working cooperatively—

(A) may use funds appropriated by Congress;

(B) may publicize projects and solicit and accept funds or in-kind support for such activities from—

(i) other Federal agencies;

(ii) for profit or nonprofit private sector entities, including private institutions of higher education; or

(iii) State, tribal, local, or foreign government agencies, including public institutions of higher education; and

(C) may not give any special consideration to any entity described in subparagraph (ii) in return for such funds or in-kind support.

(12) **FACILITATION.**—

(A) **GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE.**—The Administrator of the General Services Administration, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall, at no cost to Federal agencies, identify and develop relevant products, training, and services to facilitate the use of crowdsourcing and citizen science projects under this section, including by specifying the appropriate contract vehicles and technology and organizational platforms to enhance the ability of Federal agencies to carry out the activities under this section.

(B) **ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE.**—The head of each Federal agency engaged in crowdsourcing or citizen science under this section is encouraged—

(i) to consult any guidance provided by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, including the Federal Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Toolkit;

(ii) to designate a coordinator for that Federal agency's crowdsourcing and citizen science projects; and

(iii) to share best practices with other Federal agencies, including participation of staff in the Federal Community of Practice for Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science.

(d) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall include, as a component of a report required under section 24(p) of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(p)), a report on the activities carried out under this section.

(2) **INFORMATION INCLUDED.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a summary of each crowdsourcing and citizen science project conducted by a Federal agency during the most recently completed 2 fiscal years, including a description of the proposed goals of each crowdsourcing and citizen science project;

(B) the participation rates, submission levels, number of consents, or any other statistic that might be considered relevant in each crowdsourcing and citizen science project;

(C) a description of—

(i) the resources (including personnel and funding) that were used in the execution of each crowdsourcing and citizen science project;

(ii) the activities for which such resources were used; and

(iii) how the obligations and expenditures relating to the project's execution were allocated among the accounts of the Federal agency;

(D) a summary of the use of crowdsourcing and citizen science by all Federal agencies, including interagency and multi-sector partnerships; and

(E) any other information that the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy considers relevant.

(e) **SAVINGS PROVISION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed—

(1) to affect the authority to conduct crowdsourcing and citizen science authorized by any other provision of law; or

(2) to displace Federal Government resources allocated to the Federal agencies that use crowdsourcing or citizen science authorized under this section to carry out a project.

SEC. 403. NIST OTHER TRANSACTION AUTHORITY UPDATE.

Section 2(b)(4) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(b)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

“(4) to enter into and perform such contracts, including cooperative research and development arrangements, grants, cooperative agreements, real property leases, or other transactions, as may be necessary in furtherance of the purposes of this Act and on such terms as the Director considers appropriate;”.

SEC. 404. NIST VISITING COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY UPDATE.

Section 10(a) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278(a)) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence, by striking “15 members appointed by the Director, at least 10 of whom” and “not fewer than 9 members appointed by the Director, a majority of whom”; and

(2) in the third sentence, by striking “National Bureau of Standards” and inserting “National Institute of Standards and Technology”.

TITLE V—MANUFACTURING

SEC. 501. HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 25. HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP.

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

“(2) **AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL.**—The term ‘area career and technical education school’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Vocational Education Act of 1963 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

“(3) **CENTER.**—The term ‘Center’ means a manufacturing extension center that—

“(A) is created under subsection (b); and

“(B) is affiliated with an eligible entity that applies for and is awarded financial support under subsection (e).

“(4) **COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**—The term ‘community college’ means an institution of higher education (as defined under section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))) at which the highest degree that is predominantly awarded to students is an associate's degree.

“(5) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term ‘eligible entity’ means a United States-based nonprofit institution, or consortium thereof, an institution of higher education, or a State, United States territory, local, or tribal government.

“(6) **HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP OR PROGRAM.**—The term ‘Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership’ or ‘Program’ means the program established under subsection (b).

“(7) **MEP ADVISORY BOARD.**—The term ‘MEP Advisory Board’ means the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Advisory Board established under subsection (n).

“(b) **ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.**—The Secretary, acting through the Director and, if appropriate, through other Federal officials, shall establish a program to provide assistance for the creation and support of manufacturing extension centers for the transfer of manufacturing technology and best business practices.

“(c) **OBJECTIVE.**—The objective of the Program shall be to enhance competitiveness, productivity, and technological performance in United States manufacturing through—

“(1) the transfer of manufacturing technology and techniques developed at the Institute to Centers and, through them, to manufacturing companies throughout the United States;

“(2) the participation of individuals from industry, institutions of higher education, State governments, other Federal agencies, and, when appropriate, the Institute in cooperative technology transfer activities;

“(3) efforts to make new manufacturing technology and processes usable by United States-based small and medium-sized companies;

“(4) the active dissemination of scientific, engineering, technical, and management information about manufacturing to industrial firms, including small and medium-sized manufacturing companies;

“(5) the utilization, when appropriate, of the expertise and capability that exists in Federal agencies, other than the Institute, and federally-sponsored laboratories;

“(6) the provision to community colleges and area career and technical education schools of information about the job skills needed in manufacturing companies, including small and medium-sized manufacturing businesses in the regions they serve;

“(7) the promotion and expansion of certification systems, including efforts to assist small- and medium-sized manufacturing businesses in

creating new apprenticeships or utilizing existing apprenticeships, such as facilitating training and providing access to information and experts, to address workforce needs and skills gaps; and

“(8) the growth in employment and wages at United States-based small and medium-sized companies.

“(d) ACTIVITIES.—The activities of a Center shall include—

“(1) the establishment of automated manufacturing systems and other advanced production technologies, based on Institute-supported research, for the purpose of demonstrations and technology transfer;

“(2) the active transfer and dissemination of research findings and Center expertise to a wide range of companies and enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized manufacturers; and

“(3) the facilitation of collaborations and partnerships between small and medium-sized manufacturing companies, community colleges, and area career and technical education schools, to help those entities better understand the specific needs of manufacturers and to help manufacturers better understand the skill sets that students learn in the programs offered by such colleges and schools.

“(e) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary may provide financial assistance for the creation and support of a Center through a cooperative agreement with an eligible entity.

“(2) COST SHARING.—The Secretary may not provide more than 50 percent of the capital and annual operating and maintenance funds required to establish and support a Center.

“(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of paragraph (2), any amount received by an eligible entity for a Center under a provision of law other than paragraph (1) shall not be considered an amount provided under paragraph (1).

“(f) APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(2) PROGRAM DESCRIPTION.—The Secretary shall establish and update, as necessary—

“(A) a description of the Program;

“(B) the application procedures;

“(C) performance metrics;

“(D) criteria for determining qualified applicants; and

“(E) criteria for choosing recipients of financial assistance from among the qualified applicants.

“(F) procedures for determining allowable cost share contributions; and

“(G) such other program policy objectives and operational procedures as the Secretary considers necessary.

“(3) COST SHARING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—To be considered for financial assistance under this section, an applicant shall provide adequate assurances that the applicant and if applicable, the applicant's partnering organizations, will obtain funding for not less than 50 percent of the capital and annual operating and maintenance funds required to establish and support the Center from sources other than the financial assistance provided under subsection (e).

“(B) AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—In meeting the cost-sharing requirement under subparagraph (A), an eligible entity may enter into an agreement with 1 or more other entities, such as a private industry, an institution of higher education, or a State, United States territory, local, or tribal government for the contribution by that other entity of funding if the Secretary determines the agreement—

“(i) is programmatically reasonable;

“(ii) will help accomplish programmatic objectives; and

“(iii) is allocable under Program procedures under subsection (f)(2).

“(4) LEGAL RIGHTS.—Each applicant shall include in the application a proposal for the allocation of the legal rights associated with any intellectual property which may result from the activities of the Center.

“(5) MERIT REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall subject each application to merit review.

“(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a decision whether to approve an application and provide financial assistance under subsection (e), the Secretary shall consider, at a minimum—

“(i) the merits of the application, particularly those portions of the application regarding technology transfer, training and education, and adaptation of manufacturing technologies to the needs of particular industrial sectors;

“(ii) the quality of service to be provided;

“(iii) the geographical diversity and extent of the service area; and

“(iv) the type and percentage of funding from other sources under paragraph (3).

“(g) EVALUATIONS.—

“(1) THIRD AND EIGHTH YEAR EVALUATIONS BY PANEL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that each Center is evaluated during its third and eighth years of operation by an evaluation panel appointed by the Secretary.

“(B) COMPOSITION.—The Secretary shall ensure that each evaluation panel appointed under subparagraph (A) is composed of—

“(i) private experts, none of whom are connected with the Center evaluated by the panel; and

“(ii) Federal officials.

“(C) CHAIRPERSON.—For each evaluation panel appointed under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall appoint a chairperson who is an official of the Institute.

“(2) FIFTH YEAR EVALUATIONS BY SECRETARY.—In the fifth year of operation of a Center, the Secretary shall conduct a review of the Center.

“(3) PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT.—In evaluating a Center an evaluation panel or the Secretary, as applicable, shall measure the performance of the Center against—

“(A) the objective specified in subsection (c);

“(B) the performance metrics under subsection (f)(2)(C); and

“(C) such other criterion as considered appropriate by the Secretary.

“(4) POSITIVE EVALUATIONS.—If an evaluation of a Center is positive, the Secretary may continue to provide financial assistance for the Center—

“(A) in the case of an evaluation occurring in the third year of a Center, through the fifth year of the Center;

“(B) in the case of an evaluation occurring in the fifth year of a Center, through the eighth year of the Center; and

“(C) in the case of an evaluation occurring in the eighth year of a Center, through the tenth year of the Center.

“(5) OTHER THAN POSITIVE EVALUATIONS.—

“(A) PROBATION.—If an evaluation of a Center is other than positive, the Secretary shall put the Center on probation during the period beginning on the date that the Center receives notice under subparagraph (B)(i) and ending on the date that the reevaluation is complete under subparagraph (B)(iii).

“(B) NOTICE AND REEVALUATION.—If a Center receives an evaluation that is other than positive, the evaluation panel or Secretary, as applicable, shall—

“(i) notify the Center of the reason, including any deficiencies in the performance of the Center identified during the evaluation;

“(ii) assist the Center in remedying the deficiencies by providing the Center, not less frequently than once every 3 months, an analysis of the Center, if considered appropriate by the panel or Secretary, as applicable; and

“(iii) reevaluate the Center not later than 1 year after the date of the notice under clause (i).

“(C) CONTINUED SUPPORT DURING PERIOD OF PROBATION.—The Secretary may continue to provide financial assistance under subsection (e) for a Center during the probation period.

“(6) FAILURE TO REMEDY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a Center fails to remedy a deficiency or to show significant improvement in performance before the end of the probation period under paragraph (5), the Secretary shall conduct a competition to select an operator for the Center under subsection (h).

“(B) TREATMENT OF CENTERS SUBJECT TO NEW COMPETITION.—Upon the selection of an operator for a Center under subsection (h), the Center shall be considered a new Center and the calculation of the years of operation of that Center for purposes of paragraphs (1) through (5) of this subsection and subsection (h)(1) shall start anew.

“(h) REAPPLICATION COMPETITION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AFTER 10 YEARS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible entity has operated a Center under this section for a period of 10 consecutive years, the Secretary shall conduct a competition to select an eligible entity to operate the Center in accordance with the process plan under subsection (i).

“(2) INCUMBENT ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An eligible entity that has received financial assistance under this section for a period of 10 consecutive years and that the Secretary determines is in good standing shall be eligible to compete in the competition under paragraph (1).

“(3) TREATMENT OF CENTERS SUBJECT TO REAPPLICATION COMPETITION.—Upon the selection of an operator for a Center under paragraph (1), the Center shall be considered a new Center and the calculation of the years of operation of that Center for purposes of paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (g) shall start anew.

“(i) PROCESS PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act, the Secretary shall implement and submit to Congress a plan for how the Institute will conduct an evaluation, competition, and reapplication competition under this section.

“(j) OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION OF CENTER CLIENTS.—The following information, if obtained by the Federal Government in connection with an activity of a Center or the Program, shall be exempt from public disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code:

“(A) Information on the business operation of any participant in the Program or of a client of a Center.

“(B) Trade secrets of any client of a Center.

“(k) OVERSIGHT BOARDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on receipt of financial assistance for a Center under subsection (e), an eligible entity shall establish a board to oversee the operations of the Center.

“(2) STANDARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish appropriate standards for each board described under paragraph (1).

“(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the standards, the Director shall take into account the type and organizational structure of an eligible entity.

“(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The standards shall address, at a minimum—

“(i) membership;

“(ii) composition;

“(iii) term limits;

“(iv) conflicts of interest; and

“(v) whether to limit board members serving on multiple boards under this section.

“(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each board established under paragraph (1) shall be composed of members as follows:

“(i) The membership of each board shall be representative of stakeholders in the region in which the Center is located.

“(ii) A majority of the members of the board shall be selected from among individuals who own or are employed by small or medium-sized manufacturers.

“(B) LIMITATION.—A member of a board established under paragraph (1) may not serve on more than 1 board established under that paragraph.

“(4) BYLAWS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each board established under paragraph (1) shall adopt and submit to the Director bylaws to govern the operation of the board.

“(B) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—Bylaws adopted under subparagraph (A) shall include policies to minimize conflicts of interest, including such policies relating to disclosure of relationships and recusal as may be necessary to minimize conflicts of interest.

“(I) ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS.—In addition to such sums as may be appropriated to the Secretary and Director to operate the Program, the Secretary and Director may also accept funds from other Federal departments and agencies and from the private sector under section 2(c)(7) of this Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)(7)), to be available to the extent provided by appropriations Acts, for the purpose of strengthening United States manufacturing.

“(m) MEP ADVISORY BOARD.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Institute a Manufacturing Extension Partnership Advisory Board.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(A) COMPOSITION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The MEP Advisory Board shall consist of not fewer than 10 members appointed by the Director and broadly representative of stakeholders.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—Of the members appointed under clause (i)—

“(I) at least 2 members shall be employed by or on an advisory board for a Center; and

“(II) at least 5 other members shall be from United States small businesses in the manufacturing sector.

“(iii) LIMITATION.—No member of the MEP Advisory Board shall be an employee of the Federal Government.

“(B) TERM.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the term of office of each member of the MEP Advisory Board shall be 3 years.

“(C) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such term.

“(D) SERVING CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—Any person who has completed 2 consecutive full terms of service on the MEP Advisory Board shall thereafter be ineligible for appointment during the 1-year period following the expiration of the second such term.

“(3) MEETINGS.—The MEP Advisory Board shall—

“(A) meet not less than biannually; and

“(B) provide to the Director—

“(i) advice on the activities, plans, and policies of the Program;

“(ii) assessments of the soundness of the plans and strategies of the Program; and

“(iii) assessments of current performance against the plans of the Program.

“(4) FACILITY APPLICABILITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In discharging its duties under this subsection, the MEP Advisory Board shall function solely in an advisory capacity, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to the MEP Advisory Board.

“(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—At a minimum, the MEP Advisory Board shall transmit an annual report to the Secretary for transmittal to Congress not later than 30 days after the submission to Congress of the President’s annual budget request in each year.

“(B) CONTENTS.—The report shall address the status of the Program and describe the relevant sections of the programmatic planning document and updates thereto transmitted to Congress by the Director under subsections (c) and (d) of section 23 (15 U.S.C. 278i).

“(n) SMALL MANUFACTURERS.—

“(1) EVALUATION OF OBSTACLES.—As part of the Program, the Director shall—

“(A) identify obstacles that prevent small manufacturers from effectively competing in the global market;

“(B) implement a comprehensive plan to train the Centers to address the obstacles identified in paragraph (2); and

“(C) facilitate improved communication between the Centers to assist such manufacturers in implementing appropriate, targeted solutions to the obstacles identified in paragraph (2).

“(2) DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN ACCESS RESOURCES.—As part of the Program, the Secretary shall develop open access resources that address best practices related to inventory sourcing, supply chain management, manufacturing techniques, available Federal resources, and other topics to further the competitiveness and profitability of small manufacturers.”

(b) COMPETITIVE AWARDS PROGRAM.—The National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 25 the following:

“SEC. 25A. COMPETITIVE AWARDS PROGRAM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish within the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership under section 25 (15 U.S.C. 278k) and section 26 (15 U.S.C. 278l) a program of competitive awards among participants described in subsection (b) of this section for the purposes described in subsection (c).

“(b) PARTICIPANTS.—Participants receiving awards under this section shall be Centers, or a consortium of Centers.

“(c) PURPOSE, THEMES, AND REIMBURSEMENT.—

“(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program established under subsection (a) is to add capabilities to the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, including the development of projects to solve new or emerging manufacturing problems as determined by the Director, in consultation with the Director of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the MEP Advisory Board, other Federal agencies, and small and medium-sized manufacturers.

“(2) THEMES.—The Director may identify 1 or more themes for a competition carried out under this section, which may vary from year to year, as the Director considers appropriate after assessing the needs of manufacturers and the success of previous competitions.

“(3) REIMBURSEMENT.—Centers may be reimbursed for costs incurred by the Centers under this section.

“(d) APPLICATIONS.—Applications for awards under this section shall be submitted in such manner, at such time, and containing such information as the Director shall require in consultation with the MEP Advisory Board.

“(e) SELECTION.—

“(1) PEER REVIEW AND COMPETITIVELY AWARDED.—The Director shall ensure that awards under this section are peer reviewed and competitively awarded.

“(2) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The Director shall endeavor to have broad geographic diversity among selected proposals.

“(3) CRITERIA.—The Director shall select applications to receive awards that the Director determines will achieve 1 or more of the following:

“(A) Improve the competitiveness of industries in the region in which the Center or Centers are located.

“(B) Create jobs or train newly hired employees.

“(C) Promote the transfer and commercialization of research and technology from institutions of higher education, national laboratories or other Federally-funded research programs, and nonprofit research institutes.

“(D) Recruit a diverse manufacturing workforce, including through outreach to women and minorities.

“(E) Such other result as the Director determines will advance the objective set forth in section 25(c) (15 U.S.C. 278k) or in section 26 (15 U.S.C. 278l).

“(f) PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION.—Recipients of awards under this section shall not be required to provide a matching contribution.

“(g) GLOBAL MARKETPLACE PROJECTS.—In making an award under this section, the Director, in consultation with the MEP Advisory Board and the Secretary, may take into consideration whether an application has significant potential for enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized United States manufacturers in the global marketplace.

“(h) DURATION.—The duration of an award under this section shall be for not more than 3 years.

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—The terms used in this section have the meanings given the terms in section 25 (15 U.S.C. 278k).”

(c) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States, in consultation with the MEP Advisory Board (as defined in section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k)), shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report analyzing—

(1) the effectiveness of the changes in the cost share to Centers under section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k);

(2) the engagement in services and the characteristics of services provided by 2 types of Centers, including volume and type of service; and

(3) whether the cost-sharing ratio has any effect on the services provided by either type of Center.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2199(3) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “regional center” and inserting “manufacturing extension center”;

(B) by inserting “and best business practices” before “referred”; and

(C) by striking “25(a)” and inserting “25(b)”.

(2) ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION INITIATIVE.—Section 3(a) of the Enterprise Integration Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 278g–5(a)) is amended by inserting “Hollings” before “Manufacturing Extension Partnership”.

(3) ASSISTANCE TO STATE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—Section 26(a) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278l(a)) is amended by striking “Centers program created” and inserting “Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership”.

(e) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—Notwithstanding the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the Secretary of Commerce may carry out section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) as that section was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, with respect to existing grants, agreements, cooperative agreements, or contracts, and with respect to applications for such items that are received by the Secretary prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 502. FEDERAL LOAN GUARANTEES FOR INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN MANUFACTURING.

Section 26(o) of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3721(o)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1) IN GENERAL.—” before “To the maximum” and indenting appropriately; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) ACCESS TO CAPITAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Small Business Administration and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall identify any gaps in the access of small- or medium-sized manufacturers to capital for the use or production of innovative technologies that the program could fill, and develop marketing materials and conduct outreach to target those gaps.”.

SEC. 503. MANUFACTURING COMMUNITIES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Made in America Manufacturing Communities Act of 2016”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MANUFACTURING COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM.—The term “Manufacturing Community Support Program” means the program established under subsection (c).

(2) PARTICIPATING AGENCY.—The term “participating agency” means a Federal agency that elects to participate in the Manufacturing Community Support Program.

(3) PARTICIPATING PROGRAM.—The term “participating program” means a program identified by a participating agency under subsection (d)(1)(C).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(c) PROGRAM TO DESIGNATE AND SUPPORT MANUFACTURING COMMUNITIES.—The Secretary shall establish a program to improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing by—

(1) designating consortiums as manufacturing communities under subsection (e); and

(2) supporting manufacturing communities, as so designated, under subsection (d).

(d) SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATED MANUFACTURING COMMUNITIES.—

(1) PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), if a member of a consortium designated as a manufacturing community under subsection (e) seeks financial or technical assistance under a participating program of a participating agency, the head of such agency may give preferential consideration to such member with respect to the awarding of such financial or technical assistance if—

(i) such head considers the award of the financial or technical assistance consistent with the economic development strategy of the consortium; and

(ii) the member otherwise meets all applicable requirements for the financial or technical assistance.

(B) PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—The Secretary shall invite other Federal agencies to become participating agencies of the Manufacturing Community Support Program.

(C) PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS.—The head of each participating agency shall identify all pro-

grams administered by such participating agency that are applicable to the Manufacturing Community Support Program.

(D) MULTIPLE MEMBERS OF THE SAME CONSORTIUM SEEKING THE SAME FINANCIAL OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If a participating agency receives applications for the same financial or technical assistance from more than 1 member of the same consortium designated as a manufacturing community under subsection (e), the head of such agency may determine how preference will be given under subparagraph (A), including by requiring the consortium to select which of the members should be given preference.

(ii) COORDINATION.—If the head of a participating agency determines that more than 1 member of a consortium should be given preference under subparagraph (A) for financial or technical assistance, he or she may require such members to demonstrate coordination with each other in developing their applications for the financial or technical assistance.

(E) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each participating agency shall submit a report to the Secretary that specifies how the head will give preferential consideration under subparagraph (A).

(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may make a Federal point of contact available to each consortium designated as a manufacturing community under subsection (e) to help the members of the consortium access Federal funds and technical assistance.

(3) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Under the Manufacturing Community Support Program, the head of a participating agency may award financial or technical assistance to a member of a consortium designated as a manufacturing community under subsection (e) as he or she considers appropriate for purposes of such program and consistent with the economic development strategy of the consortium.

(B) USE OF FUNDS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of financial or technical assistance under subparagraph (A) may use such financial or technical assistance to support an investment in an ecosystem that will improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing.

(ii) INVESTMENTS SUPPORTED.—Investments supported under this subparagraph may include—

(I) infrastructure;

(II) access to capital;

(III) promotion of exports and foreign direct investment;

(IV) equipment or facility upgrades;

(V) workforce training or retraining;

(VI) energy or process efficiency;

(VII) business incubators;

(VIII) site preparation;

(IX) advanced research;

(X) supply chain development; and

(XI) small business assistance.

(4) COORDINATION.—

(A) COORDINATION BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the heads of the participating agencies to identify programs under paragraph (1)(C)(i).

(B) INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION.—The heads of the participating agencies shall coordinate with each other—

(i) to leverage complementary activities, including from non-Federal sources, such as philanthropies; and

(ii) to avoid duplication of efforts.

(C) DESIGNATION OF MANUFACTURING COMMUNITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (7), for purposes of the Manufacturing

Community Support Program, the Secretary shall designate eligible consortiums (as described in paragraph (2)) as manufacturing communities through a competitive process.

(2) ELIGIBLE CONSORTIUMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible consortium is a consortium that—

(i) represents a region defined by the consortium in accordance with subparagraph (B);

(ii) includes at least 1—

(I) institution of higher education;

(II) a private sector entity; and

(III) a government entity;

(iii) may include 1 or more—

(I) private sector partners;

(II) institutions of higher education;

(III) government entities;

(IV) economic development and other community and labor groups;

(V) financial institutions; or

(VI) utilities;

(iv) has, as a lead applicant—

(I) a district organization (as defined in section 300.3 of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulation);

(II) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)) or a consortium of Indian tribes;

(III) a State or a political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;

(IV) an institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or

(V) a public or private nonprofit organization or association that has an application that is supported by a State, a political subdivision of a State, or a native community.

(B) REGIONS.—Subject to approval by the Secretary, a consortium may define the region that it represents if the region—

(i) is large enough to contain critical elements of the key technologies or supply chain prioritized by the consortium; and

(ii) is small enough to enable close collaboration among members of the consortium.

(3) DURATION.—Each designation under paragraph (1) shall be for a period of 2 years.

(4) RENEWAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of an application submitted under subparagraph (B), the Secretary may renew a designation made under paragraph (1) for up to 2 additional 2-year periods. Any designation as a manufacturing community or renewal of such designation that is in effect before the date of the enactment of this Act shall count toward the limit set forth in this subparagraph.

(B) APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL.—An eligible consortium seeking a renewal under subparagraph (A) shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(C) MODIFICATIONS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may renew a designation under subparagraph (A) for an eligible consortium that—

(i) has changed its composition, either by adding or removing members; or

(ii) as part of its application under subparagraph (B), submits a revision to the plan submitted under paragraph (5)(B)(iv) or the strategy submitted under paragraph (5)(B)(v).

(D) EVALUATION FOR RENEWAL.—In determining whether to renew a designation of an eligible consortium under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall assess the eligible consortium based upon—

(i) the performance of the consortium against the terms of the consortium’s most recent designation under paragraph (1) and any post-designation awards the consortium may have received;

(ii) the progress the consortium has made with respect to project-specific metrics the consortium proposed in the consortium's application for the most recent designation under paragraph (1), particularly with respect to those metrics that were designed to help communities track their own progress;

(iii) whether any changes to the composition of the eligible consortium or revisions to the plan or strategy described in subparagraph (C)(ii) would improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing; and

(iv) such other criteria as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(5) APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible consortium seeking a designation under paragraph (1) shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require.

(B) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted to the Secretary under subparagraph (A) include—

(i) a description of the regional boundaries of the consortium;

(ii) a description of the manufacturing concentration of the consortium, including an assessment of how the manufacturing concentration of the consortium competitively ranks nationally according to measures relating to employment, sales, location quotients for an industry's level of concentration, or such other measures as the Secretary considers appropriate;

(iii) an integrated assessment of the local industrial ecosystem of the region of the consortium, which may include assessment of workforce and training, supplier network, research and innovation, infrastructure or site development, trade and international investment, operational improvements, and capital access components needed for manufacturing activities in such region;

(iv) an evidence-based plan for developing components of such ecosystem (selected by the consortium) by making—

(I) specific investments to address gaps in such ecosystem; and

(II) the manufacturing of the region of the consortium uniquely competitive;

(v) a description of the investments the consortium proposes and the implementation strategy the consortium intends to use to address gaps in such ecosystem;

(vi) a description of the outcome-based metrics, benchmarks, and milestones that the consortium will track and the evaluation methods the consortium will use while designated as a manufacturing community to gauge performance of the strategy of the consortium to improve the manufacturing in the region of the consortium; and

(vii) such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(6) EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall evaluate each application received under paragraph (5) to determine—

(A) whether the applicant demonstrates a significant level of regional cooperation in their proposal; and

(B) how the manufacturing concentration of the applicant competitively ranks nationally according to measures described in paragraph (5)(B)(ii).

(7) CERTAIN COMMUNITIES PREVIOUSLY RECOGNIZED.—Each consortium that was designated as a manufacturing community by the Secretary in carrying out the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership initiative of the Department of Commerce before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be deemed a manufacturing community designated under this subsection if such consortium is still designated as a manufacturing community by the Secretary as part of such initiative.

(f) RECEIPT OF TRANSFERRED FUNDS.—The Secretary may accept amounts transferred to the

Secretary from the head of another participating agency to carry out this section.

TITLE VI—INNOVATION, COMMERCIALIZATION, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

SEC. 601. INNOVATION CORPS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The National Science Foundation Innovation Corps (referred to in this section as the “I-Corps”) was established to foster a national innovation ecosystem by encouraging institutions, scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs to identify and explore the innovation and commercial potential of National Science Foundation-funded research well beyond the laboratory.

(2) Through I-Corps, the Foundation invests in entrepreneurship and commercialization education, training, and mentoring that can ultimately lead to the practical deployment of technologies, products, processes, and services that improve the Nation's competitiveness, promote economic growth, and benefit society.

(3) By building networks of entrepreneurs, educators, mentors, institutions, and collaborations, and supporting specialized education and training, I-Corps is at the leading edge of a strong, lasting foundation for an American innovation ecosystem.

(4) By translating federally funded research to a commercial stage more quickly and efficiently, programs like the I-Corps create new jobs and companies, help solve societal problems, and provide taxpayers with a greater return on their investment in research.

(5) The I-Corps program model has a strong record of success that should be replicated at all Federal science agencies.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) commercialization of federally-funded research can improve the Nation's competitiveness, grow the economy, and benefit society;

(2) I-Corps is a useful tool in promoting the commercialization of federally-funded research by training researchers funded by the Foundation in entrepreneurship and commercialization;

(3) I-Corps should continue to build a network of entrepreneurs, educators, mentors, and institutions and support specialized education and training; and

(4) researchers other than those funded by the Foundation may also benefit from the education and training described in paragraph (3).

(c) I-CORPS PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to promote a strong, lasting foundation for the national innovation ecosystem and increase the positive economic and social impact of federally-funded research, the Director of the Foundation shall set forth eligibility requirements and carry out a program to award grants for entrepreneurship and commercialization education, training, and mentoring.

(2) EXPANSION OF I-CORPS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director—

(i) shall encourage the development and expansion of I-Corps and other training programs that focus on professional development, including education in entrepreneurship and commercialization; and

(ii) may establish an agreement with another Federal science agency—

(I) to make researchers, students, and institutions funded by that agency eligible to participate in the I-Corps program; or

(II) to assist that agency with the design and implementation of its own program that is similar to the I-Corps program.

(B) PARTNERSHIP FUNDING.—In negotiating an agreement with another Federal science agency under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Director shall require that Federal science agency to provide funding for—

(i) the training for researchers, students, and institutions selected for the I-Corps program; and

(ii) the locations that Federal science agency designates as regional and national infrastructure for science and engineering entrepreneurship.

(3) FOLLOW-ON COMMERCIALIZATION GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Director, in consultation with the Director of the Small Business Innovation Research Program, shall make funds available for competitive grants, including to I-Corps participants, to help support—

(i) prototype or proof-of-concept development; and

(ii) such activities as the Director considers necessary to build local, regional, and national infrastructure for science and engineering entrepreneurship.

(B) LIMITATION.—Grants under subparagraph (A) shall be limited to participants with innovations that because of the early stage of development are not eligible to participate in a Small Business Innovation Research Program or a Small Business Technology Transfer Program.

(4) STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS.—The Director may engage in partnerships with State and local governments, economic development organizations, and nonprofit organizations to provide access to the I-Corps program to support entrepreneurship and commercialization education and training for researchers, students, and institutions under this subsection.

(5) REPORTS.—The Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a biennial report on I-Corps program efficacy, including metrics on the effectiveness of the program. Each Federal science agency participating in the I-Corps program or that implements a similar program under paragraph (2)(A) shall contribute to the report.

(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms

“Small Business Innovation Research Program” and “Small Business Technology Transfer Program” have the meanings given those terms in section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638).

SEC. 602. TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) commercialization of federally-funded research may benefit society and the economy; and

(2) not-for-profit organizations support the commercialization of federally-funded research by providing useful business and technical expertise to researchers.

(b) COMMERCIALIZATION GRANTS PROGRAM.—The Director of the Foundation shall continue to award grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to eligible entities to promote the commercialization of federally-funded research results.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Activities supported by grants under this section may include—

(1) identifying Foundation-sponsored research and technologies that have the potential for accelerated commercialization;

(2) supporting prior or current Foundation-sponsored investigators in undertaking proof-of-concept work, including development of prototypes of technologies that are derived from Foundation-sponsored research and have potential market value;

(3) promoting sustainable partnerships between Foundation-funded institutions, industry, and other organizations within academia and the private sector with the purpose of accelerating the transfer of technology;

(4) developing multi-disciplinary innovation ecosystems which involve and are responsive to specific needs of academia and industry;

(5) funding the establishment of proof-of-concept and prototype development in partnership with academia to advance technologies; and

(6) providing professional development, mentoring, and advice in entrepreneurship, project

management, and technology and business development to innovators.

(d) **ELIGIBILITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The following organizations may be eligible for grants under this section:

(A) Institutions of higher education.

(B) Public or nonprofit technology transfer organizations.

(C) A nonprofit organization that partners with an institution of higher education.

(D) A consortia of 2 or more of the organizations described under subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(2) **LEAD ORGANIZATIONS.**—Any eligible organization under paragraph (1) may apply as a lead organization.

(e) **APPLICATIONS.**—An eligible entity seeking a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

SEC. 603. OPTICS AND PHOTONICS TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The 1998 National Research Council Report, “Harnessing Light” presented a comprehensive overview on the importance of optics and photonics to various sectors of the United States economy.

(2) In 2012, in response to increased coordination and investment by other nations, the National Research Council released a follow up study recommending a national photonics initiative to increase collaboration and coordination among United States industry, Federal and State government, and academia to identify and further advance areas of photonics critical to regaining United States competitiveness and maintaining national security.

(3) Publicly-traded companies focused on optics and photonics in the United States enable more than \$3 trillion in revenue annually.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) optics and photonics research and technologies promote United States global competitiveness in industry sectors, including telecommunications and information technology, energy, healthcare and medicine, manufacturing, and defense;

(2) Federal science agencies, industry, and academia should seek partnerships with each other to develop basic research in optics and photonics into more mature technologies and capabilities; and

(3) each Federal science agency, as appropriate, should—

(A) survey and identify optics and photonics-related programs within that Federal science agency and share results with other Federal science agencies for the purpose of generating multiple applications and uses;

(B) partner with the private sector and academia to leverage knowledge and resources to maximize opportunities for innovation in optics and photonics;

(C) explore research and development opportunities, including Federal and private sector-sponsored internships, to ensure a highly trained optics and photonics workforce in the United States;

(D) encourage partnerships between academia and industry to promote improvement in the education of optics and photonics technicians at the secondary school level, undergraduate level, and 2-year college level, including through the Foundation’s Advanced Technological Education program; and

(E) assess existing programs and explore alternatives to modernize photonics laboratory equipment in undergraduate institutions in the United States to facilitate critical hands-on learning.

SEC. 604. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE REGIONAL INNOVATION PROGRAM.

Section 27(g)(2) of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722(g)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) **AUTHORIZATION LEVELS.**—From amounts appropriated for economic development assistance programs, the Secretary may use \$30,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2017 and 2018 for grants under this section.”.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn, the Gardner substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 5186) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The bill (S. 3084), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE OPERATIONS AUTHORIZATION AND EMBASSY SECURITY ACT, FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message from the House to accompany S. 1635.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1635) entitled “An Act to authorize the Department of State for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.”, do pass with an amendment.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4680, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4680) to prepare the National Park Service for its Centennial in 2016 and for a second century of promoting and protecting the natural, historic, and cultural re-

sources of our National Parks for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4680) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR PRINTING

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that any tributes submitted by December 20, 2016, as authorized by the order of December 10, 2016, be printed in the January 3, 2017, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the 114th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016, THROUGH TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Tuesday, December 13, at 8:30 a.m.; Friday, December 16, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, December 20, at 9:30 a.m.; Friday, December 23, at 11:30 a.m.; Tuesday, December 27, at 4:30 p.m.; Friday, December 30, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, January 3, at 11:55 a.m.

PROGRAM

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, when the Senate adjourns on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, it will next convene at 12 noon on January 3 pursuant to the Constitution.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 13, 2016, AT 8:30 A.M.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 640, as a further mark of respect to the late John Glenn, former Senator from the State of Ohio.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:39 a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at 8:30 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CAPT. MELVIN W. BOUBOULIS AND ENDING WITH CAPT. MICHAEL P. RYAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN J. ALBERT AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW W. ZINN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JENNIFER L. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH PETER J. ZAUNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DARYL P. SCHAFFER AND ENDING WITH LISA H. SCHULZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID C. CLIPPINGER AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW B. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK E. AMES AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW D. WADLEIGH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN F. BARRESI AND ENDING WITH MARK B. WALSH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by
the Senate December 9, 2016:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

ADRI DAVIN JAYARATNE, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR.

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

JAY NEAL LERNER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ANDREW MAYOCK, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MANAGEMENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) WILLIAM J. GALINIS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PEGGY E. GUSTAFSON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

JOHN D. MINTON, JR., OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2019.

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

MARK D. ACTON, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 14, 2022.

ROBERT G. TAUB, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 14, 2022.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KAMALA SHIRIN LAKHDIR, OF CONNECTICUT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO MALAYSIA.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ANN BEGEMAN, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2020.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271(E):

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. MELVIN W. BOUBOULIS
CAPT. DONNA L. COTTRELL
CAPT. MICHAEL J. JOHNSTON
CAPT. ERIC C. JONES
CAPT. MICHAEL P. RYAN

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN J. ALBERT AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW W. ZINN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JENNIFER L. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH PETER J. ZAUNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO DANNIE STEPHENS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dannie Stephens of Creston, Iowa, for his induction into the Creston High School Hall of Fame.

Dannie attended Creston High School in the late 1960s and was a varsity letterman, qualifying for the state wrestling tournament in 1968. Dannie began his teaching career in 1974, and in 1980 he returned to Creston to teach and coach wrestling. Dannie has had a lasting impact on his students both in the classroom and in the gym, challenging and encouraging students to do their best and dream big. He is recognized throughout the community as a teacher who was, and continues to be, committed to making a difference in each of his students' lives.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Dannie in the United States Congress and to have the opportunity to recognize him today. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dannie for his achievements and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Since 1966 the FCRHA has served the residents of Fairfax County by working to ensure that affordable housing is available to all who qualify. While this is admittedly a tall order and has only become more difficult over time, the FCRHA and the County's Department of Housing and Community Development have worked tirelessly to accomplish this laudable goal. In addition to their efforts to preserve and increase availability of affordable and workforce housing, the FCRHA and the HCD also oversee the community revitalization plans adopted by Fairfax County.

As a former member and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I can attest firsthand to the importance of the work carried out by both of these organizations. During my time as Chairman of the Board, I was proud to work with the FCRHA to pre-

serve over 1,000 affordable housing units in Fairfax County. Despite the economic prosperity we have experienced in Fairfax, we cannot allow this to obscure the very real fact that there are thousands in our community who still struggle to put a roof over their heads. Fortunately, that same prosperity has enabled the County to help ensure that all of its residents have access to safe and affordable housing.

Since its founding, the FCRHA has grown from owning less than 250 affordable housing units in 1972 to over 3,000 units in 2016. In addition, FCRHA administers more than 3,500 Housing Choice Vouchers, serving nearly 20,000 Fairfax County residents and has provided in excess of \$500 million in bonds for both for-profit and non-profit housing developers.

Its efforts have not gone unnoticed. In 2012, the Department of Housing and Urban Development designated the FCRHA as a "Moving-to-Work" agency in recognition of its efforts in the field of affordable housing. This is due in no small part to the leadership of its Chairman, Robert "Bob" Schwaninger. I commend him for that leadership and congratulate him on the success of FCRHA.

Mr. Speaker, Fairfax County remains one of the best places in the country in which to live, work and raise a family. It has retained that distinction due in large part to the high quality of life enjoyed by all of its residents. What has always struck me about this community, and what I have always considered a key metric of civic health, is the degree to which this community gives back to those who are less fortunate. The commitment and effort to end homelessness and provide affordable and workforce housing options is just one examples of the generous spirit of Fairfax County, its employees, volunteers, and residents.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the FCRHA for its important work, in congratulating it on its 50th anniversary, and in wishing the organization great success in all future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE NATIONAL OPIOID EPIDEMIC

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to include in the RECORD today the personal stories of families from across the country that have been affected by the opioid and heroin epidemic. In the U.S. we lose 129 lives per day to opioid and heroin overdose. In my home state of New Hampshire I have learned so many heartbreaking stories of great people and families who have suffered from the effects of substance use disorder.

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I were joined by many of these courageous families who came to Washington to share their stories with Members of Congress and push for action that will prevent overdoses and save lives. Since then, we passed both the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act to provide much needed funding and critical policy changes to fight this epidemic.

The advocacy of these families truly is so important to leading to change in Washington and I am proud to preserve their stories.

JAMES R. MASCIAntonio, JR.—INDIAN SHORES, FLORIDA

James R. Masciantonio, Jr. (Jim) was born November 27, 1984. He was beautiful inside and out and a true gentleman. Jim was kind, loving, intelligent, and could always make me laugh with his witty sense of humor and contagious laughter.

Jim was first put in ice skates at the age of three, and he went on to play ice hockey all through high school. Jim excelled at everything he tried. He had an unbelievable ability to totally recall life events, movie quotes, and sport statistics—he was a walking encyclopedia. Jim also had a true gift of writing narratives and an imagination to write creatively. He was later given the opportunity to conduct interviews for the cagejunkies.com, which reports on MMA and UFC News; this job was a true highlight in Jim's life.

Unfortunately, Jim had the dreadful disease of addiction, coupled with bipolar disorder. Jim first started using marijuana at the age of 11 and graduated to heroin by 17. He finally found recovery in 2009, at the age of 26, and was dedicated to the program. Soon after, Jim fell in love and fathered a child in May of 2010. He was a proud, dedicated, wonderful, and loving father—filled with goals and dreams for his son.

In February 2011, Jim needed to have surgery. In the following months, Jim's recovery slowly became no longer a priority, due to dealing with stresses caused by pain from his surgery, demands of work, and family life. By December 2011, his girlfriend requested for him to leave their home—separating Jim from his son. From that day Jim was heartbroken, defeated, and lost, as he struggled to get back on the path to recovery. There were countless hurdles and obstacles he had to overcome and, like the warrior he was, he tried his hardest.

The system failed Jim repeatedly. From the time he was 18, Jim was in over 35 treatment centers. The Florida County Drug Court, created to give my son an opportunity for recovery, ended up making his life worse. On February 24, 2015, Jim suffered his first overdose on heroin. The paramedics worked on him for an hour, finally taking him to a Florida hospital that allowed him to leave against medical advice (AMA) after an hour of being there. His family was never contacted or told about this incident. Three days later, on February 27th, Jim was found alone in a motel after injecting heroin but this time the heroin was laced with fentanyl.

Jim was clean and sober for six months prior to these incidents.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

MILES ANTHONY MCENTEE—AUSTIN, TEXAS

Miles was everything a parent could ask for in a son. He was sensitive and caring. He loved animals and they loved him. He enjoyed music and fishing; particularly ice fishing with his dad and stepmom. He was a passionate skateboarder and was very good at it. Miles was close to his cousins and younger sister, Taylor.

While in high school, Miles experienced serious pain, which stemmed from breaking the scaphoid bone in his wrist. He celebrated his 21st birthday in a hospital bed, recovering from surgery. Even after three surgical procedures, Miles still had considerable pain and very limited range of motion in his wrist. Miles started a "Go Fund Me" campaign to raise money for physical therapy and to hopefully see another doctor but it never happened; he was all out of money.

Miles then discovered a cheap alternative for his pain relief, black tar heroin, and soon the pain didn't matter anymore. Things got out of hand very quickly. Miles lost jobs, wrecked his car and moved into the dining room of his mother's one bedroom apartment. His mother knew that as long as he was under her roof, she knew he was safe. His mother spent countless sleepless nights worrying about him riding his bike or skateboarding home from work in the middle of the night.

As she looks back over the year or so he lived with her, things were mostly wonderful. We were very close. We had a similar sense of humor and shared many laughs. He was my best friend and always did his best to make sure his mama was okay. He made sure I had food everyday. Many nights, Miles would bring home pizza on the bus after his shift working at a pizza parlor: We would talk, eat and laugh. We loved watching storms together—Miles dreamed of being a meteorologist, something he was never able to become due to his addiction.

In a very short time Miles became addicted. He told his mother he wanted to stop using because of the challenges that came with it and many of his friends were dying. They did not have the money to get him into treatment.

After a while, things seemed to be getting better for Miles. He moved into an apartment with his sister. She was not aware he was using heroin. On the morning of June 2, 2015, Miles' sister woke up and found Miles in his room. He was already gone. Just 18 days before his 25th birthday.

LAWRENCE (LARRY) MCNEILL—NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Larry McNeill was amazing, charming, funny, popular and an extremely talented drummer. Larry was very close with his twin sister. They planned out their lives together. When they were very little and said their prayers at night, they used to ask God if they could "go to heaven at the same time" because they couldn't stand the thought of either one of them having to live without the other.

Larry's sister received a phone call the night Larry overdosed and was told that he wasn't going to make it. When Larry died, a big part of her died with him. All of their hopes, their dreams; she had lost her best friend. Larry struggled with drugs for many years but it was their family secret. They had nowhere to go to for help and didn't know what to do. They lived in fear—knowing that Larry was going to die and there wasn't anything they could do about it.

Larry had a son (he was one year old when Larry died), who was then adopted and raised by his sister. At the age of fourteen, his son

started smoking weed and couldn't stop. Larry's sister wasn't going to let this happen again. She was able to get help and he went into a residential treatment program. Today he is clean and sober and Larry's sister is proud of him.

Because of everything that the Popper family had been through, Larry's sister shares his story with as many families as possible—they need to know that they are not alone in this. Families need to know that they can get help for their loved ones who are struggling with this disease. Larry's sister works in advertising and has created anti-drug commercials for ONDCP and The Partnership for Drug Free Kids. She has also been a Parent Coach for the Partnership, helping families that call their hotline. She wants to do whatever she can to ensure that no family goes through what her family did.

BRIAN MENDELL—NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Brian was a loving child, full of smiles and light. Like so many children, as he entered his teenage years, Brian tried marijuana. And like far too many, this led to experimentation with drugs to which he became addicted. For almost ten years, Brian battled the disease of addiction and struggled through its cycle of shame, isolation and failure. During that same time, Brian's father and family were also fighting to navigate the complex and confusing web of treatment programs and therapies. If you know someone who has struggled with addiction, you know all too well the pain and anguish of watching a loved one in the clutches of this disease.

Through it all, Brian remained loving and compassionate, and expressed that no one should have to suffer through this devastating disease. During a visit home in the summer of 2011, Brian and his father were sitting on the back porch one night when Brian spoke about the stigma of addiction and the shame he felt:

Dad, 300 years ago they burned women on stakes in Salem, Massachusetts because they thought they were witches. Later they learned they weren't and stopped. Someday, people will realize that I have a disease and that I am trying my hardest.

This turned out to be Brian's last visit home. Four months later, in the middle of the night on October 20, 2011, Brian's father got the call that is every parent's worst nightmare. Brian was dead.

Brian's passing was, and continues to be, excruciatingly painful for his father. Perhaps just as tragic is the fact that it was not just the physical addiction that claimed Brian's life, but also the shame that Brian felt every morning when he opened his eyes and felt the weight of this disease. That same shame led Brian to wake up that morning in October, research suicide notes online, light a candle and take his own life. He died alone.

Brian died of a disease that afflicts more than 22 million Americans every day, as well as tens of millions of family members that love them. That's one quarter of American families. Over 370 people die every day from addiction related causes, shattering countless lives. Like Brian, the majority of those with substance abuse disorder (nearly 8 out of 10) develop this disease before they turn 18 while their brains are still developing. We, as a society, are not protecting our children when they are most vulnerable to becoming addicted and unable to protect themselves. Evidence-based methodologies exist that could have saved Brian and countless others like him, but they are not being implemented in our communities and schools.

Addiction should be treated like the chronic disease it is. Communities should be offer-

ing evidence-based and tangible resources for prevention, treatment and recovery. As a society, we need to foster tolerance and compassion, and dismantle the discrimination and judgment associated with this devastating disease.

ZACHARY (ZACH) MORGAN—PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Zachary (Zach) Morgan struggled with drug addiction, went through rehabilitation, relapsed after a period of sobriety, continued to battle his addiction, and ultimately lost his life in a drug-related shooting in 2009. He is more than just one of the 129 people who are losing their lives to this epidemic.

Zach was the oldest of three siblings. He always seemed to be saving or hugging just about everyone. Zach took his "cool older brother" persona into high school too. He was a member of the National Honor Society, active in youth group, a community volunteer, and a lifeguard. He swam and played football, basketball and golf. Zach was someone people felt they could talk to because he was understanding and compassionate. He always had a big grin, an open mind and the best hugs.

In high school, Zach became friends with a group of kids who he thought would relieve him of the "good kid" labels. At 15, this group of friends introduced Zach to marijuana. Despite our open household and the ease of conversation within our family, Zach began to use marijuana more frequently, which led him to become closed off and secretive. After Zach was arrested for drug possession at the age of 16, his parents decided to place him into rehabilitation at 17 and moved him to a different high school. This transition was difficult for the entire family. At home, Zach found himself in a new family dynamic and at school, he had new friends, new classes, and new dress codes.

As Zach's addiction hung over his family, they decided it would be best to move to Arizona for a fresh start. Around the time of the big move, Zach began to spend time with the same group of friends that had gotten him into trouble in the first place. He started using drugs again, and his drug use followed to Arizona.

After a combination of several police visits, calls from the high school and strange visitors—my brother left our home and dropped out of high school before graduation. He moved to Flagstaff, which is well-known in Arizona for its drug scene. On December 23, 2009, Zach was shot and killed by a fellow heroin user. His entire family was shattered and in the midst of their grief, they had to go through the grueling process of a trial against Zach's murderer. Zach was only 21 years old.

ADAM J. NOLAN—CHARDON, OHIO

Adam J. Nolan, whom was raised by his grandmother, Carole, passed away on November 17, 2012, from a heroin overdose. Adam would have been 20 years old the following month. Adam was a very talented musician and artist. He could make friends with anyone and was very well liked among his peers. Adam was an absolute joy to be around when he was not using heroin.

Adam had been in treatment many times and participated in various Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOPs); he received just about every kind of treatment that was available at the time. After being out of jail for almost three weeks, Adam tried hard not to respond to the calling of the drug but, in the end, it was too much for him to resist.

On November 17th, Carole received a call from the local hospital saying that Adam

had been taken there. When she arrived at the hospital, Carole found out that Adam was already dead; he died in another heroin user's house after falling asleep in a chair.

The day Adam died he had come home for a shower and Carole took him back to the house he was staying at. Before she dropped him off, Adam told her he wished he could go around to schools and tell kids: "Do not take heroin, not even one time; as it is the worst thing in the world. It hooks you in even the first time." When Carole dropped him off, she told Adam that she loved him; two hours later Adam was gone. He never got the opportunity to tell his story, but maybe his death can be used to stop someone who is thinking of trying heroin for the first time.

Adam was very much loved and is greatly missed.

CORA MARIE O'LEARY—PAWTUCKET,
RHODE ISLAND

Cora Marie O'Leary was born on October 5, 1994. She was her parents second child and first daughter. Growing up, Cora was so fun. She was spunky and never wanted to be like the "in" crowd; she danced to her own beat. We knew early on she would be special. Cora learned the love of reading, along with her brother, as I read to them every night before bed. Her love of reading became something very special between her and I. One of my favorite memories is when we went to one of Jodi Picoult's readings, met her, and got her autograph. Cora would barely study or do homework, yet still ace tests and classes.

Cora was 16 the first time she tried heroin. Cora started to seclude herself from everyone and everything, well before she even dropped out of school. She then attempted suicide in her high school's gym locker room with her best friend. From that point on, the bullying started. People made fun of her for trying to take her life and as a result she started to self harm, and cut herself. This led to more bullying. When she was younger, Cora was a cheerleader and a dancer. Cora quit dance when she was young because she wanted to spend more time with friends. Cora eventually went to an all star gym for maybe a week, only to quit when she felt secluded because she "wore too much eyeliner" and was "too goth".

Cora left Rhode Island to enter a treatment center in Florida and moving in with her grandparents afterward. Cora later moved back to Rhode Island and moved in with a new boyfriend; one who tried everything he could to help keep her sober and off of heroin.

Cora found a way out to get the drugs while her boyfriend was at work, causing fights with her boyfriend, who was trying to help her. Cora then moved in with her aunt and got a job—only to use when she got her first paycheck. She had been back in Rhode Island for only 52 days. On the night of Friday, August 5, 2016, Cora was to go out with her friend. As the friend sat in the driveway waiting for Cora, she called me in a panic because Cora wouldn't answer the door or her phone and everything was locked to the house. Everyone was afraid to call 9-1-1, because if Cora wasn't using again she would be mad that we didn't trust her.

Cora was found by her cousin in the upstairs bathroom of her aunt's house. The safest place she could possibly be. He called 9-1-1. Even Narcan didn't work this time as it had eight times before. She became one of the 129 on August 5, 2016. Our lives are forever changed.

KENT EDWARDS—PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Kent Edwards, 18 years old, died of an accidental prescription drug overdose in 2003.

One night during his sophomore year of high school, Kent called his mother to say that he was out with some friends and wasn't coming home that night. He was calling because he didn't want to worry his mother, but when they hung up she knew something was wrong. Kent's mother waited for him when he came home at 6:00 a.m.

Life changed for the Kent's family that morning. Kent went to the doctor and tested positive for substances. His family restricted and monitored Kent's activities. They made a lot of changes that next year and Kent adjusted fairly well. He transferred schools and graduated with ease. Kent got a job he loved and spent time with his friends and family. His family thought they had dodged the bullet—Kent didn't want to be addicted to drugs so they mistakenly thought they were in the clear. It seemed that all was well, but Kent's family didn't know any better.

Before Kent turned 18, he was scheduled to have his wisdom teeth removed. His mother filled the prescription before his surgery. As she was looking at the bottles, she noticed that one of them had fewer pills in it than the other. When she confronted Kent about it he admitted to having taken some.

She asked Kent why and his answer was chilling. He asked his mother to think about a time in her life when she had felt "Great"—"The Best." When she nodded Kent said, "The first time you get high, it's better than that. It feels so good that you want to feel that way again—only it's physically, chemically impossible." He explained how the drugs alter your brain chemistry and why people take more and increase their frequency of use in an attempt to get back to the feeling of that first high.

On a Monday in September, 2003, there was a knock on the Kent's family's door and soon they heard the words: "Your son has died."

Kent and two other kids crushed some Oxycontin and washed them down with beer. Kent got sleepy and the other two left. As Kent slept, the drug slowed his respiratory system down until it stopped completely. His roommate found him the next day—already gone.

DYLAN BRADLEY PEARSON—SAINT FRANCIS,
MINNESOTA

On March 11, 2013, Dylan's mother found out that her only child was using heroin at the age of 18. By the time she found out, heroin had already gotten ahold of him. Over the next year, Dylan was charged with two felonies related to his addiction. He was admitted to three different treatment centers. In May of 2014, while Dylan was staying in a treatment center that he had been furloughed to, Dylan's mother received a phone call from one of his friends saying that Dylan had overdosed and was in the ER. Not knowing whether Dylan was alive or dead made the drive to the ER one of the worst drives in her life. Luckily Dylan survived, but 36 hours after being admitted to the hospital, he was sent to jail for 30 days.

When Dylan was released from jail, he began the same routine of using. Dylan's family tried to help him and keep him at home but there was nothing they could do. They were so desperate that at one point they took turns sitting in front of his room, but when his mother got up for a second, Dylan sprinted out the back door. They were helpless. His parents never gave Dylan money but they let him live at home. Dylan's mother talked to him every single day about his addiction and told him much she loved him. Dylan didn't want to live the life he was leading but he didn't know how to stop.

In October of 2014, Dylan agreed to go to a treatment center. The moment he arrived, Dylan didn't want to be there anymore. When he walked out of the center, Dylan's mother refused to bring him home. So Dylan partied for a few days in a hotel with some other kids that had been kicked out of the treatment center for using. Dylan then went to a halfway house and waited there while he tried to get into another treatment facility. Dylan received his completion certificate from this treatment center on January 17, 2015, and was 90 days clean.

Dylan tried so hard to stay clean but within a week of being home, he stumbled again. Dylan went to court and was going to be put on probation. Things seemed like they were going to be okay. On the afternoon of January 30th, Dylan's friend called because he needed to get rid of the rest of his dope before he went into treatment. Dylan's mother could tell Dylan was high when she got home from work, but he hung out with her all night and they had fun. Dylan seemed fine when she told him she loved him and went to bed after midnight.

Dylan went to bed and never woke up. He died on January 31st, 2015. In his bed. In his parent's house. His parent's worst nightmare came true—his only child was dead.

Dylan's mother doesn't remember much about that day, but she does know that her life will never be the same. Every day when she walks into her house, she sees Dylan's shoes sitting on the floor where he kicked them off and his jacket draped across the banister where he left it. They will never have another one of our midnight snacks. Dylan will never have the chance to get married, have kids, travel, and do all of the things that a 19 year old should be experiencing.

Dylan was quiet, but when he did talk, he was funny. He was a good athlete, loyal, handsome and genuine. Dylan and his mother always knew what the other was thinking and we talked—good talks—all the time. Near the end of his life, his mother sent him what seemed like thousands of texts just making sure that he was okay.

Dylan's mother keeps thinking that she will wake up and all of this will have been a dream. She cannot put into words the pain that this loss has caused her family. Today, her mission is to help change the system that we currently have. This epidemic has killed too many young men and women. Let's do all we can to help people with substance use disorder access the treatment they need, break the stigma surrounding addiction, and make some real change.

HONORING BATTALION CHIEF
MICHAEL WINK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor CalFire Battalion Chief Michael Wink, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Lake County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

A native of our Napa Valley, Battalion Chief Wink attended the Santa Rosa Junior College Firefighter Academy and served as Academy

Class Leader. He then attended the CalFire Academy and began working on assignments across the state. In addition, Battalion Chief Wink is a certified Emergency Medical Technician and has earned numerous technological and incident management certifications. Battalion Chief Wink currently serves as a CalFire Battalion Chief for Lake County.

Our community knows firsthand the value of Battalion Chief Wink's leadership. During the Clayton and Valley Fires, Battalion Chief Wink led a large team and acted quickly to help protect our community. His leadership undoubtedly limited the damage sustained by our Lake County community during those devastating fires.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Battalion Chief Wink for his dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor him here today.

HONORING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF HAITIAN PROFESSIONALS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise to mark the fifth anniversary of the National Alliance for the Advancement of Haitian Professionals (NAAHP) and to honor its years of service to the Haitian-American community and our nation.

NAAHP was founded in 2008 as the National Association of Haitian Professionals (NAHP) by a group of ambitious college students to connect Haitian professionals and build ladders of opportunity for the Haitian diaspora domestically and abroad. In 2015, NAHP officially became the National Alliance for the Advancement of Haitian Professionals to reflect the organization's growth and pursuit of new initiatives since its launch in 2011.

In the past five years, NAAHP has become one of the leading associations for Haitian professionals and also an advocate on issues affecting the global Haitian community.

NAAHP has hosted many conferences around the world to engage the Haitian diaspora, recognized influential Haitian leaders, awarded scholarships to students of Haitian descent, launched the Network After Work Social Hour Series, and offered year-round college readiness programs through its College Readiness Access & Retention Institute.

NAAHP has led the Haitian diaspora in confronting a number of issues affecting Haitians abroad. Since 2015, it has been one of the foremost advocates fighting the denaturalization of Dominicans of Haitian descent. In response to Haiti's derailed 2015 presidential elections, NAAHP proposed several solutions which were adopted and helped to mitigate the political crisis.

Every year, the NAAHP conference gathers Haitians from around the world to highlight the Haitian diaspora's success, network, and share solutions to address Haiti's challenges. I am so pleased that the NAAHP decided to

convene in Washington, D.C., for its fifth annual conference. As the Member of Congress representing the Congressional District with the largest population of Haitians, it gives me great pleasure to welcome NAAHP and the diaspora to Washington.

This year's honorees include Congresswoman MIA LOVE (UT-4), Washington D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine, National Urban League president Marc Morial, entrepreneur Leanna Archer, and renowned architect Rodney Leon.

I personally thank Robert Raben, Cleve Mesidor, and Donald Gatlin from the Raben Group, Suze Francois, Albert DeCady, Ambassador Paul Altidor, Naomie Pierre-Louis, Ariel Dominique, and everyone at the Embassy of the Republic of Haiti, 1 Click, Off the Ground Solutions, Haiti Renewal Alliance, and Azure College for their unwavering support of NAAHP.

I commend the NAAHP leadership team for their commitment, dedication, and excellence.

The executive management team includes Serge Renaud (president), Marie Myka Texas, Samuel Charles, Vladimir "Vlad" Gilbert, Regine Albin, Ketsia Saint-Armand, Victoria Winslow, Kathy W. Elisca Clermont, Widline Luctama, Tracy Vertus, Kristia M. Beaubrun, Claslyne Doris Jean Pierre, Verlene Julceus, and Malika Raquel Bernard.

The Board of Directors consists of Dr. Wilkerson Compere (chairman), Samuel Charles, Mackendy Elmera, Serge Renaud, Dr. Cledicianne Dorvil, and Anide Jean.

The Advisory Board is co-chaired by Dr. Marjorie Pierre Brennan and Miche Jean, and includes Nathalie Liautaud, Bruno Surpris, Dr. C. Reynold Verret, Dr. Paul A. Belony, Ambassador Danielle Saint-Lot, Jaques M. Jean, Brigitte Rousseau, Adler C. Eliacin, and Harold Charles.

The Scholarship Committee is led by co-chairs Dr. Marjorie P. Brennan and Jacques Medina Jean, and includes Widline Luctama, Regine Albin, Bruno Surpris, and Miche Jean.

The Advocacy Committee is under the leadership of the Honorable Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste, Joanne Antoine, and Cassandre Theano.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you, my colleagues in Congress, and all Americans to please join me in honoring the National Alliance for the Advancement of Haitian Professionals on their fifth anniversary and for hosting this year's conference in our nation's capital.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF
MR. BUTCH RAMIREZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Butch Ramirez, a professional photographer whose work has been chosen to be displayed as part of the newly commissioned nuclear submarine, the USS *Illinois* (SSN-786).

Growing up in Webb County, Texas, hunting and fishing were regular parts of Mr. Ramirez's life. Mr. Ramirez decided to expand his

passion for hunting and fishing by pursuing an interest in photography. He quickly developed a talent and enthusiasm for capturing some of nature's most beautiful and rare wildlife in the South Texas area. Over the course of his career capturing photos of wildlife, Mr. Ramirez's photographs have been selected for the cover of magazines on 25 separate occasions. One of Mr. Ramirez's most notable pieces of photography is his photo of the White-tailed deer that has been chosen to represent the crest of this newest Virginia class submarine through an extensive selecting process.

Mr. Ramirez has also led exclusive photo workshops for people from all over the world at his ranch in Laredo, TX. In addition, his ranch, Rocking R6, is an official stop for the Laredo Birding Festival. Those interested in the history and photography of animals come to his ranch specifically because of the rare species of birds that can be found there including, the Crested Caracara, Green Jay, and the Red-billed Pigeon.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the work of Mr. Butch Ramirez.

IN HONOR OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ST. ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN
APOSTOLIC CATHEDRAL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of St. Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Cathedral located in the district I represent in Manhattan, New York. It was the first Armenian church established in New York City.

After fleeing to the United States in the late 19th and early 20th century following the Hamidian Massacres and Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire, the Armenians of New York City did not have their own church to worship in together. They held religious services in various churches, most of which were located in the neighborhood of the current cathedral. Purchasing a church was initially proposed in 1913. A successful fundraising effort allowed construction to begin for what was then known as the central cathedral of the Armenian Apostolic Church in 1915. The Cathedral officially opened its doors in 1916, but parishioners celebrated the Cathedral's centennial throughout 2015 at the same time as the centennial of the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Turkey in 1915.

For over a century, St. Illuminator's Cathedral has played a significant role in advocating for Armenians in the U.S. and around the world. Many Genocide survivors found their refuge in the United States, entering the country through Ellis Island. St. Illuminator came to serve as shelter to many of them once they arrived. Today, there remains a vibrant congregation, inspiring their community through faith and service.

I extend my congratulations to the pastor, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian who has led the church for 10 years, the Board of Trustees, and all members and friends of St. Illuminator,

and wish them many more years of success and service to the Armenian American community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the anniversary of St. Illuminator's Cathedral and its contributions to the Armenian American residents of Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn as well as the larger Armenian American community in the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, if I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 601 to H.R. 5015.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 602 to H.R. 6427.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 603 to House Amendment to S. 1635.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 604 to H.R. 6394.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 605 to H. Res. 939.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 606 to H.R. 6416.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 607 to H. Res. 828 motion to table.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 607 to H. Res. 828 motion to refer.

If I were present, I would have voted NO on roll call number 609 to H. Res. 944 ordering the previous question.

If I were present, I would have voted NO on roll call number 610 to H. Res. 944.

If I were present, I would have voted NO on roll call number 613 to H.R. 5143.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 614 to H.R. 6076.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 616 to H.R. 5790.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 615 to House Amendment to S. 2971.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 611 to H.R. 1219.

If I were present, I would have voted YES on roll call number 612 to S. 3028.

TRIBUTE TO NKUMU ISAAC
KATALY & "THE NEW LIFE
PROJECT"

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor The Kataly Band for its many years of dedication and contribution to the arts in New York City and our country.

Nkumu Isaac Kataly was born in Kinshasa, the capital city of the Democratic Republic of Congo where he spent one half of his life be-

fore moving to New York City in 1996. Music became Mr. Kataly's path to navigate the world. Music has become Mr. Kataly's cornerstone, which holds the fragments of his identity together.

Music is Nkumu's passion. The study of musical notes or beats, especially their movements, patterns, and how they are parallel to human cultures, remains his lifelong fascination. So, artistically, he discovered one tool after the other. Nkumu's musical concept was cultivated via the "Mbonda" or "Ngoma" (drum) and movements (dance).

Before his new journey, Mr. Kataly had the opportunity to accomplish tremendous things as a young artist. He got to perform at renowned art venues throughout the United States and has had the privilege to work with the best artists Congo sends out to the world. He performed alongside various artists.

Nkumu has presented at the Apollo Theater, Manhattan Center, Prospect Park, Summer Stage, St. Nick's Pub, and more. Additionally, he has performed at various prestigious universities throughout the United States such as Columbia University, John Jay College, Baruch College, Harvard University, and University of Chicago.

His devotion to humanitarian causes continues through his music. He devotes a significant amount of his spare time to community leadership and development. He is currently the technical director of a musical group in the Living Church of God's Divine Provision. There he uses African aesthetics, music and thought processes, to exemplify how Congo influences every music style throughout the African Diaspora.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Kataly and The New Life Project for their consistently remarkable contributions to the arts and the African Diaspora.

RETIRING FROM CONGRESS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as I reach the end of my 24-year congressional career, I want to begin by thanking the constituents of Florida's 3rd (later renamed 5th) congressional district, for giving me the opportunity to serve you, and to serve the great State of Florida, and the United States of America. I will always remember and revere this remarkable institution of government, the House of Representatives, the People's House.

As I look back on my years of service, among the many things my loyal and outstanding staff and I accomplished over the years, there are a few special items that stand out. First, I will always remember working day and night across the aisle to obtain a Congressional Gold Medal for the Montford Point Marines; the dedicated, African American patriots, who were often overlooked by the history books.

These marines enlisted to defend our nation during a time when here at home, African

Americans faced terrible discrimination and civil rights abuses. Years before Jackie Robinson and decades prior to Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, they risked their lives and fought overseas to defend democracy against one of the most dangerous regimes ever to rule over much of Europe, that of Nazi Germany. And unlike the Tuskegee Airmen and others who were praised for their valiant efforts, the Montford Point Marines were never given recognition until I worked with my colleagues on Capitol Hill to pass a bill, which became law, to grant the marines who were trained at Montford Point a Congressional Gold Medal. I vividly remember when a handful of these now elderly gentlemen watched the final vote from the House gallery in tears, as the Members of Congress, defying House protocol for a brief moment, turned and gave them a standing ovation for their bravery. A short time thereafter, the Montford Point Marines were received with honors in the Capitol for a ceremony in their honor, granting them a Congressional Gold Medal.

I am also very proud of my 24 years of service on the House Veterans Affairs Committee. In fact, I became the first African American female to serve as Ranking Member of the Committee, as I felt it was my duty after serving on the committee to take charge during an extremely tumultuous time at the Agency for Veterans' Affairs. During my two year term as Ranking Member we worked on a number of issues to improve the efficacy of the VA to better serve our nation's veterans, in particular, in the areas of veteran homelessness, assisting the rapidly expanding category of women veterans, psychological issues and PTSD, and working to decrease the wait times at VA health facilities.

Since first coming to Congress, I have been fighting for the benefits that veterans were promised when they entered the service. When I first came to Washington, to offset the limited space for veterans' burials in Florida and around the country, I introduced legislation to establish new National Cemeteries in South Florida and in Jacksonville. I also introduced legislation to expand and improve the National Veteran's Cemetery system, and championed legislation expanding the health and long-term care benefits that America's veterans' receive, improving veterans' education benefits, and expediting claims processing. Most recently, I secured a new Veterans' Outpatient Clinic for Jacksonville. This facility consolidated most of the veterans' services that had been scattered around the city into one facility. In addition, the Gainesville VA Medical Center was completed with an additional \$51.5 million included at my request, and the Orlando VA Medical Center, with my advocacy over the years, is finally completed and attending patients. And under my watch, Congress passed the largest budget in the history of the VA and also passed assured funding for the VA, which ensures that veterans' healthcare is not subject to the political winds of Washington.

I am proud of my many accomplishments over the years in the arena of Transportation and Infrastructure development, where, in my role as a key member on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I was able to make numerous positive, tangible contributions to our nation's transportation system.

By obtaining hundreds of millions of dollars in federal projects, both for my congressional district (which is one of the most underserved in the State of Florida), and for my state, I was awarded with the slogan, "Corrine Delivers." These projects ranged from bridge construction and reconstruction, to the building of courthouses, roads, ports and buildings. They also consisted of numerous multi modal transportation projects, such as SunRail in Central Florida, Lynx, and Amtrak passenger rail, to give Floridians and Americans across the nation the option to travel and commute without having to use an automobile. And across my district, from Gainesville to Jacksonville to Orlando and even the smaller cities in between, I obtained millions of dollars over the years for their public transportation system, including city buses. In Gainesville in fact, the newly upgraded bus depot was named after me.

Yet perhaps my greatest achievement was in the arena of civil rights. I am proud to have been the first African American to serve the State of Florida as an elected federal Member of Congress. In this capacity, I served as the voice of minorities and the traditionally underserved for more than two decades. I was given the platform and the ability to promote change and fairness in the areas of voting rights, health care parity, educational access and equality, access to fairly priced housing, accessible and moderately priced public transportation, greater gender equality, racial disparities in our criminal justice system, and of course, for full funding of our Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid recipients. Lastly, in the area of higher education, I led the charge, along with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, to revise the strict requirements the Department of Education placed on those attempting to obtain or continue to use their Parent Plus Loans to further their college education. The excessive requirements were eventually revised in ways which allowed hundreds of thousands of previously adversely affected students, many at HBCU's in particular, to continue their studies.

Yet I do not intend to abandon the fight for justice and equality that I have fought for all of my life. Even outside the halls of Congress, I will continue to advocate for minorities, for the less fortunate, and for those born on the "other side of the railroad tracks." As I have said from the day I was first elected: "to whom God has given much, much is expected . . . when you are born you get a birth certificate, and when you die you get a death certificate, but it's the dash in between that really matters."

HONORING CAPTAIN MELISSE
LEITZKE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Melisse Leitzke, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Solano County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our commu-

nity who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

Captain Leitzke is known for her leadership, knowledge and mentorship at the Vallejo Fire Department. Her dedication to excellence shows through the results of her hard work and study to achieve the rank of Captain after placing first in her recent Captain examination.

In addition to her work as an emergency responder, Captain Leitzke is an active member of our community. She serves as a mentor in the Department's Robin Mackbee Youth Academy providing life guidance and career exploration for youth who are at-risk socially, academically and economically. Captain Leitzke's presence in the academy provides a positive role model for the young men and women.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Captain Leitzke for her dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor her here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF STANFORD SETTLEMENT NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 80th anniversary of the Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center and the Sisters of Social Service in Sacramento. As Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center's friends and supporters gather to celebrate this milestone, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their leadership in the Sacramento region.

It is a great pleasure to recognize the center's dedication to providing services that benefit the health and well-being of the residents and neighborhood. As Sacramento's oldest social-service agency, Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center has provided services to thousands of people, young and old. Their wide range of programs includes Neighborhood Outreach, Emergency Assistance, Children's, and Senior Services programs. On top of this, the Stanford Settlement Neighborhood actively works to foster stronger connections within the community by hosting meetings with city officials and other local organizations.

80 years ago, the former residence of Governor Leland Stanford was taken over by The Sisters of Social Service. The Sisters began several programs to serve their neighbors immediately and in 1963 they moved their programs to the Gardenland Northgate area of Northern Sacramento. Their work was instrumental in obtaining City water, parks, street lights, sidewalks and gutters for the area. In 1975, the Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center became a non-profit and moved to the abandoned Gardenland Elementary School. At this location, the facility grew to include both the Sister Jeanne Felion Senior Center and the Carl R. Hansen Teen Center.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center, and their continuous commitment to providing social services to all people, young and old.

The past 80 years have been tremendously successful and I am sure they will continue to enjoy success in the future. While Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center's staff, supporters, and friends gather together to celebrate the organization's 80th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their outstanding work in providing the community with much needed social services.

TRIBUTE TO BAKARY CAMARA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. Bakary Camara for his many years of selfless and compassionate service to the African community, and all of our community's residents.

Mr. Bakary Camara was born in Gambia, West Africa, in 1961. He and his family managed an independent business and he traveled throughout Africa and Europe before settling in the Bronx in 1988.

Bakary joined the majority of the West African immigrants that were settling in the Highbridge, Mount Eden, Concourse, and Morrisania sections of the Bronx. At that time, there was no Masjid in the Bronx and the Muslim community would gather in each other's apartments to pray. Bakary and other community leaders founded one of the first Mosques for the African community at 1472 Jesup Avenue, Masjid Deyau of Islam.

In the 1990s, Bakary joined other Gambian leaders in helping strengthen the Gambian Society, the first African organization to provide adult education services and worked with the CDC to educate the African community in the Bronx about their health and specifically about the growing problem of AIDS and HIV.

Bakary helped open other Mosques throughout the Bronx, serves as Secretary for Makky Masjid and is the Public Relations Representative for Makky Masjid and for the Islamic Cultural Center, the central mosque for the Bronx which opened in 1999.

Bakary has volunteered and served as a representative for numerous nonprofits throughout the Bronx, including the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, the United Parents of Highbridge and the Parent Action Committee of New Settlement Apartments. Bakary served on the steering committee for the citywide Muslim Holiday Campaign, a coalition which worked for nearly a decade to have the two Muslim holidays, the Eids, recognized by the New York Public School System. This was achieved in 2015 under Mayor Bill DeBlasio.

Bakary also has volunteered as a community translator for Lincoln, Harlem, and New York Presbyterian Hospitals. He speaks Sonike, Manidiko, Fulani, and Walof. Bakary continues to reside with his family on Plimpton Avenue in the Highbridge neighborhood of the Bronx.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Bakary Camara for his consistently remarkable dedication to public service.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
MR. JOHN MCKEOWN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of one of Laredo's most caring and dedicated citizens, Mr. John McKeown.

Mr. McKeown was born on February 4th, 1929, in Tulsa, Oklahoma to John Mayo McKeown and Mary Grace McVey McKeown. He attended Cascia Hall Preparatory School in Tulsa and eventually went to the U.S. Naval Academy where he graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering. At the age of 24, Mr. McKeown entered the Korean War where he served on a transport ship and a destroyer. For his service he received the National Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, and the China Service Medal. After the war, he moved to Texas to work for a maquiladora that manufactured electronics. It was during this time that he met his beloved wife Jeanette. They soon got married and eventually had two children. Mr. McKeown also went on to start a successful business called McKeown Customs Brokers Inc. which saw over forty years of success.

Mr. McKeown was very involved in his local community. He not only helped start one of Laredo's first youth soccer teams but helped referee Saturdays and Sundays. He was also an active member of the Laredo Licensed U.S. Customs Brokers Association, Laredo Noon Rotary Club, St. Patrick Men's Club, and was past president of the Laredo Animal Protective Society. Mr. McKeown, however, was most noted for his work with helping local veterans. As an active member of the Laredo Korean War Veterans Association and chaplain of the Laredo 1959 chapter, Mr. McKeown was considered one of the first people veterans could turn to in their time of need. He was also involved with helping to designate segments of state highways 359, 16, and 285 as the Veterans of the Korean War Memorial Highway. He even went so far as to use his own money to help pay for the highway signs.

Mr. McKeown is survived by his wife, Jeanette Moser McKeown; daughter, Carolyn J. McKeown; grandchildren, Carolyn Lauren Hinojosa Walker, Ann Michelle Hinojosa (Ari) Hoffman, and Eduardo Javier Hinojosa Jr.; great-grandchildren, William Christopher Walker, Rheyra Ashley Walker; siblings, Patricia (Herbert) Stanley, and Thomas (Ruth) McKeown.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to remember the legacy of Mr. John McKeown.

TRIBUTE TO SUGAR GROVE
SUNSHINE 4-H CLUB

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Sugar

Grove Sunshine 4-H Club on celebrating its 100th anniversary on September 24, 2016.

Heart, Head, Hands and Health are the tenants of 4-H, and 4-H is one of the hallmark organizations that so many young Iowans have passed through during their formative years. Ever since the Sugar Grove Sunshine 4-H Club was founded during World War I, it has benefited the youth of central Iowa in countless ways. Originally called the 4-H Sewing Club, the Sugar Grove Sunshine 4-H Club has guided Dallas County area youth through innumerable fair projects, animal shows, and 4-H meetings, where they were able to build upon their own interests, create with their hands, learn about animal care, develop important social skills, master public speaking, and be involved in their communities. The skills developed and honed in 4-H stay with students throughout their lifetime, and the result is that our communities are filled with leaders who strive to do what's best for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the Sugar Grove Sunshine 4-H Club and its members in the United States Congress. It is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them all on this momentous anniversary and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
JUDGE SCOTT POLODNA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of the Honorable Scott D. Polodna, who passed away on Tuesday, December 6, 2016, after losing his battle with cancer. He was 51.

Judge Polodna was a respected leader in Central Florida and will be remembered as a dedicated colleague, and a dignified, compassionate person and jurist. He helped many people improve their lives.

Judge Polodna began his service as a judge in 2006. Judge Polodna has served the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court for over 10 years as a circuit judge in Osceola County in the criminal division, and in the civil division specializing in probate, guardianship, and mental health issues.

Born in Chicago, IL, Judge Polodna moved to Florida 40 years ago. He received a bachelor's degree in psychology and a law degree from the University of Florida. Judge Polodna taught criminal evidence at Valencia College, and served as an assistant public defender for ten years in the Orange-Osceola Public Defender's Office and as an assistant county attorney in Osceola. Judge Polodna's commitments to the community included board service with Community Vision and the Osceola Education Foundation. He was a 2002 graduate of Leadership Osceola, leading a project aimed at protecting and preserving environmentally sensitive lands.

Judge Polodna's integrity, wisdom, and passionate outlook on life touched the lives of

many and made Central Florida a better place. I am humbled to honor the memory, life, and outstanding achievements of Judge Scott D. Polodna.

RECOGNIZING DR. LOUIS J.
AGNESE, JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Dr. Louis J. Agnese, Jr. who served as president of the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) in San Antonio, Texas for thirty-one years.

Dr. Louis J. Agnese grew up in Brooklyn, New York, as the youngest of five children. He received his Bachelor of Arts in History and Psychology from St. Mary of the Plains College; his Master of Education in Counseling and an Education Specialist Degree in Supervision of Counseling Services from Gannon University; and a Ph.D. in Counselor Education from The University of Pittsburgh. He went on to work at Briar Cliff University before interviewing for the presidency of Incarnate Word in 1985.

UIW eventually hired Dr. Agnese to become the university's eighth president. Dr. Agnese was only 33 at the time, making him one of the youngest college presidents in the nation. Immediately upon being hired, he sought ways to help improve the university. He spent much of his time researching the university's history, meeting with staff and faculty, as well as looking for innovative ways to help improve student enrollment, which had been declining for several years.

During Dr. Agnese's presidency, student global enrollment rose from 1,296 students in 1985 to 11,422 in 2016. This growth turned UIW from the 19th largest private university in Texas to the 3rd largest private university in the state. The number of living alumni has increased from 8,000 in 1985 to nearly 40,000 today.

Not only did the student enrollment grow, but the number of academic programs doubled. The university created its first Ph.D. program and added professional doctoral programs in pharmacy, optometry, physical therapy, nursing practice, business administration, and beginning in 2017, osteopathic medicine. The university's endowment also increased from \$3 million in 1985 to \$130 million today, while the school's budget grew from \$2 million to \$217 million.

UIW has received numerous recognitions throughout Dr. Agnese's tenure. The university has been noted for eight consecutive years as one of the Great Colleges to Work For in the U.S. by the Chronicle of Higher Education, chosen as one of the Top Workplaces in San Antonio by The San Antonio Express-News, included in The Chronicle's national Top 10 Honor Roll category for medium-sized universities for the seventh straight year, and today, with more than 1,100 employees, UIW has an estimated \$100 million impact on the San Antonio economy. UIW is also currently ranked No. 1 nationally among private, not-for-profit

universities in conferring the most bachelor's degrees to Hispanics, a group that continues to be underrepresented nationally in higher education.

Dr. Agnese's long and successful career has brought with it numerous awards. His many honors include: the Humanitarian Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Outstanding leader in Catholic education by the Archdiocese of San Antonio, the Ford Salute to Education Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to higher education, the Sister Cecilia Bush Award from the Dear Neighbor Ministries for his commitment to Minority Education, and multiple honorary doctorates along with several distinguished alumni awards.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to remember the legacy of UIW's eighth president, Dr. Louis J. Agnese, Jr.

TRIBUTE TO DR. SCOTT SHUEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Scott Shuey, D.V.M. of Corning, Iowa, for being honored as the 2016 Veterinarian of the Year by the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Shuey was nominated by 19 area farmers and producers in southwestern Iowa, in recognition of his dedication to the profession and his leadership in the community.

Dr. Shuey has been practicing veterinary medicine in southwest Iowa for 25 years. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in animal science from Kansas State University in 1989, a Master of Science degree in beef cattle nutrition from South Dakota State University, and his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Kansas State University. He practices veterinary medicine and serves as the managing and senior partner at the Southern Hills Veterinary Clinic in Corning.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Dr. Shuey for this recognition by the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dr. Shuey and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE NATIONAL OPIOID EPIDEMIC

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to include in the RECORD today the personal stories of families from across the country that have been affected by the opioid and heroin epidemic. In the U.S. we lose 129 lives per day to opioid and heroin overdose. In my home state of New Hampshire I have learned

so many heartbreaking stories of great people and families who have suffered from the effects of substance use disorder.

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I were joined by many of these courageous families who came to Washington to share their stories with Members of Congress and push for action that will prevent overdoses and save lives. Since then, we passed both the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act to provide much needed funding and critical policy changes to fight this epidemic.

The advocacy of these families truly is so important to leading to change in Washington and I am proud to preserve their stories.

ANTONIO LUCONI—POMPTON PLAINS,
NEW JERSEY

On Sunday, March 20, 2016, Antonio "Ant" Luconi, lost the biggest fight of his life at the age of 28—to the disease of opioid addiction. Drug addiction does not discriminate—it ruins the lives of good people. When Ant died, the world lost a son, brother, Godfather, cousin, grandson, nephew and friend. Their loyal, handsome, funny, loving, Ant added so much to the lives he touched: He had a "tough guy" exterior and had the world's biggest heart. Ant never failed to say, "I love you."

Ant died nineteen days after being discharged from treatment. He was excited to start his life over, make his family proud and pursue his new life goals. He did not want to die. He had plans. Big plans. "28 is my year," he said.

At the age of 21, Ant began recreationally using Percocet, which progressed to Roxicet. He ingested both by crushing the pills and snorting them. As his addiction progressed, so too did his tolerance and the cost of supporting his addiction. As a result, Ant turned to snorting heroin, which was less expensive. While attending an intensive outpatient program, another patient taught him how to use a needle to inject heroin.

Over the course of seven years, Ant made numerous attempts to get clean. He detoxed on his own and under medical supervision. He attended intensive outpatient programs and worked with therapists. Ant's belief that he could conquer this disease on his own led to a disastrous end.

Ant was open and honest throughout his addiction. He spent numerous hours with his sister discussing his disease. She believed in Ant and named him the Godfather to her daughter. There were many nights when Ant's mother held him in her arms as he cried, apologized, and pleaded for help to end the nightmare of addiction—to become whole again. Ant's family encouraged him time after time to get help, but in retrospect, they did not fully understand the severity of the situation.

After accepting that his addiction had completely taken over his life and that death was a real possibility, Ant decided to go to an inpatient treatment program. Can you imagine the relief Ant's family felt at hearing this news? While attending the recovery center in Florida, Ant became a favorite patient. During weekly conference calls with Ant and his treatment team, the connectors reported on his progress with sincere optimism, "Finally, someone who gets it and works the program. What a great guy. We know Ant will be a success story." He was chosen as group leader, which meant he was in charge of morning check-in meetings. Some of the most challenged men in the program sought Ant's advice and friendship.

Ever a "man's man," he made everyone feel important and was loyal to a fault.

When Ant arrived home after completing the program, he was proud of his progress and confident in his new life, but the fear of relapse was constant: "I cannot wait to just live in the moment again." Ant shared with his family a letter that he wrote to heroin. The first sentence read, "I am saying goodbye because you have made me someone I am not, my life is now unmanageable, you destroy all good things in my life. I hate you."

Ant's counselors in Florida set up an intensive outpatient program for him to help him transition upon arriving home. But when Ant attended the scheduled assessment, he was declined admittance because a family member was already enrolled in the program. Given that Ant was in such a vulnerable time in his recovery, they should have made sure that he was enrolled in another intensive outpatient program before he left the building. Lack of continuity of care turned out to be a life or death situation.

Ant needed to stay in a program and continue to receive support but they turned him away. Ant was unable to get an assessment at another intensive outpatient program for a week and a half. Here was a man who was begging for help, had made the decision to change his life and was failed horribly by our system. This was not unfamiliar—if you only knew how many times Ant's family drove him from detox to detox only to be turned down by each one due to insurance issues and a lack of available beds.

Ant's mother and sister want things to change. They want more resources to be available for people who have that moment of clarity and decide to get help. They want someone to pick up the phone on a Sunday night when a person struggling with addiction decides to seek information about how to get into detox. The horrible alternative means a person wanting help has to wait until morning and continue to use in order to combat the withdrawal symptoms. That "one more time" hit could take their life.

Ant's family is left with massive holes in their hearts that will never be healed. Their souls are devastated. Ant put up one hell of a fight. He was supposed to start a new job the day after he died. His family was rooting for him then and remain proud of him today. They were never ashamed or embarrassed about Ant's struggle. They believe that it was the system that failed him.

Ant's family wants to help bring awareness to the fact that this disease has reached epidemic levels and needs to be stopped. Too many young lives have been taken. Too many people that they know personally. If anything can be done to remove the stigma associated with a disease that does not discriminate between class, color, race, or religion, then Ant will not have died in vain. Ant's family always felt that he was destined to do big things Perhaps this is Ant's legacy.

MICHAEL MARCELL—WITTMAN, MARYLAND

The mother of two wonderful, loving boys, Louis and Michael Marcell, never dreamed that addiction would devastate her family as it has. This was not the life that she imagined when she became a mother. The grief and devastation of losing a child is unbearable and if her family's story can prevent just one family from dealing with this disease alone, she feels she will have made a difference.

Michael was always quiet and shy. He struggled in classes and was bullied during his formative years in school. When Michael was 16 years old, he became depressed and more withdrawn. His parents tried several

times to get him help through the school system but to no avail. By the time Michael was a junior in high school and had failing grades, his parents made the difficult decision to withdraw him from school. Michael was determined to graduate high school, so he decided to take GED classes and he passed.

Michael enjoyed working with his hands and found his calling in carpentry work. He also loved skateboarding, snowboarding, and spending time with his friends and brother. He was drawn to nature and had an old soul. Around the age of 17, Michael began experimenting with alcohol and marijuana. His mother was concerned but thought Michael was just going through a phase. A few days before Michael's death, he told a friend that he needed help. Michael's mother didn't know the extent of his addiction until it was too late; never able to get him the help he so desperately needed.

Michael died on December 7, 2008, within days of celebrating his 18th birthday. He went to a party the night before and because of an argument going on at home, Michael decided to stay at the party overnight. That was the last time Michael's mother saw her son. On December 7th, the police came to Michael's home to tell his mother that Michael was gone and died of an accidental overdose of alcohol and oxycodone. Michael's mother remembers that moment as if it was yesterday.

If Michael's family had the tools and knowledge about addiction that they have today when Michael was struggling, they feel they might have been able to save him.

THEO MARINESCU—EAST HAMPTON, NEW YORK

If there is anything worse than losing a child, it is losing a child to a drug overdose because grief is often accompanied by judgment and blame. For parents, it is a gut-wrenching thing to watch your child suffer at their own hand.

Losing a child to addiction means you didn't get to say goodbye. It means that (if you are brave enough to be truthful about the cause of death) every day you have to deal with the stigma that surrounds addiction. You question every decision—you look for what you did wrong, what you didn't say, why you didn't have the sense that something was wrong. You look back over the years and dissect each part of their life—scanning for clues. You look for places to lay blame but mostly you blame yourself. You find an online group of parents just like you, where there is no judgement and everyone has the same questions and feels the same pain. You force yourself to read the coroner and toxicology report hoping there is an answer there. And you cry—a lot.

Theo was 25 years old when he lost his life to a fatal combination of heroin and fentanyl. Theo was a warm, open, loving, bright, intelligent and handsome man. He had a huge laugh and a fabulous smile. Theo was an outstanding athlete and won many trophies and awards. He played linebacker in football and loved the sport. He was also gifted intellectually and an honor roll student in high school. Theo lived with wild ambition and no regrets.

Theo was a brilliant storyteller and always found a way to make you laugh. He seemed to make friends wherever he went and in turn, he made everyone feel welcome. Theo loved his little brothers with all his heart. He was a loyal friend to many.

Theo was very close to his family. Even during his years of drug use, Theo and his mother never became distant from each other. At times, it was torturous for his

mother, but the one thing that was always apparent was that Theo loved his family and his family loved him—no matter what.

Theo started smoking marijuana during his later years of high school. Theo's mother never imagined that his drug use would progress to pills and then, cocaine. Theo's family believes his addiction started about seven years ago, but it's hard to say for certain because this disease entered their home slowly and quietly. Over the course of those seven years, Theo experimented with a variety of drugs, including his final drug of choice, opiates. He tried hard to stop many times. Theo felt broken and guilty for the hurt he inflicted on his mother and little brothers. He once wrote about the "fairytale life" that he had screwed up so badly, and towards the end of his life Theo's self-esteem was completely eroded. He always took responsibility for what he did.

When his behavior started to hurt the ones he loved the most, Theo decided it was time to do something about it. On September 30, 2014, Theo called Violeta crying and asking for help. It was the first time he admitted to being addicted to drugs. Although his mother was shocked and heartbroken, Violeta didn't criticize him because she knew he was hurting. Theo said he hated living in addiction: "Mom, please help me! I will do anything to get out from this hole . . ."

Theo shared with Violeta about how having a little fun at the age of 17 had escalated into a full-blown drug addiction. Theo felt alone despite the fact that he had so much love from his mother and so many others. Soon after his conversation with his mother, Theo entered a treatment facility.

Violeta reached out to a person at the treatment facility for information on how she could best support Theo during his time there. The man said, "Theo is the most motivated person I have ever worked with." He said that Theo's desire to improve his life and his appreciation for the littlest things made him stand out. He told Violeta, "If every person I tried to help had 10% of his motivation, a lot of families would sleep better at night."

Theo was motivated to get better but the system failed him. Theo's lack of health insurance prevented him from attending any dual diagnostic programs, especially those out-of-state, which limited his options for treatment. The available programs weren't able to address Theo's lack of confidence and ongoing feelings of letting people down. He needed intensive substance abuse treatment and to be properly evaluated for mental health issues. Theo was limited to one thirty-day inpatient program and then bounced around to several sober living homes, one of which he was kicked out of for using Facebook.

Theo was clean for about seven months when he relapsed. As a consequence, the halfway house where he was staying kicked him out in the middle of the night with a heavy bag of his possessions, no money and nowhere to go. Throwing people out of rehab or a sober living house for displaying the very symptom of their disease is nonsensical and dangerous. For Violeta's son, it was the perfect storm.

Theo was in Florida and his family lived in New York. After he spent two days on the streets, his family found help and sent Theo to a treatment center in South Carolina. At the time, Theo's mother didn't know that this facility also admitted drug dealers who were forced by law to be there as part of their probation. Being forced to go to rehab is a very different thing than going will-

ingly. In the treatment center, one person who was dealing drugs gave Theo and two other patients drugs for free.

The treatment center kicked them out when the drug use was discovered. One week later, Theo was found dead after having used drugs from the same dealer he met at the treatment center. Theo died in a shady motel room. The drug dealer is still on the streets.

The current system in the United States for treating people with substance use disorder is incredibly broken. People are dying from this disease. The numbers are appalling—about 47,000 people die from drug overdose annually. That is more than the number of Americans who are killed in car accidents and gun violence combined. Half of those drug-related deaths are due to opiate drug abuse.

There has been a lot of talk, some media attention, but little action to fight this epidemic which shows no signs of abating. Legislation languishes, insurance companies still do not provide the coverage necessary for adequate treatment, and the shame and stigma of addiction continues.

Watching a child battle with addiction is like a roller coaster. Parents learn to be hypervigilant, living always with fear. Parents have hope as well—as long as your child is alive, you have hope that he or she will get better. However, the sound of the phone ringing at night makes your heart sink. Your child's potential death is always in the back of your mind.

That fateful day for Theo finally came on May 17, 2015.

Friends flew across the country to be at Theo's funeral. Incredible sadness about how his death might have been prevented permeated the air. Because of the embarrassment he felt, Theo never asked his friends for help.

All Violeta has of Theo are memories and of course his clothes and a few other personal objects. It's hard to hold a grave marker. What she misses most about her son is his affectionate nature, his great sense of humor, and the little things like hearing his feet bouncing up and down the stairs, the smell of his cologne—everything.

Children are supposed to bury their parents. Parents are not supposed to bury their children.

Not a day goes by that Violeta doesn't think about who her son would have been, what he would look like, his wedding, his children—the bleeding never stops. There will always be an empty chair—empty room—an empty space in every family picture. Time can't fill the space. Gone is still gone.

When you lose a child, nothing is ever the same again. Every facet of your life has a memory of your child. Every room in the house, every trip in the car, a song, a picture, a book, a walk in the park. There is a hole in your heart that will never be filled. You search and search for answers that just aren't there.

To children who hear this story: you are loved and have so much to give to the world. The temptation to abuse any kinds of drugs is very real, but the courage to resist that temptation is also very real. Ask for help.

To parents—the advice is this: get informed and learn as much as you possibly can about addiction early on. Talk honestly about the risk factors of becoming addicted by experimenting with drugs. Talk about family history of alcohol or substance abuse. Show them your love, no matter what.

Death is not a time for blame, it is a time for reflection. We must get loud for the stigma and shame to end. In its wake, it is time

to speak. It's time to stop pretending that substance use disorder is a choice and it's time to stop shaming people who struggle with it.

10/7/1989-5/17/2015

JOSEPH (JOEY) MARTIN—YUCCA VALLEY,
CALIFORNIA

Joseph (Joey) Martin was born on October 30, 1990. Growing up, Joey was a happy child. He was very outgoing, he had many friends, and he loved to be around them, his family, and his dog. Whenever Joey walked into a room he always captured the attention of others with his contagious smile and laughter. He loved all outdoor activities and looked forward to the days he and his father would go fishing. He was also passionate about baseball and skateboarding and he was very good at both. Joey was smart, had plans for his future, and had a beautiful heart. Every year he would volunteer at the annual Special Olympics bowling tournaments; he always had a special place in his heart for helping those with special needs. As Joey's parents, we had high hopes for his future and knew he would succeed in life. Unfortunately, his dreams slowly deteriorated as his addiction progressed.

At the age of 14 or 15, Joey was caught smoking marijuana. His parents did what any concerned parent would do in this situation: they kept a close eye on him, his friends, and his activities. They thought they were always one step ahead of his addiction. Joey's grades were good and he started playing baseball again.

In 2007, Joey and four friends were in a car accident. They were hit head on by a drunk driver, who had been racing on the wrong side of the road. Despite the terrible injuries received, and by God's grace, everyone lived. The following six years of Joey's life were spent going from doctor to doctor trying to relieve the source of the pain he had been complaining about.

As the years went by, Joey's need for a more powerful drug grew. His addiction was fueled by doctor prescribed pain medication. When Joey turned 18 years old, he was able to get almost anything he wanted from doctors. If Joey ran out or couldn't get drugs from doctors, he would get them from people he knew. By 19, Joey had a real problem—the need to relieve his pain turned into the need to get high. He spent the next three years in and out of treatment centers and sober living facilities.

In 2012, Joey enrolled into a treatment center in Loma Linda, CA and was living in the suggested sober home not far away. When Joey was six months clean, he decided he was ready to come back home. We were very hopeful that Joey was finally on track to living a sober lifestyle. Unfortunately, like many young individuals today, Joey did great until he met with a supplier and relapsed.

Shortly after his relapse, Joey contacted the previous house manager of the sober living facility in California and asked if he could go back. Three months later, on January 11, 2013, Joey died of an overdose. He was just 22 years old.

ANTHONY MARTINEZ—GAFFNEY,
SOUTH CAROLINA

Anthony was set free from his toxic battle with addiction on May 24, 2016. Anthony was his family's Christmas present—born on December 25, 1987.

Anthony yearned for a life of love and peace—a life without pain. Anthony was a lover of music; you could always count on him to know the latest and greatest tracks.

He was passionate about cooking and often volunteered to make everyone dinner. When he did, every plate was licked clean. Anthony also loved being outdoors and whenever he had spare time, you could bet he was fishing, hunting or simply enjoying himself in some beautiful place.

Anthony always said things straight—he wouldn't sugar coat a single thing. He was a loyal friend; if you needed his help he would be there no matter what. He knew how to make the most pessimistic person crack a smile. In some ways, Anthony embodied the saying that the saddest soul is the one trying to make everyone else smile.

The disease of addiction is a merciless, non-discriminatory devil. The loss of Anthony has created a sore on his family's heart that will never heal.

DERRICK MARTTILA—CAPE CORAL, FLORIDA

Derrick grew up in Cape Coral, Florida. From a young age Derrick was very special. He enjoyed playing football, hockey, and excelled at karate. However, his biggest passion, which followed him into adulthood, was music. Derrick would write, play and listen to music every day. His mother, Kathleen, proudly watched her son grow up to be a man any mother would be very proud of. Sadly, she also had to watch him so bravely battle the disease of addiction. Derrick would always say he just wanted to be "normal." On January 16, 2016, Derrick lost his battle to an accidental overdose of heroin laced with Fentanyl. Derrick was 26 years old.

Derrick was an incredible person with a huge heart. He loved his family and friends and would do anything for them when they were in need. Derrick was a hard worker that strived to be the best he could possibly be. Derrick was loyal almost to a fault—he never wanted to let anyone down.

What is missed most about Derrick, is his larger-than-life personality. He loved to laugh and make others do the same. Derrick had a great sense of humor, complete with a trademark smirk and witty comebacks. He could light up a room with his laughter or suck you into a discussion about his obsession with conspiracy theories.

Regardless of the occasion he would always keep his family laughing. Kathleen has always been proud of her son and admired his strength in his battle against this horrible disease.

HONORING JONATHAN B. JARVIS,
THE 18TH DIRECTOR OF THE NA-
TIONAL PARK SERVICE

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, today I stand in recognition of Jonathan B. Jarvis, the 18th Director of the National Park Service.

Director Jarvis, a native of Virginia, began his career with the National Park Service in 1976 as a seasonal interpreter in Washington, D.C. Today, he manages that agency whose mission is to preserve America's most treasured landscapes and cultural icons.

Director Jarvis's 40-year career has taken him from ranger to resource management specialist to park biologist to superintendent of parks such as Craters of the Moon, North Cascades, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Mount Rainier. Before being confirmed as the 18th

Director of the National Park Service on September 24, 2009, Mr. Jarvis served as regional director of the bureau's Pacific West Region.

Today, he is responsible for overseeing an agency with more than 22,000 employees, a \$3 billion budget, and 413 national parks that attract more than 320 million visitors every year who generate \$30 billion in economic benefit across the nation.

Director Jarvis has reinvigorated the National Park Service's role as an international advocate for protected areas and recognized world leader in cultural and natural resource management.

Managing the National Park Service through its centennial in 2016, Director Jarvis has focused on several key areas that are critical for the future: enhancing stewardship of the places entrusted to the Service's care; maximizing the educational potential of parks and programs; engaging new generations and audiences, and ensuring the welfare and fulfillment of National Park Service employees.

Director Jarvis speaks frequently about climate change, sustainability, the outdoors as a source of public health, and the parks as a unifying, inspirational force for the nation. His blueprint for the agency's second century, A Call to Action, calls for innovative, ambitious, yet practical ways to fulfill the National Park Service's promise to America in the 21st century.

From a seasonal interpreter in the year of our nation's bicentennial to the head of an internationally known institution on its 100th birthday, Jarvis has gained a thorough knowledge of these great American treasures, the national parks.

"America's National Park System is a gift from past generations to this and succeeding generations," said Director Jarvis. "And while the challenges we face today—like climate change, shrinking open space, habitat destruction, non-native species, and air and water pollution—could not have been imagined when this agency was established in 1916, our mission remains the same: to preserve this nation's natural and cultural heritage, unimpaired for the enjoyment of this and future generations."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF SIERRA HEALTH
FOUNDATION

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of Sierra Health Foundation. As the staff, local partners, and community members gather to celebrate this momentous occasion and the impactful work that has been done in our community over the past 30 years, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding organization.

I know firsthand the incredible impact Sierra Health Foundation has on our community. I have long been a supporter of Sierra Health Foundation and I will continue to offer my support in any way that I can because I believe

in their mission to support and elevate partnerships and programs that improve health and quality of life for underserved communities in Northern California.

Since Sierra Health Foundation began grant funding in 1985, they have awarded more than \$97 million in cash grants to 1,004 nonprofit organizations and public agencies. Today, Sierra Health Foundation's funding region includes 26 counties in Northern California. The programs funded by Sierra Health Foundation in these counties address important issues such as racial and health equity and juvenile justice. Sierra Health Foundation has been a dedicated and forward-thinking leader in changing the landscape of Northern California for the better; from implementing the Affordable Care Act to pushing forward efforts to improve outcomes for young men and boys of color in our region.

Mr. Speaker, as Sierra Health Foundation and esteemed members of the community gather to celebrate their 30th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring 30 years of service to our region.

IN RECOGNITION OF
GINA ARGENTO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Gina Argento, who was honored for her achievements as part of Women's History Month. Ms. Argento is President of Broadway Stages, one of New York's largest film, television, and music production facilities which is located in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

Ms. Argento and her brother, Tony, opened Broadway Stages in 1983, turning a rundown movie theatre into a sound stage. Over the past 32 years, Broadway Stages has expanded both its physical size and capabilities. Broadway Stages now has over half a million square feet of space with 38 state-of-the-art stages and support facilities. Offering full service film, television, photography and music production facilities, Broadway Stages has served an extensive list of hit movies and television shows including "The Good Wife," "Blue Bloods," "Mr. Robot," "Madam Secretary," "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," "Limitless," "Broad City," "Unforgettable," and "Master of None," in addition to commercials, print and music videos. Broadway Stages has facilities in Brooklyn and Queens and is currently in the process of building a 69-acre facility in Staten Island.

Under Ms. Argento's leadership, Broadway Stages has exhibited an unparalleled commitment towards the local community in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. In addition to creating hundreds of local jobs, Broadway Stages helps neighboring residents, small businesses, and community-based organizations. Broadway Stages has donated food, equipment, and additional resources to local soup kitchens, partnered with the McGolrick Park Neighborhood Alliance to clean up the beloved park lo-

cated in the center of Greenpoint and hosted family-friendly neighborhood block parties during the summer. Most recently, Broadway Stages joined the television show "Blue Bloods" and CBS to give \$25,000 to the families of NYPD officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu who were brutally murdered in Brooklyn.

Ms. Argento is also committed to supporting young people. Broadway Stages provided new audio equipment to St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Academy, sponsored a 5 Boro Basketball team for teens, created a "Green Science Week" at PS110, and partnered with community organizations to hold a local "Schoolfest" fair for students and their families. Broadway Stages also funded the SYSTEM Teen Summer Program, which provides high school students the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities focused on green technology, engineering, gardening, and community service.

Broadway Stages is an incredible community partner that is committed to building a strong and environmentally sustainable future. Under Ms. Argento's leadership, Broadway Stages has become a model of the way private industry can champion energy sustainability and environmentally-sound community development. By installing 50,000 square feet of solar photovoltaic systems on the roofs of 7 of its sound stages, Broadway Stages created the world's first solar powered sound stage and the largest private solar power installation in New York State. The solar roofs have offset 30 percent of Broadway Stage's annual electricity consumption. Broadway Stages also created an organic vegetable farm called "Eagle Street Rooftop," located on top of a warehouse in Greenpoint. The 6,000 square foot rooftop farm features a variety of educational and volunteer programs and a farmer's market during the growing season. Broadway Stages is also involved in cleaning up a Brownfield site at 359 Kingsland Avenue.

Ms. Argento has worked with YMCA Greenpoint, Boy Scouts of America, Kings County Democratic Club, Greenpoint Chamber of Commerce, Solar One, and EWVIDCO, an advocacy organization for industrial businesses in Greenpoint. Ms. Argento is a loving mother to her three sons, John, Anthony, and Paul. She and her husband, John Ciafone, make an incredible team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable work of Gina Argento, a successful businesswoman, environmentalist, and fantastic neighbor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on December 1, 2016, I inadvertently recorded a vote of "Yea" on H.R. 6392—Systemic Risk Designation Improvement Act of 2016 (Roll Call no. 599). I oppose H.R. 6392, and my vote should be recorded as "Nay".

TRIBUTE TO DR. JANE EDWARD

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Dr. Jane Edward for her years of compassionate advocacy and tireless work to advocate for the African Diaspora, especially in higher education.

Dr. Jane Edward was born and raised in Southern Sudan. She was educated in Sudan, Egypt, and Canada. Her early years of schooling were completed in Sudan where she obtained a BA in Education from the University of Juba in Southern Sudan in 1986. She was the first to attend a college and the first to obtain a Doctoral Degree in her family. Dr. Edward left Sudan for Egypt in 1992 to pursue her graduate studies at the American University in Cairo after receiving a Ford Foundation Scholarship. She completed her Masters Degree in Sociology/Anthropology at the American in Cairo in 1996. Unable to return to Sudan due to the civil war, she emigrated from Egypt to Canada in 1997; where she joined the University of Toronto, and completed her Ph.D. in Sociology in Education in 2004. She moved from Canada to the United States of America in 2005.

Dr. Jane Edward is married to Prof. Amir Idris of Fordham University, and they have two children: Amanawil and Bawila. She is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of African Immigration Research, in the Department of African and African American Studies, Fordham University, Rose Hill Campus in the Bronx. She published a book titled, *Sudanese Women Refugees: Transformations and Future Imaginings*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan 2007, and several book chapters, journal and opinion articles, as well as research reports.

Her unwavering interest for learning and pursuit of higher education is inspired by her parents, who recognized the importance of education for all their children regardless of their gender. Additionally, her personal experiences growing up in South Sudan and observing the experiences of other women, gave Dr. Edward the motivation and encouragement to continue with her education, and to recognize the significance of women's education. These experiences of schooling, teaching and researching African and South Sudanese women's issues in the diaspora and in conflict and post conflict situations have further afforded Dr. Edward a realization that Africans in general and women in particular need to write about their experiences and history from their own perspectives.

As an advocate for women's rights, she has been involved with the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Forum of the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo Egypt in 1994; and the NGOs forum on women in China's Huairou City, a parallel conference of NGOs to the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing China in September 1995. In the summer of 2006, Dr. Edward launched the African Immigration Research as

part of the larger Bronx African American History Project (BAAHP), to highlight African immigrants' histories, experiences and contributions to the history of the Bronx County. The main objective of the study is to examine the situation of African immigrants in the Bronx with an aim of capturing their varied experiences.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Jane Edward for her consistently remarkable dedication to higher education and the African Diaspora.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
DR. SUSAN WALSH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Susan Walsh. Dr. Walsh is retiring as Acting President of Merced College after a long and distinguished career in higher education. Dr. Walsh's career is one marked by excellence through hard work, and her undertakings have refined the learning and administrative environment of Merced College.

It is no surprise that as an accomplished educator, Dr. Walsh has invested a great deal of time into her own education. Dr. Walsh has earned five separate degrees, with an Associate's degree in Arts from Merced College, a Bachelors of Arts in English, a Certificate of Management, and a Doctorate of Education from the University of California, Davis, and a Masters in Library Science from San Jose State. Dr. Walsh served as a Librarian in Stanislaus and Yolo Counties, and has spent the rest of her tenure at Merced College in a variety of roles. Dr. Walsh served as the Director of the Learning Resources Center for over 31 years, but has intermittently served as the Co-Interim Associate Vice President for Technology and Institutional Research, Interim Vice President of Instruction, Accreditation Liaison Officer, and Acting President during her time at Merced College.

The course of Dr. Walsh's career has earned her reception of a breadth of awards and honors, the full list of which would take more time to read than we have here today. In the last 12 years, however, Dr. Walsh has been recognized as the Woman of the Year by the Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce, Merced County Chamber of Commerce, the Business and Professional Women of Merced, and California State Senator Anthony Canella. It is both fitting and appropriate that someone who exemplifies the positive values and work ethic of an educator has received such a title from so many reputable institutions.

Dr. Walsh's steadfast commitment to listen to, speak for, and preside over the students and administration of Merced College has been essential to developing and maintaining a strong, positive image for the school, and her presence will be deeply missed. We hope that the next chapter of her life can be as fulfilling as the previous ones have been.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career and achievements of Dr. Susan Walsh. Her strong voice as an advocator and administrator has been deeply felt for those that have walked the path offered by Merced College, and it is my hope that she can bring such positive change to anything she chooses to involve herself with in the future.

HONORING OFFICER GREG
SANCHEZ

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Greg Sanchez, whom I have named a 2016 Public Safety Hero of the Year for Contra Costa County in California's 5th Congressional District. This award is given to exceptional members of our community who perform beyond their duty as a public servant.

Officer Sanchez joined the Hercules Police Department in 2008 and currently works as a patrol officer. He previously worked as a School Resource Officer at the Hercules Middle and High Schools where he made sure our students had a safe learning environment and acted as a mentor to countless students. As a leader on school safety, Officer Sanchez trained faculty and staff at all Hercules Schools on how to respond in the event of an active shooter on campus.

His greatest accomplishments have addressed the relations between law enforcement officers and the people of Hercules. Despite budget cuts, Officer Sanchez has helped organize many community engagement programs, including the Back to School Backpack program that provides school supplies for low income students. He also coordinates with Neighbor Watch groups and leads the Citizen Police Academy, where residents can learn about law enforcement and disaster preparedness.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Officer Sanchez for his dedication to our community's safety. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that I honor him here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
OF MICHEL MARGOSIS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend Michel Margosis on the occasion of his retirement from the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission after 13 years of dedicated service. I have had the honor of personally knowing Michel for many years and believe that he is a man of great wit, integrity, dignity, and courage.

Throughout my tenure on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and particularly as Chairman, I worked closely with the Human

Rights Commission to fight against discrimination wherever it reared its ugly head in our community. Whether it was discrimination in the workplace, the housing market, the school yard or anywhere else, we as a community have established a zero-tolerance policy for such abhorrent behavior. That is in no small part due to the efforts of Michel and his fellow commissioners.

Michel's commitment to fighting discrimination and promoting justice and human rights is one which is deeply ingrained in every fiber of his being. As the son of Russian Jews living in Belgium at the time of its invasion by the Nazis during World War II, Michel along with his family were forced to flee to Southern France where they were detained as refugees, but managed to escape. This long and difficult odyssey led them to France then through the Pyrenees Mountains into Spain. He remembers the long, perilous journey, during which the family had to avoid capture and survive the constant bombing and strafing happening all around them as war engulfed the European continent. Sadly, the family became separated during the journey and Michel later traveled to the United States—one of more than 1,400 unaccompanied minors that arrived from Europe—where he lived with a foster family. Not until some years later were all family members reunited in America. They were among the few lucky survivors of the Holocaust.

While most individuals would take time to reflect on such a harrowing ordeal, Michel wanted to give back to the country that had provided him and his family safe haven. After earning a college degree in chemistry, he decided to utilize his multi-lingual fluency and joined the U.S. Army in 1952. He was deployed to Europe as an interpreter, though he would also serve as a medical corpsman. He was honorably discharged from the Army in 1954 as a Private First Class. Upon his return to the United States, he earned a master's degree in chemistry in evening school and pursued further studies in Florida. He retired in 1990 from federal government service after serving as a senior chemist with the Food and Drug Administration. Eight years later, Michel moved to the Greenspring community in Springfield where he still lives and has served as the head of the Democratic Club as well as facilitator of the French Conversation Group.

As someone who has borne witness to some of the darkest moments of humanity, Michel knows that we must never forget the honors of the Holocaust or sit idly by while others are persecuted. Since 1993, he has volunteered his time at the U.S. Holocaust Museum, working in the Speakers Bureau and sharing his experiences. In 2003, he was appointed to the Human Rights Commission of Fairfax County where he has continued his efforts to advance the causes of equality for all. During his tenure on the HRC, he led the campaign for the creation of a Holocaust Day of Remembrance in Fairfax County and has advocated for similar remembrances at the state and national level.

It is this aspect of Michel's character that I perhaps admire most: his desire to use history as a tool not only from which to learn the lessons taught by our past failings but also to teach future generations of those failings to ensure that they are not repeated. Our human

history is filled with unpleasant and dark chapters and the temptation is all too often to bury those chapters for the pain they cause. That impulse is of course understandable, especially in the case of monstrosities such as the Holocaust. Michel has made it his mission in life to ensure that this particular monstrosity is never forgotten and, most importantly, never repeated. Only by acknowledging that injustices have occurred can we begin the process of healing the wounds they created and guarding against similar tragedies in the future.

Mr. Speaker, our community and our Nation have been made better by the life and presence of Michel Margosis. While he may be officially stepping down from the Human Rights Commission, I have no doubt that he will continue to be engaged in our community and in the cause of human rights that is so dear to him. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Michel for his many years of service and for enriching the lives of all around him. I wish him many years of health, happiness and continued success.

RECOGNIZING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE NATIONAL OPIOID EPIDEMIC

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to include in the RECORD today the personal stories of families from across the country that have been affected by the opioid and heroin epidemic. In the U.S. we lose 129 lives per day to opioid and heroin overdose. In my home state of New Hampshire I have learned so many heartbreaking stories of great people and families who have suffered from the effects of substance use disorder.

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I were joined by many of these courageous families who came to Washington to share their stories with Members of Congress and push for action that will prevent overdoses and save lives. Since then, we passed both the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act to provide much needed funding and critical policy changes to fight this epidemic.

The advocacy of these families truly is so important to leading to change in Washington and I am proud to preserve their stories.

JUSTEN HUMMEL—LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Justen Hummel passed away on August 9, 2014. Justen was a very compassionate and loving son. He was dedicated to his family and friends; always making the time to help whenever it was needed.

Justen could strike up a conversation and befriend anyone he met; therefore, he never met a stranger. When Justen was just a little boy, he discovered a passion for fishing. You would always see him carrying around his pole to fish anywhere that there was a body of water. Justen was also very intelligent and had a creative mind—always thinking and eager to create something new.

After having to undergo surgery for a Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infection, Justen was prescribed liquid morphine to combat the pain. Con-

sequently, Justen's drug use escalated to a new level, and he later transitioned to heroin as an alternative.

His mother could see Justen struggling so much to overcome his battle with addiction. It totally broke her heart. She tried so hard to help him. Justen is so dearly missed.

RYAN WAYNE JACKSON—OWENSVILLE, OHIO

Ryan Wayne Jackson was born on December 6, 1987. Growing up, Ryan was a spirited child—always doing something and always on the go. He enjoyed collecting things and had several collections of anything and everything.

Despite being diagnosed with ADHD, Ryan was a tremendous student in school; receiving A's and B's with perfect attendance until the 6th grade. Ryan also set a couple athletic records in elementary school, which are still held by him today.

Middle school was when things started to change for Ryan. He tried out for the basketball team but didn't make it; this was a major blow for him. In addition, Ryan had a few other issues that began to arise. He was prescribed medication for his ADHD and his classmates started asking to buy his medicine from him. This was also around the time Ryan first tried marijuana.

Ryan later received his degree as a mechanic. Around ten years ago Ryan was in a serious traffic accident, causing him significant pain in his back. Afterwards he was prescribed medication to help with the pain. For some time, Ryan seemed to do fairly well managing the pain without medication.

About seven years ago, Ryan started dating someone he previously went to school with—this was the beginning of the end for him. The couple had two little girls. During this time Ryan lost custody of his stepson to the boy's father, and later lost his own father tragically. Ryan's life was spiraling out of control. He lost his jobs, his cars, his house—essentially everything he owned. In the end, Ryan was homeless and in trouble with the law.

Ryan tried to get back into his daughters' lives and was 30 days clean. He was working full time and was in the process of going to see a counselor.

The night Ryan overdosed it was his payday; the temptation was too great for him to suppress. On May 6, 2016, Ryan's grandmother found him unresponsive at 8 a.m.

Ryan had a gigantic heart. He loved hard and fully. Ryan had a beautiful smile, a contagious laugh, and was a hard worker. Ryan always loved his family. His family miss him deeply.

KEVIN ALAN JOHNSON—BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

Kevin entered this world on March 20, 1983. Growing up, Kevin was always on the go. He was a great student. School was easy for him, yet Kevin never seemed to find what it was he was meant to do with his life. Kevin was the kind of person who never saw a stranger—he could make anyone feel comfortable in any circumstance. He was caring, compassionate and had the biggest heart. Kevin would have done anything for anyone. He was intelligent, much too intelligent to have died this way.

Kevin was a fun-loving big guy, with a wonderful smile, and who loved his family and friends. It didn't matter who you were, when Kevin would leave he would give you a big hug. He loved music, reading, playing video games, and cooking; he could make the most delicious meals. Kevin loved the outdoors, especially camping and spending time around campfires with his family and friends.

His mother knew that Kevin experimented with drugs in high school, maybe as early as middle school. She thought it was behavior that he would outgrow of; never realizing how far it had gone and what a hold it had on him. Kevin suffered terrible back pain from two failed surgeries and was due for a third—all at the young age of 25. It was after Kevin's first surgery that brought the beginning of his drug abuse; which spiraled from there with each attempt to find something that would relieve the pain, but Kevin could not find any peace. When speaking with Kevin once about his addiction, he told his mother that he did not feel normal without the drugs; he could not function.

What Kevin loved the most in life was his son. He was in awe that he had created such a beautiful little person. He was Kevin's world, his reason to get up every day and try again. This sweet little boy who will never know how much his daddy loved him, how hard he tried for him. For if Kevin only knew he would never have left him.

Kevin died October 9, 2008, of an accidental overdose. Earlier that evening he had attended a Narcotics Anonymous meeting. His family's lives were forever changed. They think of Kevin and miss him every day.

PHILLIP KEENE—CEDAR BLUFF, VIRGINIA

Samantha Keene lost her husband, Phillip, on August 22, 2015 to an accidental Fentanyl overdose; eight days after his 42nd birthday, two weeks after their daughter's third birthday, and a month after their last wedding anniversary. Their nine year old son found Phillip in his office, face down. When he came and told Samantha, "Mom, Dad is sleeping in the floor," she knew exactly what had happened. He thought Phillip was sleeping because of the sounds he was making—it sounds like snoring.

Phillip left Samantha with three kids ages nine, six, and three, with another on the way. She was 12 weeks pregnant at the time but had a miscarriage two weeks later. Samantha's world has been turned inside out. It's like I'm fighting to get out of a water filled balloon but there is no way out. Phillip was a news reporter and had worked for the paper for ten years. No one knew Phillip had relapsed—not his mom, his boss, the county supervisors that he talked to regularly, the many people at the courthouse that he saw on a daily basis. No one knew but his wife.

"I deal with the guilt of not doing enough before it was too late. Even in his last moments, did I do enough? Yes I did. I couldn't save him. I could not save the man I loved. My husband. My Protector."

ZAFER KIESA—ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

Zafer Kiesa died on April 13, 2016, from an accidental heroin overdose. He was 19 years old—just months away from his 20th birthday. Zafer, affectionately know as "Z," was a beloved son, brother to three siblings, and friend to many.

Z was a sophomore at the University of Colorado, where he was known as an adventurer, traveler and explorer, who sought out thrills whenever possible. He was an avid tennis player and loved to skateboard, hike, kayak, and follow his favorite sports teams. He liked to begin where the chair lift ended—he'd carry his skis higher up the mountain in search of an untouched backcountry run. Many of his finest selfies come from his treasured mountain explorations in Colorado.

Z was the "connector" in his family; he always made sure to reach out after going too long without checking in. It was second nature to him to send a text, email, or even a

handwritten note just to remind people that he cared. We used to joke that Z paid more attention grooming his emails to Grandma than he did on his papers for school. On the night of April 13th, Z tried heroin. He bought it for \$7.00 a hit. Z went to sleep and never woke up. His family's pain, shock and grief upon losing Z is one story among many that evidence the public health crisis facing this country. Heroin use has more than doubled among young adults in the past decade.

Even though the lives of his family have been forever changed by Zafer's death, his spirit and energy will live on within each of them and through the good they contribute to this world. Their hope is that by sharing Zafer's story, and telling the truth about his death, they may be able to save another life.

JEFF KLIK—UTICA, MICHIGAN

Jeff Klik was a beautiful boy: sweet, kind, loving, smart, artistic, talented. He loved making music, snowboarding and developing his own photographs. Jeff was a smart child and learned quickly. At the same time, he was sensitive and had a way with others. He always seemed to befriend the kids in school that no one else would talk to.

Like many of us, Jeff made some bad choices. When he chose heroin, his love for life disappeared. Jeff's mother found marijuana in his room when he was mid-high school. At the time she had no idea that this would start their family down the ugly road that was to come.

Jeff was enrolled in an accelerated program for high-achievers in high school. When his grades started dropping he told his mother, it was "just too hard" for him. Therefore, he dropped out of the program, graduated and headed off to college.

As Jeff's first year away from home went by, his grades dropped and the things he said weren't adding up. Something was wrong. One day, his mother got a call at the hospital where she work, saying that Jeff was downstairs. Panicking, she ran down to the ER. Car accident? Appendicitis? No—a drug overdose.

As Jeff came out of his drugged stupor, he said "I want to kill myself." He was then admitted to a local mental hospital. The two weeks he spent there were a nightmare—he worked the system expertly. At a counseling session he threw a chair against a wall. He didn't cooperate. They put him on antipsychotic medication. He didn't follow the rules when he came home either, and eventually his mother kicked him out because the situation became dangerous for everyone under that roof.

Jeff overdosed again but his mother didn't know about it until she got the ambulance bills. He came to live with his mother again, and seemed to be doing better. He was going to outpatient counseling daily and his mother thought—"Hey, it's finally working!"—before things started to get bad again. Jeff's behavior was erratic, he wasn't doing any of his favorite activities anymore and he always "had to work."

He signed himself into a treatment center but got kicked out the next day for smoking a cigarette. It was New Year's Eve. He missed Easter dinner, a movie date, his Grandma's birthday, etc. His mother went to see him at work once and he was in the bathroom for a long time. When he walked out he looked sick—his face was pale and broken out, his eyes were glassy. After giving Jeff a drug test, that lit up like a Christmas tree, his dad set an ultimatum: "it's either rehab or you're out of this house." Jeff admitted himself to treatment again. It was April 4, 2015.

After getting through detox Jeff was doing well. On April 21st, he was discharged—clean and happy—to a sober living house close to home. On April 29th, Jeff didn't show up for work and when his Dad went to the house looking for him, he found his son—dead. All of Jeff's beloved cameras were found in a local pawn shop. My Jeff died of an overdose of heroin/fentanyl.

TODD LESCARBEAU—SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

Todd Lescarbeau is and always will be his sister's big brother, best friend for 40 years, protector, confidant, and so much more.

On January 3, 1970, the sun rose, and Todd graced the world with his presence. Todd always lived his life to the fullest, with no fears and few regrets, until the sun set for him and all who loved him on March 6, 2012.

Todd was a fun, loving, protective and gentle father, brother, son, husband, uncle, nephew, cousin and friend to all that were lucky enough to know him. His addiction began like so many others—with prescription drugs. Todd suffered from severe back problems and was prescribed opioids for the extreme pain he endured. His back issues led to various surgeries over the years, and unfortunately none of them were able to cure his back problems or completely remove the pain.

Todd was a hard working man with integrity, loyalty, and a ton of love to give. Todd was well known at a very young age as an outstanding drummer. Although he spent countless hours practicing the drums, it was obvious to everyone that Todd was a natural. Drumming and music were two of his biggest passions in life.

Everyone who loved Todd will never forget the impact he had on them and the world. He fought very hard to overcome his addiction, spending time in quite a few various treatment programs. Unfortunately, most insurance companies only allow up to 30 days of treatment which was an insufficient amount for Todd's case.

Todd's struggle with the disease of addiction is what ultimately claimed his life. Life will never be the same without him here—his family miss him every minute of every day.

JAMESON TANNER LINDEMANN—LARAMIE, WYOMING

Jameson Tanner Lindemann, also known as "J.T.," was born on January 14, 1985. From the moment he was born, J.T. had a twinkle in his eye that let everyone know: "Look out world, get ready for me!" Growing up, J.T. loved little league baseball and was a pretty good player. He would hit home runs and then casually run all the bases—it seemed much more important to him to have fun than being seriously competitive about the game.

School was much the same way for J.T.. He would use his smile and eyes to talk his way out of doing homework, but somehow managed to remain the teacher's favorite.

J.T. was a talented musician, singer, songwriter. He taught himself how to play the drums and guitar. Composing lyrics came naturally to him and was always writing new verses or ideas down on fast food napkins and scraps of paper.

You could always find J.T. sitting outside singing and playing his guitar, playing his drums in the basement, or jamming at friends' homes and local music stores.

After about a year of struggling with addiction, J.T.'s body could no longer handle the abuse, shame and sadness. He passed on September 13, 2007. As J.T. continues his new adventure, he is greatly missed by family and friends and will be remembered by all

who knew him as a free spirit; the spark that lit up a room with his smile and fun loving ways, a loving son and brother, caring father, and a friend and helper to all who were lucky enough to be touched by his life.

RICHARD THOMAS LONG, JR.—CANTON, ILLINOIS

Richard was his mother's firstborn and only son, born on February 22, 1986. He was known to many as "Jr." and "Duney." Jr. was smart and a computer buff. Growing up in Canton, Illinois, he enjoyed listening to metal music, mastering video games, fishing, swimming, and teasing his younger sister, Jessica.

Jr. loved spending time with his family; he had two boys, Ethan (age 13) and Sebastian (age 2). They were his pride and joy. He absolutely loved watching Ethan play baseball.

Jr. started using drugs in high school and battled an opiate addiction from that time until his death. Richard Thomas Long Jr. lost his 13-year battle to opiate addiction on February 8, 2015.

APRIL LOUIS—BUMPASS, VIRGINIA

April was a loving soul with a huge heart. She was drawn to and good at helping others but she just didn't know how to help herself. April's smile lit up any room and her bubbly laughter was sweet music to her mother's ears. The happiest day of April's life was when her daughter was born. April had been told that she wouldn't be able to have children and when she found out she was pregnant, her mother hoped April would finally be encouraged to get help for her substance use disorder. Unfortunately, April's daughter was born addicted to drugs and had to be weaned off with medication. To protect her granddaughter, April's mother had to take her granddaughter away from her own daughter. April loved her little girl, but heroin loved April more.

April battled addiction for over seven years. During that time, she was in and out of treatment facilities, drug courts, and jail. Sadly, April spent the last 18 months of her life incarcerated. When she came home, she seemed determined and positive about her life to come.

For the first time in many years April's mother had hope, faith, and trust in her daughter. She also wasn't afraid anymore when her phone rang. But just three weeks after April was released from jail, April's mother got that phone call, the one call parents fear the most—April had died from an overdose of pure fentanyl and was found on the floor of the bedroom at her grandmother's house.

April died on March 12, 2014. She was 30 years old and her daughter she left behind was only four. The hardest thing April's mother ever had to do was to tell a four-year-old that her mommy had died and what that meant. April's mother loves and misses her beautiful daughter every day. Her whole family misses April and they will for the rest of their lives.

KEVIN "KEV" CAROTENUTO—PROSPECT PARK, PENNSYLVANIA

Kevin "Kev" Carotenuto was born on May 3, 1993. By the time Kevin got to middle school, he was a talented athlete and very involved in sports, however, school just didn't click for him. Kev started showing signs of ADHD very early on. His mother tried to get him an Individualized Education Program (IEP) but was denied, so she put him in counseling. Kev turned to drugs to cope with the stress of his struggles.

Kev was arrested shortly after his 18th birthday for robbery of three houses in his family's neighborhood. He didn't commit the

crimes alone, but wouldn't snitch on his friends. He received an 18 month sentence in county prison and \$30,000 in restitution. Both Kevin's parents visited him and put money on his books the entire time he was in prison.

Six months after his release, Kev started using heroin. He was in and out of countless treatment facilities until he was sent back to jail in February of 2015. Kev was caught using heroin in a public bathroom and was arrested for violating probation. He was sentenced to seven months in county jail.

Kev was released the Monday before Thanksgiving to a local halfway house. He was put on blackout for seven days and then was allowed to go out for four hours at a time. Kevin worked for the newspaper union as an extra so he would call in daily for work. The Thursday after Thanksgiving Kevin was booked for an 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. shift.

Kev told the halfway house that he had work but proceeded to contact a cellie from jail who came to pick him up. When Kev arrived back at the halfway house he tested hot for suboxone. He was kicked out immediately and the halfway house never notified his family. Kevin was on the streets for a week before he came clean with his mother.

Kev said it was time for him to be a man and he would get himself to rehab. He was approved for 26 days of treatment. Seven days before his release, Kev's mother requested a family meeting with his counselor. The counselor informed her that on Monday the aftercare specialist was going to have a conference call between Kev, herself and the counselor. Monday came and went and no call, so Kev's mother started leaving messages with the counselor. She called everyday and left messages—no response.

January 7, 2016, came around and Kev said, "Ma, come get me, I got my coin." Off she went to pick him up. He came home so happy and ready to stay clean. He went to probation the next day where he asked the probation officer (PO) to see him twice a week to keep him honest, which the PO did for one week. The following week the PO told Kev he didn't have time to see him so often. The PO ordered Kev to complete IOP, so on January 8th he called and was told the first opening was 22 days away. Kevin went 22 days with no treatment except for NA meetings and a bible study group of men in recovery.

On the 29th of January Kev went to IOP for his evaluation and when he came out he said, "All good, my first session is on February 1st." On February 1st Kev's mother woke up and went into Kev's room and found him sitting on the side of the bed with his head in his hands and his hoodie on. She said his name two times and got no response. She then called 9-1-1. When she went to touch Kevin's shoulder, his stiff body fell to the floor. His mother saw the needle 1/2 full of clear liquid. She went to move his hoodie to get to his neck to check his pulse and all she saw was the side of his face—purple and cold. He was dead. A mother's worst fear comes true.

Kev passed away on February 2, 2016, from an overdose of poisoned heroin.

TRIBUTE TO NICK'S RESTAURANT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nick's Restaurant of Des

Moines, Iowa, for being recognized for serving Iowa's 2016 Best Breaded Pork Tenderloin by the Iowa Pork Producers Association (IPPA). The designation has been bestowed on one lucky Iowa restaurant each year since 2002.

This honor was one owner Nick Iaria has worked for since he opened his doors, he told the Iowa Pork Producers Association. They chose Nick's Restaurant over 384 Iowa businesses because of its unique taste. Nick's tenderloins are prepared in "queen" and "king" size, and are known for their made-to-order quality. The pork tenderloin is freshly seasoned, floured, battered, breaded and then cooked in a fryer designated only for tenderloins. Nick's serves over 1,000 tenderloins every week.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Nick's Restaurant for receiving this distinguished designation. Their dedication to frying the perfect pork patty has put smiles on the faces of Iowans all across the state. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Nick's Restaurant and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF DETECTIVE BENJAMIN EDWARD MARCONI

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Detective Benjamin Edward Marconi of the San Antonio Police Department who was tragically killed in the line of duty on November 20th, 2016.

Detective Marconi was born in the City of San Antonio on January 8th, 1966 to James and Minerva Marconi. In the mid-1970s, Detective Marconi and his family moved to Floresville, Texas, where he lived until he graduated from Floresville High School. After receiving a business degree from Texas A&I-Kingsville, Detective Marconi later joined the San Antonio Police Department, where he served for 20 years.

Throughout his life, Detective Marconi was always held in high regard by his family members, friends and colleagues for his dedication to serving the public as well as his unwavering care and compassion for his family, whom he loved dearly. His friends and family cherished his ability to put a smile on anyone's face, bringing about joy and laughter wherever he went.

Detective Marconi's commitment to protecting the people of San Antonio led to his distinguished career in law enforcement as a member of the Special Victims Unit for SAPD. A decorated police officer, he had the distinct honor and privilege of assuming the rank of Detective in Major Crimes. His passion for serving the community is an example that each of us should strive to follow.

Detective Marconi is survived by his son, Dane Marconi; grandson Mason Marconi; stepdaughter Jacy Lewis; brother Tom Marconi and wife Diana, their sons, Adam and An-

drew Marconi, and their grand-daughter, Anastazia Zamora Marconi; sister Debbie Saldaña and husband Danny and their sons, Ross Gonzales Jr. and Nick Saldaña, their daughter, Danielle Saldaña, and their grand-daughter, Hailey Gonzales; sister Terri Marconi McKnight and her son, Blake Kirkland; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The legacy of Detective Marconi lives on through the kindness and compassion that he shared with those who surrounded him. His dedication to the people of San Antonio will be remembered throughout the greater Bexar County community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to remember the legacy of Detective Benjamin Marconi.

RECOGNIZING THE 103RD BIRTH- DAY OF MRS. EDNA HALL RILEY WALKER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Edna Hall Riley Walker of Riviera Beach, Florida, who on December 23rd will turn 103 years young. Mrs. Walker, one of Florida's over four thousand centenarians, is a lifelong resident of Wakulla County.

Mrs. Walker continues to follow an incredible journey through life and has seen drastic changes in the world since she was born in 1913. Mrs. Walker was born the middle child of three in Shadeville, Florida. She started a family with Herbert Riley and had three children: Anthony, Allan, and Ianthia. Working as a Master Seamstress since the 1950s, Mrs. Walker deeply understands the value of hard work.

Mrs. Walker to this day is still an active member of her community, still a faithful servant of God, and still sharp as a tack. She is a deep believer in the golden rule, and often tells people she meets, "I would do you right before I would ever do you wrong. It's so important to do unto others as you want them to do unto you. That's what Jesus said."

These days, Mrs. Walker often travels throughout the United States to see her many children and grandchildren. Her descendants have flown far and wide, from New York to Texas, a testament to her wide-reaching legacy. She most enjoys reading and playing games with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Clearly, Edna Riley Walker is still leaving her mark.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to acknowledge this incredible woman on her many accomplishments in life and to wish her a very happy 103rd birthday.

RECOGNIZING FAMILIES AF-
FECTED BY THE NATIONAL
OPIOID EPIDEMIC

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to include in the RECORD today the personal stories of families from across the country that have been affected by the opioid and heroin epidemic. In the U.S. we lose 129 lives per day to opioid and heroin overdose. In my home state of New Hampshire I have learned so many heartbreaking stories of great people and families who have suffered from the effects of substance use disorder.

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I were joined by many of these courageous families who came to Washington to share their stories with Members of Congress and push for action that will prevent overdoses and save lives. Since then, we passed both the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act to provide much needed funding and critical policy changes to fight this epidemic.

The advocacy of these families truly is so important to leading to change in Washington and I am proud to preserve their stories.

ROBERT AND ERIC FRANKLIN—CEDARBURG,
WISCONSIN

The Franklin family had two beautiful, talented and very much loved sons, both who died in 2012 from heroin overdoses. They both are so very missed. Life is just not as full as it should be. Their loss has forever changed their family's lives.

The Franklin's youngest child, Robert Franklin, was born November 10, 1987 and died April 22, 2012. At six foot five, he was a gentle giant. Everyone loved Robert; he was funny and a born leader. In high school, Robert had gotten himself into trouble and was arrested for being in possession of two pounds of marijuana at the age of 17. As his parents, they were shocked that he had been messing with that quantity of marijuana. As a result, before Robert turned 18 years old he was labeled a felon. Drugs became Robert's escape; he shouldn't have needed to escape, he had a great childhood and was well liked by everyone. From there, things went quickly downhill. Robert spent much of his young adult life in prison or jail. Robert didn't seem to know how to stop using, and his family didn't fully understand what he was going through. Then he found the drug Oxycontin. Robert died at the age of 24. As Neil Young once said, "Twenty four and there's so much more".

His middle son, Eric, was born February 22, 1986 and died December 21, 2012. He was a happy, smart, handsome, loved, talented and caring person. Eric had so much to live for, so much left to give to the world. He played the guitar and harmonica; writing much of his own music. Eric also had a great voice. Eric worked for his dad as a rough carpenter. He had just met a girl and were early in their relationship, but somehow he still couldn't get past his addiction. His family knew he wanted to change. Eric even went to a treatment center and did really well for a while. He was only 26 when he died.

Both Robert and Eric loved to play the guitar and were immensely passionate about all music. Together they started a band called,

The Wronged and wrote and recorded several songs.

Robert and Eric left behind not only their parents, Patricia and Mike, but also their older brother, Adam and sister-in-law, Robin, and their only niece, Taylor.

JASON FREBURGER—PASADENA, MARYLAND

On December 23, 2015, Jason Freburger died in his family's home of a heroin overdose. He was 29 years old. The several years of battling his addiction caused so much pain for Jason, as well as his family. Jason felt shame, remorse, failure and regret. His family felt lost, horrified, let down, and confused by the lack of available resources and the medical system. Jason was in and out of treatment, jail, IOP, NA meetings and a halfway house.

Jason was an electrician for the Board of Education for eight years, and was preparing to get his Master's license. He was an animal lover, played Xbox, loved fishing, enjoyed music, reading a good book, and building with Mega Legos. Jason would regularly tell his family that he loved them. However, Jason is the product of a family tree that has strong inherited addictive genes and mental illness—many of those struggling with addiction suffer with dual diagnosis, and this resulted in Jason's demise.

Jason was never allowed enough time in any treatment facility for recovery to take hold. Losing his job meant losing his medical insurance. There is no in-patient treatment that covers beyond two weeks with just Medicaid. After two weeks of treatment, Jason came out clean, but not skilled, not yet strong enough, not able to keep the disease at bay. He was then sent into a halfway house that had no accountability for any of its clients.

Jason tried, he tried so hard. He wanted to be drug free; a simple man living a simple life. Jason was a part of the Anne Arundel County Maryland Adult Drug Court Program. Once-a-month hearings with the judge and once-a-week case manager meetings isn't enough for some of those struggling with addiction to be successful.

His family can't stop thinking about Jason; loving him, missing him, and needing him in their lives. Jason was a treasure to them all. He was a beloved child. He was a good person and son. He needed help; he asked for it but was only granted snippets of hope that would never lead to solid recovery. Individuals struggling with addiction are our children, spouses, our family.

MARK C. FUSCIA—VOORHEES, NEW JERSEY

Mark Fuscina passed away to a heroin overdose on February 12, 2010. Mark was a wonderful, kind, respectable, energetic, intelligent and loving person. Our family used to call him the politician because of his outgoing and friendly personality with people.

At the young age of 14, Mark began experimenting with drugs. During this time his family thought he was just going through the teenage phase of life, and were unaware Mark had fallen into a strong addiction. He started out with marijuana, then moved to mushrooms, cocaine, pills then heroin.

Mark was really good at various sports from a very young age, but was most passionate about baseball, which he played since elementary school up until the end of freshman year of high school. Although he did very well in school throughout the years, his family was told by a teacher that Mark was an excellent student but there was concern that he was a follower. Being a follower, Mark decided after finishing baseball in freshman year to quit the team like some of

his friends had done. It was just the beginning of Mark becoming disinterested in things he previously really enjoyed.

As his addiction began the summer before sophomore year of high school, Mark faced a lot of challenges—including arrests as he sold drugs to support his gradual habit. During his senior year of high school, despite all of the ups and downs, Mark had managed to get two partial academic scholarships to college. His family couldn't have been more proud of him and continued to show support and love, hoping that he would have a bright future ahead of him.

Mark tried so hard to overcome his addiction and to stay on the straight path, but his addiction was so strong and followed him right to college. His family were always supporting him, including trying to help him through these difficult years. They all loved Mark so much and were confident that with their help he would be able to overcome his addiction in time. At the time, Mark's family did not fully understand the grasp the disease of substance use disorder has on individuals.

ANDREW GIBSON—BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrew started using drugs in Middle School in his hometown of Billerica, Massachusetts. First it was marijuana, which he used in excess (3-4 times a day starting before he went to school). He sold marijuana for many years until he graduated to opiates. He started with 30 mg Percocets until he discovered that heroin was less expensive.

Andrew's learning disabilities made school difficult for him and he never liked it, but he was successful during his last two years of in a charter high school because of the supportive community, teachers and administration. Andrew graduated in 2012 and never went to college.

Andrew loved dirt bikes and did his senior project on the dynamics of dirt bike engines. He also loved cars and was proud of his Acura Integra that he drove to school while blaring the sound system that he had installed himself.

Andrew was always looking "fresh." He took pride in how he presented; he'd clean dirt off of his spotless white sneakers, wipe smudges off mirror sunglasses and sport a crisp haircut. A hat to match the color of his shirt and sneakers. He was well-liked, charismatic, respectful, kind and always willing to help a friend. He had difficulty being kind to himself. He was always focusing on his mistakes and dismissing his successes.

Andrew relapsed many times and struggled to embrace the 12 Step Program. In 2014, he was charged with possession and trafficking of heroin and was sent to jail. It took being arrested to make him realize how serious his addiction had become. From there Andrew went to a sober house in Portland, Maine, where he learned how to live a substance free life.

He got a job as a cook at a local restaurant, he started to work the 12 Steps, got a sponsor, attended and spoke at meetings, started mental health counseling, joined a gym and was feeling good about himself. He looked and felt great—having gained back some of the weight that he lost when he was using.

Andrew passed away in Portland, Maine on April 11, 2015, after a three-year battle with Heroin addiction. He was 21 years young. In his short time on this earth, Andrew helped countless people. Many people have told his family that they wouldn't be sober or even alive if it weren't for him.

JESSICA ELIZABETH GRUBB—CHARLESTON,
WEST VIRGINIA

Jessica Elizabeth Grubb, second oldest of five sisters, died on March 2, 2016 as a result

of oxycodone toxicity. After struggling for many years with the demon that is heroin addiction, Jessica's mother had hoped and truly believed that Jessica was finally on the clean and sober path to recovery.

Jessica's struggles began during her freshman year of college, when she was raped at a party; not telling a soul about the incident for six years. This set the stage for many agonizing years of depression, addiction, anorexia, and bulimia. Jessica said that heroin was the only thing that "made her not care."

In the six months prior to Jessica's death, she was slowly improving and coming back to herself. She had found a city she loved, a job, a supportive community, and was exercising a lot. Jessica was running many miles a day, which seemed to be helping her with her anxiety.

Unfortunately, due to all of the running, Jessica had a reoccurrence of a bone infection and had to have surgery in February. Jessica's family panicked. Doctors are too free with prescribing narcotics and many have no idea what these drugs can do to someone who is already struggling with addiction. Therefore, Jessica's family drove six hours to be with Jessica; they wanted to make sure these doctors knew about Jessica's history of struggling with addiction. They made it clear to all nurses and doctors that Jessica was recovering from a heroin addiction and Jessica told them the same thing. But when Jessica's mother mentioned this to one of the doctors, he said, "Shhh!" She asked him, "What are you talking about?" The doctor began to tell her that, "Jessica is such a sweet girl, we don't want people knowing that." Jessica's mother was struck dumb by the doctor's comment.

The weather forecast showed an incoming snow storm, so Jessica's family ended up only staying two days with Jessica, leaving for home after her surgery was complete. They were confident that all would be well; meaning, Jessica would not be prescribed any narcotics.

That afternoon the doctors put Jessica on an IV containing oxycodone, reawakening her addiction. They then sent her home with 50 oxycodone pills and a peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC or PIC line).

The next day Jessica's family tried calling her multiple times, as did her sisters. Jessica was supposed to be the maid of honor in her oldest sister's wedding. They even were sending her pictures of dresses. They received no response from Jessica.

Jessica's family panicked and called the local sheriffs department and they proceeded to conduct a police welfare check on Jessica. Jessica was found dead. Eight of the 50 prescribed oxycodone pills were gone. On March 2nd, Jessica became one of the 129.

SHAWNA GURULE—DENVER, COLORADO

On May 25, 1990, Shawna's mother was blessed with having the most beautiful daughter. Shawna was the cutest baby—fat and chubby, and hardly ever cried. From an early age, Shawna was full of life. When she was older, she was a cheerleader and loved playing volleyball, singing and dancing. Shawna was passionate about hairstyling and was great at it—she would do all her girlfriend's hair for special occasions.

Shawna's mother dealt with her daughter's struggles with addiction for years; beginning around 13 or 14 years old, when she was introduced to prescription pills. Consequently, Shawna's behavior started to change, affecting their relationship. Shawna was no longer the baby girl that her mother knew, she was someone else.

Over the years, Shawna tried to clean up her act, not only for her own well-being, but

for her newborn son. In 2015, she was introduced to heroin by the boyfriend she was living with. Shawna hated how overpowering heroin was; she had little control and felt she could not refrain from using.

On January 9, 2016, Shawna's mother received the dreaded call; Shawna had overdosed in the boyfriend's home and was in critical condition. A mixture of heroin and methamphetamine was found in her system. On January 11th, just three days later, Shawna was pronounced dead.

"Heroin came into our lives and now my baby girl is gone forever," writes her mother, Rosalie. "This is what a taste of this drug does. My family will be forever broken."

"Have your stories heard. Say them loudly and help other parents, brothers, sisters, and children through this ugly battle with drugs. Don't enable your children but also don't push them away. I send my prayers and tears for all of our children."

MICHAEL DUANE "MIKE" HANNAY—MASON, MICHIGAN

Mike was, and still is, an amazing human being. He had the most contagious smile and the best hair. He was hilarious, sarcastic, and incredibly witty; he had the most amazing sense of humor. Mike had such a big heart and never spoke bad about anyone. He always had a carefree, laid back attitude. Mike was so intelligent—the kind of person who never had to study but still got A's and B's. He could answer any Jeopardy question—things that make most of us say "Huh?!" Mike could fix any computer problems in five minutes or less, make you feel better on your absolute worst days, make you laugh until you cried and your cheeks hurt. Mike loved going to car shows with his father. Together, they restored a '57 Chevy the summer before he passed. Mike and I were best friends since we were young and were always doing things together. His family were all so close, a tight-knit family. Seeing Mike suffer from addiction was heart-breaking for all of them.

Mike hurt his back in a car accident and, like many who succumb to addiction, was prescribed pain medication and Xanax by his doctor. One day, at the end of 2009, Mike crushed his hand at work in a 20-ton brake press, resulting in the amputation of the tips of three of his fingers. He later underwent five surgeries to repair his hand. The severity of his injury, the numerous surgeries, and pain resulted in increased access to prescription medication that enhanced his addiction.

This was when Mike starting trying heroin. He overdosed twice but made it out alive on both occasions. The first time was in March of 2011 and the second in October of the same year.

For the next few years, Mike struggled off and on with addiction. Finally, things were looking up. He had a new job and was doing great. Mike was blessed with his first and only nephew six months prior to his passing. Mike had been clean for a year and four months before he relapsed and lost his life on September 20, 2013.

No one saw this coming, not his friends or his family.

HANNAH DAKOTA VEIT-HARTL—RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CALIFORNIA

Hannah was a smart, witty, caring young woman. She brought the life to any party with her infectious, sometimes twisted, sense of humor. To her parents, she was the daughter we all hope for. She was a self-motivated honors student, cool-as-a-cucumber ice hockey goalie, and a protective big sister

to her two siblings. She enjoyed skiing, swimming, traveling and hanging out with her family.

As Hannah went through her teen years, she gravitated towards a partying culture and became somewhat of a music "savant." As she continued on her college education at UCSC, little did Hannah realize that the all-too-easy to get, ubiquitous, and cheap heroin, would savagely alter her brain chemistry and bring with it the disease of addiction. Lacking a true understanding as to how this drug works, Hannah did not initially recognize the signs of addiction.

Just last year when Hannah realized that she had become dependent on heroin, she went to Urgent Care to get help. The only "help" they could give her was a taxi voucher home. The following day, she returned to the hospital where, again, she was handed a taxi voucher and sent away. In desperation, Hannah called her mom for help. Unfortunately, like most families, Hannah's family understood very little about addiction and heroin. They were unfamiliar with what steps to take to get Hannah the help she needed and they did what they thought was best. Hannah's family sent her to a treatment center, a path which they now understand was ineffective and inadequate on many levels.

Given that Hannah didn't match the heroin addict stereotype her family had in their minds, as she continued on in college they thought everything was essentially under control. Even after the course of treatment, none of Hannah's family understood the insidiousness of this drug, the relentless grip of addiction, nor the absurd statistical odds against Hannah's survival. Although Hannah's active addiction only lasted for several months, she relapsed with someone she had met at the treatment center. Hannah was able to bounce back and when she began her senior year of college, she believed she was well-equipped to manage her addiction and her family did too.

Then on March 9, 2016, she died. Hannah's tragic and untimely death at the age of 22 has shaken her family to its deepest core.

Like many young students during finals, Hannah stayed up for many nights in a row studying. She did not die from a heroin overdose—smart, witty, Hannah made a calculation error. She did not factor exhaustion into the equation when taking "just a little" heroin to go to sleep. The dose of heroin itself did not kill her; because she was so exhausted the heroin fatally compromised her natural reflexes to re-position herself while she slept. With her head surrounded by an array of pillows, she slowly suffocated. Hannah did not want to die; the morning of her death she had just turned in one of the last term papers she needed to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. On the floor next to her bed was a pile of LSAT study books and underneath her pillow was a "To Do" list.

CHRISTOPHER MATTHEW "CHRIS" HONOR—SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Chris was an average student and loved history class. He played various sports and could spout out statistics about any team. He wanted to become a sports broadcaster and did work for a few seasons with the New Hampshire Fisher Cats baseball team.

When Chris was 12 years old, his mother first started noticing some troubling signs. Chris became more defiant and his moods would change rapidly, from extreme highs to deep low. He scratched at scabs on his arms as a means of escaping feeling. Chris' parents went to court and begged the judge to get

Chris evaluated for bipolar disorder. Chris' mother was accused of wanting to simply medicate her difficult child, but all she wanted was to give him a fair shot at life and help him learn to deal with the overwhelming feelings. Soon after, Chris' mother found out he had started experimenting with marijuana.

When Chris was 17, he was picked up by the police when he was high on ecstasy. After a big fight, Chris left his father's house and went to live with some friends and later, his grandmother. Chris decided he would finish his senior year of high school by taking night classes. He graduated in 2011, got a job and started college. Things were looking up. When Chris turned 18, he moved in with a couple of friends and things quickly began to slip. One of his roommates was selling drugs and the police were watching the apartment. One night, the cops raided the apartment and everyone inside was arrested. After that, Chris was subject to random drug testing.

In 2013, Chris was sent to the county jail for eight months, after threatening his grandmother. When he got out, Chris and his girlfriend, reunited and began abusing drugs together. Chris eventually checked into a treatment center; but once he was stable, the facility needed the bed and Chris was released. Later, when Chris told his probation officer he wouldn't test clean, he was sent back to jail for the weekend.

The summer after that seemed like a dream for Chris and his girlfriend; they were always laughing and taking endless walks together. On September 25, 2014, Chris' mother got a call from his girlfriend saying Chris was going back to jail for 20 days. Four days later, Chris called from jail to tell his mother that his girlfriend had died from an overdose. He said if he had been home he could have saved her.

Chris was never the same after that and went back to abusing drugs immediately after being released and he was picked up again by the police on April 15, 2015. When he was released from jail on September 3rd, Chris seemed to be doing well. He applied for a job, and later that day he scheduled a time to get vivitrol shots. The next day Chris called his mother depressed because he missed his girlfriend and said that he never truly dealt with her death. On September 5th, the Jordan family were woken up in the early morning by a policewoman telling them that Chris was found dead.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF JOHN GLENN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened by the passing of John Glenn. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Annie, his family, and the countless others who are mourning this great loss.

John Glenn was a decorated World War II Marine Corps Fighter Pilot who broke the transcontinental speed record. A pioneer astronaut who was the first American to orbit the earth, and he later became the oldest man in space at the age of 77. He was a distinguished statesman who represented Ohio in the United States Senate. But most importantly, he was a family man who married his

childhood sweetheart, Annie, and enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

I count myself lucky to have had the opportunity to spend some time with Senator Glenn and I will cherish those moments for the rest of my life. Today is a sad day for the State of Ohio and for the United States of America. John Glenn was an American hero and his life and legacy will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 MVLE
ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2016 MVLE Annual Award Recipients.

For 45 years, MVLE has provided employment opportunities and support services to individuals with disabilities and thereby created an environment which has allowed its clients to live in dignity and as independently as possible. MVLE has achieved this success by partnering with local businesses as well as with government agencies and other not-for-profit organizations. MVLE, its staff, and dedicated volunteers and supporters can be proud that they are making a positive difference in someone's life every day.

Each year, MVLE honors individual participants, as well as business and community partners, who support MVLE's mission. I am pleased to include the names of the following 2016 award recipients:

The President's Award is being presented to individuals who have shown outstanding progress toward gaining independence and self-sufficiency through participation in employment and community services. The 2016 President's Award recipients are Ashley Carter, Wei Lung Lin, Jennifer Quinn, and Jose Manzanan.

The Chairman's Award is being presented to an outstanding business partner who has demonstrated excellence in hiring practices, creating supportive work environments, and supporting the mission of MVLE. The 2016 Chairman's Award recipients are Chick-fil-A of Dumfries and Chick-fil-A of Chantilly Place.

MVLE also presents four Community Awards for Government, Employment, Social Responsibility, and Integration.

The Government Champion Award is being presented to the Defense Acquisition University in recognition of its commitment to the creation of meaningful employment opportunities across government and business sectors.

The Employment Partner Award is being presented to Sharp Business Systems of Washington, DC in recognition of its efforts to create meaningful community employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and military veterans.

The Advocacy Champion Award is being presented to state Delegate Patrick Hope, who represents Virginia's 47th District. MVLE presents this award to an outstanding partner who advocates for community integration by fostering partnerships across sectors to create new opportunities for the disabilities community.

The Social Responsibility Award is being presented to The Paul Mitchell School of Woodbridge, Virginia. MVLE presents this award to an outstanding partner who supports MVLE and our community through contributions and volunteer work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending MVLE for its success in helping individuals with disabilities achieve independence and in congratulating the 2016 MVLE Annual Award recipients. The efforts of MVLE, its supporters, community partners, and clients are an inspiration to all and are worthy of our highest praise.

IN RECOGNITION OF
ANA RODRIGUEZ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Ana Rodriguez, Director of Community Relations and Volunteer Services at Mount Sinai Queens, who was honored for her achievements as part of Women's History Month. Ms. Rodriguez is a dedicated, compassionate, and beloved representative for the hospital. She attends countless community meetings and is always cheerful and well informed.

In her role at Mount Sinai Queens, Ms. Rodriguez works with community organizations and community leaders to ensure that the hospital best serves its community. In addition, she coordinates educational health programs and events to promote awareness about health issues in the community. Ms. Rodriguez also works with people of all ages and all walks of life who are interested in volunteering, in order to ensure that the hospital's patients are served in the most meaningful way possible.

Ms. Rodriguez has also been an important advocate for children. From 1993 through 1999, she worked with Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America. In her role as Associate Director, Ms. Rodriguez served youth in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx through the Urban Emphasis and Scoutreach Program. She collaborated with school principals, religious institutions, and community organizations to establish new scouting programs.

For six years, Ms. Rodriguez served adolescents, as well as adults, as a senior clinical social worker at the New York Presbyterian Hospital. Here, she provided mental health services, and worked with young men and women to empower them to reach their full potential.

Ms. Rodriguez has been celebrated by the community for her achievements. For example, Centro de Desarrollo de la Mujer (Center for Women Development) has presented her with a Woman of the Year Award for her community service. Her work has also been recognized by the Office of the Borough President of Manhattan, and she has received the Peter Vallone, Jr. Award from the 114th Precinct Civilian Observation Patrol for her dedication to the people of Astoria and Long Island City.

Ms. Rodriguez has a Bachelor of Science from Hunter College and a Master's degree in social work from Columbia University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful work of Ms. Rodriguez and her tireless service to her community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD
HUNTER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dr. Richard Hunter of Indianola, Iowa, for completing this year's Des Moines Triathlon at age 85.

Dr. Hunter did not begin competing in triathlons until after his retirement from medicine at 67. He remained committed to his training even after he returned to medicine, not retiring again until 82. He participated in the famed Ironman triathlon, which took him on a journey all over the world to compete. After moving to Indianola to be closer to his family, Dr. Hunter wondered how he would continue to train when he did not have an ocean to swim or bike trails to challenge him. He soon discovered that he could continue training at the local YMCA. The hard work paid off. Not only did he complete the 2016 Des Moines Triathlon, but he was also the oldest participant by 11 years in the sprint race.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Hunter for having the discipline and determination to compete in this rigorous competition. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representative join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continue success.

JAMES MADISON LEGACY
PROJECT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the James Madison Legacy Project, a nationwide teacher professional development program, currently being implemented in Oregon by the Classroom Law Project, a civic education non-profit in Portland, Oregon. Led by Executive Director Marilyn Cover, Classroom Law Project brings vital and engaging civics and law-related education programs into the classrooms across Oregon, teaching students of all grade levels the values and skills essential to being a participating citizen in our democracy. Each year, Classroom Law Project's innovative, practical, and fun programs involve and inspire over 800 teachers and 60,000 Oregon students.

The James Madison Legacy Project, made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Supporting Effective Educator Development program, is a three year nationwide initiative of the Center for Civic Education that recently entered its second year. The

project aims to provide professional development for over 2000 teachers of high-need students, help over 200,000 students meet state standards in civics and government, serve the self-identified professional development needs of more than 500 participating schools with significant concentrations of high-need students throughout the United States. The project will also evaluate the relative effectiveness of the Center's traditional We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution professional development model enhanced with online resources compared with a new blended-learning variation of the traditional model that also uses online resources.

The key goals of the James Madison Legacy Project are providing the best practices in civic education directly to teachers and identifying cost-effective ways to provide accessible professional development programs, particularly for teachers in high-needs schools. With exceptional professional development, teachers are better equipped to help students gain the knowledge and skills necessary in a participatory democracy.

Through the James Madison Legacy Project, Oregon teachers are learning directly from current and past members of the Oregon Supreme Court, constitutional scholars, and master teachers. The project includes follow-up services so that teachers can more readily implement what they learn in their classrooms. Future professional development will include opportunities to examine primary source documents from our country's founding, a private tour of the Oregon Historical Society and exhibit on the Founders, and lectures from First and Fourteenth Amendment scholars. Teachers will also have an exclusive behind the scenes view of the renowned Oregon High School State We the People Competition in January 2017.

The Center for Civic Education and Oregon's Classroom Law Project are at forefront of innovative and equitable civic education in America, and I look forward to their continued success and accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING FAMILIES AF-
FECTED BY THE NATIONAL
OPIOID EPIDEMIC

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to include in the RECORD today the personal stories of families from across the country that have been affected by the opioid and heroin epidemic. In the U.S. we lose 129 lives per day to opioid and heroin overdose. In my home state of New Hampshire, I have learned so many heartbreaking stories of great people and families who have suffered from the effects of substance use disorder.

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I were joined by many of these courageous families who came to Washington to share their stories with Members of Congress and push for action that will prevent overdoses and save lives. Since then, we passed both the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st

Century Cures Act to provide much needed funding and critical policy changes to fight this epidemic.

The advocacy of these families truly is so important to leading to change is Washington and I am proud to preserve their stories.

ERIK LEE BLOM—FAIRVIEW, TENNESSEE

Erik's death has devastated his entire family. He was an extremely gifted and creative young man whose keen wit and empathetic heart is missed everyday.

Erik began to abuse substances in 7th grade. His sister remembers the day he made the mistake of wearing bike shorts to school—he was bullied everyday after that. Eventually, Erik made a conscious decision to be tougher than anyone else and his tender heart began to harden with the belief that it was best not to feel—never to cry. Erik was intelligent, frustrated, and bored. The school thought he would benefit from being challenged in a gifted class and it did seem to help some, but he would still disappear to a place that we couldn't seem to reach. Erik's depression and anxiety kept him off-balance and he started self-medicating with marijuana before moving on to Xanax and Lortab. Pills were easy to get. Kids took them from their parents bedside tables and traded on the bus. Erik was arrested at school during his senior year for public intoxication. He went to jail and then to treatment. He was put on probation for a year. The summer after treatment, Erik and his sister worked at a kids camp together and our family had a summer to remember—we had our son back.

In the fall of 2003, Erik started college as a double major in graphic design and print making. He was being treated for Bipolar II but his anxiety and depression weren't being managed properly and he went back to self-medicating with marijuana. From early childhood coloring contests to his mastery of printmaking, Erik was always driven to share his life through art. This process of creation became an act of rebellion against the demons that plagued him.

Erik used heroin for the first time one week before his 26th birthday. The group of people who helped him shoot up for the first time then had to spend 45 minutes reviving him. He survived. He told his family that when he used that day, he felt no pain for the first time since he could remember. He would go on to chase that feeling for three years. He never found it again. Instead, he found an addiction that brought him to homelessness, got him work as a confidential informant, landed him in jail, lost him friends and at times, his family, caused unthinkable trauma, and ultimately death.

On April 30, 2014, Erik had been clean and sober for 6 months but his mood disorder was out of control. The psychiatrist prescribed him two weeks of Klonopin but he took all of it in two days. His agitation progressed and turned into outright rage. We called the police in hopes that he would be admitted to the hospital to stabilize, but he didn't have health insurance and presented as well enough, so they released him. When he came back home things got even crazier and we called the police again. Erik went to stay with a friend who he pressured to take him to a dealer. Erik shot up in the car and then again in the bathroom. Erik's sister got a call from a detective at 2:22 a.m. He told her that the entire family needed to get to the ER asap. When Erik's family arrived they were told that Erik was dead upon arrival. That was Thursday, May 1, 2014. That was the day our lives changed forever. He was 29 years old.

JOHN BOTKINS, III—CLERMONT, FLORIDA

From the day John was born, he brought so much joy to everyone lives. No matter how hard his family tried to stay mad at him, over the mischief he got into, John always managed to say something funny to make them laugh. John was a very inquisitive child and adult, never believing anything would hurt him and always willing to try anything.

Needless to say, life with John was never dull. He was always independent and strong-willed, but always cheerful and upbeat, even when he was fighting his hardest demons. While in middle school, John was diagnosed with ADD, and placed on medication to help keep him focused. John was in and out of school after that, and barely managed to graduate high school. He attended one year of college and flunked out. He returned home and his step-father and mother paid to send him to train to climb towers, where he excelled and began working for his stepfather's company. He was one of the best climbers in the industry.

Unfortunately, John's alcohol and drug habit exacerbated throughout the years, changing his personality and his lifestyle drastically. His mother never wanted to believe he had a problem and was fearful, if she made him mad, he would not love her, and she would not see him.

After an almost fatal overdose, it came to light that John had been using drugs for 15 years. He was 30 years old at the time and had two daughters, ages two and four.

John's family tried to encourage him to enter a treatment program, but he declined, stating he had to go back to work to help support his daughters. His family agreed to support John as long as he stayed clean. He did pretty well for a couple of months, but those close to him began to see some familiar signs that he was using again.

On Memorial Day, 2012, John's mother received the phone call that every mother of a child struggling with addiction dreads getting. Her young granddaughters got up that morning and found their father lying dead on the living room floor—their lives traumatized and forever changed.

Not a day goes by that John's mother doesn't think of her sweet little happy baby boy and his sensitive and caring heart. She knows, without a doubt, that he would have never intentionally put his family through this grief and heartache. He had such a sensitive spirit and giving heart for those in trouble or need and he would never have purposefully caused this. These demons called heroin and cocaine consumed him and ultimately took him.

DAYNE BRANDANO—MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Dayne and his sister, Brittany, have struggled with the disease of addiction. Dayne died on July 25, 2015 from a drug overdose; and Brittany is in recovery and very involved in the sober community.

The Brandano family has been dealing with the heroin epidemic first-hand since 2006, when Brittany was hit by a car and needed surgery. When Brittany was released from the hospital, she was given a prescription for liquid OxyContin. Dayne and Brittany's mother had never heard of the drug before. One day, she noticed that most of the liquid was gone and had not been taken as directed. From that point forward the Brandano family tried everything to help Brittany: tough love, endless understanding and support, various detoxes, rehabs, etc. Within six months of abusing her prescription pain medication, Brittany was addicted to heroin.

After battling with insurance companies who refused to cover long-term care for ad-

diction treatment, the Brandano family decided to send Brittany out-of-state to a privately-owned treatment facility. At the time, Brittany was 18 years old and Dayne was only 10. Dayne worried about his sister a lot and witnessed many things that no 10 year old should have to witness. On one occasion, Brittany coaxed him to urinate in her drug testing cup.

Dayne started smoking pot at an early age and was smoking regularly by the time he was 11. Dayne graduated to Percocet when he was 14, after he found a prescription at his grandmother's house. From then on, residential treatment stays became the norm for Dayne. His final stint in treatment was at the age of 16.

Dayne was sober for about four months before his first and final relapse. When he came home from treatment, Dayne looked amazing. His mother could sense peace in his eyes. She knew he really wanted to stay sober and she could finally sleep at night. The night before Dayne died, he came home looking like he had been smoking pot. His mother calmly told him that together they were going to look for treatment options in the morning and that she loved him. That was the last time she saw Dayne alive.

Dayne's mother feels cheated. All of their family's hard work for nothing. As a family, they did everything they could to save Dayne and his mother still can't accept that he is gone. She tried getting help for Dayne from every corner; fighting for a bed, fighting with insurance companies, etc. The Brandano family were involved, loving parents, who volunteered at school and enrolled their kids in every sport and activity. Dayne was an amazing human being with the most beautiful soul—many who knew him have said the same.

GREGORY LEE CHAPMAN III—PRINCE FREDERICK, MARYLAND

Gregory (Greg) Lee Chapman III died August 27th of 2015, from a fatal mixture of heroin, Alpha PVP (AKA Flakka), and Fentanyl. He was 26 years old. Greg was many things—he was not his addiction. He loved God, his family, his friends, and his fellow Army Veterans.

On Greg's first day of high school he was given drugs by another classmate. This was the start of a journey that would ultimately end in his death. After high school, Greg decided he wanted to get away from his hometown, where he felt so heavily influenced by the drug culture; he joined the Army and went to boot camp. Things seemed to be turning around for him until he got deployed to Iraq at the age of 19. Greg never talked about the things that happened over there, but his family knows he experienced countless traumatizing events.

After deployment, he was stationed back in Seattle. Not long after that, Greg received medication from a doctor to treat his depression and opioids for his back pain. This took him back down the wrong road—but this time his struggles were compounded by PTSD. A few months later, he put himself into a 30-day treatment program in Oregon.

Greg continued to battle with addiction throughout all of his transfers and ended up with a couple of DUI's. After 5 years in the military, he decided that it was time for him to leave the Army at the age of 23. He feared that if he didn't, he may not end up leaving on his own terms.

He ended up back home with his family. He never really found his way and the path that called to him was one that would keep him medicated from his nightmares. As time went by, his fight or flight responses height-

ened and he had no ability to deal with the trauma he had experienced.

Sometimes when he came to visit me Greg would pass out while we were mid-conversation. His family had no previous experience with heroin or prescription pills and didn't know what to do at first. After a while it became clear that there was a much bigger problem. Greg then entered a treatment facility followed by a stay in sober living.

After his stay in the sober living facility he thought that he could make a go of it on his own. He moved into an apartment that he found online. We later discovered that the owner of the house was a drug dealer and human trafficker and is currently serving 8 years in jail. When Greg said he wanted to move out of that apartment we told him to come home, but he wanted to stay in Florida where his friends were and find a different place.

The police raided his home on August 27th and my son was found dead in his garage apartment. He was not alone when he took that fatal dose, but he was left there to die.

Greg was too good for this world and dealt with great emotional pain. He thought he should be strong enough to recover on his own, even though his last words to one of his friends were, "We can't do this alone." He was always reaching out to others even in the midst of his own battles and there are people today who are sober because of his death.

DAVID COFFEY—BRISTOL, TENNESSEE

David was born on September 1, 1981, in Bristol, Tennessee. He entered this world healthy after a long and somewhat complicated delivery: 10 fingers, 10 toes, a set of lungs that worked perfectly. He arrived as the first-born into a happy home and was joined by his brother, Chris, 22 months later. The boys were so much alike that they were often mistaken for twins.

It was not until his late teenage years that David began experimenting with drugs, which didn't develop into an addiction until much later. He obtained a degree in Audio Engineering in Manhattan, NY and then moved back to Tennessee. He took a bad fall at one point and shattered his ankle. He had to have surgery and was given prescription pills for the pain. From that time on, life became a struggle; it all started with Lortab and progressed to Oxycontin.

After going to his first treatment facility, which lasted for almost 90 days, David relapsed almost immediately.

This cycle continued for nearly 15 years. At times, David would gain long periods of sobriety—a year, maybe two years at a time. He even returned to school to become a Master Barber and opened his own barber shop. Through it all he was a loving and giving young man—always willing to help others. He had a sense of humor that could rival the best and put a smile on your face on the worst of days. Yet in the end, drugs still won the war. On July 26, 2015, while on vacation, David passed away from a heroin overdose.

NICHOLAS (NICK) CONTOPULOS—TEMECULA, CALIFORNIA

On May 29th, 2010, the Contopulos family lost their 26-year-old son, Nick, after a 14-year struggle to find long-term, affordable, clinically informed care and recovery for his addiction and mental illness.

During his shortened life, Nick spent time in more than twenty-five inpatient treatment facilities (some at great expense), as well as numerous sober living homes, in addition to multiple visits to local emergency rooms.

Although Nick struggled courageously to find long-term recovery, he relapsed time and time again. Those who loved Nick came to respect this cunning, powerful and baffling disease and its ability to destroy everything in its path.

Due to the desperation that addiction entails, Nick was incarcerated for a total of more than three years. If a portion of what our society spent on keeping Nick behind bars had been allocated to finding long-term, affordable care, Nick's father believes that he would be alive today. Sadly, this is not so. Instead, we live in a time where hundreds of thousands of "other Nicks" struggle daily to find their own recovery in a society where this medical problem continues to be stigmatized and criminalized. May we who have survived, live to see a better day for these "other Nicks" and for those who love them.

ELIZABETH (LIZZIE) DELSARDO—PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Lizzie was only 23 years old when she lost her battle with addiction. Sadly, she struggled for several years, spent time in a few treatment facilities, and was called home by her Heavenly Father on May 11, 2016.

Lizzie was very interested in musical theatre and enjoyed both watching and performing. She loved to sing and dance constantly singing anywhere she was. Lizzie would write her own songs and poems and was always so excited to share them with us. She was eager to hear our opinions, even though she would sometimes get upset if we didn't LOVE them.

Everyone who knew Lizzie loved her infectious laugh and bright smile. After she passed away, we found out from her friends that Lizzie was their go-to person for support and encouragement; she was always willing to help and comfort them.

Lizzie touched so many lives in her short time here on earth. She will be forever remembered for her free spirit, compassion for others, and her sense of humor. She will remain in the hearts of those who loved her forever.

KEVIN DOAN—CINCINNATI, OHIO

Kevin Doan grew up in an upper middle class family. They lived on wooded property and as a child Kevin spent most days "building camps," fishing, and hiking around with his sister, brothers and friends from the neighborhood. When he was six he expressed an interest in ice hockey and excelled on the ice, quickly moving up through the teams. Kevin spent his teenage years traveling to play AAA hockey. He was a large, formidable figure on the team. His dad was always the head or assistant coach, so they spent many hours together on and off the ice.

Kevin graduated from high school and got a degree in Construction Technology. He gravitated towards construction because he loved being outside and working with his hands. He spent weekends doing what he loved—camping, fishing and playing hockey.

Kevin's family believes his drug problem began in 2014, at the age of 28, after he injured his back on a job site. The doctor prescribed him pain meds and Kevin quickly developed a substance use disorder—wanting and needing these pills even after the doctor would no longer prescribe them.

Kevin was always able to hold a full-time job, and therefore had enough money to buy the pills illegally. He began to come around less often for family gatherings, and kept missing birthdays and holidays. When his family questioned him, Kevin said he was "sick." His family knew something was wrong but had no idea the extent of his illness.

Kevin came to his family in October 2015, and told them he wanted to get help. On October 15th, Kevin packed his belongings and his parents drove him to a treatment facility in Northern Ohio. They hugged, kissed and told him how proud they were of him!

During Kevin's time in treatment he wrote his family letters about how happy and whole he felt. He honestly thought he could come home and stay clean. Kevin was allowed to come home for a visit over Christmas. When he came home, he was clear-eyed, 25 lbs heavier and enjoyed spending time with his entire family—he kept saying how thankful he was for his family.

Kevin returned to the program after the holiday and was officially released on January 23, 2016. Kevin was advised not to return to Cincinnati, where he would be triggered by his apartment and his friends. He ignored this advice, thinking that he could handle himself. He planned to return to his job and apartment. His family was terrified for him to come back and their fears were realized on January 26, 2016, only 3 days after Kevin came home, when his mother discovered him dead—in their home, in his old bedroom. Kevin was 30 years old.

The detectives found a needle near his body with a small amount of heroin left in it. It was later determined that the heroin was laced with a synthetic fentanyl. The detectives said that because Kevin had just gotten out of treatment and his system was clean, the drugs immediately shut down his heart. His family had no idea that Kevin was using heroin. He had never been arrested and had no police record—not even a ticket.

REESE ENGLE—ENDERSON, NEVADA

Reese was 19 years old at the time of his death on July 21, 2011. He had a dynamic personality, never without a smile on his face or a kind word on his lips. He was a loving brother, son, uncle and friend to all he came in contact with.

Reese was an accomplished athlete from a very young age. As a nine year old, Reese was selected to join the boys All-Star baseball team.

As the oldest of four boys, Reese tended to take care of his younger brothers' needs and wants before his own; always making sure everyone was included in the activity of the day. As a born leader and protector, Reese made sure that no one felt uncomfortable or unsure of themselves. Graduating high school was a huge accomplishment for Reese and he had plans to join the military.

Reese started using prescription pain medication when he was 15 years old, which turned into a heroin addiction. Heroin became a way of life for him and ultimately too big a foe to overcome.

In his short, yet, vibrant life, Reese touched people in a unique way. Those who had the pleasure of crossing his path have distinct memories of him. Reese is at peace, and his family grieves this loss but not the experiences they had with him.

KATHRINE FOLKER—WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

From the moment she was born, Kathrine and her mother had a powerful bond, and despite what was to come, this connection never faltered.

Kathrine showed some signs of trouble early in her life, but her family didn't think they were anything to worry about. In elementary school she developed attention issues and by the time she was in middle school, she had some problems with anxiety. Doctors said Kathrine was borderline and never formally diagnosing her or prescribed medication.

Socially, Kathrine thrived. She had many friends and always went out of her way to take care of the underdog. She was filled with energy for the people around her and believed that everyone deserved love, no matter what.

During Kathrine's senior year of high school, she got her CNA nursing license and started working in a local senior and rehabilitation home. She was the youngest employee at the facility. She adored her patients and they loved her right back. However, during this time, Kathrine became involved with people who introduced her to illicit substances. This led her down a path that would eventually take her life.

At 18 years old, Kathrine realized that she wasn't just partying hard but drinking to blackout. Bad things happened to her when she was drunk and of which she had no memory. She was scared and did not want that to be her life. Kathrine was mature enough to check herself into a treatment center and then join a sober living community. And it worked, it really did. For a year, Kathrine was clean, sober and self-supporting. She was happy again, she was beautiful, and her family was full of hope.

When Kathrine turned 19, she was excited about the future and felt strong enough to live alone. She moved out of the sober living community and signed a lease for her own apartment. Unfortunately, she wasn't ready. Kathrine told her mother that she wanted to see if she really had a problem or could learn to drink like everyone else. And so she drank. One night about four weeks or so after moving into her apartment, Kathrine was drunk when someone told her, "keep still," and injected heroin into her hand. That moment was the beginning of the end. Twelve weeks later, Kathrine was dead. Her first overdose was her last.

Kathrine, who was nervous that wanting a glass of champagne on her 21st birthday, never made it to twenty.

RECOGNIZING IRMA GARCIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of one of Laredo's finest citizens, Irma Garcia.

Ms. Garcia was born in Laredo, Texas on the 26th of October in 1951 to Adolfo and Irma Garcia. She was the second child of six children; Adolfo, George, Ileana, Hector and Cordelia Garcia. Throughout her life, Ms. Garcia was always held in high regard by her family members, friends, and colleagues because of her outgoing nature and positive attitude. Her ability to treat everyone she met with kindness and respect made her a role model for the entire community.

Irma brought the best out of everyone who had the privilege of being in her company. Known for her fun-loving side, she was regarded as one of Laredo's best party hosts. Ms. Garcia was also known for her love of politics and enthusiasm for social justice. This devotion led to her taking on work in the county clerk's office in 1976 under Clerk Mike Volpe. She then went on to work in the 49th District Court. In 2007, she started working with Jesus "Chuy" Garza in County Court of Law No. 2.

She was revered for her faithful dedication to her work throughout her career.

Ms. Garcia is survived by her father Adolfo Garcia; siblings, Adolfo Garcia, Ileana Garcia Maldonado, and Hector J. Garcia. She is also survived by her nieces and nephews, Kenny, Adrian, David, Vanessa, Ariane, Chanelle, Meriel, Nicole, Cordelia, and Joshua—all of whom she regarded as her own children.

Her legacy will remain strong through dedication and support of those around her. Her kindness will never be forgotten and is something that all should strive to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to remember the legacy of Irma Garcia.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WYANDOTTE JAYCEES FOR THEIR SERVICE AND ACTIVISM IN THE DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Wyandotte Jaycees for their efforts to promote positive change in the community. For the past 40 years, the Wyandotte Jaycees have helped to build young leaders while engaging in projects to raise awareness and address issues facing the Wyandotte and Downriver communities.

Founded in 1976, the Wyandotte Jaycees is an organization of young professionals that, in collaboration with local non-profits, works to improve their community while providing leadership opportunities for its members. The group has compiled an impressive record of developing leaders while working to improve the local community through events like Hooray for the Good Guys, which provides food and baked goods to public safety officials. The Jaycees also host team building events like camping trips and leadership conferences. Collectively, these help build a strong organization with community-minded individuals that are equipped to address issues facing the city.

The Jaycees embody the values of community service through their project and events throughout the city of Wyandotte and the surrounding area. Through the organization's actions, the Wyandotte Jaycees have not only worked to tackle local issues while promoting economic development, but have also provided countless young men and women with valuable leadership and organizational experience that opens the doors to new opportunities. I have confidence that the experience that these individuals gain through their involvement with the Wyandotte Jaycees will allow them to become leaders in the community and give them the skills they need to succeed professionally.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Wyandotte Jaycees and their 40 years of service on behalf of the Wyandotte and Downriver areas. The Wyandotte Jaycees continue to serve a critical role in providing valuable community service while helping young people develop leadership skills.

RECOGNIZING JASON JABBAR SPEAR

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in recognizing Jason Jabbar Spear, who has served as my Legislative Associate and Deputy Communications Director for more than five years. During this time, he has proven himself to be a valuable member of my staff and essential to the work that our office provides to our more than 670,000 residents. On December 31, 2016, Jason will be leaving my office to further his education at New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. Jason's strong work ethic, quick wit and humor, intelligence, and constant enthusiasm will surely be missed by his colleagues in the House, the residents of the District of Columbia, and especially my office.

Jason, a native of Alabama, quickly adopted D.C. as his second home. After completing a term as a White House intern, Jason joined my office and took advantage of every opportunity to help the mission of our office. Jason performed his duties with excellence and energy. He answered phones; wrote correspondence, legislation, and press releases; planned events; and even photographed many of those same events, all while managing a legislative portfolio. His capacity for hard work and his very affable demeanor made Jason a pleasure to be around and work with.

Jason's presence in my office and in the city will surely be missed and I wish him all the best in New York.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jason Spear for his outstanding service to the House of Representatives and my office, and to the residents of the District of Columbia.

TRIBUTE TO LORNA GROW

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lorna Grow for her 50 years of leadership with the Sugar Grove Sunshine 4-H Club, which celebrated its 100th anniversary on September 24, 2016.

Since 1965, Lorna has served as the Sugar Grove Sunshine 4-H Club leader, guiding and encouraging its members through fair projects, shows, and other activities. Head, Heart, Hands and Health are the tenets of 4-H. Lorna embodies them all. Her influence has been evident in the lives of so many area families. A former member said Lorna encouraged her to do a presentation to quell her fear about public speaking to a large group at the Iowa State Fair which now, in adulthood, she does on a regular basis. Another former 4-H Club member made sure her own children joined Sugar Grove Sunshine 4-H Club be-

cause of the guidance and skills taught by Lorna, including how to can vegetables and sew clothing. Lorna meets with every member of the Club regularly and on an individual basis, encouraging them in their growth as individuals and to experience new adventures they might not otherwise have.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Lorna for her outstanding leadership. Her dedication as a 4-H club leader has influenced so many over the past 50 years. It is an honor to represent her and Iowans like her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE OSHER LIFE-LONG LEARNING INSTITUTE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Mason University and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) on the occasion of OLLI's 25th Anniversary.

In 1991, OLLI was founded as the Learning in Retirement Institute by Kathryn Brooks, Shirley Fox, and Lilyan Spero, whom I knew and collaborated with for many years. The institute eventually developed a relationship with George Mason University as part of GMU's continuing efforts to expand access to educational opportunities to all members of the community.

OLLI's mission is "to offer to its members learning opportunities in a stimulating environment in which adults can share their talents, experiences and skills, explore new interests, discover and develop latent abilities, engage in intellectual and cultural pursuits, and socialize with others of similar interests." What started as a member-run center with 100 individuals operating and teaching out of a single room has grown into a robust, first-rate educational and social organization with more than 1,200 members.

OLLI offers mature adults in Northern Virginia over 400 courses and special events at its three campuses in Fairfax, Reston, and Loudoun.

From arts to zoology, religion to science, there is a topic to satisfy everyone.

I believe that education and learning are lifelong endeavors. OLLI provides this opportunity to learn for the sake of learning. Not to get a degree or advance in your career—but just for the sheer pleasure of expanding your knowledge or finally having the time to explore a new subject.

I commend the leadership of both George Mason University and OLLI for their commitment and vision to extending the benefits of continued and collaborative learning to as many members of our community as possible. As someone who comes from local government, I understand firsthand that the high quality of life that we enjoy in Northern Virginia is directly linked to the quality of educational resources that are at our disposal.

I congratulate the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute staff and volunteers on 25 years of service to our community and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them great success in all future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE NATIONAL OPIOID EPIDEMIC

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to include in the RECORD today the personal stories of families from across the country that have been affected by the opioid and heroin epidemic. In the U.S. we lose 129 lives per day to opioid and heroin overdose. In my home state of New Hampshire I have learned so many heartbreaking stories of great people and families who have suffered from the effects of substance use disorder.

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I were joined by many of these courageous families who came to Washington to share their stories with Members of Congress and push for action that will prevent overdoses and save lives. Since then, we passed both the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act to provide much needed funding and critical policy changes to fight this epidemic.

The advocacy of these families truly is so important to leading to change in Washington and I am proud to preserve their stories.

JOHN MICHAEL AHERN—ROCKPORT,
MASSACHUSETTS

John was born on September 30, 1969. He was the youngest of three siblings, Kathryn, Charles, and Mary, and a father to three beautiful boys, Johnny, Rian, and Connor.

Growing up, John was a wonderful son—joyful, loving and compassionate. At the age of 14, he began a transition that would lead to a long, hard fought battle with addiction. Over the years, John was treated at various rehabilitation clinics across the country. He did his best to maintain his sobriety and would do so for short periods of time, but the disease of addiction was too strong for John.

John was determined to overcome his struggles, fighting fiercely and with all his strength. But in the end, on August 16, 2015, the disease of addiction proved too great for him to overcome. John passed away unexpectedly from a heroin overdose. He was 46 years old.

"I can't imagine his daily struggles and the hardships he faced in his short life," writes his mother, Gail. "It was heartbreaking to see John's self-esteem diminish over time. He had a difficulties maintaining employment and finding stable living. Before his last and final attempt at recovery, which so sadly failed, John was living in a homeless shelter."

"I loved my John. I know his life was bittersweet and his struggles were so great. I believe some individuals are just too fragile for this world, and I am so grateful to God that he took John home at last. For I know in my heart he is now joyous, at peace, and in the loving arms of our Lord. John's struggle is over; he is now an angel."

ANDREW ANGERS—SAGINAW, MI

Andrew was born April 5, 1982, at 12:01 a.m. He was a beautiful baby and had a star qual-

ity about him as a toddler. Growing up, Andrew was a happy, healthy boy with a kind heart and a brilliant smile. Then one day he was not so happy anymore.

As Andrew entered high school, he began to struggle with personal demons. As a result, he experimented with drugs as a way to cope with his emotions. Andrew was immediately taken hostage by addiction and his battle progressed before he even graduated. Andrew did manage to graduate, although a year later than he should have. Regardless, it was a happy day for him and his family.

For the years following, Andrew's struggles with addiction continued but at times it seemed he was gaining the upper hand. Andrew entered college and even married his high school sweetheart. Sadly, college went by the wayside and the marriage failed. Even throughout all the hardships, Andrew was still there—there were glimpses of the sweet, sensitive, kind-hearted man he was.

Andrew was a very talented musician and was often seen walking around wearing a banjo. He had the most wonderful smile and such a warm laugh. Andrew had hope right up until the end. In a final phone call he spoke of his future and being done with using. On June 18, 2009, Andrew was found dead from an overdose. It truly was the day the music ended.

NICHOLAS ANTICH—CROWN POINT, INDIANA

The mother of Nick Antich wants people to know her family's tragedy in order to bring light to a growing epidemic in the United States. It's unfortunate that people are ashamed to tell the stories of their loved ones who are battling drug addiction. They worry that society will see those struggling as second class, low-life individuals. As an emergency nurse, Nick's mom has a job to help anyone who enters the ER.

Nick's mother now has the perspective that if addiction can happen to her son, it can happen to anyone. Addiction impacts people who are educated; smart, charismatic and have the world in the palm of their hand. Nick Antich was an top student who didn't get into trouble at school and never caused his father and mother much grief beyond the typical teenage issues. Nick was raised in a normal family, played baseball as a child and wrestled in middle school. He loved animals and was known as the "animal whisperer" because on several different occasions he saved kittens from the side of busy highways where they had been dumped.

When Nick was accepted into an Engineering program for college, he moved to Indianapolis. During his Sophomore year in college, Nick started dabbling in drugs. Nothing his mother would consider hardcore, but never-the-less, drugs. Nick was smart and knew the risks involved with drug use, so his mother never imagined that anything serious was happening. She certainly never prepared herself for the journey her family was about to embark upon.

One day, Nick called his mother to say he had been sick in bed for three days. She knew in her gut that something was not right. Nick had been sick a bunch of times since going away to college, which is normally no big deal—take some Tylenol and get rest—but this time felt different. She called an ambulance and sent them to Nick's address. Two hours later, Nick's mom arrived at the hospital where she found her son curled up in a ball on a cot. Nothing had been done. The hospital knew Nick was going through heroin withdrawal but because of HIPAA they couldn't tell Nick's mother what was happening. When Nick saw his mom, he held up his arms and said, "Mom,

it's bad." She dropped to her knees and her hell as a parent began. Within 24 hours, Nick was on a plane to Arizona where he was admitted into treatment for the next two months.

Nick moved back home after treatment and within three months his mother saw suspicious signs. She kicked him out of her house. In September of 2014, Nick came and told her, "Mom, I'm using again." Within 24 hours, Nick was back on a plane to Arizona for a second stint in treatment. This time Nick was there for four months. He came home for Christmas of 2014, clean from Xanax and heroin.

Nick got a job working for the state of Indiana and was quickly promoted. However, Nick felt miserable inside and nothing his mother did could fix Nick's loneliness. When Nick was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder, he faithfully took his meds and followed up monthly with his doctor. He did not want to be unhappy; he exercised, attempted a vegan diet and quit smoking three months before he died.

The week before Nick relapsed, he had to work long shifts plowing during a snowstorm and was stressed and tired. Sitting by himself plowing snow for 16 hours did something to Nick; he got Xanax from a friend. When his mother found out, Nick told her, "Mom, I just wanted to take something to make my miserable job tolerable . . . I would never use heroin again." Unfortunately, Xanax was all it took to wake up the devil within Nick that had been dormant for 18 months. His mother was petrified that whole week, thinking here we go again. On Friday, March 4th, Nick went to see friends in Indianapolis for the weekend and had plans to stay with his sister in Bloomington for the rest of that week. Nick's parents flew out on Saturday for a week's vacation in Arizona. On Sunday afternoon, March 6, 2016, Nick didn't wake up.

She hates drugs. They robbed Nick of his life, they robbed her daughter of her only sibling, and they robbed his parents of their only son. Over 450 people attended Nick's wake, which was a testament to how loved he was: friends, family, and teachers from elementary through high school came to share that day with Nick's family. Nick didn't realize how much love there was for him in this life.

Despite the resources Nick's mother had access to as an emergency room nurse, she could not save him. This is what she has to learn to live with forever. Please don't hide these stories anymore. Out of the 450 people who attended Nick's service, at least a dozen said it happened to them too.

TOMMY JACOB ARNOLD—DECATUR, ILLINOIS

The Arnold's youngest son, Tommy died of a heroin overdose on June 25, 2016. His battle with addiction started when someone offered him heroin as an alternative to dull the pain of a toothache. It instantly grabbed control and robbed Tommy of everything—family, friends, jobs, cars, a home—but most of all it robbed him of his self respect.

Growing up, Tommy was a typical all-American boy with hopes and dreams. He loved music, movies, campfires with friends and just being with those he loved. He was a shy, gentle giant that was always kind and caring to everyone he met—he would give the shirt off his back to anyone in need. Tommy lost it all to this horrible, ravaging drug.

On the morning of June 25th this year, Tommy's family was awoken by the coroner telling them that their son had overdosed just a few hours earlier—and his body was

awaiting their funeral instructions at the morgue. No parent should have to receive news like this. Tommy fought hard before losing his battle with addiction. He was in recovery five different times, but this last time he wasn't able to fight his way back.

"30 days of treatment isn't enough to help those afflicted successfully fight this battle," writes Tommy's mother, Kathleen. "Longer, progressive plans need to be developed to stop this epidemic from taking the lives of our loved ones."

Although Tommy is in heaven now, pain-free, he leaves behind parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, a brother and sister, the love of his life, and his six year old son. His family is all heart-broken.

RONNI BAKER—STOW, MAINE

Ronni Baker was raised in a loving and stable environment where her and her sister's needs were met. As a family, the Bakers did many things together; they played outside, went camping and fishing, and always had fun.

Ronni's parents had good relationships with both of their daughters and supported them in pursuing their interests. Ronni loved trying new things. She joined the 4-H youth organization at the age of ten and got her first horse when she was 12. She was also a Girl Scout and participated in Odyssey of the Mind creative challenges. Ronni was an avid reader and loved trivia. She had a fondness for animals and had a way with them. At 16, Ronni thought it would be fun to enter a Miss Teen USA contest, so she did. In high school, she was on the wrestling team.

Ronni had strong political views and feelings about equality—she often stuck up for the underdog. As a young child, she spent a lot of time with her great-grandparents and developed an affection for the elderly. After becoming a certified nurse's aide, she started working in a local nursing home—a place where she connected with and felt protective of the residents.

School came easy to Ronni and she never really had to work that hard at it. Socially, she was bubbly, easy-going, and funny. She had lots of friends. So why did Ronni, of all kids, start using drugs? Why did she—of all people—die of a drug overdose in the dawn of her life?

Her family thinks it started innocently enough, with kids experimenting with alcohol and/or maybe marijuana; just like many teenagers do. But opiates changed the rules of the game. These pills are now shared the way other substances were in the past. With these powerful drugs, kids can't always move on from their experimentation phase and grow up. They think they are just having fun and are invincible, but no one is invincible when it comes to opioid addiction, let alone a young adult.

Add to this experimentation, the fact that when Ronni was in her late teens she started experiencing some back and leg pain related to the demands of wrestling. Afterward, Ronni was in a car accident and received prescription opioids for her pain. Around the same time, she was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder; which had not been previously identified as an issue due to her academic ability and achievements.

As parents, the Bakers thought that if they did mostly everything right, then their children would be okay. They thought that by living out in the sticks they were insulated from some of the big-city problems that affect many young individuals. Opioids are everywhere and opioid addiction lays in wait for everyone.

FRANKIE PROUT—PHILADELPHIA,
PENNSYLVANIA

On February 5, 2012, at 6:04 a.m. Frankie Prout, oldest of four, was pronounced dead at the age of 20 while living in a halfway house.

Frankie grew up in Port Richmond in Philadelphia. As a child, he was loved by everyone. Around the age of 18, Frankie started to change. He wasn't acting like his normal happy self and his mother knew something was wrong, but never in a million years did she suspect he was developing a drug addiction. It turns out Frankie was using Percocet prescribed by a dentist. By the time his use had escalated to crushing and snorting 30 mg, he was stealing from and lying to his family and friends. He eventually was incarcerated for robbing a car. When he returned home from jail, he went right back to abusing drugs. At this point, Frankie's family gave him the option to get help or be homeless.

When Frankie and his mother first went to a detox facility, he was turned away from an expired ID. The second time, he was turned away from the detox facility because he didn't have enough drugs in his system. Frankie at this point was so sick from withdrawal that he begged his mother to let him die. In order to get enough drugs in his system to be admitted, his mother had to purchase Percocet for him to use. Detox accepted him that time and kept him for five days during which he celebrated his 19th birthday. When the facility ran out of beds, Frankie was released. He stayed clean for three months before relapsing. Frankie's addiction got worse and worse during his relapse. He desperately needed detox to get clean again but he was turned away from the facility because there were no beds.

When Frankie finally was able to get into detox, again his stay was only for five days. This time Frankie celebrated Christmas there. When he was released, Frankie went to an inpatient rehabilitation facility and seemed to be doing well there. However, his insurance covering the treatment ran out after 42 days.

From the inpatient rehabilitation facility, Frankie to a halfway house in the same neighborhood where he used to get high. Frankie checked in on a Thursday afternoon and was out on the streets within the hour—he didn't even get drug tested. He was living with eleven heroin addicts, all of whom were allowed to come and go as they pleased. On Saturday, Frankie went to his mother's house for more clothes and blankets. She was surprised to see him and asked why he didn't have any restrictions. When he didn't answer, his mother told him she was going to check out the halfway house the very next day. Before leaving he said, "I love you Mom. See you tomorrow." Those were the last words she heard from her son. Frankie died of an IV heroin overdose in the bathroom of the halfway house where someone helped him get high and left him to die.

JOHN ROBERT "BOBBY" BAYLIS II—ROANOKE,
VIRGINIA

Bobby was the oldest of three siblings. He was a funny, kind-hearted kid who played sports in high school. The summer after his freshman year in college, Bobby had ACL surgery and came home with a 90-day supply of OxyContin. That was the summer Bobby became addicted to pain medication.

During the following year, Bobby suffered from anxiety and depression. He had trouble keeping up in his classes and Bobby dropped out in the spring. Within six months of returning home, Bobby had several run-ins with the police.

Bobby's mom will never forget the moment when she realized that her son was addicted to drugs. She was rustling through his room and found a box in the back of his closet full of childhood memorabilia. Wrapped up tight in Bobby's baby blanket was a box of hypodermic needles. Having a son that was addicted to drugs and in trouble with the law was something Bobby's mom never expected would happen to her family. Shortly thereafter, Bobby fell into a vicious cycle—moving between jail, treatment, recovery, and relapse. Despite the fact that his mom kept trying to get Bobby the treatment he so desperately he needed, she felt helpless. His mom often thinks that if Bobby had access to better treatment and if he hadn't been restricted to serve probation in Roanoke (the town where all of his connections to drugs were), Bobby would have been better poised to succeed in recovery.

Bobby's addiction was destroying his life and the lives of his entire family. He had stolen his mother's credit cards, pawned items from his family's home and put his mother into financial debt. She laid awake at night worrying that a drug dealer would come to their home and worried that she would receive the call from the police saying that he had overdosed.

Bobby was convicted of possession and distribution charges. He spent three years in a Federal Prison Camp. His mom was grateful for this because at least Bobby was safe and drug-free for three years. At the Camp, Bobby received his journeyman's license as an electrician, was certified in heating and air conditioning, and cultivated his relationship to his higher power. When his mom went to visit him, there was light in his eyes, and for the first time in a long time she did not see Bobby overtaken by addiction.

When Bobby got out jail and came home, his mom felt like she had Bobby back. He said, "Mom, I have a second chance at life." Bobby was lucky to get a great job despite his felony record. He worked hard every day of the week; got up at 6 a.m., packed his lunch, and came home by 7 p.m. after a long day's work. He was proud of his accomplishments and got a promotion at work.

Then Bobby let people from his past back into his life and his addiction was triggered. In one weekend, Bobby relapsed for the last time. On a sunny Saturday afternoon, he overdosed from heroin laced with fentanyl. His mom found him lying on the floor in his bedroom and the EMS couldn't revive him. He died on June 6th, 2015 at the age of 28.

After the shock of Bobby's death, his mom felt compelled to speak out in order to change the stigma that surrounds this disease. Since then, many people have told her their stories about a family member who is struggling with addiction or has died of it. These stories are not public knowledge. We need to reach out to families who are struggling and grieving. We need to replace judgement with respect and support. We need to let them know they are not alone.

NICHOLAS "NICK" BERGER—POTTSTOWN,
PENNSYLVANIA

Nick was a really great guy and a wonderful son. He grew up in an average middle-class home, surrounded by family and pets who loved him dearly. He enjoyed many activities in high school, including football, ROTC, agriculture, and animal husbandry.

From an early age, nature was Nick's solace. He enjoyed camping, hunting and fishing. After graduating high school, he worked as a hunting guide in Wyoming for a couple of seasons tracking elk, mule deer, and antelope. During that time, he hunted and fished

in Alaska, British Columbia and Canada. He encountered some challenges in the wild but he had good survival skills and could think on his feet.

Nick's father owned a construction business and when Nick returned home he started working for his dad. Nick was a natural and his father had hopes of passing his business on to him someday.

One day, Nick hurt his shoulder while playing a casual game of football and eventually had to have surgery. During his recovery, the doctor prescribed semi-synthetic opioids. After completing the prescribed dose, Nick sought out supplemental prescription medication on the street. When illegal prescriptions became too costly, Nick turned to heroin.

Nick kept his addiction hidden. His family and closest friends remained clueless about his struggle. He was never in trouble with the law and didn't miss work. Nick came home for family meals and was rarely out late. He was always an honest kid, so when Nick told his family something, they believed him.

Slowly, some of Nick's behaviors changed. He became moody. He often asked for his paycheck early, kept coming down with flu-like symptoms and started acting depressed. His family didn't understand what was going on and when they asked, Nick said he had a 24-hr bug.

In retrospect, Nick's family thinks that his opioid drug use went on for at least a couple of years undetected. Eventually, the signs became too apparent and when his family confronted Nick, he said he desperately wanted and welcomed help. Nick told them, "I have a serious drug problem and I can't control it."

After a couple phone calls, Nick was placed in a local 30-day treatment program in December 2013. Nick's 30-day program consisted of detox and 12-Step-based therapy. Nick was a good student; he learned about his disease, engaged in discussions with counselors and other residents, and helped others who were also struggling with their addiction.

During this time, his family explored more extensive treatment and recovery programs. They wanted to provide Nick with the best possible education and clean living environment to help him turn his life around. Nick agreed to participate in a 90-day inpatient private pay recovery house and was transported to the facility upon completion of the 30-day program.

Nick also worked hard in the 90-day inpatient program and was praised again by counselors. Eventually, he was given some increased responsibilities that involved speaking with and engaging other residents. He was given the opportunity to speak at another facility and had been selected as an interview candidate by CNBC for a segment they were developing on opioid addiction and recovery houses. His family was encouraged by his progress. When the day finally came for Nick to return home, he was welcomed with open arms.

After being home for just three weeks and one day, Nick's disease fooled him into using—"just one more time." Thinking they can use just once, or on occasion, without having the same physical reaction as they did before is common problem for people with a substance abuse disorder. This warped misconception, accompanied by a completely clean body, often leads to overdose or death. The body physically cannot tolerate the same dosage the person was taking to get high before getting clean.

On Thursday evening, April 24, 2014, Nick was supposed to go to an outpatient group

and then a meeting. He came home late—but, "looked OK," according to his father. Nick retired to his room and injected crushed Oxycodone before going to bed. When he fell asleep his lungs stopped and his body shut down. His parents found him dead the following morning. Nick was 31.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF MRS. SYLVIA L. HERNANDEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Sylvia L. Hernandez, Regional Administrator for the U.S. General Services Administration's (GSA) Greater Southwest Region, who will be retiring after 38 years of service

Mrs. Hernandez was born on May 31, 1956 in Deming, New Mexico. She attended Deming High School and eventually received her Bachelor of Arts degrees from New Mexico State University and the University of Texas at Arlington. She also earned a Master's Certification in Telecommunications Management from the University of Dallas, Texas. After college, Mrs. Hernandez would soon join the GSA, starting a career that expanded over three decades.

Mrs. Hernandez's hard work and dedication at GSA allowed her to serve in several important capacities throughout her time in the organization. She served as Director for the Technical Services Division, Federal Acquisition Service (FAS), in the GSA Greater Southwest Region. In addition, she served as the Acting Deputy Regional Administrator for the Greater Southwest Region. Mrs. Hernandez's experience eventually led her to be appointed as the Acting Regional Administrator for the GSA's Greater Southwest Region, through which she oversaw all of GSA's activities in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas as the Regional Administrator. Mrs. Hernandez's success with GSA earned her the prestigious FAS Commissioner's Award.

Mrs. Hernandez will now get to spend more time with what she values most: her family, which includes her husband of 38 years, their children, Claudia Hernandez and Eloy Hernandez, and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the service of Mrs. Sylvia L. Hernandez whose dedication to work and family serves as a model for us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR LADY OF
MOUNT CARMEL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize The Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on the occasion of its 175th anniversary. I am pleased to recognize their continued dedication to maintaining one of the oldest parishes in Queens and all of Long Island.

Since its founding in 1841, Our Lady of Mount Carmel has been devoted to welcoming all members of the community. The Parish celebrates the rich Queens Borough culture through educational programs and monthly festivities. This has earned it the title "Mother Church of Queens County."

Mount Carmel is one of the few parishes in New York City that has its own parish cemetery. Their cemetery reflects the heritage of the early Irish Catholic settlers of Astoria, many of who arrived there to escape Ireland's potato blight of the late 1840s. Our Lady of Mount Carmel was also the first Catholic community in Queens County to have a resident priest, and the first to conduct Mass in its own church building.

Along with English language services, the Parish has performed masses in Spanish since 1977 and has added services in Czech and Slovak as well.

Additionally, the Parish has made significant efforts to improve the community through religious and educational programs. They accomplished this by establishing religion classes for mentally disabled and physically challenged students, religion classes for junior high school students, adult religious education programs, a teen club, and children's summer programs. The Parish has also established the Young Adult Internship Program, a job-training program for unskilled youth that teaches valuable workplace skills to roughly 35 students per semester, resulting in more employment opportunities within the neighborhood.

The Parish has devotedly served its Queens community for 175 years, and it is a pleasure to represent this treasured institution in Congress. I am proud to salute all the friends, supporters, and parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and I extend my sincerest appreciation for their dedication to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the remarkable history and extraordinary work of the Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on its 175th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO THE DES MOINES
AREA RELIGIOUS COUNCIL FOOD
PANTRY NETWORK IN THE SECOND
SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry Network for their 40 years of service to the food insecure citizens of central Iowa.

DMARC was founded in 1952 to assist the spiritual needs of the community and to promote moral, social and civic welfare to our fellow man and woman. In May 1976, DMARC officials established the Food Pantry Network, an emergency food program to help provide services to those in need. In the 40 years since its creation, it has become the largest food pantry network in Iowa, with 11 sites in the Des Moines metropolitan area, including

some sites in the Des Moines Independent School District, helping to feed 34,000 people annually. The Food Pantry Network is comprised of 128 member congregations representing a variety of faiths. These willing volunteers provide the much needed food and service hours. In addition to its faithful volunteers, the Food Pantry Network also benefits from the very generous donations and assistance of individuals, businesses, and non-member congregations.

Mr. Speaker, I commend The Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network on their 40 years of service to food insecure citizens of Central Iowa. Their vital assistance over the last 40 years has given families the certainty they need as they struggle to provide themselves and their children with a warm meal in the comfort of their own home. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Food Pantry Network on this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE NATIONAL OPIOID EPIDEMIC

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to include in the RECORD today the personal stories of families from across the country that have been affected by the opioid and heroin epidemic. In the U.S. we lose 129 lives per day to opioid and heroin overdose. In my home state of New Hampshire I have learned so many heartbreaking stories of great people and families who have suffered from the effects of substance use disorder.

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I were joined by many of these courageous families who came to Washington to share their stories with Members of Congress and push for action that will prevent overdoses and save lives. Since then, we passed both the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act to provide much needed funding and critical policy changes to fight this epidemic.

The advocacy of these families truly is so important to leading to change in Washington and I am proud to preserve their stories.

JOHN RICHARD PAGE—GLOUCESTER,
MASSACHUSETTS

John Richard Page was a blond-haired, blue-eyed boy who loved playing in the woods and catching any critter that crossed his path. He was a ball of energy: curious, adventurous and fast! The kids in the neighborhood called him "Scrawny Johnny," because by the day's end he'd burnt off every calorie consumed—and some. He could be reckless, too. One time he bolted across the street without looking and got bumped by a car. He landed under the bumper just inches from the tires. Another time John was stuck in a tree hanging upside down from one boot.

As the teenage years rolled in, John started to get in some trouble. It seemed like he was always at the wrong place at the wrong time. He tended to take things to the limit,

if he did something he did it all the way. John and his sister fought all of the time at this point.

When John and his sister stopped showing up at school, a Child In Need of Services (CHINS) action was filed and my mother was told that because she couldn't control her kids they should be placed elsewhere. John's sister was almost 15 and ended up living in three different foster homes. John, who was only twelve, was placed in Juvenile Detention Centers around Boston. John quickly learned how to manipulate the system; if he got tired of being there or afraid of a particular social situation, he would act out—say he heard voices or was suicidal—and they would transfer him to a mental hospital and put him on medication. The swing between hospital and detention center went on for about five years.

When John returned home, little by little his family learned what had happened during his time away. John got in fights that were so severe that he had to have various MRI's to ensure that he didn't have a brain injury. He was abused by the staff. He was treated like a guinea pig at the mental hospital and put on a variety of powerful medications. John's experience changed him forever. He came back furious, distrustful, and reliant upon substances for emotional relief.

Despite being very bright, John never received his GED and had trouble getting work. He could fix any vehicle or cell phone. He could build with wood but preferred intricate projects that focused on small detail with a lot of parts. His sister thinks that's what John's mind felt like—a mix of gears, buttons, wires, sensors, nuts & bolts constantly being reassembled. He was also a talented artist.

John found peace while camping in the White Mountains in Lincoln, NH. He also found peace alone in his apartment with heroin. His sister tried everything she could to help him get better. At one point in time, when John was being treated with suboxone, his sister would drive 40 minutes to pick him up and take him to all of his doctor appointments. Sometimes John's girlfriend came along and when she did she always sat up front and answered questions that were directed towards John. When John's sister asked him why he sat in the back, he said, "Heidi, I just didn't want you to see me this way."

John made some attempts to get better. Once he tried to check himself into detox but was turned away because he didn't test positive for heroin. This meant John was injecting pure fentanyl. John and his girlfriend tried to detox together by coming to stay with his sister and her boys after Christmas 2015. She left after one day, but John stayed for 11 days. John wasn't too sick. His sister bought him an assortment of comfort medications and looked up a slew of at-home detox ideas. They went tanning. John got a haircut. John's sister did his laundry and bought him a new outfit. Over the course of those days, John apologized often and spent a lot of time hanging out with his nephews. John's sister took tons of pictures during his stay—she was running on hope.

During that time, John found out that his girlfriend of 2½ years didn't leave just because she wasn't ready to get better, but also because she was seeing someone else—the father of his youngest nephew. John was devastated, although he wouldn't admit it. His sister took him to a court appointment and then to a doctor's appointment. After those appointments, John wanted to go home. His sister thought John's decision was the wrong

decision but she couldn't physically restrain him.

John's sister talked to him on the phone the night John went home as well as the next night. The following night, John made plans to see his ex-girlfriend. John's ex-girlfriend called John's sister at midnight but wasn't making any sense. John's sister hung up and dialed 9-1-1, where she was transferred to the Marblehead police department who took her information and told her she would get a call back. A minute later, Detective Brendan Finnegan called John's sister and said six words that haunted her daily: "I am sorry for your loss." John's sister fell to the floor and couldn't speak. Her 7-year-old son was still awake. He shut off the oven, grabbed two pot holders and ever so carefully took the banana bread out of the oven. He placed it on top of the stove and sat down next to her on the floor, holding my hand.

John's sister misses her brother every single day. On some days she is angry, on others she is sad. John's mother is forever broken. John's middle nephew lost his dad the same way three years before "Uncle Johnny's" death. When the nephew found out, he punched a hole in the bathroom wall, sobbed uncontrollably, swore, kicked the trash barrel until it broke and when he was exhausted just cried in his mother's arms.

John's family has used this awful experience to help teach and educate others about how serious this problem is. Their family will never be OK. Losing a loved one has been the hardest thing John's family has ever experienced. John was 33 years old when he passed away on January 29, 2016.

JOHN M. PERKINS, JR.—NEWARK, DELAWARE

John's mother was thrilled when her first child was a boy. She named him John after his father and grandfather. He was an adorable, active baby who climbed out of his crib early and managed to get into everything. That amazing store of energy never left him; John always pushed to do a little bit better, run faster, jump higher. He did well in school and was the life of the party.

When John got to college, a series of stressful events lead him to begin experimenting with drugs with friends at "pill parties" (various kinds of drugs are tossed into a bowl and taken at random). He began using opiate pain relievers like Percocet and Oxycontin.

John and his mother had a close relationship and she was shocked when she found out that he was addicted to drugs. "He was smart and had his whole life ahead of him," she said. "I couldn't believe this was happening to us. I felt scared and alone." Liz spent every waking minute trying to get him help and educating herself about the disease of addiction.

During a period of sobriety, John came home one night upset because someone had hit his parked car. His mother tried to calm him down, but he was inconsolable and went straight to his room. When his mother heard his car pulling out of the driveway minutes later, her stomach sank. The next morning John said, "Mom, I fucked up again." Despite being furious and terrified, his mother held him and told him that she loved him and that he would have to fight addiction for the rest of his life. She was right there with him.

A few days later, John's mother got a call from John's girlfriend who was in hysterics. She had come home from work and found John unconscious on the bathroom floor. She called 9-1-1 and an ambulance had taken him to the hospital. Liz and her husband rushed

to the ER but it was too late to say goodbye. John was on life support for 36 hours before being pronounced dead on May 5, 2011. He was only 30 years old.

When Liz lost John, her life lost all of its meaning but her other child and husband helped her to carry on. According to Liz, losing a child to a drug overdose is made all the more difficult because the sympathy that most parents receive after going through such a loss is too often replaced with judgement, accusations, and silence.

After losing John, Liz realized she couldn't keep quiet about her experience. In writing John's obituary, his family was open about his struggles with addiction. Liz and her husband played a vital role in the passing of the Good Samaritan Law in Delaware and continue to tell their story and fight to end the epidemic. By sharing their experience, they hope to bring substance abuse into the public consciousness.

MARK ALLEN PERRIN—MIAMI, FLORIDA

Mark Allen Perrin was born in Miami, Florida and was raised in Fort Lauderdale. When he was born, Mark was a beautiful, curly headed blonde baby boy, with hazel green eyes.

Mark loved movies. He could tell you all of the actors by name and could imitate their voices and characters. Mark grew up to become quite a character himself. He had the wit of Jim Carrey and Robin Williams combined. Mark was also a people person and could draw anyone in; especially his friends who would always flock to him.

Mark aspired to be a dancer and he had the moves for it as well. His mother would always tell him he should be on stage, but rather as an actor because he could cry on cue, was a master manipulator, and he had the look for it—every girl would do a double take when they crossed his path.

On January 19, 2016, Mark died from an accidental heroin overdose. He was just released from jail five days prior after being held for 44 days. Mark went into jail with two oxycodone pills hidden in his boxers. Upon his release he entered a sober house, and ingested those pills. His mother received a call on his first night at the sober house, telling her that she had to go pick Mark up because he tested positive on his drug test. The next morning she picked Mark up and took him to the emergency room.

Mark had to appear in court as a result. The judge ordered mandatory entry into a drug treatment facility, or he would not be able to have a bail bond. Mark promised to go if his mother let him come home, take a shower, and spend \$25 on snacks. Instead, he spent \$190 on drugs, without her knowledge. When his mother found out about his drug purchase with her money, she said, "Mark, this is the last time you will steal from me." Well, it was the last time.

That night his mother felt Mark leaving this earth. She called and called, to no answer. Mark was found at 3 p.m. the next day—face down and stiff in his mother's bathroom.

JOSH POWELL—EAST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Josh Powell was an amazing brother, uncle, son, and husband. He excelled at everything he did. In high school, Josh was an exceptional athlete and shined in both football and basketball. He also showed great passion for carpentry and became a master of the craft.

Josh's struggles began when he first started experimenting with alcohol and marijuana in high school. His experimentation continued through his twenties, but later he

managed to straighten himself out. Josh started his own construction company; which became very successful. Josh was adored by all his customers and employees. He would always go out of his way to help anyone in need without any hesitation.

Josh had to undergo surgery and he was prescribed opiates to help manage the pain. Soon after, his behavior began to change. Josh became secretive and dismissive—a complete stranger.

Opioids robbed Kelly of her beloved husband. She watched Josh disappear into a world of lies, theft, and desperation; things she didn't think were possible. It broke her heart. On July 18, 2015, Josh lost his battle with opioid addiction. He died from intoxication of heroin laced with fentanyl, just 18 months after being prescribed opiates from his surgery. Josh was 37 years old.

JUSTIN MICHAEL PRATT—CHERRY, ILLINOIS

Justin was his family's youngest and only son. He was a cute, blonde-haired boy who could make you mad one minute and laugh the next. "Buddy," as he was known to friends and family, enjoyed fishing, snowmobiling, boating, four-wheeling and bonfires.

On November 11, 2011, Justin died from a heroin overdose. He was 26 years old when a friend found him dead in his apartment. Justin had struggled with addiction for over 10 years. He never wanted to talk about how bad it was and distanced himself from his family when he was actively using. His mother believes he had an undiagnosed mental illness, as he often struggled in school and other structured environments. It was due to this struggle that Justin began to self-medicate—it was his misguided attempt to cope.

One of the saddest aspects about Justin's addiction was how it eventually turned him into someone he never wanted to become and whom others didn't want to be around. His family held onto the hope that Justin would defeat his demons someday and go on to live a healthy and fulfilling life. On that fall day when he was found dead, that hope vanished and his family's life changed forever. Justin is missed every minute of everyday!

MICHAEL RAGONE—CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Michael Ragone struggled with heroin addiction for over 10 years. He died on January 17, 2016, of an accidental overdose in his hometown of Charlotte, NC, while visiting from Phoenix Arizona. He was 30 years old.

Michael loved fishing, football, poker, jokes, his girlfriend, family and friends. He was hysterically funny—his sense of humor was sarcastic and edgy. He used to sing songs in Italian that he had memorized. He could light up a room with his smile and big personality.

Michael was ashamed of his addiction and always thought he could beat it on his own. One of his last texts to his mother was,

"love u 2 Moms . . . Don't let fear control you . . . I know how bad this sounds but I promise I will not make you bury me. I'm going to outlive u."

He didn't mean to leave his family. It was an accident. Again, he was lured by a cunning drug that destroys impulse control. Again, he was crushed under the shame and stigma of being addicted. He used alone and died alone.

JAMES ATTICUS JOHN-PAUL-GEORGE & RINGO RALLS—EMMAUS, PENNSYLVANIA

On August 17th, 2014, James Atticus John-Paul-George & Ringo Ralls, died alone in his bedroom of a heroin overdose. On August

16th, he was alive and making an 18-year-old's plans: to retake the driver's permit test he had failed the week before, to get a job at the local tavern, and, to find an affordable music studio to record his rap demo.

Kids in town called him "Yung G"—short for 'Young Gun' or 'Young Ganja.' His reputation for extensive drug use was well-earned and paid for with numerous overdoses, drug-related injuries and repeated run-ins with the juvenile court system.

James' problems began when his father was diagnosed with cancer and died just two months later in their home. James was only 10 years old. Their father's death blew the Ralls family apart; James' older stepbrothers scattered and James and his mother moved from New York to Emmaus, Pennsylvania.

James didn't have any mental health or juvenile delinquency issues in New York, but when we moved to Emmaus he was introduced to marijuana by some older kids in town. At the age of 12, James became the youngest person ever to be expelled from the East Penn School District, where his mother had once graduated with honors. He was caught buying \$5 worth of marijuana for a friend at school.

That same year, James began attending an outpatient drug and alcohol program and seeing a therapist, as well as a psychiatrist, who diagnosed him with PTSD, depression, bipolar disorder (triggered by his depression medication), anxiety and polysubstance dependence. He was repeatedly hospitalized overnight for overdoses on various substances. In the fall of 2011, when James was 15, a sympathetic probation officer helped his mother strong-arm him into a treatment center, with the threat of lock-up if he didn't stay until his counselors felt he was ready to return home.

This turned out to be a miracle. Within four short months, James went from being immersed in drug culture to someone committed to recovery. He remained enthusiastically, happily sober until July 7, 2012, his late father's birthday, when James was struck in the foot by illegal fireworks that were being shot off at a pool party. The firework blew up in his sneaker and caused 2nd and 3rd degree burns. In the ER, James told the doctors that he had a substance abuse disorder and begged them not to use fentanyl, for fear of relapse. Despite this warning, he was forced to take various pain medications and hypnotic agents while undergoing medical treatment for his foot injury.

Six weeks after finishing his prescribed round of pain medications, James began to relapse into the abuse of illicit substances, which triggered further arrests, hospitalizations, another week in treatment, which he refused to stay, and in March of 2013, a synthetic acid overdose that landed him in the hospital with facial lacerations (from banging his head against a wall) and a broken collarbone (from a police officer wrestling him into an ambulance).

Miraculously, James did manage to get sober again, but his will to fight was depleted and he suffered repeated relapses until August 16th, when he and a fellow member of Narcotics Anonymous smoked heroin on the back porch of his mother's home while she was asleep. When his mother went to wake him up the next morning, he was gone—dead in his bed. Less than six months later the other young man died of a heroin overdose as well. His body was found on the bathroom floor of a local hotel.

JENNIFER REYNOLDS—SPENCER, INDIANA

In January 2009, a Pinellas County Deputy showed up at Sharon Blair's door and delivered the news that her daughter, Jennifer Reynolds, had died of a drug overdose. Jennifer was a bright, fun, and loving individual. She enjoyed cheerleading, speed skating and softball. She was very creative and artistic. Jennifer enjoyed staying current with fashion, hair, makeup and nails. She wanted to be a fashion designer and makeup artist. Jennifer was a delightful sister, daughter, friend and mother to her only son, Trey. As Jennifer battled her Substance Use Disorder, her passion shifted and she desired to help others who were also struggling with the same disease. She felt it takes one who has experienced it, to really know what addiction is all about and help people. Jennifer was very close to her mother and together, they fought a gallant battle to get to the other side of her addiction. However, the day of recovery never came. Sadly, Jennifer died January 15, 2009 in Largo, Florida.

Fueled by the pain of her loss and anger over what she felt was a preventable death, Jennifer's mother has spent the past seven years working as a social justice advocate and pushing the Jennifer Act, a bill named after her daughter, that would empower families to help loved ones who are struggling with addiction.

Jennifer Reynolds had been struggling with an addiction to prescription pills for over a decade before her death. Over the course of that time, Sharon Blair sought the state's help and filed five different petitions under the Marchman Act, which allows for the involuntary treatment of substance abusers for three days. Only one of the petitions was granted, and 72 hours wasn't enough time to help her daughter. According to Sharon, "Jennifer was dying in front of me."

DOMENIC & VINCENT ROSA—SEABROOK,
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Domenic and Vincent Rosa were the oldest of six children. They were good sons, brothers, cousins and friends. They both had big hearts and were remarkably compassionate people. They did mixed martial arts, skateboarded, cooked, played ice hockey for many years and taught skating clinics to kids who adored them. They were decent students and most importantly, they were respectful. They both began battling with substance abuse at the age of 14. They would manage to be "good" for a while—trying to manage their demons—before falling down again. Both boys eventually lost the fight.

Their family considers themselves blessed to have known Domenic and Vincent and are grateful for their short stay with them. They both gave their family the guidance to help others.

After losing his two eldest sons, Chucky Rosa vowed to make a difference through awareness and education. In an effort to reach those who are suffering from addiction or trying to help a loved one, he visits schools and treatment centers to tell his story and educate young audiences about the dangers of substance abuse. If Chucky can save at least one child by sharing his experience of loss, strength and hope, it is all worth it.

Domenic and Vincent were cremated and their family spread their ashes into the ocean. Now, Chucky wakes up each morning and takes a dip in the sea, regardless of the weather. He starts his day with both of them.

JESSICA MARY MILLER—GLENSHAW,
PENNSYLVANIA

Jessica Mary Miller died at the age of 31. Jessica struggled with addiction for 15 years and was also afflicted with severe mental illness.

Jessica died at the hands of her mentally ill boyfriend. She had been in the relationship for only five months and thought she found the "love" of her life. Jessica had been doing much better than she had been in the past, and her mother was hopeful she may be ready to overcome her struggles with addiction. But like many women who battle addiction, she desired a partner who would make her feel worthy and wanted. It didn't matter what they looked like, how old they were, or what they provided financially—she just needed assurance from a romantic relationship.

One night, after Jessica's boyfriend's unemployment check came in, they got into a fight about how the money was going to be spent. Her mother only assumes this was the main argument from the phone call she got from Jessica that night. After they spoke on the phone at approximately 10 p.m., the police were at Jessica's mother's door at 5 a.m. to tell her Jessica had been strangled and was found outside the steps of her apartment. At first, the police told her mother that Jessica died by suicide but the boyfriend was later charged and convicted for murder by strangulation and is now serving 25 years in jail.

Jessica's mother is writing to show that not only drug overdoses are killing our children, but also the fallout of both drug use and mental instability. Not only girlfriends or spouses, but the innocent children who can't fend for themselves when their parents are so engulfed in their addiction.

It has been three years since Jessica's death and there isn't a day that goes by that her mother doesn't think of her. Many might find this strange, but her mother does not hate the person who took Jessica's life, as he is just as sick as Jessica was. They chose to be together and she knew what he was like, and chose to stay. A mentally healthy person would not put herself in that position. This was not Jessica's only bad romantic relationship, they were all bad, and her addiction drove her from one bad relationship to another.

STEVE RAUKAR: TIRELESS
ADVOCATE FOR THE NORTHLAND

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Raukar of Kelly Lake, Minnesota for his 33 years of exceptional public service. Steve will be retiring from the St. Louis County, Minnesota Board of County Commissioners this January, and having worked with Steve on many projects in the Northland I want to wish him the very best in his much deserved retirement. In every one of Steve's many roles he goes above and beyond to ensure residents of Northeastern Minnesota receive the best possible services from St. Louis County.

Steve and I have worked together on many projects across St. Louis County, from an expansion project at the Port of Duluth/Superior

to Federal funding issues at the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, to the proposed Northern Lights Express Minneapolis to Duluth/Superior passenger rail line. He is a tireless advocate for his constituents and throughout his career has improved the lives of countless Minnesotans.

Steve is retiring from the St. Louis County Board of County Commissioners after serving 28 years on the board. Prior to that he served on the Hibbing school board and on the staff of then Minnesota Lt. Governor Rudy Perpich. He is no stranger to hard work and even after retirement will continue to serve on several boards of other organizations in the region.

I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in recognizing Commissioner Steve Raukar for his career of dedicated service to residents of Northeastern Minnesota.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
MRS. LUPITA CORTEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of one of Laredo's most passionate educators, Lupita Cortez.

Mrs. Cortez was born in Laredo, Texas on the 16th of February in 1956 to Teresa and Vicente Gutierrez. After graduating high school in 1974, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Texas A&M—Kingsville and a Master of Science in Educational Administration from Texas A&M International University. Her passion for learning led her to dedicate her life to teaching the children of Laredo through the Laredo Independent School District, where she worked to better students' lives for over 35 years.

Mrs. Cortez's devotion to the school district led her to assume the role of principal at the elementary, middle and high school levels. She ended her career in education at Don Jose Gallego Elementary School, a school given its name to appreciate and honor the contributions of her very own grandfather. Throughout her life and career, Mrs. Cortez, was always held in high regard because of her unwavering belief in love and selflessness, as well as her steadfast leadership. Through a combination of optimism and strong will, Mrs. Cortez worked hard to bring out the best in everyone in her company. This extended to her children as well, who have gone on to excel in the fields of education, medicine and law. She held herself to the highest of standards in both her professional and personal life, and this was reflected in the way that she interacted with those around her: treating everyone with the utmost kindness and respect.

Mrs. Cortez is survived by her parents, Teresa and Vicente Gutierrez; siblings, Vicente (Gloria) Gutierrez, Jr., Teresita Gutierrez, Margie Gutierrez, Javier (Elvira) Gutierrez and Nora (Ernesto) Meza; husband, Oscar Cortez; and children, Christine Alyson Cortez, James Vincent Cortez, M.D., Leslie Ann Cortez and Oscar Cortez, Jr. Her legacy will remain strong through the seeds of hope, wisdom and endurance that she planted in those around

her. The mentoring and guidance that she provided will persevere throughout the community she touched. Her passion for serving others through her love of education will not be forgotten, and her dedication to her work is a model that all should strive to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to remember the legacy of Lupita Cortez.

IN HONOR OF 100 YEARS OF ACTIVISM BY THE WOMEN'S CITY CLUB OF NEW YORK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Women's City Club of New York (WCCNY) in recognition of a century of activism. Committed to giving women a voice, WCCNY has been a leading advocate for women's rights and equality.

In 1915, women in New York still could not vote, but they took their citizenship very seriously. After realizing that they would soon gain the ballot, 100 suffragettes gathered in New York City to found WCCNY as a place where they could learn about issues and influence public policy. These women wasted no time in tackling the complex problems of their day, such as the abuse of women in sweatshops, intolerable tenement living conditions, and the lack of opportunities for many people in our society.

Many celebrated women joined the organization. Eleanor Roosevelt became a member when she was first lady of New York State and served as WCCNY's legislative director. Frances Perkins, a NYC labor leader who later became the first female cabinet member in the history of the United States when she was appointed as Franklin D. Roosevelt's Secretary of Labor. As Secretary of Labor, she helped create Social Security, which kept millions of seniors and disabled people out of poverty. Other notable and highly respected members included Alice Duer Miller, WCCNY's first president; Ida Tarbell, legendary muckraking journalist; Virginia Gildersleeve, a WWII WAVES commander and Dean of Barnard College; Dorothy Schiff, president and publisher of the New York Post; celebrated actress Helen Hayes; and nurse-midwife Ruth Watson Lubic, who was the founder of the National Association of Childbearing Centers and winner of a 1993 MacArthur "Genius Grant."

Since its inception in 1915, WCCNY has accomplished astounding feats for women in New York City and set a precedent for future generations of women's rights activists. In the early days, suffragettes took on many issues including a campaign to allow physicians to legally dispense birth control information in 1917, opening the nation's first free maternity center in 1918, and ensuring the passage of WCCNY's draft of New York State's first child labor laws in the 1940s. More recently, the organization has created videos that promote HIV/AIDS awareness among youth, worked to improve campaign finance reform laws, advo-

cated for national health care reform, and had a major role in the NYC Charter Revision.

Continuing to make a difference in New Yorkers' lives is at the heart of WCCNY's work. To ensure that government fairly and effectively serves all of the city's residents, WCCNY undertakes a rigorous process of identifying and analyzing major issues facing the city and state. Having reached its centennial year, citizen participation remains the organization's primary focus, along with the continuation of its game-changing advocacy on issues that most impact New Yorkers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Women's City Club of New York for a century of civic achievements and in celebrating its current and past members for their perseverance and advocacy in the fight to end injustice and ensure equality for women.

RECOGNIZING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE NATIONAL OPIOID EPIDEMIC

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to include in the RECORD today the personal stories of families from across the country that have been affected by the opioid and heroin epidemic. In the U.S. we lose 129 lives per day to opioid and heroin overdose. In my home state of New Hampshire I have learned so many heartbreaking stories of great people and families who have suffered from the effects of substance use disorder.

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I were joined by many of these courageous families who came to Washington to share their stories with Members of Congress and push for action that will prevent overdoses and save lives. Since then, we passed both the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act to provide much needed funding and critical policy changes to fight this epidemic.

The advocacy of these families truly is so important to leading to change in Washington and I am proud to preserve their stories.

TRAVIS CLAY ROSE—MARSHALL, VIRGINIA

Travis was the youngest of four children and a joy to all who met him, of which there were many; he was a very outgoing person. From a young age he could always make his family laugh.

While reflecting back on his life, it never seemed to be an easy one. Travis always seemed to have problems to overcome but for the most part, he managed to deal with them in a positive manner. Looking back over the years, I realize that Travis was like so many others who have anxiety and depression issues. He worked constantly to make those around him feel happy and comfortable while in the meantime he was struggling with his own issues. Travis started medicating or experimenting with drugs in his early teenage years. Unlike so many people who become addicted, he never had a problem with alcohol but worked his way through the lineup of marijuana, pills, and then opioids.

If there is one thing his family would want people to remember about Travis, it would

be his love for his family. He loved his mother, his brother, sisters, young nieces and nephews. Regardless of his own struggles, Travis always took the time to guide them through all aspects of their lives—he cared deeply.

His family was so hopeful about Travis beating his addiction and moving on with his life. He was in jail for a probation violation for about six months and then moved in with his sister for three months. His family believes Travis was clean for those nine months but unfortunately, after getting out of jail he had no health insurance, and he stopped taking medication for depression and anxiety.

Travis was making changes in his life and posting publicly about them. He talked about his desire to start a family and own a business of his own someday. He was one of the first people in our area to become a certified tree worker from the International Society of Arboriculture. He took pride in his job and was very good at it. Finally he seemed to be focusing on his own life. But it took just once. On May 12, 2015, Travis gave into temptation and it took his life.

That Easter, Travis bought his mother a beautiful pink dogwood tree. On Mother's Day, two days before he died, Travis gave his mother a yellow knockout rose bush. They are both planted in the memorial garden that his mother made in Travis' honor. They grow alongside other plants, stones, and features. His mother couldn't spend Christmas with Travis this year, so she put a solar powered tree on his memorial spot. It was the closest she could get to him.

Losing Travis has left a huge hole in his mother's world, but she knows his death has helped others to live and he will always remain in their hearts. He would be proud of the progress that has been made.

TONY SABAT—CLEVELAND, OHIO

Tony Sabat lost his battle with substance use disorder and is now one of the #129aDay who lose their lives to this disease. Tony is not defined by his disease; he was so much more than that. He was a loving son, brother, nephew, grandson, cousin, and friend. He cared more for others than he did himself. There wasn't anything he wouldn't do to help his friends and family.

At the age of seven, his family noticed that Tony was exhibiting some "red flag" behaviors. As the years went on Tony suffered from terrible mood swings and bouts of anger. His family took him to see a child psychiatrist when he was 12 because he was frequently depressed, angry, and suffering from terrible insomnia. Tony was diagnosed with rapid cycling bipolar disorder; therefore, he was put on antidepressant medications and a mood stabilizer. At 13, we put him in an intensive outpatient program for a week. By this time Tony was frustrated with the medications and their side effects and began engaging in self injurious behavior. Tony's family thought that he was taking his medication but discovered that he would hide his pills under the carpet in his room. Instead of complying with taking his meds, he opted to self-medicate with marijuana, and then alcohol.

By 20 years old, Tony had a full-blown addiction to alcohol. While trying to detox at home, he suffered grand mal seizures and was hospitalized for a week. Tony was hallucinating and delusional for the first several days of this hospitalization. In February of 2009, he made his first phone call to get on the waiting list at a treatment facility. He was told the wait could be up to two weeks, but the next day they had a bed for him.

After completing the 28 day program, Tony was back on his medications and had a great outlook on life. He was committed to going to AA meetings and living a sober life. This lasted for about two years.

After having dental surgery, Tony was prescribed Percocet and started to backslide. It became apparent that he was using the pain medication more than was prescribed. His path to intravenous heroin started with abusing prescription opioids and Xanax. Tony's life started spiraling out of control from his heroin use.

On July 2, 2014, after a self-injurious incident and having a 72 hour psychiatric hold put on him, Tony once again made the call to get on the waiting list for treatment. The next day he entered his second treatment program, but this time for his opioid addiction. Tony completed another 28 day program, and afterwards opted to go into sober living—to be away from the triggers in his hometown. After six weeks of living there, Tony was kicked out. He decided it would be best to stay in that town and moved into his own apartment. Two weeks later Tony lost his job and was in a full-blown alcohol and intravenous heroin relapse.

On October 13, 2014, Tony left for his third and final stint in treatment. This time he was in treatment for 40 days and returned home November 13th. 48 hours later, on November 15th, Tony died of an overdose from heroin laced with fentanyl. He was 25 years old.

BOBBY SATRE—JEFFERSONTON, VIRGINIA

Bobby Satre died of a heroin overdose on April 18, 2015, after a 13-year struggle with addiction. He was 31 years old. His addiction to heroin did not start with prescription medication use as it does for so many, but emerged after years of experimenting with various drugs.

Even as a young boy, Bobby was curious about so many things. His family first realized he was using drugs at the end of his senior year of high school, when they found a marijuana pipe—he denied that it was his. A few months after that incident, Bobby left to attend James Madison University, his top choice school. During college he got into Crystal Meth. He called his family one day in tears saying he had been up for days and that he needed help. They were in shock and eager to get Bobby home. Bobby then attended a 30-day treatment center and his family were hopeful that this would mark the end of his drug use.

Although, Bobby attempted to return to his studies at RAU, he never completed his degree there. Instead, he attended a community college where he completed an associate's degree and graduated with honors.

While back at home Bobby worked in restaurants and other random jobs to pay the bills. It was during this time that he got involved in heroin. Over the next several years, Bobby was arrested several times for heroin possession, and overdosed several times. On many of these occasions he agreed to wear a wire while going out on buys in order to reduce his charges. Our family was in private agony—we couldn't believe that we had a child who would go so far as to put a needle in his arm.

During an annual weekend trip to Green Bay, WI, for an NFL game, Bobby's family received a call saying that Bobby had overdosed and was in bad shape. Bobby was placed in the ICU and was barely hanging on; it took him several days to stabilize. Afterwards Bobby was admitted to another treatment program. Again, his family were confident that once he completed the program

he would be on the fast track to recovery. When Bobby got out he was attending NA meetings and working the program. He landed a very good sales job with a packaging firm in Maryland and moved into a condo a few years later. He also had a very special woman in his life with whom he'd been friends with for several years. They began to discuss marriage. His sales numbers at work increased as the months went by. Finally, everything seemed to be going right.

Bobby died alone in his condo after a night out celebrating a friend's birthday. His friends asked him to stay over but he wanted to go home. Those 13 years when he was battling addiction were a living hell for his entire family. They didn't think that anyone else could possibly understand and they feared being judged by both friends and family.

Bobby told his family how much he hated heroin and what power it had over him. He said it invaded his dreams—that he thought about it every single day. The only comfort I can find while dealing with this grief is the knowledge that he is free from his struggles with heroin and finally at peace.

EMMETT J. SCANNELL—MANSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

On April 20, 2016 Emmett J. Scannell lost his battle to Substance Use Disorder and died of a heroin overdose. He was 20 years old. Emmett was the average American teen; he loved video games and BMX biking. He was a caring, funny, smart young man with the potential for greatness. Emmett was the adored older brother to Zachary (age 18) and Alice (age 9). He had a smile and charm that could light up a room—but heroin stole that from him. As teenagers often do, Emmett experimented with marijuana in high school, but after a bad experience with a synthetic substance referred to as "spice" or "K2," he entered recovery and was sober for his Junior and Senior year of high school. Emmett went on to graduate from Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School in May of 2014 as a National Honor Society scholar with a 4.27 GPA.

In September of 2014, Emmett went to Worcester State University to study Computer Science. His biggest worry at the time was leaving his high school sweetheart behind. Within six weeks of beginning college, heroin entered Emmett's life. Within eighteen short months, heroin stole Emmett from his family. During those long months, Emmett's mother did everything in her power to help him, and if love alone could have saved him—Emmett would still be here. Unfortunately, in the early stages of his struggle with addiction, Emmett's mother was unaware of the trips he took to the hospital due to overdoses—HIPAA laws prevented her from accessing that information because he was eighteen. As Emmett's disease progressed, adequate treatment programs were cost prohibitive (upwards of \$30,000 out of pocket) and nothing beyond a 5-day detox program was considered "medically necessary." Outpatient day programs, private counseling, even the monthly Vivitrol shot were no match for this disease.

Since losing her son in April, Emmett's mother has been very open about the circumstances leading up to his death—about his struggle with Substance Use Disorder and specifically with heroin. This disease is not something to be ashamed of or hidden. Substance Use Disorder is a disease that has to be brought out into the light and addressed. We are losing loved ones every day to this horrible epidemic. Emmett's mother has vowed not to let her son's death be in

vain. She is working to stop the stigma, promote awareness, promote education, promote early intervention and promote prevention as well as lobby for access to treatment for all suffering from this disease. She always told Emmett that he was her sunshine. Emmett's mother will continue to shine that light into the lives of others in his honor.

CANDACE BROOKE SHELTON—WISE, VIRGINIA

Candace was such a special child. She was a pleaser; she loved to make people happy and feel good. She made friends easily and people loved to be around her. However, Candace did keep a lot inside too and would hide her pain in many different ways. When she was going through adolescence, she began to eat to cover the pain she felt. She struggled a lot with insecurities.

In her early twenties, Candace was dealing with identity issues and decided to confirm what her family already knew—she was gay. Candace never wanted to disappoint anyone and felt like she was letting people down. This led to a lot of wrong decisions including drinking, doing drugs, and texting and driving one night which led to a near fatal car accident. She had flipped her vehicle several times and was in critical condition with lots of internal injuries. They had to amputate her left leg and she was in a coma for almost two months.

Finally it happened, defying all odds—Candace awoke. The nurses called her their "miracle girl." But then Candace had to come to the reality that her life had changed dramatically; she could no longer walk. She struggled with trying to adjust to a different way of life. She tried a prosthetic leg, but due to the injuries in her right leg, she never really gained use of it. Candace left the hospital on lots of medication, including morphine and Fentanyl patches. She was weaned off those drugs, but it was the beginning of the addiction that would eventually end her life.

Candace continued with pain medications, but at this time she was prescribed Oxycodone, and later Xanax for anxiety. Afterwards, she had moved in with a person she had met on Facebook and they were in a relationship. It wasn't the best situation for Candace because this person was abusing substances; adding fuel to the flame.

Candace sent her mother a text on a Monday night, asking if she could drive her to her doctor's appointment the next day. Candace's mother told her she was not able to and ending up arguing. Candace ended up finding a way to the doctors, where she was prescribed more pain medication and Xanax. She texted her mother that evening, but she was being stubborn and was going to let her stew for a bit. It was the day before Thanksgiving and thought she would just make-up with Candace when they were together. But that day never came.

Her mother received a call around 3 a.m. Thanksgiving morning that Candace had passed away that night from an overdose. The autopsy confirmed that Candace had taken a lethal dose of both her medications. Apparently she had started to overdose the previous day, falling out of her wheelchair. The people Candace was with kept putting her back to bed, instead of calling 9-1-1; they were afraid of getting Candace's medications taken away. The girl Candace was living with overdosed just two days later on the same medication that Candace had.

Candace's family's lives changed forever that Thanksgiving morning in 2013.

CODY, SHUMWAY—HEMET, CALIFORNIA

Cody was his mother's first born son. He was a loving, caring, brilliant, gifted and

funny individual. He was a joy to be around and had many friends. Cody began experimenting with drugs and alcohol at the age of 14 and very quickly we realized that he had a serious problem. After two stints in treatment during his junior year of high school, Cody stayed off of hard drugs for 15 years.

Cody was a musical and math genius and after college he moved to Hawaii to become a high school math teacher. He was living his dream of surfing big waves and working a job that he loved. His students loved him as well.

Cody got injured surfing and was prescribed Vicodin. After 15 years sober from hard drugs, Cody fell back into his disease of addiction almost immediately. He finally agreed to go to treatment and while he was there he helped many others with their issues. He was such a likeable guy that people enjoyed his company no matter where he was. After 10 months of hard-won sobriety, Cody lost his battle to the disease of addiction on July 26, 2012, just two days after completing his Master's Degree. He died of an overdose of heroin and alcohol.

CALEB SMYTHIA—LOUDON, TENNESSEE

Caleb Smythia, oldest of four, was his mother's biggest fan and the idol of his brother and two sisters. Caleb was a great cook, loved all kinds of music and had a passion for playing the guitar. Music became so much a part of Caleb's life because he found it to be therapeutic.

Caleb's struggles began at age 16. He went through many rough patches and began abusing methamphetamine. When objects and money kept missing at home, his mother filed an unruly charge against him and Caleb became a child of the state. He spent over a year and a half in three different foster homes and one group home. Unfortunately, Caleb was never placed in a treatment facility, even though he relapsed and tested positive for five different drugs in his system.

When Caleb eventually went home, he seemed to have his life back on track. After graduating high school, Caleb had hopes of going to culinary school. However, within days after graduating, Caleb returned to his old friends who were abusing methamphetamine and pills.

Eventually, problems with Caleb were so bad that his mother told him he was no longer welcome in her home. One late night in the pouring rain, Caleb knocked on the door. His mother told Caleb she would take him to the ER or to a treatment facility but he couldn't come into the house. Even though Caleb was at such a low point and begged for help, the ER turned him away.

Another night Caleb arrived at his mother's door bloodied and broken. Caleb had been beaten and tortured for two hours by eight members of the local college baseball team. One of the players had given Caleb \$35 and asked him to get Percocet. Caleb was so deep in his addiction that he kept the money in order to get a fix. To retaliate, the team forced a mutual friend to trick Caleb into another drug deal. When Caleb went to meet the friend, he was abducted, thrown in the back of a truck, and held down by his throat. The baseball team drove Caleb to a field where he was kicked and stomped while curled in a fetal position. Caleb begged for his life and promised to pay them \$50 if they let him go. The next day, two of the boys came to Caleb's mother's house to get the money. One of them was holding the same baseball bat they had used to break Caleb's knee the night before. Three of the eight boys were charged and convicted of felony assault for which they received 10 years pro-

bation. Caleb refused to testify against his attackers in court because he felt like he deserved the beating.

Caleb's family soon moved and everything seemed to be well again. However, Caleb's mother worked two jobs and didn't know that Caleb was getting into his grandmother's pain pills. Caleb went to live 200 miles away with his father. Unfortunately, Caleb wasn't kept safe—his father also had a substance abuse disorder. Caleb overdosed and died on Christmas morning of 2015, after being sold black market pills that contained fentanyl.

RYAN JOSEPH SOUDER—LINWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Ryan Souder died in October of 2012 to a heroin overdose. In September, Ryan was at his lowest; he was homeless and couldn't get a job so he just walked around all day. He asked his mother for help and, like so many times before, she called every place that she could think of but there were no beds available. She took him to the emergency room and the doctor wasn't very helpful. He said that if Ryan wanted to get sober, he would have to do it on his own. The doctor gave them some medication to help with the withdrawals and Ryan and his mother sat in a hotel room together for almost a week while he detoxed. The doctor said to watch him. Many times over the course of that week Ryan's mother stood over him while he slept, just to make sure he was still breathing. Days later, she was finally able to get a bed for Ryan and they drove to the treatment center.

Ten days into detox Ryan called and begged his mother to come get him. She told him that he needed to stay and get better. The director of the treatment center called her a few hours later to say that Ryan had called one of his friends instead. The man was on his way to pick Ryan up.

Within a month Ryan died alone in that "friend's" guest room. Ryan had just turned 21.

Ryan was adored by everyone that knew him; he was funny, handsome, smart, compassionate, and athletic. Ryan was a son, brother, best friend, nephew, and grandson. He loved his family very much and was always asking after everyone, he even called from jail and while he was living on the streets.

Ryan dropped out of high school during his junior year in high school and never got the chance to walk at graduation or get his diploma. He didn't go to prom. Ryan never got a driver's license. He will never watch either of his sisters get married. Ryan will never do any of the things that his mother, always dreamt he would. His death was a crushing blow to our whole family.

THOMAS "TOMMY" SOWELL—JANE LEW,
WEST VIRGINIA

Tommy was born June 11, 1991, and passed away on February 13, 2016, from an accidental overdose of heroin laced with fentanyl. Tommy's addiction likely began when he was prescribed oxycodone after undergoing surgery for a hernia during 9th grade.

Tommy was his parents' youngest child—he was a good son, person, and brought joy to all of our lives. Tommy loved his family and tried hard to overcome his struggles with addiction. He was sweet and sensitive, respectful and loving. He was physically strong yet tender-hearted and could be fiercely funny, witty and ornery—all at the same time. Tommy always made his family laugh with his spot-on impressions and general goofiness. His smile could light up a room and his

grin would melt anyone's heart. Tommy was always able to conquer anything he set out to do, except his battle with addiction. His family knows that given the time Tommy would have been able to beat it.

MICHAEL "MIKE" JAMES TURNER—NORWALK,
CONNECTICUT

So many people think "drunk" or "junkie" when they see someone suffering from addiction. What they can't see is a person that is stuck in a body they can no longer control.

Mike Turner suffered from addiction. He was also type 1 diabetic and had a Chiari malformation in his brain. He had a long history of alcohol and drug abuse and in the end, it was heroin that took him. Those were Mike's labels, but that is not who Mike was—the man he was, was an affectionate, exciting and hilarious dad, boyfriend, son, brother, and uncle. He had integrity, he was honest, and charitable. Mike participated in Chiari Malformation Cancer, Autism and Addiction events. He planned on going back to school to become an addiction counselor.

Mike acknowledged his issues and fought to better himself in the best way he knew how. Mike even went through a parenting course to try to be a better dad. He loved his kiddos—Mike Jr. and Amber—more than anything. He was all about his family and looked forward to weekly Sunday dinners at his mom's house.

Mike was a funny guy—pretty clumsy and always getting into mischief. He was so positive and encouraged everyone around him in their pursuits. Everyone who knew the real Mike loved him.

Mike had his demons, however, and he knew that overcoming his addiction was the most important thing. As long as he was using he was useless to his kids, his family, and his job. Mike knew the hurt his addiction caused others and that destroyed him. It devastated his family to witness his hurt and share his pain. Mike tried detoxing and treatment numerous times. He was part of a group called the SNAKES—Soldiers Needing Accountability Keeping Each Other Sober in Christ. In April 2016, he graduated from a program with 9 months clean.

On April 22, 2016, just three weeks after his graduation, Mike was living with his girlfriend, Theresa, again. He woke up with a start that morning and said he had low blood sugar. By 8:30 a.m., his sugar was up and he said he was feeling much better.

Mike's last message to Theresa was at 9:17 a.m.: "no worries im alive :cP." Theresa called him after her meeting around 10:30. He didn't answer so she called again . . . still no answer. She kept trying. Theresa had another meeting that ended around 11:45. She tried calling again and there was still no answer. Fearful that his sugar had dropped too low, she ran home. When Theresa got home around 12:30 p.m., she opened the door and found Mike.

Mike had relapsed after being 9 months clean. Theresa had no idea that he had been using. He overdosed some time between 9:17 and 10:30 that morning, on April 22, 2016. He was 33 years old.

TRIBUTE TO JAYNE ARMSTRONG

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jayne

Armstrong of West Des Moines, Iowa, for being named the Iowa Advocate of the Year by the Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners.

Each year, the Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners recognizes women who have greatly contributed to the business landscape in the state. Jayne, as District Director of the Small Business Administration in Iowa, advocates for small businesses as they seek financing, developmental training and counseling to help develop and grow. With more women owning small businesses, Jayne is front and center, guiding them through the difficult process of starting their own business. It is because of Iowans like Jayne I'm proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Jayne for her commitment to small business owners throughout the third district. Her tireless work in advocacy on their behalf is crucial in helping Iowa's economy thrive. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jayne and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

HONORING STEVEN M.
CIBOROWSKI OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor my constituent, Steven M. Ciborowski, on his retirement after more than 35 years of civilian service with the United States Army.

Mr. Ciborowski served as an engineering technician with the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) and was a crucial player in support of force protection activities for ECBC's Critical Lab Infrastructure. He served as the focal point for fire and safety coordination for various critical security inspections and greatly contributed to the success of those programs.

Mr. Ciborowski's dedication and professionalism touched the lives of many people and helped the ECBC fulfill its mission to be the Nation's premier provider of innovative chemical and biological solutions.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate Steven M. Ciborowski upon his retirement after more than 35 years of service to the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEWISVILLE
ISD'S MARCHING BANDS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Flower Mound, Marcus, and Hebron High School bands for their noteworthy success at the 2016 UIL Class 6A Marching Band Contest. These Lewisville ISD bands achieved the first, second and third

place honors, setting a first-time UIL record for a single school district to win the top three spots in the largest classification. Their outstanding performances were made possible through the talents, perseverance and hard work of the band students under the incredible leadership of Brent Biskup at Flower Mound, Andy Sealey at Hebron, and Amanda Drinkwater at Marcus.

The Flower Mound High School band won the state marching contest for the first time in the school's history as well as secured its second consecutive top spot at the Bands of America Super Regional competition four days earlier. Their rise to victory is no doubt due to their creative and extraordinary dedication to their craft. Hebron High School took a narrow second place, and their achievements this year have served to inspire the students around them. Marcus High School finished in third place, and had previously been consecutive five-time winners. Their long-term success reflects well on the organization and the students and parents who make the show possible.

It is a privilege to represent these bands and the Lewisville Independent School District in the U.S. House of Representatives. I look forward to seeing more great accomplishments from LISD and their bands and wish them the best of luck in all future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE NATIONAL OPIOID EPIDEMIC

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to include in the RECORD today the personal stories of families from across the country that have been affected by the opioid and heroin epidemic. In the U.S. we lose 129 lives per day to opioid and heroin overdose. In my home state of New Hampshire I have learned so many heartbreaking stories of great people and families who have suffered from the effects of substance use disorder.

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I were joined by many of these courageous families who came to Washington to share their stories with Members of Congress and push for action that will prevent overdoses and save lives. Since then, we passed both the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act to provide much needed funding and critical policy changes to fight this epidemic.

The advocacy of these families truly is so important to leading to change in Washington, and I am proud to preserve their stories.

JONATHAN SPARKS—LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

Jonathan was a sweet young man who started off on a rocky note when he was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma cancer at the age of four. He battled this for a year and a half, which involved invasive treatments such as a stem cell transplant. His prognosis was very grim, but thanks be to God he made it and entered Kindergarten right before his 6th birthday.

It took a long time for Jonathan's stamina to improve after undergoing such intensive

treatment and as a result, he was bullied as a child. He just couldn't keep up with the other kids during activities. This made him compassionate towards others who were less fortunate than he was, and he would take up for these people or help them in any way he could. Jonathan was always a people person. He would and could strike up a conversation with anyone; he felt just as comfortable talking to a politician as he did a homeless man.

During his teenage years Jonathan felt left out and like he didn't fit in with his peers. He struggled with academics due to what he had been exposed to during the cancer treatments. He was forced out of private school because of this learning disability. He went to public school his junior year, and in trying to fit in he fell in with a crowd he should have stayed away from. As soon as he turned 18, he dropped out of school during his senior year.

Jonathan was passionate about basketball and cooking. He never excelled at basketball because, again, he just couldn't keep up. He suffered from severe back pain due to radiation. But he knew stats about basketball that you wouldn't believe. He loved a lot of NBA teams, but his favorite was Miami Heat. Jonathan could cook anything; he was an avid food network watcher and could have given some of those people a run for their money. He watched "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives," and loved to eat at the places where Guy, the host, did his shows. His dream was to become a chef.

Sometime between the ages of 18 and 20, Jonathan was introduced to Xanax. His mother assumes it was in order to ease his back pain. From there he got into heroin. She does not know when he started using because he was good at keeping it a secret from our family. He came home in April of 2015 and stayed home all summer. He never went anywhere; he just hung out at home watching cooking shows and basketball games.

In August he started working at Pizza Hut. Around the middle of the month he was called by some friends who didn't have a car and needed a ride to the hospital—they were about to have a baby. Two weeks later he spent the Saturday of Labor Day weekend with these two women and their newborn. They went to the local skate park that evening to buy heroin. According to his friends, Jonathan went into the restroom to use and when he emerged he was unable to walk. The women helped him into his own car and then drove him around for 2 or 3 hours thinking that he would sleep it off. Finally, they drove him to the ER and dumped him in front of the door. By this time, Jonathan's body tissue was dying and his organs were shutting down. Jonathan was in a coma for 20 days and died 6 days after his 21st birthday, on September 26, 2015.

NICHOLAS "NICKY" DANIEL TOTH V—PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO

Nicholas Daniel Toth V was born on December 27, 1995 in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. He was a miracle as far as his parents were concerned—they literally smothered the poor kid. Nicky was his parents shining star. Never in their life did they ever think they would only have 19 years with him.

Nicky was the oldest of his two brothers. The Toth family was blessed with two more sons, Jackson and Harrison. Life was perfect. They were all raised in a beautiful mountain town. We volunteered tirelessly in our community. As parents, the Toths didn't just go to every sporting event their boys had, they coached them. You name it and they did it for their boys. They ate organic foods and

planted their own gardens. Life was effortless and delightful.

All of this changed one awful night when Nicky was in 6th grade and sexually violated by one of his peers. After that he was never the same. That same boy went on to bully Nicky and the school district did nothing. The Toth family received no community or school support. They felt abandoned but Nicky felt it the most. Following that year, the Toths decided as a family to move back east to New Jersey in order to be closer to friends and family where they felt they could get the most support, and more importantly, save their Nicholas.

Unfortunately, that one awful night shaped Nicky's teenage path. He didn't talk about it; he wouldn't and couldn't. Instead, Nicky started self-medicating—beginning with alcohol and marijuana. From there he moved to Xanax that he got from other parents' medicine cabinets. Then, Nicky discovered the love of his life, heroin. The Toth family was in turmoil. Nicky was in and out of treatment centers and jail. He missed multiple holidays. He wanted nothing more than to be happy and healthy.

During his active addiction, Nicky was in jail from January 2014 to June 2014 and again from July 2014 to February 2015. He finally came home March 20, 2015. The entire Toth family was so hopeful but also scared. Nicky was at least safe while in jail. He participated in outpatient programs and got a job. His family had no idea he started using again.

In April 2015, Nicky overdosed in his family's home and lived to see another day. Following that night, Nicky went to inpatient treatment in South New Jersey. His family were so hopeful because Nicky completed his 30 day program and organized himself into a sober living home. The person in charge said he had never had such a tenacious applicant. Nicky was ready to start his life. He lived in the house for two weeks.

On Friday, June 12, 2015, Nicky's mother went to see him after work and took him to dinner. She kissed his face, hugged his big shoulders and laughed together for the last time. On the morning of June 14th, the local police came to the Toth family's home to inform them that they lost their son. He was found in Newark. He was all alone.

Aidan Vanderheof—MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

Aidan Vanderheof grew up surrounded by love and attention. His life had bumps along the way, most of which were created by his family. Aidan's parents divorced when he was about two years old. He lived with mother but had a lot of visitation time with his dad. When he was about twelve, Aidan went to live with his dad in Bismarck and started playing JV football. He had loads of friends and got along easily with everyone. Aidan went back to live with his mother when he was sixteen.

Like any teenager, Aidan pushed the boundaries. He bought a pick-up truck the second he got his driver's license and would haul around as many of his friends as could fit in it. Around that time many family arguments started to emerge and Aidan began having trouble in school. Many nights he wouldn't come home, but he always had an excuse—he fell asleep on a friend's couch, for example. Over time, his absences increased at home and at school. Aidan's mother had to report him as a runaway to the police too many times to count. Meanwhile, some of his friends, parents would hide him and cover for him.

Aidan came under the supervision of the juvenile criminal justice system when he

was caught using a stolen credit card. For a period of time he wore an ankle monitor and seemed able to comply with the rules until he had the opportunity to break them. During this time, Aidan was referred to the Child and Adolescent Partial Hospitalization (CAPH) program through our local hospital. The program was set up during school hours and included group counseling, individual therapy, and schoolwork. His mother also worked with Aidan in family therapy and in-home counseling. He adhered to the schedule and completed the program.

Aidan was a fantastic liar. Principals, counselors, and many others got caught in his web. While under court supervision, he took random drug tests and would frequently test positive for benzodiazepines, amphetamines, and marijuana. At the time, his mother believed that his substance use wasn't all that serious because they were all prescriptions and she knew a lot of kids experimented with them.

Aidan was caught in the act of yet another crime. Prior to that, he had done things his mother could not prove: stolen all of her valuable jewelry, taken a bottle of amphetamines prescribed to her by her doctor, broken the window out of her vehicle the night before Mother's Day to steal change and cigarettes, stolen his grandparent's car when they were on vacation and busted a door to get alcohol.

When Aidan was finally placed in juvenile detention, his mother was scared to death for him and visited him once a week. Later, Aidan was placed in a Youth Correction Center in Mandan, North Dakota. His mother went to see him a number of times. Eventually, Aidan was placed at Prairie Learning Center in Raleigh, North Dakota where he spent about six months. All reports from his primary counselor were positive. Like everywhere else Aidan had been, he got along with everybody. Soon after, Aidan graduated from the program.

In the middle of June 2015, Aidan was caught on a surveillance camera using a stolen credit card in Bismarck. His dad saw it on the Police Department's Facebook page and contacted Aidan and his mother. Aidan and his father made an appointment to visit with a detective about the situation but right before the appointment, Aidan disappeared.

On July 4, 2015, Aidan's mother was awakened by a pounding on the door. A police officer stood by the door and informed the family that Aidan was found dead. He was only 19. Initially the police thought that Aidan had died of an accidental OxyContin overdose. There was a shoelace around his arm and a spoon near his body. He was found in the basement of a home. The people who were with him admitted they had been using and would test positive for OxyContin.

In the end, it was determined that Aidan died of a heroin overdose with methamphetamine in his system. The state has struggled to prosecute those with him when he died. His death was not quick, and no one called 9-1-1 until after he was dead.

T.J. WADSWORTH—COLLEGEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

T.J. Wadsworth grew up to be curious, friendly, smart, had many friends, and was a good student. In middle school, T.J. was one of the kids that came home after the drug presentation and talked about how bad drugs are, and that he would never do them. Less than one year later, in 8th or 9th grade, T.J. started smoking marijuana and it is believed he started drinking alcohol at the age of 16 or 17, at parties with his high school friends.

Until his senior year, T.J. was doing what some teenagers do; go to school every day, complete schoolwork, work a part-time job, and then smoke/drink with friends on the weekends.

During his senior year of high school T.J. was high and/or drunk and offered a pill. It was that one pill, that one decision that sealed T.J.'s fate. Things for T.J. quickly escalated and later spiraled out of control when he went off to college. When T.J. would come home for vacation he was out every night.

T.J.'s grades for the first two years of college had been acceptable. He later joined a fraternity and he was having more fun than he should, and not studying the way he should have been. His mother later found out that T.J. stopped attending his classes the fall semester of his junior year and his friends were concerned.

When he came home for Christmas break his junior year, T.J.'s mother was so worried about him that she set up an intervention and offered to take him to a treatment facility. She did not know at that time how serious T.J.'s addiction was. T.J. stayed out every night and always appeared to be drunk or high. The many times she tried to talk to him about drugs he always denied that he had a problem, saying he was home from college and just having fun with his friends.

Instead of returning to school the spring semester of his junior year, T.J. was admitted to an inpatient treatment facility for 30 days. His mother came to find out that what started in his senior year of high school, with trying that pill, turned into a heroin addiction two years later.

After completing treatment, T.J. stayed clean for about six weeks and turned to drugs after several stressful events. His mother will never forget walking into the basement and finding him on the couch in the dark crying. T.J. hated what drugs had done to his life. After two months of taking drug tests on a regular basis, which he would periodically failed, T.J. went back into treatment. This time T.J. only stayed for two weeks.

When talking with T.J.'s drug counselor about why he released earlier than expected, she said that T.J. seemed to know what he had to do and had told her that he did not want to end up dead or in jail. Four days after he was released from the second treatment facility, his mother came home from work early after not being able to get in touch with T.J. She went to his bedroom, but the door was locked. She banged and screamed his name. Finally she called 9-1-1, so they could break into his room. The police told her a few minutes after breaking into his room that T.J. died from a heroin overdose. That was May 28, 2014.

MARK WALSH—BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mark loved spending time with his family and cared for his siblings like they were his own. Whenever he found the time, he worked on his cars and motorcycles. He went above and beyond for anyone who needed help, whether that meant getting them a meal or helping them find a place to stay for the night. One might say he was generous to a fault.

At any given time in his life, Mark was fighting for or against something. At an early age, he was in a house fire and was later deemed a hero for running back into the burning building to alert others to the exit. The incident left Mark so badly burned that he had to stay in Shriners' Hospital for several months. The physical scars from this event influenced how people treated him.

Growing up, Mark was teased about his appearance by kids who didn't know better. Even though these interactions emotionally hurt him, Mark would never let you know it. Mark was private about his pain throughout his life.

Mark was the second oldest in a family of five. Raised in a single parent home, he tried taking on the role of a father figure when he hit his teen years. Mark wanted to give his siblings everything they didn't have and make their lives better. Academics weren't interesting to him, so Mark dropped out of school and began selling marijuana, which got him into trouble with the law. Mark's license was suspended but he never paid the fines or stopped driving. He was sent to jail several times for driving without a license.

Once Mark had a criminal record, finding a job was difficult. Fortunately, his extended family had a few businesses where he was able to get work but Mark couldn't hold down a job for any extended period of time. Between stints in and out of jail, he dabbled in using prescription medication. In 2005 at the age of 22 and in-between relapses, Mark had a beautiful son named Travis. Unfortunately, Mark wasn't ready to be a father and his family watched as he struggled with substance abuse.

In 2007, Mark met and married his wife, Sarah. She had a son named Patrick who was the same age as Travis. Mark and Sarah were both in recovery and worked beautifully together. Their early years were some of his best. Mark went to work every day, supported his family, and made time to indulge in his passion for fixing cars and motorcycles. In 2008, Mark and Sarah gave birth to a gorgeous daughter, Emma Grace.

Some blissful years later, a hand injury put Mark out of work. He underwent surgery, which came with a prescription for pain medication. The downward spiral began again. Mark checked into treatment various times and kept getting into trouble with the law. His drinking got out of control, along with his substance use. Mark and Sarah moved to Cape Cod where her parents were living for some extra support, but that only lasted for so long. They weren't able to overcome their addictions there together. Mark and Sarah separated and the years that followed were tumultuous ones filled with stints in more treatment and attempts at recovery.

In January 2016, Mark went to a program and loved the month he spent there, doing the hard work of dealing with all of the emotional baggage that comes with the disease of addiction. Mark was grateful to have a support system of friends and doctors who were there to walk him through the difficult process of recovery. However, within days of coming back home, he felt himself slipping and made a call to Malibu to arrange a return. The day before his flight, Mark overdosed at home alone.

We need reform in our country so that those struggling with addiction can have their needs met. If insurance had covered treatment for Mark closer to home, perhaps he would not have had to travel all the way to California in order to receive the services he so desperately needed. Maybe Mark would still be with us today.

COREY WATSON—GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Growing up, Corey had dyslexia and other learning challenges. He was shy, quiet, and very sensitive. He loved animals and was always sympathetic to others. All of that changed on his 13th birthday on September 13, when he got hit by a car while riding his bike. He landed on his head and was taken to

the ER but they didn't find anything wrong with him.

Over the next two weeks, however, he changed drastically. His personality went from painfully shy to aggressive and he became a risk taker—it was frightening. His mother took him to many neurologists but nobody could help. It seemed like there was no way to fix his injured brain. Corey then became depressed and got into drugs. He went in and out of the Brattleboro retreat in Vermont, including a period during which he went to school there until he started committing crimes and got caught up in the legal system, which never seems to help. This cycle was hard to watch because there was nothing his mother could do to help him, even though she tried everything: different therapists, medications, specialists, etc. In September, he started using heroin and fell in love with a girl. Some time after that, they decided to get clean together and admitted themselves into rehab in Boston. His mother picked Corey up on Christmas Eve so he could come and spend the holidays in Massachusetts with his family. His mother had never seen him so happy.

One day, Corey called his mother around 5 o'clock and asked her to wire him some money for laundry and snacks. He had only been in the step-down unit for a few days after spending three weeks in a secure treatment facility. He had more freedom in the sober house—he was getting himself to and from meetings and appointments. He took the money his mother sent him and used it to buy drugs. Corey's roommate found him unresponsive. They did manage to revive him a couple of hours later but he never regained consciousness. Corey was brain-dead for three days before he was removed from life-support on February 1, 2014. Corey died of an unintentional overdose.

WILLIAM "WILL" HEAD WILLIAMS—NEW YORK, NEW YORK

William Head Williams died of an accidental overdose shortly before his 24th birthday. Two years before his death, his parents first became aware that their son was using heroin. At the time William was already seeing a psychotherapist and over the next two years his family added various additional support systems to help William's struggle. These included an addiction psychiatrist, outpatient treatment, treatment with Suboxone, inpatient detox, inpatient treatment, outpatient treatment, outpatient detox, treatment with Vivitrol, more outpatient treatment, another inpatient treatment, more outpatient treatment, well over a dozen trips to and from the emergency rooms of at least four different hospitals, an attempt to work with another addiction psychiatrist, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Narcotics Anonymous. A home life fraught with tension, despair, sometimes hopeful during intermittent periods of sobriety, and always filled with the apprehension of misfortune. That apprehension became fact when William accidentally overdosed. Six weeks of comatose and/or heavily medicated hospitalization followed before the ultimate realization that William was consigned to a persistent vegetative state.

As a family, William's parents struggled from the beginning to find both their own support system and ways to engage and encourage William in recovery. In the beginning, they kept William's and their battle to themselves, in the interest of protecting his privacy and their own. William still had career goals and ambitions that could be thwarted with heroin use on his "résumé." While it's harder for them to admit, Wil-

liam's parents also kept quiet out of some sense of embarrassment or shame.

Over the course of time, with the help of addiction counselors, and sharing their circumstance at Al-Anon in particular, William's parents came to understand that they were not alone. There were, in fact, many families like them, negotiating their response to addiction: discovering what they were powerless over, battling for the courage to confront what they could control, and, at least in their case, fighting desperately to distinguish between the two. There was and is relief in knowing that others suffer the same struggle, zigzagging along a tortuous path, enduring dead ends in hope of a solution, bravely putting in the work to realize a more promising and serene future. Yet, their story and others remained anonymous, pit stops at an emotional leper colony, quite separate from a world racing on.

Out of choice and necessity, when William's parents chose to remove him from life support, they offered William's story to virtually everyone they knew in the days just prior to his death and in the interim before his memorial service. In return, more and more people surrendered their personal horrors to the family. From even the most reserved and private came narratives of heroin overdoses, cocaine abuse, weeks and months in rehab, alcohol relapse, addiction to pills. Addiction is, as the Williams family has learned, a family disease. The number of stories they have heard of wives, daughters, fathers, sons, nieces, nephews, brothers and sisters—not in counseling or therapy scenarios, but from people who recognize their pain and somehow want to comfort them, or to comfort themselves through them, is staggering.

DALTON WOMACK—LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

Dalton was born September 20, 1991. Anyone who was lucky enough to meet Dalton will never forget him. He had a smile that was absolutely contagious—you couldn't help but feel good when he was around and in good spirits. Dalton's love for children was always present. He could relate to children like no one else; he cared about how they felt and also he cared for them in a way that they knew Dalton was a friend.

The respect Dalton gave to the elderly was admirable. He would go out of his way to open a door, walk someone to their car, or carry their groceries. It was his nature to help others. Dalton did whatever was needed without even blinking an eye.

Dalton was a friend to anyone he would meet—in other words, he never met a stranger. Music was in his soul and he loved it more than anything (other than being with his friends and family). Dalton was a caring person and gave everything he could; on many occasions right down to his last dollar—he would go without it just to make sure someone else had what they needed. He lived his life unselfish and had a huge heart.

Before his family knew it, Dalton was struggling with addiction. His addiction started off small and became more powerful; bigger than they could ever imagine. His family had countless conversations but nothing seemed to help; therefore, they turned to treatment.

Dalton's family's worst fear came on July 8, 2016; the dreaded phone call that every parent hates but knows at some point might come. Dalton was gone. Not just out of town, not just going to the store and be back later but gone. He died at the hands of a steering wheel, with addiction gripping him. He was by himself, all alone.

His family received the news from the emergency room doctor and chaplain—the

conversation still plays over and over in their head. The pain today still hurts as if it were yesterday and probably will forever. But one thing they know to be true, if Dalton and the many others could have the opportunity to look ahead and see how tragic life could end with addiction, maybe just maybe things would be different. Hell isn't six feet under; Hell is loving and missing a son who had addiction.

TRIBUTE TO THE RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF CENTRAL IOWA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Iowa for its 35 years of service to families in need.

Since opening its doors in August of 1981, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Iowa has provided a "home away from home" for over 10,000 families whose children are undergoing medical treatment. In 2011 alone, the 12-room facility provided a home for over 400 families from 71 of Iowa's 99 counties and 10 other states. Families are asked to contribute a nominal fee each night, but if they cannot afford to do so, they are not turned away. The philosophy at the Ronald McDonald House in Des Moines is that one of the best medicines for a severely ill child is the love of their family right by their side during challenging times. It is humbling to see the widespread support from Iowa businesses and individuals that keep the doors open at the Ronald McDonald House of Central Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Iowa for its 35 years of serving families under the most difficult of circumstances. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them and wishing nothing but the best.

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLOATING HOSPITAL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of The Floating Hospital (TFH), located in Long Island City, New York, in the district I am privileged to represent. TFH was founded in 1866 with the goal: "To afford relief to the sick children of the poor of the City of New York without regard to creed, color, or nationality." Today, TFH serves thousands of victims of domestic violence, homeless families, and public housing residents.

Though it is a land-based organization today, TFH derives its name from the series of ships which housed the hospital and regularly sailed through New York Harbor, providing

children and their caregivers with recreational opportunities on board, as well as healthcare services, health and nutrition education, and a respite from an overcrowded city. The idea was inaugurated by George F. Williams, a managing editor at The New York Times, when he saw newsboys being forced off the grass in City Hall Park by police and ordered to stay on the walkways where the hot concrete burned their feet. Their plight inspired him to appeal to the Times's readership to donate money for a boat trip for newsboys and bootblacks. These trips soon became more regular and were taken over by St. John's Guild, which purchased the first vessel, organized the trips and expanded them to include underprivileged children and their mothers. Medical personnel were hired to provide treatment, vaccines, nutritional guidance and other care, and opened a clinic for sick patients on Staten Island.

IN the early 2000s, TFH sold its boat and created a clinic in Long Island City and has now become New York City's largest provider of primary healthcare services to residents of family shelters and domestic violence safe houses, as well as residents of public housing, with more than 61,000 patient visits every year. TFH opened the first federally-qualified health center in a New York City Housing Authority development and Queensbridge Houses.

TFH works proactively with families from the moment they enter the shelter system, including screenings for communicable diseases and health conditions like heart disease and asthma. TFH provides a huge array of primary healthcare services, oral healthcare, health education, benefits counseling, and mental health services, and even offers free transportation for patients to and from over 200 shelters and domestic violence safe houses.

In its 150 years, TFH has served over 5 million patients. Today, it continues to honor its historic mission to serve the most vulnerable by working constantly to improve and expand its services and clinics.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the anniversary of TFH and its 150 years of immeasurable contributions to the health and well-being of all New Yorkers.

RECOGNIZING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE NATIONAL OPIOID EPIDEMIC

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to include in the RECORD today the personal stories of families from across the country that have been affected by the opioid and heroin epidemic. In the U.S. we lose 129 lives per day to opioid and heroin overdose. In my home state of New Hampshire I have learned so many heartbreaking stories of great people and families who have suffered from the effects of substance use disorder.

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I were joined by many of these courageous families who came to Washington to share their stories

with Members of Congress and push for action that will prevent overdoses and save lives. Since then, we passed both the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act to provide much needed funding and critical policy changes to fight this epidemic.

The advocacy of these families truly is so important to leading to change in Washington and I am proud to preserve their stories.

JERRID FRANKLIN YOUNKER—SIDNEY, OHIO

Susan Cole found her 17-year-old son, Jerrid Younker, dead on March 14, 2016. Almost three months later, she found out that his death was the result of fentanyl intoxication. Susan had no idea Jerrid was using drugs and is devastated by this. Jerrid missed his high school graduation, his 18th birthday, and so much of his life due to one bad decision.

Growing up, Jerrid was a dedicated fisherman. He loved being outdoors, especially activities involving mud and/or animals. He was an avid Bengals fan. Jerrid and Susan had been going to annual Browns vs. Bengals football games every year—it became a mother/son tradition.

Jerrid was only 17 years old and had enough credits to graduate high school early. He was supposed to walk in his graduation on May 26th, and he wasn't even recognized for all his hard work over the years after he died. Jerrid was a good kid, a big prankster to all, and he loved little kids and animals dearly. He had his whole life ahead of him, but now it's all lost. Jerrid left behind his parents and a brother and sister who miss him terribly.

JACQUELINE "JACKIE" ZANFAGNA—PLAISTOW, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jackie Zanfagna's struggles became evident before her 10th birthday. Some called her a "difficult teen" but her mother, Anne Marie, and father, Jim, knew that Jackie was struggling with a medical condition and desperately needed treatment. Her parents sought help from countless doctors to no avail. Jackie had bipolar tendencies. When she was at her best, she was a bright, engaged girl who loved animals, fashion, and cared fiercely for her niece and nephew. When she was at her worst, her self-esteem plummeted and she was prone to fits of rage. Her parents were left to patch the walls where her fist had bust the plaster.

Jackie's suffering went undiagnosed. Anne Marie, who suffered from rheumatoid arthritis, began noticing that her pain medication was missing and eventually valuables started disappearing too. When the Zanfagna's realized that they couldn't trust their daughter or her friends, they changed their locks, installed an alarm system, and got a guard dog.

Jackie survived one overdose but was so deeply ashamed that she pushed away the people who cared about her the most. Somehow, in the midst of what seemed a plummeting spiral, Jackie found some solid ground at the age of 25.

After years of thwarted endeavors such as cosmetology school, community college and a modeling agency, Jackie landed a good job at Staples. She had a new car, a new boyfriend and her relationship with her family was suddenly on the mend. It seemed like the nightmare of the previous years might have finally lifted.

When Jackie died of a heroin overdose on October 18, 2014, her family was devastated.

ANDY ZORN—PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Andy was born in 1982 in Phoenix, Arizona. He had a joyful life. He made friends easily

and he was always on a mission to make people laugh; as the class clown and life of the party, he often succeeded. When Andy grew older, a few of his good friends developed substance abuse issues and Andy took it upon himself to help them work through it. After seeing the destruction of hard drugs first-hand, he made a personal commitment to not use.

Andy was a big dreamer and made concrete plans for his future. He started a retirement savings account at the age of 16, after starting his very first job. But as Andy became a young adult, he thought he had to participate in drinking and drugs in order to fit in. He was good at hiding the extent to which he must have indulged in these activities. Andy committed suicide on March 1, 2014, in Peoria, Arizona. His suicide note was surprising and painful:

“My soul is already dead. Marijuana killed my soul + ruined my brain.”

Andy spent his last five years in a downward spiral of what we now recognize as marijuana abuse. There were the calls to suicide help lines, hospitalizations in five different mental health hospitals on three different occasions, and two sentences of court-ordered mental health treatment for psychotic behavior. During the last week of his life Andy told his mother, father and the social worker that he had to quit using marijuana to live but he was unable to do so; he was addicted. Marijuana was doing nothing good for him except to help him sleep. Without it he had nightmares.

But by then, Andy's waking life was a nightmare that he suffered for years. He worked for very short durations with various mental health professionals and received a variety of diagnoses, including Major Depression, PTSD, Bipolar Disorder, Mild Alcohol Use Disorder and Severe Cannabis Use Disorder.

One of his doctors noted in his records, “Andy is a kind and gentle man. He is an honorable man. Andy is smart with goals and the skills to make them happen. Andy has a great smile and people are comfortable around him.”

For a time Andy functioned well; mostly employed, earning an Associate Degree and completing three years of active duty in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, including a tour of duty in Iraq. But as the marijuana addiction took control over his life, he lost insight into his own mental health. He began to isolate and avoided friends and family. He quit his jobs and disappointed himself over and over again.

Andy is one of the 129 a day who has died from a substance use disorder. Andy is one of the 22 Veterans that committed suicide each day.

ZAFER JULIAN ESTILL—ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

Zafer died on April 13, 2016, from an accidental heroin overdose. He was 19 years old—just months away from his 20th birthday. Zafer, affectionately known as “Z,” was a beloved son, brother to three siblings, and friend to many.

Z was a sophomore at the University of Colorado, where he was known as an adventurer, traveler and explorer, who sought out thrills whenever possible. He was an avid tennis player and loved to skateboard, hike, kayak, and follow his favorite sports teams. He liked to begin where the chair lift ended—he'd carry his skis higher up the mountain in search of an untouched backcountry run. Many of his finest selfies come from his treasured mountain explorations in Colorado.

Z was the “connector” in his family; he always made sure to reach out after going too

long without checking in. It was second nature to him to send a text, email, or even a handwritten note just to remind people that he cared. We used to joke that Z paid more attention grooming his emails to Grandma than he did on his papers for school.

On the night of April 13th, Z tried heroin. He bought it for \$7.00 a hit. Z went to sleep and never woke up. His family's pain, shock and grief upon losing Z is one story among many that evidence the public health crisis facing this country. Heroin use has more than doubled among young adults in the past decade.

Even though the lives of his family have been forever changed by Zafer's death, his spirit and energy will live on within each of them and through the good they contribute to this world. Their hope is that by sharing Zafer's story, and telling the truth about his death, they may be able to save another life.

JORDAN LEWIS BARNES—LUDLOW, KENTUCKY

Jordan was born October 13, 1991. Jordan was an avid motocross rider. He lived for fast speed and unthinkable stunts. At the age of 15 he was involved in a serious motocross accident, causing him to break both wrists and having pins put in them. He shattered his collarbone and had a titanium plate and 12 screws inserted. He also suffered severe knee complications. After he was healed, Jordan foolishly punched an ice box at a local store in Ludlow, resulting in what's referred to as a ‘Boxer's Fracture’ in his right wrist. From there on, his life would forever change.

At only 15 years old, Jordan was prescribed strong narcotics for his great level of pain. This would only turn to harder drugs and heavier dosages. At 16, Jordan dropped out of high school. Over the next 9 years, Jordan was on a constant rollercoaster of ups and downs; experimenting with different types of drugs like marijuana, Percocet, and Vicodin, and his drinking began to surge as well. He checked into a treatment facility, where he stayed for 3 to 4 months. He appreciated his time there. He liked the atmosphere and the people who were there. He made comments about wanting to go back to work there and help others who struggled with the same demons he did.

On Mother's Day of 2013, at 21 years old, Jordan experienced his first overdose from heroin. He was found in the bathroom of his grandmother's home with a needle hanging out of his leg; he was unresponsive. Jordan was rushed to the hospital where he was put on life support and remained on it for roughly 30 hours. After spending an additional few days in the hospital, he was released. Upon his release, Jordan had a new outlook on life. He changed the group of friends he previously associated with. He changed the places he hung out.

August 2013 came around and Jordan's father, presented him with an opportunity to work and make really good money in a different state. Jordan jumped at this opportunity. He moved to North Dakota and lived there for a year. Jordan seemed to be doing well, until he fell with the wrong crowd. He began using again and eventually lost his job, which ultimately led to him living out of his car. Jordan's father booked two flights for him to fly back home but Jordan never got on the plane. Finally, with the help of one of the only true friends he had, Jordan made it home with the intent to start fresh. Jordan stayed with his friend for a few months to continue on a positive path.

In September 2014, Jordan was pulled over and arrested for no insurance. While he was in jail he ended up getting sick from detoxing and spent 45 days in the hospital.

During his hospital stay, we learned that Jordan had a lot of internal issues that he was unaware of. His kidneys had started to shut down, he had an infection in his blood which led to ‘Infective Endocarditis’ (which is a bacterial infection on the heart valve), and he tested positive for Hepatitis C from his careless mindset of just wanting to get high and using dirty needles. All this at the age of 23 years old. Jordan's doctors told him that the next time he decided to do drugs again, it would kill him. He was on his last chance at life.

After being discharged from the hospital, he returned home to live with his grandmother. He seemed to be doing very well this time around and had a positive outlook of the future. He seemed to be enjoying the life he was living.

One night, Jordan went out to a bar with a family friend. They were hanging out, having a good time and ultimately ended up in Cincinnati to get heroin. Nobody truly knows what happened that night, other than Jordan being with the family friend.

In result of their trip to Cincinnati, Jordan shot the heroin and began to snore. After snoring for a little while, Jordan suddenly stopped. Instead of taking Jordan directly to the hospital, the family friend took Jordan to his father's house. Once Jordan arrived, 9-1-1 was called and an ambulance was dispatched. His stepmother, began to perform CPR and administered Narcan twice without any luck. EMT's attempted to resuscitate Jordan by shocking his heart but were unsuccessful. They insisted on calling Jordan's death at his father's house, but a doctor at the hospital advised them to bring him into the hospital. When he arrived to the hospital the doctors did get a faint pulse and Jordan was placed on life support for the second, and final, time.

Jordan's organs started shutting down at a rapid pace; there wasn't anything anyone could do. Jordan knew that the next shot would kill him. He didn't care; he wanted that high. Jordan laid in that hospital bed, helplessly on life support for nearly 18 hours, until his little brother could make it in from California to say goodbye. Jordan's hospital room filled with family and friends that loved him, and stayed with him as he took his last breath.

Jordan lost his battle with addiction April 11, 2016. He touched many people with his infectious smile and huge heart. He was loved by many and is missed by many more.

STEPHEN J. DEAGLE, JR.—REVERE, MASSACHUSETTS

Stephen's mother lost her only child, Stephen J. Deagle, Jr., on January 8, 2015, at the age of 32. Stephen was an extraordinary young man. He had an IQ score of 147, but Stephen was much more than just smart. Stephen was kind, caring, loving, witty and gifted, with unparalleled talents in computer science and music.

From the age of four, Stephen would write code on his new Apple computer, master video games inside and out, and learned to play the guitar. From there he taught himself how to play the bass, drums and vocals. Stephen always loved people. He would stop and talk to strangers, and would do anything for his friends or family. He was the boy who was always laughing.

Stephen's intelligence was recognized at a young age and was later accepted to St. John's Prep, a private high school in Danvers, Massachusetts. When he was just a senior in high school, Stephen was one of 160 individuals worldwide accepted to attend a law and advocacy seminar in Washington, D.C.

Stephen's demise started early in his first year of college, when he had four impacted wisdom teeth removed. During the surgery, the doctors mistakenly chipped his jaw bone; requiring him to have two subsequent surgeries for which he was prescribed pain medication. Stephen's mother wanted to take the pills so he wouldn't use them, but he assured her he would only take one at a time, when needed.

Within days, Stephen became addicted. He later told his mother, "I knew I loved this pill. When I took the first one—it was the first time I didn't feel any mental or physical pain." He admitted this three months after his first surgery. Stephen was then put in private care treatment but, despite his mother having to refinance her house three times to pay for it, he didn't stay long enough.

At 19, Stephen got clean in Boston, moved to California for a good job and a chance at a new life. Sadly, he didn't understand that treatment is not enough to maintain recovery, and the urge to use was too strong. Stephen found heroin in San Francisco and again him and his family started the road towards recovery. His mother flew back and forth to do all she could to get Stephen into another treatment facility. Finally, they found one that would accept him and he entered treatment for the second time.

Stephen could not stop using—the urges were too strong. Stephen later went on methadone, despite his mother's strong protests against it. As he explained it, "Mom I can't stop and if I don't get on methadone, I'm going to die." Stephen stayed on methadone for nine years, but was unable to go off it, despite multiple attempts.

Finally, Stephen felt ready to start looking for work again. He found a job he loved that was in his desired field of Computer Science. Stephen excelled at his new job and was promoted within the first three months of working. His boss's boss later told Stephen's mother that he would do things on the network that he didn't know were possible.

Stephen amazed everyone who met him. He was very humble about his talents and didn't want anyone to know just how smart he was, or how much he cared about everything and everyone he loved. Stephen was kind and generous to almost a fault.

"My efforts to gain temporary guardianship were denied, BlueCross BlueShield wouldn't sell me gap insurance, the courts would not get involved, and all of Stephen's doctors that saw him for years wouldn't fill out the paperwork to allow me to take over his care," writes his mother. "After many pleas with his recovery center, they told me they were filling out paperwork to transfer him to another facility but they didn't. Stephen was released after only 21 days—21 days with nine new prescriptions. There was not enough time for his body to even adjust to new medication, let alone that detox from nine years of methadone, one month of suboxone, three months of vivitrol, and a heroin overdose."

"My life is forever changed. Stephen was my only child, my parents' only grandson, my brother and sister's only nephew and my niece's only cousin. The loss of this kind, beautiful young man who wanted nothing more in life than to make a difference in the world has left a hole in our family that can never be filled. The world is black to me now, where once all the colors were so vivid when I shared my life with my son. No wedding, no mother/son dance, no grandchildren, no holidays or birthdays—only darkness and

pain. Despite awareness events, speaking locally, statewide and with members of Congress, no real change has been made to fix the broken healthcare system in this country. One death every four minutes is too many. May God bless all those who continue to struggle without the care they need and deserve."

ALICIA DEMARCO—READING, MASSACHUSETTS

Alicia struggled her entire life. At a young age, she was diagnosed with significant comorbid learning disabilities and mental disorders; specifically Attention Deficit Disorder, Executive Function Deficit and Bipolar Disorder. Alicia's mother constantly fought the school system to get Alicia the support she so desperately needed, but to no avail. As a result, Alicia dropped out of high school in her junior year.

At 16 years old, Alicia started experimenting with drugs and was getting into trouble with the law. By 18, she transitioned to shooting heroin. One month after her 18th birthday, Alicia was sent to Massachusetts Committing Institution (MCI)—Framingham state prison.

Alicia spent the majority of her adult life either in jail, detox, dual-diagnostic hospitals, and treatment programs. When she was 24 years old, Alicia gave birth to her daughter, Alexa.

Alicia received a free enrollment into a pilot mode intervention program in Palm Springs, California. This program covered all expenses, paying to fly Alicia's family of five out to LA, and waived the treatment facility's one-month fee of \$25,000. It was a miracle. Alicia's family had so much hope.

After completing the program, Alicia told her mother, "Mom, I've never felt so good in my whole life." She was given the option to take up residency in a sober living environment; however, Alicia's boyfriend back home was more important to her. Therefore, she returned home and again began her codependent, toxic relationship.

Alicia's boyfriend, along with others, enabled her addiction. It was a constant tug-of-war; Alicia's family pulled her in the right direction, as her boyfriend pulled her towards a life of drugs, crime, sleeping under bridges and jail.

At this time, Alicia got pregnant for the second time. However, her boyfriend left her for another girl. Her mother helped Alicia find a OB/GYN doctor that would prescribe her subutex. She moved into a shelter that August. Things were going well. Her mother would pick Alicia up every day, and gave her whatever she needed. She saw her doctor every week.

Alicia started seeing another guy, who she knew through her previous boyfriend. Alicia's new guy seemed to be very laid back, and Alicia appeared to be happy with him. On November 18, 2014, Alicia's mother, her husband, and Alicia's daughter, Alexa, all flew to Fort Lauderdale to visit family. Alicia was eight and half months pregnant at the time, so they thought it would be best to visit before she gave birth to her new baby girl, Arianna Marie DeMarco.

On November 21, 2014, Alicia's mother received that dreadful phone call from the North Reading Police Department. Her beautiful daughter Alicia and precious granddaughter-to-be were both dead. Alicia's doctor had taken her off of her subutex medication eight days prior to her overdose. Alicia's death certificate indicated Fentanyl, not heroin, was the cause of her overdose. She was 28 years old.

Alicia was a very compassionate and loving person. She loved her family and especially her daughter, Alexa.

CAIN FRANKLIN—WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

Cain Franklin exhibited a unique and joyful spirit from the very beginning. At age seven, he asked for a tuxedo and a Bowflex for Christmas. In the second grade, Cain dressed up as Bill Gates for his private school's "Famous People Day." Growing up, his favorite toy was a cash register and Cain would open up little shops and sell things to his mother. Despite excellent grades in school, Cain had some behavioral problems and was tested for ADD. The results determined Cain did not have ADD, but rather he had an extremely high IQ; he wasn't being stimulated in school and would finish his work before everyone else.

Cain proved to be an exceptional martial artist and was presented with his second Dan (rank) black belt at just 11 years old. As soon as he picked up a football he joined a league and, within two weeks, he replaced the coach's son as quarterback. Cain's personality was larger than life. He could carry on conversations with anyone, no matter their age, and had a contagious smile. Despite Cain's popularity and leader persona in school, he always befriended the underdog. He also taught himself how to play the guitar and in weeks, he was writing his own songs. Cain and his mother shared an unbreakable bond. He was truly gifted and his life seemed blessed—he was truly loved.

When Cain was older he started using alcohol and marijuana, which began to affect his school work and his personality. He was sent to a 28 day treatment facility and later to an outdoor-education program, in an attempt to try and discourage his drug usage. However, each time Cain returned home he went right back to using.

When Cain and his mother moved into town, people started coming and going from their house at all hours. His mother saw evidence of pills and Cain admitted to using them. She started losing control over Cain's actions. She tried to set boundaries, all of which were ignored. She started to notice that her spoons were going missing and the ones she did find had black marks on the bottom. She also was finding bits of cotton and Q-tips everywhere. She still had no idea of what was going on. Once she discovered a needle, she understood.

Cain's mother began having to take regular trips to the Emergency Room when she would find Cain passed out on the floor. She then sent Cain to another treatment facility and, on his return, to AA and NA meetings. Cain's mother watched her son go from a robust young man, to a pale, skinny kid with broken out skin. She accompanied him through many self-detoxes and was by his side when he underwent various withdrawal stages—the chills, fevers, diarrhea, vomiting, cramps, and him pacing for hours. But in the end, Cain went right back to using.

One day, in the early hours, the police came knocking at Cain's mother's door asking if the boy they found face down and blue in the driveway, was her son. Cain was arrested for being in his car, unresponsive, a needle at his feet, with heroin residue.

The attorney fees, plus the treatments and hospital visits wiped out a good part of his mother's savings. Cain started to steal her jewelry and pawned it for cash. Cain also stole his mother's debit card, spending hundreds and only would return it for more money. Finally, Cain failed a urine test and was sent to jail for three months.

When Cain was released, he was clean for 11 months and started to get his life back on track. He attended AA meetings and exchanged his former druggie friends for models of sobriety. He started kickboxing, going

to the gym, and working long, hot hours as a landscaper. Him and his mother would talk or text on a daily basis and Cain would occasionally come over to talk more. Cain promised his mother he would pay her back for everything and began making these payments. Things were looking up. Then, four days of silence during which, in her heart, his mother knew was not good. She got a knock on the door to find an officer and a police chaplain. Cain's mother was devastated, but also relieved that Cain's battle was over—though hers was just beginning.

Cain died July 17, 2015, and had been dead for four days, according to when he last used his key card to enter his home. Cain's housemates called the landlord because of the smell protruding from his room; his body was only identifiable by his dental records due to the decomposition.

Cain is missed every single day.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. PACO VALENTIN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Mr. Paco Valentin after

37 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Mr. Valentin was born on November 14, 1951 in Brownsville, Texas. After graduating from St. Joseph Academy high school in Brownsville, he went to Texas State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. Mr. Valentin began his career with the USDA in 1979. Throughout his tenure, he served in numerous leadership roles including USDA Rural Development Housing Loan Specialist, Assistant County Supervisor, and eventually County Supervisor for the USDA Farmers Home Administration.

In 2009, the Obama Administration appointed Mr. Valentin to be the Texas State Director of Rural Development for the USDA. During his tenure as State Director, Rural Development has provided nearly \$12 billion in rural investments throughout Texas for housing, rural utilities, community facilities, and rural business and cooperative development. He also dedicated his time to the promotion, retention, and recruitment of minorities and women, as well as establishing a diverse senior management workforce in an effort to create jobs and spur economic growth in rural communities with limited resources and incomes below the poverty line.

Mr. Valentin dedicated his professional career to working for agricultural and rural interests. His passion and devotion for helping others serves as a model for all of us. Among his numerous awards, he has been recognized with the Habitat Texas 2014 Statewide Community Partner of the Year Award, 2013 Statewide Rural Leadership Award by the Coordinating and Development Corporation of the Ark-La-Tex region, the recipient of the Urban Counties Leadership Award in 2010, and awarded the USDA Rural Development Distinguished Service Award.

Upon retiring, Mr. Valentin plans to spend his time in the company of his wife, Angie, and their two daughters, Jordan and Taylor.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have shared with you the legacy of Mr. Paco Valentin, who has had the support and confidence of the Texas Delegation and was honored with the privilege of serving as a presidential appointee under the Obama administration.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, December 12, 2016

The House met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 12, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID YOUNG to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious and merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this Chamber, where the people's House gathers, we pause to offer You gratitude for the gift of this good land on which we live and for this great Nation which You have inspired in developing over so many years. Continue to inspire the American people, that through the difficulties of these days we might keep liberty and justice alive in our Nation and in the world.

During this season of holy days for so many Americans, give to us and all people a vivid sense of Your presence, that we may learn to understand each other, to respect each other, to work with each other, to live with each other, and to do good to each other. So shall we make our Nation great in goodness and good in its greatness.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 944, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore HARRIS on Friday, December 9, 2016:

H.R. 2028, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes;

S. 1632, to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram;

S. 2974, to ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and for other purposes;

S. 3028, to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness;

S. 3183, to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event, and for other purposes.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

DECEMBER 9, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 3(b) of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 15202), I am pleased to appoint Joanne Hayes-White of San Francisco, California to the Medal of Valor Review Board.

Thank you for your consideration of this appointment.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 9, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 9, 2016, at 11:25 p.m.:

That the Senate concurs in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate H.R. 2028.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 12, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 12, 2016, at 9:41 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 5602.

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 3842.

That the Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 183.

Appointments:
Advisory Committee on International Exchange Rate Policy.

United States-China Economic Security Review Commission.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 12, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 12, 2016, at 12:49 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 3346.

That the Senate passed S. 3021.

That the Senate passed S. 8.

That the Senate passed S. 290.

That the Senate passed S. 1831.

That the Senate passed S. 3112.

That the Senate passed S. 1168.

That the Senate passed S. 1776.

That the Senate passed S. 2852.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 57.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 181.

That the Senate agreed to the amendment of the House S. 612.

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

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

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 12, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule H of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 12, 2016, at 1:12 p.m.:

That the Senate concurs in House amendment to the bill S. 546.

That the Senate concurs in House amendment to the bill S. 1635.

That the Senate passed S. 2781.

That the Senate passed S. 3086.

That the Senate passed S. 3336.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 179.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6416.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5889.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5877.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5798.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5687.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5676.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5591.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5356.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5309.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5150.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5065.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5015.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 12, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 12, 2016, at 1:48 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4887.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4618.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3784.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3218.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2726.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 960.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 710.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 1150.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 4245.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 4939.

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 6302.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. HARRIS, on Friday, December 9, 2016:

H.R. 2028. An act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker pro tempore, Mr. HARRIS, on Friday, December 9, 2016, announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1632. An act to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram.

S. 2974. An act to ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and for other purposes.

S. 3028. An act to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

S. 3183. An act to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on December 8, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 34. To accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported that on December 10, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2028. Making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(b) of House Resolution 944, the House stands adjourned until 2:30 p.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 3 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at 2:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7821. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a memo designating, as emergency requirements, all funding so designated by the Congress in the Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017, as outlined, pursuant to Public Law 114-254, Sec. 4(a) (H. Doc. No. 114-187); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

7822. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting designation for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism all funding including contributions from foreign governments by the Congress in the Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017, pursuant to Public Law 114-254, Sec. 4(b) (H. Doc. No. 114-188); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

7823. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Program Integrity and Improvement [Docket ID.: ED-2016-OPE-0050] (RIN: 1840-AD20) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7824. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's 2016 report titled "Economic Dispatch and Technological Change", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 16432(c); Public Law 109-58, Sec. 1234(c); (119 Stat. 960) and 42 U.S.C. 16524(c); Public Law 109-58, Sec. 1832(c); (119 Stat. 1138); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7825. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Agency, transmitting the Commission's final NUREG — Access Authorization — Operational Program (Section 13.6.4) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7826. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Agency, transmitting the Agency's final NUREG — Site Characteristics and Site Parameters (Section 2.0) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7827. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Agency, transmitting the Agency's final NUREG — Fitness For Duty — Introduction (Section 13.7) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7828. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Agency, transmitting the Agency's final

NUREG — Physical Security — Early Site Permit and Reactor Siting Criteria (Section 13.6.3) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7829. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a revised alternative plan for pay increases for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5304a(a); Public Law 101-509, title I, Sec. 101(a)(1); (104 Stat. 1436) (H. Doc. No. 114—189); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and ordered to be printed.

7830. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to the Congress for the period April 1 through September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7831. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's 55th Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-up covering the six-month period ending September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5(b) of the Inspector General Act, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7832. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Department of the Treasury Acquisition Regulations; Incremental Funding of Fixed-Price, Time-and-Material or Labor-Hour Contracts During a Continuing Resolution received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7833. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's Office of the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1, 2016, through September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5(b) of the Inspector General Act, as amended, and the Commission's Management Report on Final Actions for the Six-Month Period Ending September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7834. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's final rule — Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch; Amendment to the Standards Governing Solicitation and Acceptance of Gifts from Outside Sources (RIN: 3209-AA04) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7835. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting the Election Assistance Commission's, Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report, for the period April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, Public Law 95-452; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7836. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Indian Child Welfare Act Proceedings [K00103 12/13 A3A10; 134D0102DR-DS5A300000-DR.5A 11.IA000113] (RIN: 1076-AF25) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec.

251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7837. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Leasing of Osage Reservation Lands for Oil and Gas Mining [167A2100DD/AAKC001030/A0A501010.999900] (RIN: 1076-AF17) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7838. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Addition of the Wind River Indian Reservation to the List of Courts of Indian Offenses [178A2100DD/AAKC001030/A0A501010.999900 253G] (RIN: 1076-AF33) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7839. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; 2016 Bigeye Tuna Longline Fishery Reopening in the Eastern Pacific Ocean [Docket No.: 130717632-4285-02] (RIN: 0648-XE902) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7840. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 17A [Docket No.: 160222132-6585-02] (RIN: 0648-BF77) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7841. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Exchange of Flatfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 150916863-6211-02] (RIN: 0648-XE969) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7842. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 150916863-6211-02] (RIN: 0648-XF036) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7843. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 150916863-6211-02] (RIN: 0648-XE932) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7844. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 150916863-6211-02] (RIN: 0648-XF032) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7845. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; 2016-2017 Commercial Accountability Measures and Closure for King Mackerel in the Florida West Coast Northern Subzone [Docket No.: 101206604-1758-02] (RIN: 0648-XF017) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7846. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Georges Bank Cod Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closure and Possession and Trip Limit Reductions for the Common Pool Fishery [Docket No.: 151211999-6343-02] (RIN: 0648-XF002) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7847. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf Of Alaska [Docket No.: 150818742-6210-02] (RIN: 0648-XE967) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7848. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments [167A2100DD/AAKC001030/A0A501010.999900 253G] (RIN: 1076-AF32) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7849. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tribal Transportation Program [No.: BIA-2014-0005; 167A2100DD/AAKC001030/A0A501010.999900 253G] (RIN: 1076-AF19) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7850. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Office of the Assistant Secretary, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Corps' Savannah Harbor Expansion Project Post Authorization Change Report of November 2016; to the

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7851. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Income and Currency Gain or Loss with Respect to a Section 987 QBU [TD 9794] (RIN: 1545-AM12) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7852. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final and temporary regulations — Tax Return Preparer Due Diligence Penalty under Section 6695(g) [TD 9799] (RIN: 1545-BN61) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7853. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations and removal of temporary regulations — Consistent Basis Reporting Between Estate and Person Acquiring Property From Decedent [TD 9797] (RIN: 1545-BM98) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7854. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's Temporary regulations — Covered Asset Acquisitions [TD 9800] (RIN: 1545-BM75) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7855. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Unpaid Losses Discount Factors and Payment Patterns for 2016 (Rev. Proc. 2016-58) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7856. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final and temporary regulations — Recognition and Deferral of Section 987 Gain or Loss [TD 9795] (RIN: 1545-BL12) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 3387. A bill to amend the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, and the Federal Advisory Committee Act to apply the requirements of such Acts to the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-864). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 957. A bill to require Senate confirmation of Inspector General of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-865, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5729. A bill to prohibit the

Secretary of the Treasury from issuing certain licenses in connection with the export or re-export of a commercial passenger aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran, to require annual reports by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Export-Import Bank on financing issues related to the sale or lease of such a commercial passenger aircraft or spare parts for such an aircraft, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-866, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2205. A bill to protect financial information relating to consumers, to require notice of security breaches, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-867, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2287. A bill to require the National Credit Union Administration to hold public hearings and receive comments from the public on its budget, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-868). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2769. A bill to require the National Credit Union Administration to conduct a study of the appropriate capital requirements for credit unions, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-869). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2896. A bill to require the Federal financial institutions regulatory agencies to take risk profiles and business models of institutions into account when taking regulatory actions, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-870). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1550. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to improve the transparency of the Financial Stability Oversight Council, to improve the SIFI designation process, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-871). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1266. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to make the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection an independent Financial Product Safety Commission, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-872). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1660. A bill to amend the Home Owners' Loan Act to allow Federal savings associations to elect to operate as national banks, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-873). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1941. A bill to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-874). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota:

H.R. 6526. A bill to eliminate the discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security regarding the definition of the term "official

purpose" as it applies to drivers' licenses and personal identification cards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 6527. A bill to provide for a supplemental award of funds under the Byrne JAG program to States that report DUI convictions to the Attorney General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 6528. A bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to discourage litigation against the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management relating to land management projects; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota:

H.R. 6526.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 6527.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation creates incentives for states and localities to share DUI conviction information through effective reporting. Specific authority is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to provide for the general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 6528.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 576: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 671: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 1095: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 1258: Mr. REICHERT and Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 2293: Ms. PLASKETT and Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 2858: Mr. SABLAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 3666: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 5082: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 5235: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 5365: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 5624: Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 5738: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. GALLEG0.
H.R. 5852: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
H.R. 6124: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 6340: Mr. SCHRADER and Ms. LOFGREN.	H.R. 6460: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Penn-	H. Res. 831: Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 6344: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.	sylvania.	H. Res. 926: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 6346: Mr. SERRANO.	H. Con. Res. 29: Mr. ELLISON.	H. Res. 948: Mr. COSTA and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 6382: Ms. NORTON, Mr. THOMPSON of	H. Con. Res. 144: Mr. WELCH.	H. Res. 953: Mr. HUFFMAN.
Mississippi, and Mr. DESAULNIER.	H. Con. Res. 178: Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SCHA-	
H.R. 6434: Mr. NORCROSS.	KOWSKY, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.	

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN GUY
LOUGHRIDGE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Civil Air Patrol Captain Guy Loughridge of Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Captain Loughridge has been a volunteer for Colorado and the United States of America for over 35 years. He began his service to the state of Colorado and our country in 1981, as a member of the Routt County Search and Rescue team, where he served for 17 years.

Captain Loughridge's contributions to the search and rescue community have had profound impacts. He developed radar forensic software and trained radar analysts to locate missing and downed aircraft. He decided to forgo his for-profit software business venture, and instead, volunteer his time to the Civil Air Patrol to help further develop his radar forensic software. This led him to create the National Radar Analysis Team (NRAT), which became a squadron under National Headquarters of the Civil Air Patrol. Today this program operates all across the U.S. and finds around 40 aircraft each year, saving as many as ten lives each year.

Mr. Speaker, stories of Captain Loughridge's hard work and dedication to serving his community and country are countless. I proudly stand with the residents of Routt County and the United States to thank Captain Loughridge for his lifetime of service. His work has saved many lives and forever changed the Search and Rescue and Aviation communities in our great Nation.

HONORING MAJOR DANA GRAF

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and steadfast Army National Guardsman. Major Dana W. Graf has distinguished himself through his professional character and dedication to serving this Nation in both military and civilian capacity. A leader and expert communicator, he has served both me and our country well while assigned to the National Capitol Region.

As an Army Legislative Fellow on my personal staff in 2014, Major Graf performed his duties deftly. His strategic-level thinking and foresight contributed to the completion of numerous high-level tasks and engagements. Following his Fellowship on the Hill, he was assigned to the National Guard Bureau Office of Legislative Liaison from January 2015 to

December 2016. During this assignment, Major Graf conducted more than 230 meetings with Congressional staff. In addition to those meetings, he also led 50 direct engagements between Army National Guard senior leaders, which were essential in conveying important messages on behalf of the Department of Defense and building trust and understanding with Members of Congress and their staff.

After serving almost four years in the legislative environment, Major Graf will move onto his next assignment in the State of Kansas and continue to honor our nation as a true citizen-soldier. Dana, his supportive wife Laura, and their three children have sacrificed much as a family in service to our nation. I salute this American patriot whose selfless service has country safe and strong. Godspeed, Dana.

WISHING GEORGE HAYDEN A
HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. George Hayden as he celebrated his 80th birthday on December 11, 2016. George's commitment to his family, employees, and neighbors has been nothing short of inspiring, and his lasting impact in my hometown of Hazleton will be felt for generations to come.

Countless Hazleton residents call George Hayden a personal friend, and I am certainly among them. People at home know that I am a big fan of the New York Yankees, and that George is a fan of their arch-rival Boston Red Sox. Despite this, George and I remain friends to this day, and enjoy claiming bragging rights based on which team won the last game they played against each other.

George graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a degree in electrical technology in 1960 and later put that expertise to use as an electrician with the Coast Guard and Navy Reserves. Later, while working as a plant engineer, George and his wife, Florence, began to realize a lifelong dream of owning their own business. While Florence managed the finances, George assembled a small crew of electricians and started Hayden Electric, which eventually grew to include a team of sixty professionals that work both across the country and internationally.

When his family was young, George developed a habit of taking them to Wendy's restaurants, which they enjoyed tremendously. So in 1987, he opened a new Wendy's near Laurel Mall in Hazleton, later expanding to three additional Wendy's in downtown Hazleton, Drums, and Mt. Pocono. After seeing the positive impact on his business and the commu-

nity, George and Florence started Citiscape, Inc. in 2004 with the goal of revitalizing downtown Hazleton by buying and restoring office and retail spaces for new and expanding businesses.

George is most known for his unwavering commitment to his family and the community at large. He has been active throughout the years with the American Cancer Society, the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, the Hazleton Rotary Club, and the Holy Trinity Church. George has also served on the boards of Security Savings, First Federal Bank, and Penn State Hazleton, among many others. To support their strong belief in the value of education, he and his wife established The Pennsylvania State University Florence L. and George J. Hayden Scholarship Fund, so that the next generation of aspiring students can achieve their dreams of receiving a college degree.

Mr. Speaker, with so many successful undertakings throughout his life, it is my honor to recognize Mr. George Hayden as he celebrates his 80th birthday with his wife, Florence, five children, George, Marybeth, Theresa, James, and Alicia, and his 17 grandchildren. On behalf of my constituents, I wish him and his family all the best as they continue to hold such a special place in our Northeastern Pennsylvania community.

TRIBUTE TO LEON BILLINGS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man who has made a positive impact in the life of every American—Leon Billings.

Today, the air we breathe and the water we drink is cleaner and healthier because of Leon Billings. He may not be known to many, but his work as an architect of key environmental laws has saved countless lives.

Leon's instinct to stick up for the underdog was undoubtedly shaped during his years growing up as the son of two journalists in Big Sky country in Missoula, Montana. His parents were editors for a weekly newspaper, The People's Voice, which was owned by a farmer-labor cooperative that provided the counterpoint to the daily papers controlled by the Anaconda Mining Company. Above his father's column was the quotation: "The hottest place in hell is reserved for those who, in a time of moral crisis, refuse to take a stand."

Leon lived by that creed; it was in his DNA. In my time serving with Leon, he was always a crusader for justice; always speaking out for the public interest against excessive corporate greed and unchecked power; standing up against bigotry and hate.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

I first got to know Leon Billings through Maryland politics, when we served together in the Maryland House of Delegates. By that time, Leon was already a legend in the national environmental community. As a top staffer to Senator Ed Muskie, he had helped craft the landmark Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. That legislation was forged through constant clashes with powerful special interests that wanted to put their profits over the public health. Leon, a brilliant strategist, is credited with working across party lines to erect the pillars of many of our key environmental laws.

Leon Billings brought that same passion for taking on powerful special interests to the Maryland legislature, where he stood up for consumers in battles with the utility industry and fought for state environmental and consumer protections. I will fondly remember the many battles we waged together in the Maryland legislature.

Leon's successes were due in large part to a special mixture of passionate advocacy and a no-nonsense manner that was sometimes unsettling to the uninitiated, but always deployed for a good cause. Those who knew Leon understood that his sometimes gruff exterior was primarily reserved for the big shots who tried to enrich themselves by stomping on others. At his core, Leon was a very gentle soul; a plain speaking, compassionate man with a heart as big as Montana.

As we confront an incoming Administration that is looking to turn back the clock on Leon's work and erode the laws that have protected clean air, clean water, and public health for a generation, we must govern by Leon's example and stand up for the little guy against the special interests. We must be fierce defenders of the American public and its resources, and protect the right to clean air and healthy waterways.

Leon Billings waged battles on behalf of every American. I will miss my friend Leon, but pledge to continue his good work on behalf of all Americans.

RECOGNIZING JOHN LESZCZYNSKI FOR 30 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE SOUTH BEND COMMUNITY

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service that John Leszczynski has dedicated to the South Bend community. For 30 years and on behalf of four mayors, John has served on the Transpo Board of Directors. He leaves the Board in January having led the agency through a period of great change and challenge.

His public service began when he served as the Public Works Director for the City of South Bend. John established himself as a public servant with undeniable character and integrity. Then, after joining the engineering firm the Troyer Group, John spent 30 years as a volunteer serving on the Board of Directors of Transpo, the transit agency for South Bend and Mishawaka.

Over his 30 years on the Transpo Board of Directors, John was Chairman for 10 years and led the planning committee for most of his time on the Board. When he leaves the Transpo Board in January, he will leave behind a legacy that will be with us for years to come. That legacy includes the development of the "Lucky Reznik" Operations Center. Transpo's headquarters was the first LEED transit facility to be awarded a platinum designation. This outstanding facility has received national recognition and serves our community well.

John led Transpo's decision to replace its diesel-fueled bus fleet with compressed natural gas buses. As Transpo's fleet neared the end of its useful life, John initiated a review to determine the most cost-effective and environmental fuel for the new buses. But, as is characteristic of John's leadership, he developed a plan to develop CNG as a resource not only for Transpo, but also for the City of South Bend. Today, the City and Transpo share a re-fueling facility.

Under John's leadership, Transpo adopted a major bus route restructuring with the installation of new bus stops and the first bus shelters in Transpo's history. The new route system and shelters improve performance and offer better service and comfort to the thousands who depend on Transpo every day.

Throughout his tenure, John offered quiet, modest leadership that brought people together and exemplified the "South Bend" way. At all times, he approached his duties understanding that the opportunity to serve is an honor and an obligation that must be conducted with the highest sense of duty.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to John Leszczynski for his accomplishments and service to the community of South Bend. I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing John for his tireless dedication and hard work as a member of the Transpo Board of Directors, and I want to wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR: KEEPING THE HISTORY ALIVE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, 7 December, I was privileged to participate in the Congressional commemoration breakfast of the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor with the Friends of the National World War II Memorial. The following are my remarks to honor that solemn occasion:

Good morning. Chairman Bunting, thank you so very much and to all you Americans for being here today and helping us commemorate, honor and remember. It really is a distinct privilege to share with you today the remembrance of December 7th 1941, and I must say as we listen to the news reports and the discussion commemorations and so forth, I've actually been—I love this country so much and this vision for all people to live in freedom and to see the American people, and what they're doing to honor this mem-

ory and our heritage. You are all here because of what happened 75 years ago, December 7th 1941. I've seen on television this week ceremonies this afternoon and we're actually teaching the new generation by your presence here today. This, the day that honors the 2,403 US citizens and service members who were killed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in a surprise attack by Imperial Japan that triggered U.S. entry into WWII one day later.

I want to thank Chairman Bunting for your leadership—you don't have to do this, you could be on some golf course somewhere—and all the Friends of the WWII Memorial for organizing not only this breakfast but all the events this week. Many of our schools no longer teach this history, and so your work is even more important. We honor with your presence those Americans who so justly deserve history's keen memory. Thank you to Superintendent of the National Mall, Gay Vietzke, for helping us make these arrangements today. I understand that Congressman Morgan Griffith, from the great state of Virginia is also here—thank you so very much. And importantly, I want to welcome our World War II veterans, and particularly Pearl Harbor survivors and their families with us this morning. If any of you wish to just raise your hand—thank you! What a truly historic occasion it is to be with you—our nation owes our liberty to your courage, to your patriotism and to your sacrifice.

In an earlier era, President Abraham Lincoln wrote a letter to Mrs. Lydia Bixby, that's become pretty famous, a widow living in Boston and thought to have lost five sons during the Civil War, and President Lincoln wrote to her: "The solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom." These words apply to those of you who remember and whose families have sacrificed because of Pearl Harbor and WWII.

Today, again, a grateful nation remembers the solemn events of December 7th, 1941, another time of national testing. We recognize American heroes who rose out of the ashes to lead our country to triumphant victory. On that fateful day, Imperial Japan's surprise attack on the Pacific Fleet also destroyed almost 20 ships and over 300 planes in just two hours. The attack on Pearl Harbor served not only as the catalyst driving America to war, but also as a great rallying cry to our people—overriding any hesitation and instilling grim determination to see the mission through, no matter the cost—and the cost was the greatest the world had ever seen. The story of that morning is filled with examples of the finest America has to offer—Sailors risking their own lives to save their shipmates, nurses tending the wounded as bombs continued to drop and machine guns sprayed the buildings. It is the story of young men, never before challenged on the field of battle, taking up arms to defend their ship, their comrades and their country. It is the story of America—a country that, when knocked down, never gets knocked out, and always gets back up and wins the fight.

Exactly one day after the attack, by a vote of 82 to 0 in the Senate, and 388-1 in the House, the United States declared war on Imperial Japan. Three days after that, Congress declared war on the Axis Powers, Germany and Italy, as the United States—President Roosevelt's "great arsenal of democracy"—engaged in war on two fronts. That vote, to send America's sons and daughters across an ocean, to fight an enemy, knowing they may not come home is the hardest vote of any Member of Congress's life. While we

cannot know exactly what those men and women of 1941 were thinking, we can understand their feelings, their hesitations, and their desire to seek justice for the innocent Americans who lost their lives that day.

In many of my travels, I've had an opportunity to work with members of the Japanese Diet, and I got to be friends with some of them, and I finally had the mustard one day to ask one of them: "Could you please explain to me why you bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7th 1941?" It was a hard question for me to ask, but the answer came back: "to stop colonialism in the Pacific." And I said "Thank you so much that we can be honest with one another. That we can talk about what happened in that period of time." We ignore those exchanges. Those of you involved in education, in historical associations like Friends of the WWII Memorial, we simply can't dialogue enough in this day and age.

Many of those who survived that fateful morning continued to serve in the military. Millions more joined them, in uniform and on the home front here, taking on the herculean task of evicting Japanese forces from the Pacific Theater, an awesome undertaking by any measure. But island by island, the US military and our allies achieved victory in some of the bloodiest and hardest fought and sometimes underreported battles, of modern military history.

Veterans of this harsh theater, survivors of Bataan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa, became a living history of the cost of war, and the greatness of unified American willpower. As General MacArthur said later in the ultimate surrender of Imperial Japanese ceremony radio address, the war taught us both "the bitterness of defeat and the exultation of triumph, and from both we have learned there can be no turning back. We must go forward to preserve in peace what we won in war." And indeed, America has been about that task, even before my lifetime; well maybe just as my lifetime started and probably yours too!

The memorial at the USS *Arizona*, the Punch Bowl in Hawaii, where I have been honored to place wreaths in the Pacific on behalf of our country, and the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific are permanent memorials to those gave their lives for us and for the values of our country at Pearl Harbor.

It is in this spirit that the Punch Bowl in Hawaii as well as the World War II Memorial here in our Nation's capital were created—to not only pay tribute to those who served heroically in uniform or steadfastly on the home front, but to preserve the lessons learned and act as places of living history. They teach future generations about the sacrifices of those gone before, and serve as places of remembrance to the Service Members and their families who gave so much.

And even though we dedicated and opened the WWII Memorial here in the year 2004, I am still about the task of trying to work with the Government of the United States to augment the historical collections that are so very, very important to honoring those who gave us their substance. It is not an easy task. We're working with the Library of Congress—I just want to make you aware of this. We have a veterans' history project where many Americans like you volunteered their time to collect the stories of individual veterans. We have a special place for these at the Library of Congress and our task is not finished.

One of those veterans was a man named Roger Durbin. He was an Army tank me-

chanic who fought in Europe in the Battle of the Bulge under General Patton's Third Army. He was a jovial and rather outspoken Ohioan who after the war served as a rural letter carrier and township trustee in the Congressional District that I represent. It was Mr. Durbin, who, almost a quarter century ago, in 1987, in a place called Jerusalem Township, Ohio, at a fish fry of township trustees, shouted across a room like this to me, "Hey Congresswoman Kaptur! Why is there no World War II memorial in Washington, D.C.?"

Well, I looked across the room and I saw this kind of sturdy man, not young, with rimless glasses, standing like this—I'll never forget it. I had a plate of fish—I was caught off guard and I thought 'I can't believe this is happening' because everyone in the room of course fell silent, as they watched this confrontation. I stood there and said "Sir, I think there is one."

And he said "Oh yeah—where is it?" So I said "Iwo Jima" and he said "Wrong! That's to one battle and one service."

"Well it must be Arlington." "Wrong!"

And the more I thought about it—and I was a student of history—I came back to my office and wrote a letter to the Smithsonian, and to the Department of Defense and several weeks later the letters of reply came back, I was standing by my desk and I opened the letter and he was right!

One American, he had travelled the world and he had looked at what other countries had done to honor those who fought in World War II—and, he was right. And that began a seventeen-year quest to complete the WWII Memorial here in our nation's capital. Think what one citizen can do. And this is the way Congress should work—often doesn't. But where a citizen of our country, who is imbued with an idea of profound significance, changes the face of how we present America to ourselves and the world.

Of course, he is no longer living, but he said to me before his death—I went out to his house and he said: "Marcy," (and he had above his fireplace—he died two years before the memorial was built there—he had above his fireplace a lithograph that had been done of the WWII Memorial prior to its construction) "I want to show you something, just in case." He took me to a room in his home, where the cherry furniture had been handed down from his grandparents, and he opened two, he pulled out from under this bed, two big chests, and he had been a letter carrier so he was very organized, and he had saved every news article, every letter, every military organization and veteran organization that had helped us. He kept these files—each page was in plastic.

He knew how important this was. This was an average citizen—well he was more than an average citizen. He said, "just make sure when the time comes, these get in the right place." I have so many stories I could go on forever, but when we broke the ground for the site in the 1990s, there was a flag flying over the site where the WWII Memorial here in Washington now rests. And the President then—we had to get three Presidents to help us, but that's another story—the flag came down and then the President turned and presented the flag to Mr. Durbin. And Mr. Durbin's back was to all the people at the ceremony, but he said to his wife and to me "I want to be buried with this"—and he was.

I mean this was; this is a great story. It took almost five years to get a final bill passed here, and then another decade or more to get the memorial built, as one Congressman aptly observed, it took longer to

build the memorial than fight the war. But I can say that the final product was well worth the wait, other than the fact that we still haven't buttoned down sufficient historical collections and video presentations so when future generations come, they see not only this magnificent memorial, but the story behind why those Americans fought.

We have our work cut out for us. When I was over at Normandy, I looked at the memorial we have there and all the video collections and so forth, and we're working with Park Service now, along with others to try to be able give that grand presentation to Americans who come to this memorial. Americans and others from around the world. While almost every aspect of the memorial has symbolism with both the Pacific and Atlantic porticos, to me, one of the most striking features is its location and there is an announcement stone, a corner stone that talks about this.

Think about this: as we commemorate Pearl Harbor today, the beginning of that horrendous conflict, that consequential conflict, you have to the East, the Washington Monument, that represents yes, the first President, George Washington, but the father of the Republic, which was the greatest achievement of the Eighteenth Century, and then on Western edge of the Mall, you have the Lincoln Memorial, honoring one of our greatest Presidents, Abraham Lincoln, representing the preservation of the Union, and then right in the center, between both, the most significant memorial of the Twentieth Century, the World War II Memorial, which that generation did not build for itself, but their prodigy did; representing the victory of liberty over tyranny. It does not represent a person, but a generation. At certain times of the day, you can see a shadow of the Washington Monument, fall across the WWII Memorial and land on the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool—it is really something—and we had hoped to get a light feature when we built the WWII Memorial that would reflect exactly on that spot, where the Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries come together, that still remains a dream, because those who approve memorial construction didn't agree with that idea, but I thought it was a great idea. Of course that victory of liberty over tyranny, was a gift to all of us.

Second only to its location, is the fact that this memorial is the only one dedicated to not only the service members, but the families, the shipbuilders, the factory workers, and farmers who kept our nation going during that extended conflict. It is for every yard that had a Victory Garden, and every pantry managed with a ration card. It is truly America's memorial, and you can see that on all of the bronze artifacts that are part of that site, and our entire country sacrificed for the common good and a universal cause. Our mother worked in a War Industries factory, and her job was to make sure that every spark plug that was used in an airplane wouldn't balk and that the quality was 100%, and she was very aware as she worked on her tamping machine in Toledo, Ohio that the life of a pilot and those that the plane would be carrying were in her hands. That was America's mindset.

In total, over 15 million men and women took up the Nation's call to arms. Then millions more took up the burden of maintaining the home front. Millions of women went into the workplace for the first time; a workplace outside their home. It changed the culture of our country. There was not a family who went unaffected by that War.

I'll divert just briefly, in our own family, our father lost his best friend, in the Marine

Corps at Guadalcanal, a man named Dusty. Our mother's two brothers served in uniform, in WWII, one on the Atlantic Front and one on the Pacific, both wounded. Our uncle Stanley served in the Army from 1942 through 1945, in the Battle of the Bulge to free Belgium and then liberate Paris and he never talked about it, but six months before his death he came to me in the kitchen of our home and he said "I just want you to know, this is in my billfold, in case something happens." Almost the exact words that Roger Durbin used, 'just in case'. He gave me a scapular that he had tucked in his uniform, the sacred heart, which is the religious symbol of the denomination to which we belong, and then he presented me with a Nazi swastika that he had cut out of a seaplane that had been downed in the English Channel. I still haven't figured out what to do with that—it's a rather unusual artifact—as well as one of the weapons that he had used.

Our uncle Anthony served in the precursor to the CIA, the Office of Strategic Services, seeing action in China, India and Burma before being knifed by a Japanese soldier one night as he caught a few hours sleep in Burma in a foxhole. He suffered his whole life from war-related injuries. He was so intelligent. To this day, I have no ideas where he was trained; I think maybe in Virginia, but I'm not sure.

Their stories, and just imagine how many stories across America influenced those that followed them to try to help build liberty forward. I am one of those. Together, all the lessons that came from our soldiers and our families create a living history for us to learn from the past and to build a more secure future. As General Douglas MacArthur said, "It is my earnest hope, and indeed the hope of all mankind, that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past—a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish for freedom, tolerance and justice." Your being here today means you understand that you don't forget the importance of remembrance.

Memorials allow us to look past the present and focus on those worthy to honor. They link the past to the present and enable people to frame history and respect the sacrifice of those who died, fought, participated, or were affected by conflict. Memorials are an important source of information for our young people trying to understand the decisions made by past generations and why the world is the way that it is. They are a source of national pride, unadulterated by the politics of the day.

As a nation memorials link us to our allies based on mutual experiences during times of War—the suffering, the triumphs, and the universal price of the ideal of liberty. They can heal the wounds of war, and bring people together. We saw this, this past May when President Obama visited Hiroshima, and we know that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will be coming to Pearl Harbor later this month. These are really significant symbolic actions that still help heal our world.

It's difficult to imagine that only 4 percent of Americans who served in World War II are still alive today. For those that are here this morning, we give you applause. When we built the WWII Memorial, I didn't know that honor flight would be created; it was in the minds of ordinary Americans who are extraordinary, who managed to ferry tens of thousands of our WWII veterans here for their last call in our nation's capital. I'm sure each of you knows how much that has meant to the families of our country and to

those veterans—many from my region, but from every State in the Union. The men and women who helped to do that did it so selflessly. Now we're bringing many of our Vietnam veterans here, and Korean War veterans. We have some Vietnam and Korean War veterans with us here today. Thank you, and thank you for understanding the inter-generational bonds of our country.

But only about 2.3 percent of Americans have firsthand memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Of course we know that only about 1% of our families have any connection to the military at all; 99% do not, because we no longer have forced conscription. So you're being here today, and trying to use this opportunity to teach and to elevate—do not underestimate its importance. What you're doing here by your presence is very important today. These statistics make it imperative that we maintain our history. Future generations must know, for liberty's sake, why the Transatlantic alliance as well as our Pacific bases are so essential, they must know why the United Nations and NATO are vital, living instruments of liberty; they must know the amazing potential and devastating effects that attend to nuclear power, and they must know the astounding possibilities of a country united in a common cause.

I would like to thank the Friends of the National World War II Memorial for your existence—you continue to keep alive the legacy of World War II and our Greatest Generation. They never wanted to be called the greatest generation. I consider them the most unselfish generation, and we can learn a lot from them—to keep alive in the hearts and minds of our current and future generations what their lives stood for. Their carefully developed education programs at Friends provide opportunities to teach our young citizens about the values and spirit of unity and shared purpose, which defined the character of our country during those bitter war years.

I'll tell you something, here in Congress, and I've got to make a little political comment here, I've served through many speakers now, and through many leaders here in these institutions, but I can tell you that when the WWII Generation exited, and retired or left service, the character of the place changed. When I was first here during the 1980s, Democrat Tip O'Neill was Speaker and Republican Bob Michel was minority leader and at Christmas time, you know what—they liked one another. They fought like cats and dogs on political issues, but they were friends. And in December, when the holidays came, they'd call the President of the United States and sing to the President over the telephone, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"—and they had terrible singing voices. You know what—it elevated America, and America felt unified. That is one of our challenges today and I think the memories of the WWII Generation can help heal the fissures across this country that even exist in the institution in which you are seated this morning. So I want to thank you for coming this morning, and for doing your part to honor the history of Pearl Harbor and heritage of this great country. Most importantly, thank you to our veterans not only for being here today, but for all you've done for our country. We stand, America stands, on your strong shoulders. May God Bless you and may God bless America in the years ahead.

Thank you

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KANNAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kannapolis Fire Department as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. Since its earliest days, the Kannapolis Fire Department has served the people of Kannapolis, North Carolina with steadfast dedication and a commitment to excellence.

As the City of Kannapolis expanded to the thriving community it is today, the fire department has provided more than just emergency services. The men and women of the department have been a staple of this city and actively engaged with its citizens for a hundred years. Never one to shy away from a challenge, this historical department even gained international recognition in 1934 when it set multiple world records for the speed of its reel race teams.

Today, it brings me great honor to recognize the countless men and women who have served throughout the years as members of the Kannapolis Fire Department. This year alone, the Kannapolis Fire Department has received more than 6,000 calls and exhibited countless episodes of heroism and kindness. I am extremely proud of the commitment to service the department has shown throughout its history, and I am thankful to have such outstanding professionals in our community. There is no doubt in my mind that the 108 dedicated firefighters and staff have made their community a better place. I look forward to continuing to work with the City of Kannapolis and the Kannapolis Fire Department as we continue to serve the great people of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Kannapolis Fire Department and wishing them well as they continue to serve their community.

HONORING THE 2017 ACADEMY NOMINEES OF THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the nation's military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in

which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830s, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism and handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

My Academy Review Board is composed of local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area; many are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding young men and women every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed over 40 applicants. The Board's recommendations were then forwarded to the academies, where re-

cruiters reviewed files and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admission.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it is in the Middle East, Africa or other troubled spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2017, 11TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Jordan Behrle, North Caldwell, West Essex HS.

James Coyne, Chatham, Chatham HS.
Arielle Fortes, Parsippany, Parsippany HS.
Kurt Hill, Pompton Plains, Pequannock HS.

Erik Jensen, Mendham, Randolph HS.
Noor Khan, Livingston, Livingston HS.
Benjamin Lee, Sparta, Sparta HS.
Pranay Malla, Chatham, Chatham HS.
Matthew Manion, Morris Plains, Morris-

town HS.
Michael Matarazzo, Cedar Grove, Cedar Grove HS.
Jamie Moul, West Orange, West Orange HS.

MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Shane Arcilla, Cedar Knolls, Morris Catholic HS.

Anthony Corso, Fairfield, West Essex HS.
Kyle Frey, Sparta, Pope John XXIII HS.
Travis Healy, Andover, Pope John XXIII HS.

Matthew Russo, Cedar Grove, St. Peter's Prep.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Dean Caravela, West Caldwell, James Caldwell HS.

Robert Dromsky-Reed, Kinnelon, Kinnelon HS.

Caroline Duemling, Chatham, Chatham HS.

Shannon Fashbender, Andover, Lenape Valley HS.

Kyle Gonzalez, Wanaque, Lakeland Regional HS.

Matthew Makuch, Lincoln Park, The Academy for Math, Science and Engineering.

Brandon Maravi, Wayne, St. Joseph's HS.
Paul Malatesta, Chatham, Chatham HS.

Emma Noury, Sparta, Sussex County Technical School.

Steven Orciuoli, Livingston, Livingston HS.

Brendan Reilly, Mendham, West Morris Mendham HS.

Grace Sheehan, Fairfield, Mt. Saint Dominic Academy.

Helena Seijas, Mountain Lakes, Mountain Lakes HS.

Jake Siciliano, Fairfield, West Essex HS.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Dylan Berrier, Lake Hopatcong, Morris Catholic HS.

Andrew Bowlus, Carlisle Barracks, PA., Carlisle Area HS.

Timothy Cieslak, Wayne, Wayne Valley HS.

Michael Flanagan, Florham Park, St. Peter's Prep.

Anthony Giachin, Livingston, Newark Academy.

Wilson Maya, Madison, Morristown HS.

Rebecca Morel, Mendham, Villa Walsh Academy.

Ivan Peters, Boonton, Mountain Lakes HS.

Matthew Rothman, Pequannock, Pequannock HS.

Minkyu Yang, Livingston, Livingston HS

TRAVON GODFREY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of my constituent, Travon Godfrey, who was tragically killed by gun violence on November 28th, 2016. In this tragedy, Oakland lost a community leader, a voice of truth, and a hopeful soul.

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of meeting Travon at my town hall on gun violence, where he shared the painful impact that gun violence had in his life. He stated: "It shouldn't even be like that—especially when our kids can't grow up to see the age of 21. We can't even see what it feels like to be grown."

Travon was right. In 2016 alone, more than 13,000 lives have been lost to senseless gun violence.

That is 13,000 lives too many.

Mr. Speaker, Travon was just 19 years young. His life was senselessly cut short by the very violence he was working to prevent.

I do, however, take solace in the fact that he did not let his age prevent him from speaking out against injustice. He did not sit idly by or allow the weight of his pain at losing 9 friends to gun violence to consume him. Instead, he got involved.

Travon was a tireless advocate for his community, his friends and public safety.

He reminded us that senseless gun violence can be stopped—if elected officials find the political will to enact common sense gun reforms. It breaks my heart to stand here today and share his story—a story that he worked so hard to prevent.

Mr. Speaker, we must live in the light of Travon and prevent gun violence from stealing more young people in our community and every community across the nation.

Thank you, Travon, for being an example of what courage and strength looks like. You spoke truth to power in so many ways.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Travon during this very difficult time and in the years ahead as we continue to mourn this devastating loss.

I will continue your fight, Travon.

I will continue to demand Congress pass common sense gun reform

RECOGNIZING DAN HAYES ON RECEIVING THE NATIONAL BEER WHOLESALERS ASSOCIATION EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Dan Hayes, of Brewers Distributing Company, in Peoria, for receiving the National Beer Wholesalers Association Employee Spotlight.

Dan joined the Brewers Distributing Company in 2002 as a warehouse relief driver. Since then, he has become the Director of Operations and a company-wide leader, implementing new and innovative ideas to further advance and grow the company's success. He is responsible for developing the Brewers Distributing Company's employee engagement group, known as Brewers In Motion, which works to further staff and employer relations. Dan is also a member of the Brewers Distributing Company's Strategic Planning Committee, where he has been instrumental in working to develop strategies to ensure the company's continued success in the future.

His leadership is worthy of recognition, and he is most deserving of the National Beer Wholesalers Association Employee Spotlight. Our community has greatly benefitted from his fourteen years of service to the Peoria region. In Illinois alone, beer distributors provide \$7.6 million dollars in economic development and charity support, and a combined total of \$3 billion in total economic impact. It is through the hard work and leadership of exceptional employees and individuals, like Dan, that the beer industry continues to flourish and contribute to our community.

I commend Dan on his service and hard work that has led him to receive the National Beer Wholesalers Association Employee Spotlight. I want to thank Dan Hayes for his service to Central Illinois, and congratulate him on this most deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE FORT WORTH ASSEMBLY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fort Worth Assembly in celebration of its 75th anniversary and its history of ushering accomplished young women into society and womanhood.

First organized by Mrs. Lottie Mae Hamilton in 1941, the Fort Worth Assembly has fostered an organization that helps guide young African American women to a path of excellence within the Fort Worth community.

Since the initial presentation of 22 college trained women to society during the first Fort Worth Assembly Debutante Ball on November 28, 1941, the organization has grown to present more than 800 young women to society during their annual holiday event. The Fort

Worth Assembly has introduced young women who have gone on to impact the community, world, and future generations in various fields, including the arts, sciences, and legal professions.

Along with the annual presentation, the Fort Worth Assembly continues to promote and instill exemplary values to young women at an early age through the formation of the Les Petite Cygnes, or the Little Swans, and the Junior Debutante groups.

Thanks to the leadership of the past presidents, Mrs. Lottie M. Hamilton, Mrs. Beulah Yerwood, Mrs. Kathryn Glaze, Mrs. Mildred Scott, Mrs. Sophia Thomas, Mrs. Thelma Pennigar, Mrs. Hester McDaniel, Mrs. Mildred Sims and Mrs. Bonnie Winkfield, and current president, legacy debutante Mrs. Charlece Thomas James, the Fort Worth Assembly has continued to thrive.

The work and dedication of the 25 founding women and the past presidents will be recognized on December 17th as the organization marks its 75th Fort Worth Assembly Debutante Ball Presentation, which will introduce another class of outstanding young women to society.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE BETTY BOUKUS

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Connecticut State Representative Betty Boukus, a beloved public servant who worked tirelessly on behalf of Connecticut families. Betty passed away on Friday at the age of 73. She leaves behind her husband, Gary, of more than 50 years, one son, four grandchildren, and countless friends who cherished her as an incomparable community leader and exemplary human being. I am proud to count myself among them.

Betty was elected to the General Assembly in 1994, immediately distinguishing herself as a fierce champion for the people of her beloved Plainville and New Britain. She enthusiastically immersed herself in her role on the Bonding Subcommittee, working diligently to ensure taxpayer dollars were directed to those projects that would do the most public good. Betty's efforts helped turn important initiatives to expand our state's flagship university and create new local open spaces from idea into reality. She was truly a ground-up legislator, bringing kids and families who felt left out of the political system back into the process of governing. Betty gave them a voice, helped them advocate for their needs, and restored their faith in democracy.

In her spare time, Betty organized an annual Secret Santa program to collect gifts for local veterans. That's just who Betty was. She always put people—and never politics—first. She didn't lob insults or take cheap shots. Whether you were a Democrat or Republican, you could count on her to greet you with a warm laugh and a big hug. A teacher by training and by nature, Betty went out of her way

to serve as a mentor to her colleagues in the General Assembly. She was extraordinarily generous with her time and counsel. In giving advice, she mastered the difficult art of being both truthful and kind. Her wisdom and her example made me a better public servant and a better person.

Even as her health declined, Betty was determined to serve her neighbors to the very end, guided by the principles that had made her a leader in her community for decades: integrity, optimism, and a commitment to helping as many people as she could. Betty's loss leaves a hole in our hearts, but we take solace in the knowledge that the lasting good she fought for throughout her career will always be with us.

HONORING THE EIGHTH SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS BAN KI-MOON

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN).

As we come to the end of Ban Ki-moon's second consecutive term as the Secretary-General, I want to recognize his hard work, dedication, and commitment to improving the lives of others around the world. As Secretary-General he successfully guided the UN as it worked to resolve conflicts and advance a wide range of development issues that have had a positive impact on vulnerable people across the globe.

Secretary-General Ban has worked as an advocate for women's empowerment, successfully supporting the establishment of UN Women—the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. UN Women leverages resources to build on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system. UN Women works to empower women and girls by eliminating discrimination and advancing gender equality—goals consistent with the UN agenda Secretary-General Ban has championed. Mr. Ban has been a strong advocate for women's rights and gender equality, having spearheaded campaigns like "Unite to End Violence against Women", and increasing the number of women holding senior management positions by approximately 40 percent.

During his time as Secretary-General Mr. Ban advocated for the advancement of sustainable development across the globe. One of his most prominent initiatives, the 2007 Climate Change Summit at the Bali International Conference Centre, brought together representatives from over 180 countries to adopt the Bali Road Map, which laid the foundation for the beginnings of a global climate agreement.

Finally, Mr. Ban's tireless efforts to support nations in crisis or experiencing instability cannot be understated. He has worked to strengthen humanitarian efforts, especially after disasters in Myanmar in 2008 and Pakistan and Haiti in 2010. Mr. Ban has given a

voice to the most poverty-struck and vulnerable populations in the world, including the over 65 million individuals displaced from their homes by conflict and persecution in 2015.

I thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his service, spending his days advocating on behalf of the least among us. His tenure as Secretary-General of the United Nations has delivered significant advances in peace and human rights around the world.

CONGRESSMAN JIM McDERMOTT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague, Representative JIM McDERMOTT, from Washington's 7th District.

I have had the honor and privilege of working alongside Representative McDERMOTT for the past 17 years. As co-chairs of the Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus, Congressman McDERMOTT has led the charge to wipe out HIV/AIDS around the world.

Congressman McDERMOTT and I also sat on the Budget Committee together where he was a continual guiding voice for our committee. From health care to education, he ensured that our budget reflected our moral values as a nation.

During his time representing the people of Washington's 7th District, Congressman McDERMOTT has dedicated his efforts towards finding solutions to our nation's most pressing issues, as well as remaining deeply connected to his district.

He has helped lead the fight on this very floor to guarantee all Americans comprehensive and affordable health care coverage and has supported me in pushing for peaceful solutions to conflicts around the world.

Congressman McDERMOTT has never stopped working to ensure that the American Dream is in reach for all.

I want to thank Representative McDERMOTT for his dedication to serving the people of Washington and our nation.

I am so honored and thankful to have had his friendship and his support throughout the years.

He leaves behind an incredible legacy and I wish him the very best and continued success.

IN MEMORIAM: RICK LAVIS, FEBRUARY 1, 1940–NOVEMBER 26, 2016

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Rick Lavis, a tireless and respected voice for Arizona agriculture.

Rick, a native Arizonan who grew up in downtown Phoenix, was called to public service early in his life. He served as an aide to U.S. Senator Paul Fannin (R-AZ) before working at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Rick returned to Phoenix in 1980 to advocate for Arizona's cotton growers and the broader agricultural community. As the Arizona Cotton Growers Association's top staffer, Rick worked tirelessly to pass the Groundwater Management Act of 1980, landmark legislation that still governs Arizona water today. Rick served Arizona as an expert in water, air quality, the environment, and the cotton industry.

Rick is survived by his wife, Marti, two sons, Danny and Ben, and two grandchildren, Addison and Nicholas. I was fortunate to have worked with Rick both during my time in the Arizona Legislature and when I came to Congress, and I am honored to call him a friend. I am thankful for Rick's dedication to service and appreciate his determination and willingness to make our state and country a better place for all Arizonans.

Please join me in honoring his memory.

IN HONOR OF THE WINGATE
UNIVERSITY MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wingate University men's soccer team and congratulate them on their first ever national championship. The Bulldogs earned their first national title in school history by defeating the University of Charleston in the NCAA Division II national title game on December 3, 2016.

Led by head coach Gary Hamill, Wingate finished the regular season with a perfect 14–0 record. After suffering a minor setback in the South Atlantic Conference tournament, the team rebounded by storming through the NCAA tournament on the way to the title. Through the five games of the tournament, the Bulldogs did not concede a single goal, which included denying both the first and second ranked offenses in the country anything more than a few attempts on goal. The team finished the year with a nation's best 0.40 goals-against average, proving that defense really does win championships.

Wingate had a total of five players named to the All-Tournament team including Jon Ander and Alex Nelson who were named Most Outstanding Offensive Player and Most Outstanding Defensive Player respectively. It brings me great pride to be able to recognize these extraordinary young men as well as all of the coaches and support staff that made this accomplishment possible. The hard work and dedication exhibited by each member of the team during the season will continue to serve them well in life. They are a source of pride to both the university as well as the surrounding community. I wish them well in all of their endeavors and look forward to hearing of their continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating the Wingate University men's soccer team on their well-deserved national title.

IN HONOR OF OUR FALLEN LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the fallen law enforcement officers of Georgia's Second Congressional District. The last few weeks have been especially difficult in Middle and Southwest Georgia as we have lost four officers to senseless violence.

On Wednesday, December 7, 2016, Officer Nicholas Smarr of the Americus Police Department responded to a domestic disturbance at an apartment home in Americus, Georgia. While Officer Smarr was awaiting backup from another Americus officer, his friend Officer Jody Smith of the Georgia Southwestern State University Department of Public Safety heard the radio call and responded to assist. As the officers attempted to pursue the suspect, who had fled, the suspect opened fire on the officers.

Both officers were struck by bullets. In spite of being wounded, Officer Smarr ran to Officer Smith, turned him over from his face-down position, and began to perform CPR. While trying to save Officer Smith's life, Officer Smarr died from his injuries. When backup officers arrived, they found Officer Smarr slumped over Officer Smith. Nick Smarr and Jody Smith were lifelong best friends.

On Thursday, December 8, 2016, Officer Smith succumbed to his injuries and passed away. The Americus Police Department and the Georgia Southwestern State University Department of Public Safety are each mourning the loss of one of their own. The Americus community as a whole is grieving over this terrible tragedy.

This incident brings to mind another senseless tragedy that happened in the Second Congressional District not long ago. On Sunday, November 6, 2016, Sergeant Patrick Sondon and Deputy Daryl Smallwood of the Peach County Sheriff's Office were responding to a dispute between neighbors when a suspect opened fire on them. Deputy Sondon was killed and Deputy Smallwood passed away from his injuries two days later.

Each of these four brave men loved, and in return, were deeply loved. They were sons, brothers, husbands, fathers, significant others, and friends. What is more important, they were law enforcement officers and they put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities.

Sergeant Patrick Sondon served our nation in the U.S. Air Force. He had been with the Peach County Sheriff's Office for 13 years, after having served the Fort Valley and Byron Police Departments. He had a pilot's license and enjoyed flying and driving charter buses.

Deputy Daryl Smallwood served our nation in the U.S. Marine Corps. He worked as a jailer before becoming a mandated officer in 2005 and served the Crisp County Sheriff's Department before joining the Peach County Sheriff's Office. He enjoyed listening to music and riding his Harley motorcycle.

Officer Nicholas "Nick" Ryan Smarr graduated from the Police Academy in Forsyth,

Georgia. He served as a Corrections Officer in Telfair County, a Police Officer in McRae and Vienna, and a Deputy with the Sumter County Sheriff's Department before joining the Americus Police Department. He was an Atlanta Falcons fan and loved watching movies and spending time with his friends, which included Officer Jody Smith.

Public Safety Officer Jody Smith graduated from Americus-Sumter County High School in 2009, along with his friend, Officer Nick Smarr. In 2012, he graduated from the Georgia Public Safety Training Center and served with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office and Plains Police Department. In addition to serving with Georgia Southwestern's Department of Public Safety, he was a student at the University. He was known for being friendly and energetic and was a huge fan of the Atlanta Braves.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District honor these four brave officers for their dedicated service and for making the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to their families, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

CONGRESSMAN SAM FARR

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor a truly dedicated public servant and friend, Congressman SAM FARR.

I have had the honor of working alongside Congressman FARR for 17 wonderful years. Throughout these many years, I have personally seen his passionate advocacy for the beautiful central coast, the great state of California, and our nation.

As many of us know, Congressman FARR joined the Peace Corps in 1964 and brought his passion for social and economic justice and world peace with him to Congress. Since then, he has never shied away from fighting for what is right and what is just.

As our Ranking Member of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, Congressman FARR is a fierce and strong advocate for programs serving low-income populations, rural infrastructure and development, and food safety and nutrition.

As longtime advocates to normalize relations with Cuba, we had the pleasure of witnessing history together as President Obama met with President Raul Castro and became the first president to visit Cuba in the last 81 years.

Representative FARR has supported me—and so many of our colleagues—in this very chamber and outside of our offices.

He has been a true friend and I will miss him dearly.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman FARR has encouraged all Americans to reach higher,

dream bigger, and to never give up. His commitment to our country and California's 20th district has been a joy to witness and I look forward to watching as those he has inspired continue his work.

Thank you, Congressman FARR, for all that you've done for your district and for our nation.

I look forward to continuing our friendship and preserving your work in the upcoming years.

STATES AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING
ACT OF 2016

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on May 31st, 2015, two 17 year old girls from Tennessee's 8th District, Maddie Kruse and Rachel Lynch, were killed when struck by a drunk driver. The man behind the wheel was out on bond for his sixth DUI charge when he struck the van carrying Maddie and Rachel. Each of the five local courts where the driver had pleaded guilty for DUI failed to report his conviction to State or Federal criminal databases. Had they reported his convictions to the National Crime Information Center ("NCIC"), a database accessible by law enforcement officers all over the country, the driver would have faced much stiffer penalties for his additional offenses.

To address some of the inherently mobile and cross-jurisdictional nature of driving, I have introduced the States against Drunk Driving Act of 2016. The SADD Act of 2016 would incentivize states to require all court clerks to report convictions for offenses involving driving under the influence to the NCIC and any applicable state-run crime information database. The benefits of information sharing are apparent in this particular case. A court prepared with a complete record of a repeat criminal offender would be better prepared to keep those drivers off the road.

As my term comes to an end with the 114th Congress, I have shared this story and the legislative language with my successor, Representative-Elect David Kustoff. It is my hope that Mr. Kustoff will continue to work on this important issue so that tragic events like this are less likely to happen in the future.

HONORING TOMMY GAGE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if ever a public servant deserved a peaceful, happy retirement, it is our sheriff and my dear friend, Tommy Gage. Tommy may have been born across the border in Arkansas, but we are glad he got to Texas as quickly as he could.

In the more than half-century since graduating from Galena Park High School, Tommy

Gage has been about service. After serving aboard the Heavy Cruiser USS *St. Paul* during the Vietnam War, seeing both the world and action, my friend signed up for a different kind of service.

After graduating from the Houston Police Academy in 1970, Tommy Gage began serving in this Fifth Ward on the Northeast side. His assignments included patrol, recruiting, investigator, and as a solo motorcycle unit.

In 1982, the Montgomery County Sheriffs Office welcomed Tommy Gage as a jail deputy. Over the years, he worked a variety of assignments including patrol, academy instructor, SWAT, detectives, detective sergeant, and academy commander. In 1996 Sheriff Gage went to work and served in that capacity until his election as Sheriff.

When Sheriff Gage was sworn in on New Years' Day in 2005, there were just over 450 employees at the sheriff's office. Today, that number has nearly doubled in an all-out effort to protect and serve. From starting the county's first motorcycle traffic unit, which now includes seven motorcycles, a canine unit now with seven canines, to an aviation unit that includes a Cessna 210 aircraft and two Aeryon Sky Ranger unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) fully licensed by the FAA, Sheriff Gage's MCSO has set a high bar. I know our local events are the safest, friendliest congressional gatherings in the country in no small part due to our sheriff.

For a sheriff known for his white hat and colorful Texas neckties, his changes to the local uniforms led to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office being named a best dressed agency in United States.

While our sheriff is quick to give credit to his stellar team, numerous awards and personal honors would not have been possible without his servant leadership. Sheriff Gage has often said "there is no greater honor than to finish my law enforcement career as a Texas sheriff." In making his mark here in Montgomery County, he has honored all of us.

A life member of the Montgomery County Fair Association, East Montgomery County Fair Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4709, Texas Jail Association, the National Rifle Association, 100 Club, and Sheriffs Association of Texas, our beloved sheriff is a Chartered Member of Montgomery County Search and Rescue and a valued member of the Texas Police Association, Fraternal Order of Police, National Association of Chiefs of Police, the American Legion Post Number 618, local civic groups and chambers, and the Harley Owners Group—Cut & Shoot Chapter.

In their more than three decades of marriage, Tommy and Ollie Nell Gage have been blessed with 3 children, 9 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild—all who have an amazing role model of how to be a servant leader.

On December 31, 2016, Sheriff Gage is retiring after finishing his third term. I know Ollie Nell is going to be glad to have him home safely from over 46 years of law enforcement service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY CAMELI, CHIEF, MESA FIRE AND MEDICAL DEPARTMENT; PAST PRESIDENT, PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS OF ARIZONA; EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, UNITED PHOENIX FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Mary Cameli of the Mesa Fire and Medical Department. Mary was one of the first women to join the department in 1983 and is now the first woman to lead as fire chief. She has dedicated her career to serving our state and championing the needs of Arizona's firefighting community.

Prior to Mary's selection as chief, she was an assistant fire chief overseeing the Emergency Medical Services Division, Planning and Research Division, Personnel and Wellness, and the CMS Healthcare Innovation Grant. During her time as assistant fire chief, the department received numerous health care innovation awards and built five new fire stations.

Mary is a tremendous leader who works well with rank and file members, other city departments, and community groups. Her work is a testament to her dedication to her fellow firefighters, emergency personnel, and the State of Arizona. We are lucky she will continue to serve our community as fire chief.

IN HONOR OF SHERIFF EARL BUTLER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Earl "Moose" Butler for his 22 years of

service as Sheriff of Cumberland County, North Carolina.

Growing up in Cumberland County, Sheriff Butler has always had a profound sense of duty to his community and fellow man. In 1964, he began his career of public service as a teacher, followed by his service as a probation and parole officer for the state. He remained at his post at N.C. Probation and Parole until 1994 when he was first elected as Sheriff of Cumberland County.

Throughout his career, Sheriff Butler has exhibited his deep dedication to this community and we are fortunate to have had him as a leader for all these years. Among his accomplishments during his time in office was earning the designation as an accredited office by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. This distinction recognizes departments that have established professional standards and policies that help promote accountability to the community they protect. Cumberland County was one of the first two sheriff's offices in the state to earn this title.

Aside from his professional career, Sheriff Butler has remained an active member of the community, volunteering his time to give back to others. He is a member of several civic organizations, including Masons, and hosts the annual "Shop with the Sheriff" event that seeks to assist families in need during the holidays. It is my hope that Sheriff Butler will enjoy his retirement and remain a role model for all of those he has helped over the years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the career of Sheriff Earl "Moose" Butler for his service to our community and wishing him well as he begins the next chapter of his life in retirement.

CONGRESSMAN MIKE HONDA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor a truly dedicated public servant and friend, Congressman MIKE HONDA.

As a passionate and tireless leader, Congressman HONDA has spent the last 15 years as an active representative for California's 17th district.

Raised in an internment camp, Congressman HONDA has witnessed firsthand the dangers of hate, fear, and injustice. Through these experiences, he has dedicated his life to protecting those who are underrepresented and advocating for global peace and security.

Before coming to Congress, Congressman HONDA served in the Peace Corps and was a dedicated teacher and principal to all students.

Congressman HONDA has never shied away from what is right and what is just. As a long-time champion for LGBT rights, he has fought to ensure equal rights for all. His courage reminds us all of what it means to truly represent the people of America, no matter where they come from or who they love.

I know that Congressman HONDA will be missed in his district, in the California Delegation, and throughout the halls of Congress.

He has served his district with heart and pride each and every day.

I hope that as we begin our next Congress, we work to protect the progress that Congressman HONDA has made and provide patience, kindness, and care as he did.

Thank you, Representative HONDA, for your work to advance our shared progressive values and for your friendship.

I look forward to preserving and continuing your work in the upcoming years.

SENATE—Tuesday, December 13, 2016

The Senate met at 8:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BILL CASSIDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.



APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 13, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BILL CASSIDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASSIDY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.



ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016, AT 10 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m., Friday, December 16, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:30 and 28 seconds a.m., adjourned until Friday, December 16, 2016, at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, December 13, 2016

The House met at 2:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. COMSTOCK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 13, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BARBARA COMSTOCK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Dan C. Cummins, Skyline Wesleyan Church, San Diego, California, offered the following prayer:

Almighty Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth, and Governor of all Nations, we give praise to Your Name as we stand on this 159th anniversary of the opening of this beautiful Chamber that has witnessed this Nation's rich history. May God bless the House of Representatives with another century and a half of doing the people's bidding in maintaining family, faith, life, and freedom.

We pray that the wisdom of King Solomon be given its leadership for guidance to lead us in the paths of righteousness. And may they possess the ingenuity of King Uzziah to craft and create new means to prosperity for us all. Lastly, give them the fear of the Lord, for without it, no man shall possess Your wisdom.

We pray for peaceful transition of power, for racial reconciliation, for civility in governance, and peace and goodwill for all mankind.

In that Holy Christmas Child's name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 944, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 12, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 12, 2016, at 3:12 p.m.:

That the Senate concurs in the House amendment to the bill S. 2971.

That the Senate concurs in the House amendment to the bill S. 2854.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 12, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 12, 2016, at 3:55 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 3084.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 12, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of

the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 12, 2016, at 5:44 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 40.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6282.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6138.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4680.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5612.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4465.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5948.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6323.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4352.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5099.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5790.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 875.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6304.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6477.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6452.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6130.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6450.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6451.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6431.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6400.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

FRANK R. WOLF INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1150) to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

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

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings; policy; sense of Congress.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTIVITIES

Sec. 101. Office on International Religious Freedom; Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.

Sec. 102. Annual Report on International Religious Freedom.

Sec. 103. Training for Foreign Service officers.

Sec. 104. Prisoner lists and issue briefs on religious freedom concerns.

TITLE II—NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Sec. 201. Special Adviser for International Religious Freedom.

TITLE III—PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

Sec. 301. Non-state actor designations.

Sec. 302. Presidential actions in response to particularly severe violations of religious freedom.

Sec. 303. Report to Congress.

Sec. 304. Presidential waiver.

Sec. 305. Publication in the Federal Register.

TITLE IV—PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Sec. 401. Assistance for promoting religious freedom.

TITLE V—DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Sec. 501. Designated Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Religious Freedom.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 601. Miscellaneous provisions.

Sec. 602. Clerical amendments.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; POLICY; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Section 2(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by inserting “The freedom of thought, conscience, and religion is understood to protect theistic and non-theistic beliefs and the right not to profess or practice any religion.” before “Governments”;

(2) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the following: “A policy or practice of routinely denying applications for visas for religious workers in a country can be indicative of a poor state of religious freedom in that country.”; and

(3) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by inserting “and the specific targeting of non-theists, humanists, and atheists because of their beliefs” after “religious persecution”;

(B) by inserting “and in regions where non-state actors exercise significant political power and territorial control” before the period at the end.

(b) **POLICY.**—Section 2(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E);

(2) by striking the matter preceding subparagraph (A), as redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The following shall be the policy of the United States.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **EVOLVING POLICIES AND COORDINATED DIPLOMATIC RESPONSES.**—Because the promotion of international religious freedom protects human rights, advances democracy abroad, and advances United States interests in stability, security, and development globally, the promotion of international religious freedom requires new and evolving policies and diplomatic responses that—

“(A) are drawn from the expertise of the national security agencies, the diplomatic services, and other governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations; and

“(B) are coordinated across and carried out by the entire range of Federal agencies.”.

(c) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a policy or practice by the government of any foreign country of routinely denying visa applications for religious workers can be indicative of a poor state of religious freedom in that country; and

(2) the United States Government should seek to reverse any such policy by reviewing the entirety of the bilateral relationship between such country and the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6402) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (13) as paragraph (16);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (10), (11), and (12) as paragraphs (12), (13), and (14), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

“(10) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

“(11) **NON-STATE ACTOR.**—The term ‘non-state actor’ means a nonsovereign entity that—

“(A) exercises significant political power and territorial control;

“(B) is outside the control of a sovereign government; and

“(C) often employs violence in pursuit of its objectives.”;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (14), as redesignated, the following:

“(15) **SPECIAL WATCH LIST.**—The term ‘Special Watch List’ means the Special Watch List described in section 402(b)(1)(A)(iii).”;

(5) in paragraph (16), as redesignated—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as clauses (v) and (vi), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

“(iv) not professing a particular religion, or any religion.”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by inserting “conscience, non-theistic views, or” before “religious belief or practice”; and

(ii) by inserting “forcibly compelling non-believers or non-theists to recant their beliefs or to convert,” after “forced religious conversion.”.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTIVITIES

SEC. 101. OFFICE ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM; AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 101 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting “, and shall report directly to the Secretary of State” before the period at the end;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “responsibility” and inserting “responsibilities”;

(ii) by striking “shall be to advance” and inserting the following: “shall be to—
“(A) advance”;

(iii) in subparagraph (A), as redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) integrate United States international religious freedom policies and strategies into the foreign policy efforts of the United States.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “the principal adviser to” before “the Secretary of State”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) contacts with nongovernmental organizations that have an impact on the state of religious freedom in their respective societies or regions, or internationally.”;

(D) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(E) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) **COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES.**—In order to promote religious freedom as an interest of United States foreign policy, the Ambassador at Large—

“(A) shall coordinate international religious freedom policies across all programs, projects, and activities of the United States; and

“(B) should participate in any interagency processes on issues in which the promotion of international religious freedom policy can advance United States national security interests, including in democracy promotion, stability, security, and development globally.”; and

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “staff for the Office” and all that follows and inserting “appropriate staff for the Office, including full-time equivalent positions and other temporary staff positions needed to compile, edit, and manage the Annual Report under the direct supervision of the Ambassador at Large, and for the conduct of investigations by the Office and for necessary travel to carry out this Act. The Secretary of State should provide the Ambassador at Large with sufficient funding to carry out the duties described in this section, including, as necessary, representation funds. On the date on which the President’s annual budget request is submitted to Congress, the Secretary shall submit an annual report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes a report on staffing levels for the International Religious Freedom Office.”.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that maintaining an adequate staffing level at the Office, such as was in place during fiscal year 2016, is necessary for the Office to carry out its important work.

SEC. 102. ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 102(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “September 1” and inserting “May 1”;

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (iii), by striking “; and” and inserting “as well as the routine denial of visa applications for religious workers.”;

(B) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (vii); and

(C) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

“(iv) particularly severe violations of religious freedom in that country if such country does not have a functioning government or the government of such country does not control its territory;

“(v) the identification of prisoners, to the extent possible, in that country pursuant to section 108(d);

“(vi) any action taken by the government of that country to censor religious content, communications, or worship activities online, including descriptions of the targeted religious group, the content, communication, or activities censored, and the means used; and”;

(3) in subparagraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(A) by inserting “persecution of lawyers, politicians, or other human rights advocates seeking to defend the rights of members of religious groups or highlight religious freedom violations, prohibitions on ritual animal slaughter or male infant circumcision,” after “entire religions,”; and

(B) by inserting “policies that ban or restrict the public manifestation of religious belief and the peaceful involvement of religious groups or their members in the political life of each such foreign country,” after “such groups,”;

(4) in subparagraph (C), by striking “A description of United States actions and” and inserting “A detailed description of United States actions, diplomatic and political coordination efforts, and other”;

(5) in subparagraph (F)(i)—

(A) by striking “section 402(b)(1)” and inserting “section 402(b)(1)(A)(ii)”;

(B) by adding at the end the following: “Any country in which a non-state actor designated as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act is located shall be included in this section of the report.”

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the original intent of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) was to require annual reports from both the Department of State and the Commission on International Religious Freedom to be delivered each year, during the same calendar year, and with at least 5 months separating these reports, in order to provide updated information for policymakers, Members of Congress, and non-governmental organizations; and

(2) given that the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices no longer contain updated information on religious freedom conditions globally, it is important that the Department of State coordinate with the Commission to fulfill the original intent of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

SEC. 103. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO FOREIGN SERVICE ACT OF 1980.—Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively;

(B) by striking “(a) The Secretary of State” and inserting the following:

“(a) HUMAN RIGHTS, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State”;

and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TRAINING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the training required under paragraph (1)(B), the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center shall, not later than the one year after the date of the enactment of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, conduct training on religious freedom for all Foreign Service officers, including all entry level officers, all officers prior to departure for posting outside the United States, and all outgoing deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors. Such training shall be included in—

“(i) the A-100 course attended by all Foreign Service officers;

“(ii) the courses required of every Foreign Service officer prior to a posting outside the United States, with segments tailored to the particular religious demography, religious freedom conditions, and United States strategies for advancing religious freedom, in each receiving country; and

“(iii) the courses required of all outgoing deputy chiefs of mission and ambassadors.

“(B) DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM.—In carrying out the training required under paragraph (1)(B), the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, in coordination with the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center and other Federal officials, as appropriate, and in consultation with the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom established under section 201(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(a)), shall make recommendations to the Secretary of State regarding a curriculum for the training of United States Foreign Service officers under paragraph (1)(B) on the scope and strategic value of international religious freedom, how violations of international religious freedom harm fundamental United States interests, how the advancement of international religious freedom can advance such interests, how United States international religious freedom policy should be carried out in practice by United States diplomats and other Foreign Service officers, and the relevance and relationship of international religious freedom to United States defense, diplomacy, development, and public affairs efforts. The Secretary of State should ensure the availability of sufficient resources to develop and implement such curriculum.

“(C) INFORMATION SHARING.—The curriculum and training materials developed under this paragraph shall be shared with the United States Armed Forces and other Federal departments and agencies with personnel who are stationed overseas, as appropriate, to provide training on—

“(i) United States religious freedom policies;

“(ii) religious traditions;

“(iii) religious engagement strategies;

“(iv) religious and cultural issues; and

“(v) efforts to counter violent religious extremism.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “The Secretary of State” and inserting “REFUGEES.—The Secretary of State”;

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “The Secretary of State” and inserting “CHILD SOLDIERS.—The Secretary of State”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with the assistance of the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, and the Director of the Foreign Service Institute, located at the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center, shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that contains a plan for undertaking training for Foreign Service officers under section 708 of the Foreign Services Act of 1980, as amended by subsection (a).

SEC. 104. PRISONER LISTS AND ISSUE BRIEFS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONCERNS.

Section 108 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6417) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “faith,” and inserting “activities, religious freedom advocacy, or efforts to protect and advance the universally recognized right to the freedom of religion,”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “, as appropriate, provide” and insert “make available”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) VICTIMS LIST MAINTAINED BY THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make publicly available, to the extent practicable, online and in official publications, lists of persons it determines are imprisoned or detained, have disappeared, been placed under house arrest, been tortured, or subjected to forced renunciations of faith for their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy by the government of a foreign country that the Commission recommends for designation as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under section 402(b)(1)(A)(ii) or by a non-state actor that the Commission recommends for designation as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act and include as much publicly available information as practicable on the conditions and circumstances of such persons.

“(2) DISCRETION.—In compiling lists under paragraph (1), the Commission shall exercise all appropriate discretion, including consideration of the safety and security of, and benefit to, the persons who may be included on the lists and the families of such persons.”

TITLE II—NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SEC. 201. SPECIAL ADVISER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

The position described in section 101(k) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021(k)) should assist the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom to coordinate international religious freedom policies and strategies throughout the executive branch and within any interagency policy committee of which the Ambassador at Large is a member.

TITLE III—PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

SEC. 301. NON-STATE ACTOR DESIGNATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, concurrent with the annual foreign country review required under section 402(b)(1)(A) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)(A)), shall—

(1) review and identify any non-state actors operating in any such reviewed country or surrounding region that have engaged in particularly severe violations of religious freedom; and

(2) designate, in a manner consistent with such Act, each such non-state actor as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom.

(b) REPORT.—Whenever the President designates a non-state actor under subsection (a) as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom, the President, as soon as practicable after the designation is made, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the reasons for such designation.

(c) ACTIONS.—The President should take specific actions, when practicable, to address severe violations of religious freedom of non-state actors that are designated under subsection (a)(2).

(d) DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary of State should include information detailing the reasons the President designated a non-state actor as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under subsection (a) in the Annual Report required under section 102(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)(1)).

(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Secretary of State should work with Congress and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom—

(A) to create new political, financial, and diplomatic tools to address severe violations of religious freedom by non-state actors; and

(B) to update the actions the President can take under section 405 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6445);

(2) governments must ultimately be held accountable for the abuses that occur in their territories; and

(3) any actions the President takes after designating a non-state actor as an entity of particular concern should also involve high-level diplomacy with the government of the country in which the non-state actor is operating.

(f) DETERMINATIONS OF RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.—In order to appropriately target Presidential actions under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.), the President, with respect to each non-state actor designated as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under subsection (a), shall seek to determine, to the extent practicable, the specific officials or members that are responsible for the particularly severe violations of religious freedom engaged in or tolerated by such non-state actor.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “appropriate congressional committees”, “non-state actor”, and “particularly severe violations of religious freedom” have the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6402), as amended by section 3 of this Act.

SEC. 302. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

Section 402 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which each Annual Report is submitted under section 102(b), the President shall—

“(i) review the status of religious freedom in each foreign country to determine whether the government of that country has engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom in each such country during the preceding 12 months or longer;

“(ii) designate each country the government of which has engaged in or tolerated violations described in clause (i) as a country of particular concern for religious freedom; and

“(iii) designate each country that engaged in or tolerated severe violations of religious freedom during the previous year, but does not meet, in the opinion of the President at the time of publication of the Annual Report, all of the criteria described in section 3(15) for designation under clause (ii) as being placed on a ‘Special Watch List’.”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “prior to September 1 of the respective year” and inserting “before the date on which each Annual Report is submitted under section 102(b)”;

(B) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the President designates a country as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under paragraph (1)(A)(ii), the President, not later than 90 days after such designation, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

“(i) the designation of the country, signed by the President;

“(ii) the identification, if any, of responsible parties determined under paragraph (2); and

“(iii) a description of the actions taken under subsection (c), the purposes of the actions taken, and the effectiveness of the actions taken.

“(B) REMOVAL OF DESIGNATION.—A country that is designated as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) shall retain such designation until the

President determines and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that the country should no longer be so designated.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) EFFECT ON DESIGNATION AS COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.—The presence or absence of a country from the Special Watch List in any given year shall not preclude the designation of such country as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) in any such year.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(5), by striking “the President must designate the specific sanction or sanctions which he determines satisfy the requirements of this subsection.” and inserting “the President shall designate the specific sanction or sanctions that the President determines satisfy the requirements under this subsection and include a description of the impact of such sanction or sanctions on each country.”.

SEC. 303. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Section 404(a)(4)(A) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6444(a)(4)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) the impact on the advancement of United States interests in democracy, human rights, and security, and a description of policy tools being applied in the country, including programs that target democratic stability, economic growth, and counterterrorism.”.

SEC. 304. PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.

Section 407 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6447) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsection (c)”;

(B) by inserting “, for a single, 180-day period,” after “may waive”;

(C) by striking paragraph (1); and

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively;

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—Subject to subsection (c), the President may waive, for any additional specified period of time after the 180-day period described in subsection (a), the application of any of the actions described in paragraphs (9) through (15) of section 405(a) (or a commensurate substitute action) with respect to a country, if the President determines and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that—

“(1) the respective foreign government has ceased the violations giving rise to the Presidential action; or

“(2) the important national interest of the United States requires the exercise of such waiver authority.”;

(4) in subsection (c), as redesignated, by inserting “or (b)” after “subsection (a)”;

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) ongoing and persistent waivers of the application of any of the actions described in paragraphs (9) through (15) of section 405(a) (or commensurate substitute action) with respect to a country do not fulfill the purposes of this Act; and

“(2) because the promotion of religious freedom is an important interest of United States foreign policy, the President, the Secretary of State, and other executive branch officials, in consultation with Congress, should seek to find ways to address existing violations, on a case-by-case basis, through the actions described in

section 405 or other commensurate substitute action.”.

SEC. 305. PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.

Section 408(a)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6448(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “Any designation of a non-state actor as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under section 301 of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act and, if applicable and to the extent practicable, the identities of individuals determined to be responsible for violations described in subsection (f) of such section.”.

TITLE IV—PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

SEC. 401. ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—It is the sense of Congress that for each fiscal year that begins on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President should request sufficient appropriations from Congress to support—

(1) the vigorous promotion of international religious freedom and for projects to advance United States interests in the protection and advancement of international religious freedom, in particular, through grants to groups that—

(A) are capable of developing legal protections or promoting cultural and societal understanding of international norms of religious freedom;

(B) seek to address and mitigate religiously motivated and sectarian violence and combat violent extremism; or

(C) seek to strengthen investigations, reporting, and monitoring of religious freedom violations, including genocide perpetrated against religious minorities; and

(2) the establishment of an effective Religious Freedom Defense Fund, to be administered by the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, to provide grants for—

(A) victims of religious freedom abuses and their families to cover legal and other expenses that may arise from detention, imprisonment, torture, fines, and other restrictions; and

(B) projects to help create and support training of a new generation of defenders of religious freedom, including legal and political advocates, and civil society projects which seek to create advocacy networks, strengthen legal representation, train and educate new religious freedom defenders, and build the capacity of religious communities and rights defenders to protect against religious freedom violations, mitigate societal or sectarian violence, or minimize legal or other restrictions of the right to freedom of religion.

(b) PREFERENCE.—It is the sense of Congress that, in providing grants under subsection (a), the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom should, as appropriate, give preference to projects targeting religious freedom violations in countries—

(1) designated as countries of particular concern for religious freedom under section 402(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)); or

(2) included on the Special Watch List described in section 402(b)(1)(A)(iii) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, as added by section 302(1)(A)(i) of this Act.

(c) ADMINISTRATION AND CONSULTATIONS.—

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—Amounts made available under subsection (a) shall be administered by the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.

(2) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing priorities and policies for providing grants authorized under subsection (a), including programming and policy, the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom should consult with

other Federal agencies, including the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and, as appropriate, nongovernmental organizations.

TITLE V—DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

SEC. 501. DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

Title VI of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6471 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 605 as section 606; and

(2) by inserting after section 604 the following:

“SEC. 605. DESIGNATED PERSONS LIST FOR PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

“(a) LIST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Ambassador at Large and in consultation with relevant government and nongovernment experts, shall establish and maintain a list of foreign individuals to whom a consular post has denied a visa on the grounds of particularly severe violations of religious freedom under section 212(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(G)), or who are subject to financial sanctions or other measures for particularly severe violations of freedom of religion.

“(2) REFERENCE.—The list required under paragraph (1) shall be known as the ‘Designated Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Religious Freedom’.

“(b) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that contains the list required under subsection (a), including, with respect to each foreign individual on the list—

“(A) the name of the individual and a description of the particularly severe violation of religious freedom committed by the individual;

“(B) the name of the country or other location in which such violation took place; and

“(C) a description of the actions taken pursuant to this Act or any other Act or Executive order in response to such violation.

“(2) SUBMISSION AND UPDATES.—The Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

“(A) the initial report required under paragraph (1) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act; and

“(B) updates to the report every 180 days thereafter and as new information becomes available.

“(3) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) should be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

“(4) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

“(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(C) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

“(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

“(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(F) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.”.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 601. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Title VII of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6481 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 702. VOLUNTARY CODES OF CONDUCT FOR UNITED STATES INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

“(a) FINDING.—Congress recognizes the enduring importance of United States institutions of higher education worldwide—

“(1) for their potential for shaping positive leadership and new educational models in host countries; and

“(2) for their emphasis on teaching universally recognized rights of free inquiry and academic freedom.

“(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that United States institutions of higher education operating campuses outside the United States or establishing any educational entities with foreign governments, particularly with or in countries the governments of which engage in or tolerate severe violations of religious freedom as identified in the Annual Report, should seek to adopt a voluntary code of conduct for operating in such countries that should—

“(1) uphold the right of freedom of religion of their employees and students, including the right to manifest that religion peacefully as protected in international law;

“(2) ensure that the religious views and peaceful practice of religion in no way affect, or be allowed to affect, the status of a worker’s or faculty member’s employment or a student’s enrollment; and

“(3) make every effort in all negotiations, contracts, or memoranda of understanding engaged in or constructed with a foreign government to protect academic freedom and the rights enshrined in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

“SEC. 703. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM THROUGH UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY.

“It is the sense of Congress that the annual national security strategy report of the President required under section 108 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3043)—

“(1) should promote international religious freedom as a foreign policy and national security priority; and

“(2) should articulate that promotion of the right to freedom of religion is a strategy that—

“(A) protects other, related human rights, and advances democracy outside the United States; and

“(B) makes clear its importance to United States foreign policy goals of stability, security, development, and diplomacy;

“(3) should be a guide for the strategies and activities of relevant Federal agencies; and

“(4) should inform the Department of Defense quadrennial defense review under section 118 of title 10, United States Code, and the Department of State Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review.”.

SEC. 602. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

The table of contents of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 note) is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 605 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 606. Studies on the effect of expedited removal provisions on asylum claims.”;

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 604 the following:

“Sec. 605. Designated Persons List for Particularly Severe Violations of Religious Freedom.”;

and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 702. Voluntary codes of conduct for United States institutions of higher education operating outside the United States.

“Sec. 703. Sense of Congress regarding national security strategy to promote religious freedom through United States foreign policy.”.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, eighteen years ago, Congress had the foresight to pass the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. That landmark bill made advancing the right to religious freedom a U.S. foreign policy priority.

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 needed to be upgraded to meet some of the new challenges of the 21st century. This bill, the Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2016, accomplishes that goal by integrating international religious freedom into U.S. foreign policy; improving the ability of the U.S. government to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts; and giving the Secretary of State stronger and more flexible political responses to growing religious freedom violations.

Religion is an even more relevant foreign policy issue today than it was eighteen years ago. From China and Vietnam to Syria and Nigeria, we are witnessing a tragic, global crisis in religious persecution, violence and terrorism, with dire consequences for religious minorities and for U.S. national security.

The biggest threats to our nation often come from those most violently opposed to religious freedom. Thus, the promotion of religious liberty is not an isolated human rights concern, but a fundamental component of our national security.

The global religious freedom crisis we are experiencing today has created millions of victims and undermines liberty, prosperity and peace in places vital to U.S. national interests—posing direct challenge to the U.S. interests in the Middle East, Russia, China and sub-Saharan Africa.

Ancient Christian communities in Iraq and Syria are on the verge of extinction and other religious minorities in the Middle East face a constant assault from the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). ISIS is committing genocide, mass atrocities, and war crimes to advance its cause—they must be stopped and those facing genocide must be giving the assistance.

A robust religious freedom diplomacy is necessary to advance U.S. interests in stability, security, and economic development. Research has shown that where there is more religious freedom, there is more economic freedom, more women’s empowerment, more political stability, more freedom of speech, and less terrorism.

More than ever before, vigorous U.S. leadership and diplomacy are needed to address religious freedom violations globally. It is clear that our national security will depend on the protection and advancement of this fundamental freedom.

The Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Act will upgrade the tools and used by

the Administration to improve U.S. religious freedom diplomacy efforts globally; better trained and equipped diplomats to counter extremism; address anti-Semitism and religious persecution, and mitigate sectarian conflict.

The bill does this by:

Requiring that the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom report directly to the Secretary of State.

Elevating the position of the Ambassador within the Federal Government: Gives the Ambassador responsibilities to coordinate religious freedom policy throughout the government; develop training curriculum for all Foreign Service officers; and administer grants to promote religious freedom policy globally.

Requiring training in international religious freedom for all Foreign Service Officers: Requires development of curriculum and training for all incoming Foreign Service Officers and for Deputy Chiefs of Mission and Ambassadors going out to new posts. The curriculum used by the State Department will be made available to the U.S. Military and other relevant government agencies.

Creating an "Entity of Particular Concern" Designation for Non-State Actors: Gives the Secretary of State authority to designate as "entities of particular concern" in recognition of the fact that in the 21st century some of the most egregious religious freedom violations are committed by non-state actors.

Requiring more frequent Presidential actions to counter severe religious freedom violations globally: Requires annual Country of Particular Concern (CPC) designations. Limits the number of sanctions waivers (except in cases of the national interest) and requires more frequent reporting on countries where sanction waivers are used.

Creating a comprehensive Religious Prisoner's List: Lists of religious prisoners would be made available upon request from Members of Congress.

Increasing congressional oversight of State Department actions against individual religious freedom violators through the creation of a "Designated Persons List:" The list will include individuals who have been denied a visa or sanctioned because of their involvement in severe violations of religious freedom. Congress will receive frequent and regular updates on the list.

Requiring the State Department to create a "Special Watch List" of countries that tolerate severe violations of religious freedom but which may fail to meet the CPC threshold.

Sets Congressional Expectations for Staffing of the IRF Office and Expansion of Religious Freedom Program Grants: Requires "appropriate staff for the IRF office and seeks office staffing at FY 16 levels. Urges the State Department to request "sufficient funding for vigorous promotion" of international religious freedom policy.

The bill is named after former Congressman Frank Wolf, a tireless champion for the rights of the poor and the persecuted globally. 18 years ago, he had the foresight to make advancing the right to religious freedom a high U.S. foreign policy priority. It is largely because of his efforts that religious freedom is taken seriously as a foreign policy issue. I had the distinct honor and pleasure of working with him for over thirty years. This bill is a fitting

tribute to his work and service to our great nation.

I want to thank Rep. ANNA ESHOO for her partnership on this legislation and her advocacy on behalf of religious minorities in the Middle East and the cause of all those oppressed for the beliefs they hold.

I also want to thank Senator MARCO RUBIO for his commitment to the cause of human rights and international religious freedom and for his assistance in getting this bill passed in the Senate.

As with many pieces of bipartisan legislation, this bill would not have gotten this far without the assistance of many individuals and groups invested in its passage. I want to thank Senators BOB CORKER, and BEN CARDIN, for assisting with the bill's amendment and passage on the Senate side. Congressman ED ROYCE and ELIOT ENGEL and their staff for helping to move this bill on a bipartisan basis through the House. Also, I want to recognize the contribution David Saperstein, the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, who's worked to strengthen the bill and assure its passage. Finally, I want to recognize and thank the many staff members, in the House and Senate, who have worked hard for this bill's passage over the past two years including, Scott Flipse, Elyse Anderson, Mary Noonan, Hannah Murphy, Caleb McCarry, Jaime Fly, Doug Anderson, Piero Tozzi, Sajit Gandhi, and Janice Kaguyutan.

International religious freedom is not a partisan or party issue. The freedom to practice a religion without persecution is a precious right for everyone, of whatever race, sex, status, or location on earth. This human right is enshrined in our own founding documents, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is a bedrock principle of open and democratic societies for centuries.

We Americans understand the importance of religious liberty. It is the First Freedom on which our nation was founded. We should be united in defending it, standing up for those who suffer grievously for its absence, and for the noble and essential cause of protecting our own country. I urge passage of this bill without objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to submit statements or extraneous materials for the RECORD on the Senate amendment to H.R. 1150.

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

There was no objection.

UNITED STATES-CARIBBEAN STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to

take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4939) to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region and with civil society, including the private sector, in both the United States and the Caribbean, in a concerted effort to—

(1) enhance diplomatic relations between the United States and the Caribbean region;

(2) increase economic cooperation between the United States and the Caribbean region;

(3) support regional economic, political, and security integration efforts in the Caribbean region;

(4) encourage enduring economic development and increased regional economic diversification and global competitiveness;

(5) reduce levels of crime and violence, curb the trafficking of illicit drugs, strengthen the rule of law, and improve citizen security;

(6) improve energy security by increasing access to diverse, reliable, and affordable power;

(7) advance cooperation on democracy and human rights at multilateral fora;

(8) continue support for public health advances and cooperation on health concerns and threats to the Caribbean region; and

(9) expand Internet access throughout the region, especially to countries lacking the appropriate infrastructure.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a multi-year strategy for United States engagement to support the efforts of interested nations in the Caribbean region that—

(1) identifies Department of State and USAID priorities, in coordination with other executive branch agencies, for United States policy towards the Caribbean region;

(2) outlines an approach to partner with governments of the Caribbean region to improve citizen security, reduce the trafficking of illicit drugs, strengthen the rule of law, and improve the effectiveness and longevity of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative;

(3) establishes a comprehensive, integrated, multi-year strategy to encourage efforts of the Caribbean region to implement regional and national strategies that improve energy security, by increasing access to all available sources of energy, including by taking advantage of the indigenous energy sources of the Caribbean and the ongoing energy revolution in the United States;

(4) outlines an approach to improve diplomatic engagement with the governments of the

Caribbean region, including with respect to human rights and democracy;

(5) Describes how the United States can develop an approach to supporting Caribbean countries in efforts they are willing to undertake with their own resources to diversify their economies;

(6) describes ways to ensure the active participation of citizens of the Caribbean in existing program and initiatives administered by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; and

(7) reflects the input of other executive branch agencies, as appropriate.

SEC. 4. BRIEFINGS.

The Secretary of State shall offer to the appropriate congressional committees annual briefings that review Department of State efforts to implement the strategy for United States engagement with the Caribbean region in accordance with section 3.

SEC. 5. PROGRESS REPORT.

Not later than 2 years after the submission of the strategy required under section 3, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on progress made toward implementing the strategy.

SEC. 6. REPORTING COST OFFSET.

Section 601(c)(4) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4001(c)(4)) is amended by striking "the following:" and all that follows through "(B) A workforce plan" and inserting "a workforce plan".

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) **CARIBBEAN REGION.**—The term "Caribbean region" means the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative beneficiary countries.

(3) **SECURITY ASSISTANCE.**—The term "security assistance" has the meaning given such term in section 502B(d)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)(2)).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY NUCLEAR ENERGY ACT

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 8) to provide for the approval of the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 8

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

SECTION 1. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding the provisions for congressional consideration of a proposed agreement for cooperation in subsection d. of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153), the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, done at Washington June 11, 2016, may be brought into effect on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, as if all the requirements in such section for consideration of such agreement had been satisfied, subject to subsection (b).

(b) **APPLICABILITY OF ATOMIC ENERGY ACT OF 1954 AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.**—Upon entering into effect, the agreement referred to in subsection (a) shall be subject to the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) and any other applicable United States law as if such agreement had come into effect in accordance with the requirements of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153).

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESSENTIAL TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL ASSESSMENT ACT

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 710) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL SECURITY CARD PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSESSMENT.

(a) **CREDENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall commence actions, consistent with section 70105 of title 46, United States Code, to improve the Transportation Security Administration's process for vetting individuals with ac-

cess to secure areas of vessels and maritime facilities.

(2) **REQUIRED ACTIONS.**—The actions described under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) conducting a comprehensive risk analysis of security threat assessment procedures, including—

(i) identifying those procedures that need additional internal controls; and

(ii) identifying best practices for quality assurance at every stage of the security threat assessment;

(B) implementing the additional internal controls and best practices identified under subparagraph (A);

(C) improving fraud detection techniques, such as—

(i) by establishing benchmarks and a process for electronic document validation;

(ii) by requiring annual training for Trusted Agents; and

(iii) by reviewing any security threat assessment-related information provided by Trusted Agents and incorporating any new threat information into updated guidance under subparagraph (D);

(D) updating the guidance provided to Trusted Agents regarding the vetting process and related regulations;

(E) finalizing a manual for Trusted Agents and adjudicators on the vetting process; and

(F) establishing quality controls to ensure consistent procedures to review adjudication decisions and terrorism vetting decisions.

(3) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit a report to Congress that evaluates the implementation of the actions described in paragraph (1).

(b) **COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY ASSESSMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY CARD PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall commission an assessment of the effectiveness of the transportation security card program (referred to in this section as "Program") required under section 70105 of title 46, United States Code, at enhancing security and reducing security risks for facilities and vessels regulated under chapter 701 of that title.

(2) **LOCATION.**—The assessment commissioned under paragraph (1) shall be conducted by a research organization with significant experience in port or maritime security, such as—

(A) a national laboratory;

(B) a university-based center within the Science and Technology Directorate's centers of excellence network; or

(C) a qualified federally-funded research and development center.

(3) **CONTENTS.**—The assessment commissioned under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) review the credentialing process by determining—

(i) the appropriateness of vetting standards;

(ii) whether the fee structure adequately reflects the current costs of vetting;

(iii) whether there is unnecessary redundancy or duplication with other Federal- or State-issued transportation security credentials; and

(iv) the appropriateness of having varied Federal and State threat assessments and access controls;

(B) review the process for renewing applications for Transportation Worker Identification Credentials, including the number of days it takes to review application, appeal, and waiver requests for additional information; and

(C) review the security value of the Program by—

(i) evaluating the extent to which the Program, as implemented, addresses known or likely

security risks in the maritime and port environments;

(ii) evaluating the potential for a non-biometric credential alternative;

(iii) identifying the technology, business process, and operational impacts of the use of the transportation security card and transportation security card readers in the maritime and port environments;

(iv) assessing the costs and benefits of the Program, as implemented; and

(v) evaluating the extent to which the Secretary of Homeland Security has addressed the deficiencies in the Program identified by the Government Accountability Office and the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security before the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) **DEADLINES.**—The assessment commissioned under paragraph (1) shall be completed not later than 1 year after the date on which the assessment is commissioned.

(5) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date that the assessment is completed, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives the results of the assessment commissioned under this subsection.

(c) **CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN; PROGRAM REFORMS.**—If the assessment commissioned under subsection (b) identifies a deficiency in the effectiveness of the Program, the Secretary of Homeland Security, not later than 60 days after the date on which the assessment is completed, shall submit a corrective action plan to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that—

(1) responds to findings of the assessment;

(2) includes an implementation plan with benchmarks;

(3) may include programmatic reforms, revisions to regulations, or proposals for legislation; and

(4) shall be considered in any rulemaking by the Department of Homeland Security relating to the Program.

(d) **INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.**—If a corrective action plan is submitted under subsection (c), the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall—

(1) not later than 120 days after the date of such submission, review the extent to which such plan implements the requirements under subsection (c); and

(2) not later than 18 months after the date of such submission, and annually thereafter for 3 years, submit a report to the congressional committees set forth in subsection (c) that describes the progress of the implementation of such plan.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTERS REFORM AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3842) to improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendments thereto, and concur in the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

(1) On page 3, line 19, insert "delegated" after "carry out".

(2) On page 4, strike lines 5 through 12 and insert the following:

"(B) maximizes opportunities for small business participation;

(3) On page 11, beginning on line 25, strike "and to compensate such employees for time spent traveling from their homes to work sites".

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendments.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OVERTIME PAY FOR SECRET SERVICE AGENTS ACT OF 2016

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 6302) to provide an increase in premium pay for United States Secret Service agents performing protective services during 2016, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendments thereto, and concur in the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. PREMIUM PAY EXCEPTION IN 2016 FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

(a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term "covered employee" means any officer, employee, or agent employed by the United States Secret Service who performs protective services for an individual or event protected by the United States Secret Service during 2016.

(b) **EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITATION ON PREMIUM PAY FOR PROTECTIVE SERVICES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during 2016, section 5547(a) of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to any covered employee to the extent that its application would prevent a covered employee from receiving premium pay, as provided under the amendment made by paragraph (2).

(2) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 118 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (as enacted into law by section 1(3) of Public Law 106-554; 114 Stat. 2763A-134) is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting "or, if the employee qualifies for an exception to such limitation under section 2(b)(1) of the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016, to the extent that such aggregate amount would exceed the rate of basic pay payable for a position at level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5313 of title 5, United States Code" after "of that limitation".

(c) **TREATMENT OF ADDITIONAL PAY.**—If subsection (b) results in the payment of additional premium pay to a covered employee of a type that is normally creditable as basic pay for retirement or any other purpose, that additional pay shall not—

(1) be considered to be basic pay of the covered employee for any purpose; or

(2) be used in computing a lump-sum payment to the covered employee for accumulated and accrued annual leave under section 5551 or section 5552 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) **AGGREGATE LIMIT.**—With respect to the application of section 5307 of title 5, United States Code, the payment of any additional premium pay to a covered employee as a result of subsection (b) shall not be counted as part of the aggregate compensation of the covered employee.

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect as if enacted on December 31, 2015.

Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to provide an increase in premium pay for protective services during 2016, and for other purposes.".

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendments.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mrs. COMSTOCK:

H.R. 875. An act to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4465. An act to decrease the deficit by consolidating and selling Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4680. An act to prepare the National Park Service for its Centennial in 2016 and

for a second century of promoting and protecting the natural, historic, and cultural resources of our National Parks for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5065. An act to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to notify air carriers and security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration of such Administration's guidelines regarding permitting baby formula, breast milk, purified deionized water, and juice on airplanes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5150. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3031 Veterans Road West in Staten Island, New York, as the "Leonard Montalto Post Office Building".

H.R. 5309. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 McElroy Drive in Oxford, Mississippi, as the "Army First Lieutenant Donald C. Carwile Post Office Building".

H.R. 5356. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14231 TX-150 in Coldspring, Texas, as the "E. Marie Youngblood Post Office".

H.R. 5591. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 810 N US Highway 83 in Zapata, Texas, as the "Zapata Veterans Post Office".

H.R. 5798. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Davis Street in Evanston, Illinois, as the "Abner J. Mikva Post Office Building".

H.R. 5877. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 to promote cooperative homeland security research and antiterrorism programs relating to cybersecurity, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5889. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Chalan Kanoa VLG in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as the "Segundo T. Sablan and CNMI Fallen Military Heroes Post Office Building".

H.R. 6416. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6450. An act to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6451. An act to improve the Government-wide management of Federal property.

H.R. 6452. An act to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. UPTON:

H.R. 960. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Newark, Ohio, as the Daniel L. Kinnard VA Clinic.

H.R. 3218. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1221 State Street, Suite 12, Santa Barbara, California, as the "Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Louis 'Lou' J. Langlais Post Office Building".

H.R. 4618. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse lo-

cated at 121 Spring Street SE in Gainesville, Georgia, as the "Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

H.R. 4887. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23323 Shelby Road in Shelby, Indiana, as the "Richard Allen Cable Post Office".

H.R. 5676. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6300 N. Northwest Highway in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Officer Joseph P. Cali Post Office Building".

H.R. 5687. An act to eliminate or modify certain mandates of the Government Accountability Office.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker pro tempore, Mr. UPTON, announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 546. An act to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes.

S. 612. An act to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

S. 1635. An act to authorize the Department of State for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2854. An act to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007.

S. 2943. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

S. 2971. An act to authorize the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(b) of House Resolution 944, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Friday, December 16, 2016.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, December 16, 2016, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7857. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, USD for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Security Education Program (NSEP) and NSEP Service Agreement [Docket ID: DOD-2013-OS-0021] (RIN: 0790-AJ01) December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7858. A letter from the Honors Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rules — Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold [Docket No.: CFPB-2016-0035] (RIN: 3170-AA68) received December 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7859. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME and Portsmouth, NH [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0935] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7860. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Great Lakes Pilotage Rates — 2016 Annual Review and Changes to Methodology [USCG-2015-0497] (RIN: 1625-AC22) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7861. A letter from the Attorney, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, St. Louis, MO [Docket No.: USCG-2016-1020] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7862. A letter from the Attorney, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone, Delaware River; Marcus Hook, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-1034] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7863. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Requirements for Vessels with Registry Endorsements or Foreign-Flagged Vessels that Perform Certain Aquaculture Support Operations [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0086] (RIN: 1625-AC23) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7864. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Shipping; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0315] received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7865. A letter from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Discharge Removal Equipment for Vessels Carrying Oil [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0430, Formerly CGD-90-68] (RIN: 1625-AA02, Formerly RIN: 2115-AD66) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7866. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's correcting amendments — Cargo Securing Manuals [Docket No.: USCG-2000-7080] (RIN: 1625-AA25 [formerly RIN: 2115-AF97]) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7867. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Harmonization of Standards for Fire Protection, Detection, and Extinguishing Equipment [Docket No.: USCG-2012-0196] (RIN: 1625-AB59) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7868. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Electronic Notice of Liquidation [USCBP-2016-0065] [CBP Dec. No.: 16-25] (RIN: 1515-AE16) received December 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7869. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only notice — Publication of the Tier 2 Tax Rates for 2017 received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7870. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — User Fees for Installment Agreements [TD 9798] (RIN: 1545-BN37) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7871. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Salvage Discount Factors and Payment Patterns for 2014 (Rev. Proc. 2016-59) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 5510. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to establish new requirements relating to investigations, consent orders, and reporting requirements, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-875, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 5092. A bill to make exclusive the authority of the Federal Government to regulate the labeling of products made in the United States and introduced in interstate or foreign commerce, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-876). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5510 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII,

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska introduced A bill (H.R. 6529) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to complete a land exchange with the Chugach Regional Alaska Native Corporation, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representa-

tives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 6529.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1608: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 2858: Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 3084: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 3095: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 3100: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 3229: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 4396: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4520: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 5386: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 6025: Mr. ZELDIN.

H.R. 6117: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.

H.R. 6382: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 6498: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. KIND, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.J. Res. 48: Ms. GABBARD.

H. Res. 591: Mr. BERA and Mr. ISRAEL.

H. Res. 752: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. HIMES.

H. Res. 899: Mr. HILL.

H. Res. 926: Mr. CLYBURN.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF THOUSAND OAKS

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Thousand Oaks Chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Organized in 1966, AAUW Thousand Oaks was specifically designed to encourage and support educational opportunities for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

A leading voice for promoting equity and education for women and girls in our community, AAUW Thousand Oaks and its members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental educational, social, economic, and political issues that directly pertain to women and girls. As part of a national movement, AAUW Thousand Oaks is part of a nationwide network of more than 170,000 members and donors, 1,000 branches, and 800 college and university institutional partners and has awarded millions of dollars in fellowships and grants to support women in their professional and academic careers. Additionally, AAUW Thousand Oaks boasts being one of the fastest growing divisions of the national organization.

Locally, in an effort to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, AAUW Thousand Oaks bi-annually hosts the Brighter Horizons Math, Science and Technology Conference for students in fifth through ninth grades. Led by women in technology-related vocations, the conference is infused with technology information workshops that relate to currently important technological career options in an effort to promote young women going into the field of science.

Every summer, AAUW Thousand Oaks' Tech Trek Committee works towards sending ten female students that have matriculated from the seventh grade in the Thousand Oaks area to a one-week STEM education camp at the University of California, Santa Barbara. AAUW Thousand Oaks also demonstrates its dedication to youth in our community through their Youth Cultural Summer Camp, Children's Theater, and local scholarships programs that help high school and community college students afford educational programs.

In recognition of its progressive efforts towards women in our community, AAUW Thousand Oaks has also been recognized for its "Outstanding Mission Based Programs" at the state level of the organization by AAUW of California.

On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, I would like to congratulate the American Asso-

ciation of University Women of Thousand Oaks for its outstanding leadership and steadfast commitment to advancing equity for women and girls in the Conejo Valley.

IN RECOGNITION OF SKYLER POWELL'S PROMOTION TO CHIEF PETTY OFFICER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Skyler Powell on becoming the first cadet in the history of Purcellville, Virginia's VIKING Sea Cadet Division to achieve the rank of Chief Petty Officer. This is a tremendous honor considering that historically only 1 percent of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps' 10,000 cadets receive this appointment, and of that 1 percent only 20 percent have been female. I am proud to represent this young woman, who is a shining example of the Commonwealth of Virginia's hardworking and service-minded citizens.

The United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, which was founded over 50 years ago, is a federally chartered non-profit civilian organization that serves to teach individuals about naval operations, community service, citizenship, and helps foster discipline and teamwork in our nation's youth.

In addition to the courses, training and exams, Powell developed and demonstrated dedication, leadership, self-reliance, commitment and courage as she rose through the cadet ranks. During summer break, she attended a two-week recruit training, a shortened version of the Navy's boot camp. She has also attended multiple advanced trainings on topics including marksmanship, cyber security and advanced music training in locations from San Francisco and Las Vegas, to Fort Custer and Fort Lee. She also served as a staff cadet at recruit training in Aberdeen, Maryland and Navy League orientation training in Norfolk, Virginia.

Chief Powell has earned the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Naval Sea Cadet Medal and the Sons of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award in addition to maintaining a 4.1 GPA while taking honors and AP classes. During her Sea Cadet career she has logged over 250 volunteer community service hours. She is likewise an active member of the Loudoun Valley High School Marching Band and currently leads the VIKING Division CyberPatriot team—a nationwide cyber security competition sponsored by the U.S. Air Force.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to congratulate Skyler Powell for her promotion to Chief Petty Officer in Purcellville's VIKING Sea Cadet Division, and to join me in wishing

her a happiness and fortune in her future endeavors.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN H. GLENN, JR. U.S. SENATOR, DECORATED WAR VETERAN, PATH-BREAKING ASTRONAUT, AND TRUE AMERICAN HERO

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to John Glenn, who died December 8, 2016 at the age of 95, in Columbus, Ohio. John Glenn represented the best of America.

Perhaps more than any other American of his generation, he personified the American spirit of daring, achievement, bravery, innovation, and humility.

As a four-term United States Senator from Ohio, John Glenn was one of the most passionate advocates for justice and opportunity for all persons.

Most important of all, for more than 75 years, John Glenn served his country honorably in his home State of Ohio, in the United States Senate, in uniform during World War II and the Korean Conflict, and in outer space as one of the original class of astronauts that made space exploration synonymous with American leadership.

John Glenn did indeed possess the 'right stuff,' as the writer Tom Wolfe documented in his 1979 best-selling book about the first Project Mercury astronauts selected for the NASA space program.

John Glenn was a hero and inspiration to millions of boys and girls who held their breath as he rocketed into outer space, orbited the earth, and safely descended from the heavens to return home to his beloved wife Annie and an adoring public.

Godspeed, John Glenn.

HONORING CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR FRAN PAVLEY

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of my friend and former colleague California State Senator Fran Pavley, a dedicated and driven member of the California State Legislature, who is being honored for her outstanding leadership, steadfast advocacy, and invaluable dedication to public service.

For over three decades, Senator Pavley has been a widely accomplished legislator.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

Throughout her career, she has authored groundbreaking and historic legislation to protect California's environment and its natural resources. Senator Pavley has been one of the state's greatest environmental champions.

Senator Pavley has played an instrumental role in landmark policies and initiatives to protect California's environment and its natural resources. She is the author of Assembly Bill 1493, which became the framework for vehicle emissions standards on the national level. She also wrote Assembly Bill 32, the nation's first cap on greenhouse gas pollution. These bills have served as a catalyst for innovation and job growth in clean and renewable energy as well as alternative fuels. Senator Pavley's work had a monumental impact on national emissions policies when President Obama implemented national clean car standards, modeled on Assembly Bill 1493, also known as the "Pavley Law."

Senator Pavley continued her dedicated campaign of environmental protection when she paved the way to end unregulated hydraulic fracturing and other oil-extraction practices in California. In 2013, she coauthored successful legislation to invest \$2 billion in effective air-quality and clean vehicle and fuel technology programs.

In a time of historic drought for California, Senator Pavley and her expansive knowledge and background has been an important figure in addressing this complex issue and its vast impact on the state. In 2014, Senator Pavley authored innovative and pioneering legislation for the state's management of groundwater. This bill helped to negotiate a bipartisan water bond that was approved by voters, which authorized \$7.12 billion in general obligation bonds for state water supply infrastructure projects.

Additionally, Senator Pavley has been an unwavering advocate for her constituents. Her career has been marked with legislative victories on an array of issues including stronger consumer protections, tougher child safety laws, and tighter reforms for campaign contributions.

Senator Pavley has spent a lifetime working for her constituents Los Angeles and Ventura counties. For these reasons, it is with heartfelt appreciation that I am pleased to join the Ventura County Women's Political Council in recognizing Senator Fran Pavley.

pany B, out of Hilo from 1959–1965. He completed post-secondary degrees at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa and the University of Washington, Pacific Coast Banking School. In 1969, he began work at Central Pacific Bank, beginning a career with Central Pacific that spanned 34 years.

After retiring from Central Pacific Bank in 2003, he served as the Vice President of the Hilo Candy Company until 2004, when he was elected to serve the people of Keaukaha, Pana'ewa, Waiākea, and parts of Hilo in the Hawai'i House of Representatives. In the State House, Representative Tsuji served as the Chair of the House Agriculture Committee, where he helped champion legislation to fight invasive species and strengthen Hawai'i's biosecurity. His dedicated service on the House Agriculture Committee was widely recognized, and among many other awards, he was named the Hawai'i Farm Bureau's Legislator of the Year in 2015.

Representative Tsuji was known to his constituents as a passionate leader, a dedicated public servant, and an advocate for the Hilo community. In addition to his work in business and government, he was an active member of many local and statewide organizations including the Hilo Medical Center Foundation, Hawai'i Island Japanese Community Association, Tsunami Museum, Hiroshima Kenjin Kai, Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce, and the Kumamoto Kenjin Kai.

One of the last conversations Representative Tsuji had with his son Ryan was about making sure he could continue to pass important legislation for his constituents in the next legislative session. Whether it was a construction project in Hilo, or a biosecurity bill benefiting the entire State of Hawai'i, Representative Tsuji was committed to delivering results for his constituents and the people of the Aloha State.

Just a few days before his death, I saw Representative Tsuji at the Hilo Veterans Parade and, as usual, he was full of aloha, as he welcomed me to the community he loved so much. My heart is with his children, Ryan and Ashley, and all of Hawai'i Island. Clift, you are missed. Mahalo nui loa (thank you) for dedicating your life to serving our community in the spirit of aloha. Ke Akua me ke Aloha (God bless you).

Alabama to be the next Attorney General of the United States.

On Election Night the President-Elect pledged to the nation that he would be a president to all Americans.

That pledge will ring hollow to tens of millions of Americans in light of his announced intention to nominate one of the U.S. Senate's most far-right members, Senator JEFF SESSIONS (R-AL) to be the next Attorney General of the United States.

Perhaps nothing would do more to reassure the American people that the President-Elect is committed to unifying the nation than the nomination and appointment of a person to be Attorney General who has a record of championing and protecting, rather than opposing and undermining, the precious right to vote, the constitutionally guaranteed right of privacy, criminal justice reform, and support for reform of the nation's immigration system so that it is fair and humane.

The nomination of Alabama Senator SESSIONS as Attorney General does not inspire the necessary confidence.

As a U.S. Senator from Alabama, the state from which the infamous Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* originated, Senator SESSIONS has failed to play a constructive role in repairing the damage to voting rights caused by that decision.

He was one of the leading opponents of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

He is one of the Senate's most hostile opponents of comprehensive immigration reform and was a principal architect of the draconian and incendiary immigration policy advocated by the President-Elect during the campaign.

His record in support of efforts to bring needed reform to the nation's criminal justice system is virtually non-existent.

In 1986, ten years before Senator SESSIONS was elected to the Senate, he was rejected for a U.S. District Court judgeship in view of documented incidents that revealed his lack of commitment to civil and voting rights, and to equal justice.

His Senate voting record and rhetoric has endeared him to white nationalist websites and organizations like Breitbart and Stormfront.

Should the President-Elect proceed with the nomination of Senator SESSIONS to be Attorney General, I call upon the Senate Judiciary Committee to subject the nomination to the most comprehensive, searching, and withering examination.

The United States has been blessed to have been served as Attorney General by such illustrious figures as Robert Jackson, Robert Kennedy, Herbert Brownell, Ramsey Clark, Nicholas Katzenbach, Eric Holder, and Edward H. Levi.

The duty of the U.S. Attorney General is to lead the Department of Justice in protecting and expanding the civil rights of all Americans and the pursuit of equal justice for all, not to turn back the clock on hard won rights and liberties.

No Senator should vote to confirm the nomination of JEFF SESSIONS as U.S. Attorney General if there is the slightest doubt that he possesses the character, qualities, integrity, and commitment to justice and equality needed to lead a department, the headquarters

HONORING THE LIFE OF HAWAII STATE REPRESENTATIVE CLIFT TSUJI

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, on November 15, 2016, the Aloha State lost the Honorable Clift Tsuji, a soldier, a Hawaii State Representative, and a loving father. Born and raised in the plantation town of Pāpa'ikou, Representative Clift Tsuji served the people of Hawaii Island throughout his 75 years of life.

After graduating from Hilo High School in 1959, Representative Tsuji served as a U.S. Army Reservist with the 442nd Infantry, Com-

REGARDING NOMINATION OF SENATOR JEFF SESSIONS OF ALABAMA TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committee on the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committee, Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, and the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus, I rise today to express my initial views regarding the President-Elect's nomination of U.S. Senator JEFFERSON BEAUREGARD "JEFF" SESSIONS III of

building of which is named for Robert F. Kennedy, one of the nation's greatest and most indefatigable champions of civil rights and equal justice for all.

HONORING HENRY L. "HANK"
LACAYO

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of my friend and ally Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo, a lifelong leader and advocate, who is being honored for his selfless dedication and invaluable leadership to bettering our community and country.

Born in 1931 in Los Angeles, Mr. Lacayo grew up in the depths of the Great Depression and the Second World War, fighting through a time of economic uncertainty and racial injustice. Determined to serve his country, Mr. Lacayo first attempted to join the military at the age of 16. Although he was originally turned away, he quickly joined upon graduating high school and served in the United States Army Air Corps.

Following his military service, Mr. Lacayo began his career in 1953 at North American Aviation and became involved with United Auto Workers of America Local 887. Nine years later, he was elected President of the UAW Local, a position in which he represented the interests of over 30,000 workers and their families. Through his steadfast leadership, Mr. Lacayo was appointed National Director of the Political and Legislative Department of the UAW. While working in this capacity, Mr. Lacayo served as an advisor under Democratic Presidential Administrations from John F. Kennedy to Bill Clinton. In 1986, Mr. Lacayo retired from the UAW and subsequently formed H. L. & Associates, a consulting firm that enabled him to continue to be involved in labor relations issues, as well as other government, seniors, and international issues.

Today, Mr. Lacayo continues to give back to his community by serving as President of the Congress of California Seniors, where he continues to dedicate his time to advocating for a better quality of life for others.

Additionally, Mr. Lacayo is actively preparing the next generation of leaders, public servants, and community activists. Founded in 2010 at California State University Channel Islands, the Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo Institute for Workforce & Community Studies facilitates student internships, scholarly research, and the dissemination of policy information and recommendations. In the program, students learn the essential skill sets to change lives and positively impact communities.

Mr. Lacayo has spent his lifetime working for Ventura County and our nation. His hard work and dedication—which has ranged from serving in the Army Air Corps, to actively fighting for working families and California's seniors, and now passing down his knowledge and experience to students who will continue his influential work—has helped to create a better America.

For these reasons, it is with genuine appreciation that I am pleased to join United Way of Ventura County in recognizing Henry "Hank" Lacayo for his lifetime achievements.

OPENING PRAYER BY REV. DAN
CUMMINS—HONORING BISHOP
GEORGE DAVID CUMMINS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today's opening prayer is dedicated to Bishop George David Cummins, D.D., Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, of Washington, DC, from 1855 through 1858. Bishop Cummins on this date, Sunday, December 13, 1857, preached the first sermon in the inaugural event of the House Chamber. The House of Representatives held its first sessions three days later on Wednesday, December 16, 1857.

The present House Chamber was used as a place of Christian worship on Sundays from 1857 through 1869, as were the original Senate, Supreme Court and House Chambers from 1800 through 1857.

Rev. Dan Cummins, D.D., an associate pastor of Skyline Church, San Diego, is a descendant of Bishop George David Cummins, and gave recognition to the significance of this historic day in his opening prayer. Pastor Cummins and his wife JoAnn, along with Dr. James Garlow, Senior Pastor of Skyline Church, and Steve Amerson, "America's Tenor," are responsible for the restoration of those traditional Sabbath worship services in the U.S. Capitol with the weekly Jefferson Gathering worship services for members of Congress and staff on July 30, 2014.

DEMANDING THE PRESIDENT-ELECT TO DISCLOSE, DETAIL, AND TOTALLY DIVEST FINANCIAL HOLDINGS TO AVOID CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND TO COMPLY WITH EMOLUMENTS CLAUSE OF U.S. CONSTITUTION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to demand on behalf of the American people that the President-Elect disclose, detail, and divest, or place in a genuine blind trust, all, of his financial holdings prior to taking the oath of office so as to avoid major conflicts of interest and to comply with the Emoluments Clause of U.S. Constitution.

As chief steward of America's extensive domestic, global, and national security interests, the fidelity of the President of the United States to the national interest must never be subject to question or doubt.

The President-Elect's extensive financial interests in more than 100 companies operating in more than 18 countries and on five continents potentially represent major conflicts of

interest which can only be remedied by complete divestment or placing all of his assets in a genuine blind trust.

As reflected in recent media reports, a preliminary analysis of the President-Elect's extensive financial arrangements reveals dozens of potential conflicts of interest.

For example, the President-Elect has received more than \$10 million from his interest in the Trump Towers Istanbul in Turkey, a country with which the United States has extensive, complicated, and politically sensitive military and diplomatic relations.

Similarly, since August 2015, the President-Elect's business organizations has registered eight separate companies connected to hotel deals in Saudi Arabia, which is located in one of the world's most critical geopolitical regions.

Based on the limited and inadequate financial disclosures he has made to date, it appears that the President-Elect's business organization is financially dependent upon, and obligated to, Deutsche Bank, its biggest lender, which happens to be negotiating a multibillion-dollar settlement over housing-crisis-era abuses with the Justice Department, a deal that will be finalized with Justice Department officials appointed by the President-Elect.

Companies owned or controlled by the President-Elect's organization also owe hundreds of millions of dollars to the state-owned Bank of China and to Wall Street interests.

The American people are entitled to assume without hesitation or doubt that when the President of the United States meets with foreign leaders and dignitaries that he is motivated only by what is in the national interest and not the private, pecuniary interests of himself, his family members, or his business enterprises.

That assurance cannot be provided when the President of the United States has enormous financial stakes in the enterprises operating in those same foreign countries.

It is for this reason—to ensure that the President's loyalty will always be to the nation he leads—that the Framers included the Emoluments Clause in Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution, which provides that "no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State."

According to leading experts in ethics, a prohibited emolument would include, for example, anything from a foreign government that benefits the President-Elect, such as providing favorable tax, zoning, licensing treatment for his real estate holdings or enhanced security to protect his business operations.

The financial interests of the President-Elect are extensive, complex, and inter-connected with the interests of foreign leaders and countries.

They are all-encompassing and time-consuming.

But they pale in comparison to the global, diplomatic, economic, and national security interests of the United States, which supersede the interests of any one person or corporation.

As the Scriptures teach, you cannot serve two masters.

The President-Elect must make a choice and act accordingly before he takes the oath

of office. Either divest all of his financial interests or place them in a genuine blind trust or refrain from taking the oath of office and assuming the responsibility to "take care that the Laws be faithfully executed" and "to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF GREGORY D. SODERSTROM

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of an outstanding member of our Armed Forces. Lieutenant Colonel Gregory D. "Vader" Soderstrom, of the United States Air Force, is the Special Assistant to the Commander, 47th Operations Group, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

Lt. Col. Soderstrom served as Commander of the 47th Student Squadron, where he oversaw the day-to-day activities of over 600 student pilots, 22 active duty permanent party members, and 80 civilians assigned to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training. Additionally, Lt. Col. Soderstrom flies as an instructor pilot with the 85th and 434th Flying Training Squadrons, instructing future Air Force pilots in the T-6A. The 47th Operations Group produces over 300 new pilots each year for the Combat, Mobility and Special Operations Air Forces.

Lt. Col. Soderstrom was raised in Wichita, Kansas. He received his commission in 1996 from the United States Air Force Academy. He is a Command Pilot with over 3,400 hours in the F-15C/D, T-37B, and T-6A. He has held a variety of positions at the squadron, group, wing, and Major Command level. Prior to his current assignment he served as the Commander, Headquarters Squadron, United States Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Lt. Col. Soderstrom is married to the former Tephania Weber of Marysville, Kansas. They have three children, Trinity, Cole, and Logan. I thank Lt. Col. Soderstrom, and his family, for his twenty years of service to a grateful nation, and wish him the best as he begins his new career as a pilot in Italy.

HONORING ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 5240

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate Rotary International District 5240, which has dutifully carried out the mission of Rotary International to "Serve Above Self." By providing services to countless others and advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders, Rotary International District 5240 strives to improve lives both locally and internationally.

First established in 1918 with the founding club in Santa Barbara, District 5240 has grown along California's central coast, throughout the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. District 5240 also bears the distinction as one of the oldest Rotary clubs nationally, founded only thirteen years after the original club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, was established. With a membership of 3,500 members, from 74 clubs in four different counties, Rotary International District 5240 meets regularly to not only develop its own communities but communities around the world.

As a member of one of the world's largest service organization, Rotary International District 5240 has established itself with remarkable charitable work ranging from leading polio eradication efforts since 1985 to a focus on promoting global peace, fighting disease, providing international aid for access to clean water and life-saving care to mothers and children, as well as supporting educational programs, and growing local economies. Most recently, Rotary International District 5240 has led relief efforts for Hurricane Matthew victims on behalf of our community.

Locally, the organization has been a critical partner in economic and community development, and has donated over \$250,000 to fund microfinance loans that have helped start or grow local businesses over the past four years.

For these reasons, it is with great enthusiasm that I recognize Rotary International District 5240, which is celebrating the centennial anniversary of the Rotary Foundation, for the immeasurable ways the organization has contributed to our community as a whole.

REGARDING PRESIDENTIAL VOTE
RECOUNTS IN THE SEVERAL
STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committees on the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committee; Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, and the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus, I rise today to address efforts that may be taken in various states to recount votes cast for candidates for the office of President of the United States in the recent election.

The linchpin of representative democracies such as the United States is public confidence in the political system, regime, and community.

That confidence in turn rests upon the extent to which the public has faith that the system employed to select its leaders accurately reflects its preferences.

At bottom, this means that all citizens casting a vote have a fundamental right and reasonable expectation that the votes cast count and are counted.

We know from experience that it not uncommon that occasionally vote counts reported in an initial canvass may later prove to be inac-

curate because sometimes votes are overlooked or inaccurately credited to the wrong candidate.

Vote recounts have long been recognized as an essential safeguard to correct errors of this type.

Recounts have occurred at the local, state, and, as we saw in 2000, presidential level.

It should be noted also that the November 8, 2016 election is the first presidential election held since the Supreme Court issued the notorious decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which neutered the preclearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act and adversely affected the ability of hundreds of thousands of persons to cast a ballot and have their vote counted.

Also, as is the case this year, where the results in the Electoral College and of the popular vote diverge by the largest and most astounding margin in American history, it is particularly fitting and appropriate to ensure that any uncertainty over the accuracy of the vote determining any state's electoral votes be resolved as fairly and expeditiously as possible.

TRIBUTE TO THE BEND HEROES
FOUNDATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the non-profit Bend Heroes Foundation of Bend, Oregon, for its outstanding dedication to Oregon's veterans of the Armed Services.

As a member of the National Honor Flight Network, the Foundation has honored over 550 World War II Oregon heroes who helped save the world from tyranny over seven decades ago. It has been my high honor to welcome them to Washington, D.C. and present each World War II veteran with a flag flown over our nation's Capitol in his or her honor.

The Foundation created the Bend Heroes Memorial to honor Bend's veterans who served and died during war from World War I to the present. It was my privilege to help dedicate the memorial on Veterans Day back in 2009. The Foundation also inaugurated the Bend Parade of Flags program displaying 300 flags in Bend on eight patriotic days each year. I was again privileged to provide those flags and have them flown over our nation's Capitol.

Furthering their efforts, the Foundation worked with the Oregon Legislature to create six war veterans highways across Oregon: World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf/Afghanistan and Iraq and the Purple Heart Trail. Sixty-seven honorific signs have been installed on 1,730 miles of border-to-border highways, in total honoring 500,000 Oregon war veterans.

The Bend Heroes Foundation also created the Oregon Medal of Honor Exhibit to celebrate 26 Oregonians who received our nation's highest award for valor above and beyond the call of duty during combat from the Civil War to Vietnam. Mr. Robert "Bob" Maxwell of Bend is one of the World War II recipients, and at 96 he is our nation's oldest living

recipient. It was a privilege for me to provide him with a large American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol. That flag is now prominently displayed at the Foundation's exhibit in McMinnville.

I would also like to honor the members of the Bend Heroes Foundation for their tireless efforts: Chairman Dick Tobiason, President Erik Tobiason, Vice President-Secretary Yvonne Drury, Treasurer Priscilla Reich, Directors Bob Dent, Denny Drury, Joe Gallagher, Mike Genna, Harley Kelley, Bob Maxwell, Darla Rozelle, Rob Walker and Diane Harris, and Volunteers Candace Kelley, Mike Brock, Sid Poe, and John and Jean Frye. All serve without pay and are extremely proud of their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful state and country, I wish to honor the Bend Heroes Foundation for its many grand accomplishments over many years.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 6483, THE SWINE WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ACT (THE SWINE ACT)

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the 114th Congress comes to a close, I have introduced the Swine Waste Infrastructure and Natural Environment Act (the SWINE Act, or H.R. 6483). I am hopeful that this bill will provoke constructive discussions and suggestions in the coming weeks from stakeholders in the agricultural and environmental communities, so that I can introduce an improved version early next year.

The SWINE Act builds on efforts in North Carolina and elsewhere to develop new technologies to manage and dispose of waste from animal agricultural production, replacing the current "lagoon and spray-field" method used by many swine producers. In 1999, the environmental impact of lagoon and spray-field waste disposal systems was made particularly acute by Hurricane Floyd, an unusually large storm which caused poorly-regulated hog lagoons to overflow and discharge untreated animal waste into water systems across Eastern North Carolina. But for years prior to the storm, large animal feeding operations had emitted noxious odor and threatened the air and water quality of small rural communities across the Southeast.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd, forward-thinking leaders in North Carolina initiated a process in which industry, academia, and the environmental community worked together to identify waste disposal technologies that would mitigate the worst environmental effects of the lagoon and spray-field system. The effort sparked a vigorous public discussion on issues related to swine waste while fostering a period of technological innovation in waste processing technology. For nearly a decade, I helped secure federal assistance for the research and development of environmentally sound methods of processing swine waste and for technical assistance to producers who

sought to adopt such technologies. While this process resulted in significant progress toward a viable alternative to lagoon and spray-fields, the technologies developed thus far fell short of the established threshold for economic feasibility and have thus not been widely adopted by producers.

The environmental and social threats posed by the lagoon and spray-field method are not limited to North Carolina, and thus require a national solution. With additional investments in research and development and incentives for technology adoption, the technologies developed in North Carolina and elsewhere—or new technologies yet to be developed—can be made market-ready, producing an affordable and environmentally superior replacement for lagoon and spray-field. We should not be forced to choose between a clean environment and a successful, innovative animal agriculture industry. With this bill, I believe we can improve the environment while remaining the world leader in animal agricultural production.

URGING PRESIDENT-ELECT TO RESCIND APPOINTMENT OF STEVEN BANNON TO SENIOR WHITE HOUSE POSITION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the President-Elect to rescind his controversial appointment of Steven Bannon as White House Senior Counselor and Strategist.

If the President-Elect takes seriously his Election Night pledge to be a president to "all Americans," he must immediately renounce his intention to appoint Steven Bannon as White House Senior Counselor and Strategist.

Steven Bannon has a long history promoting racial and ethnic bigotry, sexism, religious intolerance, and misogyny.

He has insinuated that African-Americans are 'naturally aggressive and violent,' and under his leadership, Breitbart's publishing strategy turned to one that has made it the media arm of the racist "Alt-Right" movement, publishing articles promoting popular white nationalist tropes such as "black on white crime" and that "rape culture" is inherent in Islam.

In selecting Steven Bannon as one of his two most trusted White House advisors, the President-Elect is signaling to the American people that the inflammatory, reckless, and insensitive rhetoric and tactics employed by his campaign can be expected to become part of his Administration's standard operating procedure.

This is not the way to begin healing the wounds opened by the recently concluded presidential campaign and or to bring the American people together.

I strongly urge the President-Elect to reconsider his decision and rescind his controversial appointment of Steven Bannon as White House Senior Counselor and Strategist.

HONORING COMMANDER MONICA McGRATH

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Commander Monica McGrath, an outstanding and dedicated member of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, who is being honored as the recipient of Interface Children & Family Services' inaugural "Domestic Violence Champion for Change" Award. A staunch advocate, spokesperson, and community role model in the fight against domestic violence, Commander McGrath has played an instrumental role in establishing local law enforcement's unique and specialized response to domestic violence throughout the region.

Commander McGrath has been a longtime pioneer for women as a member of Ventura County Sheriff's Office providing passionate advocacy to survivors of abuse and trauma since she joined the organization in 1987. Commander McGrath has served our community with the highest level of commitment to public safety. Her extraordinary efforts have positively impacted and transformed the lives of many individuals and families.

In February 2015, Commander McGrath was selected as the new Chief of Police for the City of Camarillo. She has worked the majority of her career in Camarillo and is involved in several community-based organizations, including Interface Children & Family Services. Alongside Interface, she has been a true partner in supporting the comprehensive strategies to address, prevent, and ultimately end the cycle of domestic violence within families throughout Ventura County.

Moreover, Commander McGrath has been an invaluable member of the Interface Leadership Advisory Council, which shows her compassionate and caring dedication to victims of domestic violence. She also actively participates on the newly developed Domestic Violence Task Force for Ventura County. Her extensive knowledge, background, and leadership on the issue of domestic violence greatly contribute to her ability to effectively raise awareness and create the necessary change to end this epidemic.

For these reasons, I am pleased to join Interface Children & Family Services in recognizing Commander Monica McGrath for her countless contributions in combating domestic violence in Ventura County.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH MINOR

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to use this time in recognition of Elizabeth Minor, the beloved Mayor of Winchester, Virginia. Mayor Minor is retiring from her office after twelve years of dedicated service to the people of Winchester.

During her time as Mayor and as a member of the City Council, Winchester has experienced a renaissance that has transformed the city into an extraordinary place to live, work and study. There is no one who has had a greater impact on creating this transformation than Mayor Elizabeth Minor. Always willing to speak at gatherings of Winchester residents, Mayor Minor was always prepared with the perfect message for each occasion. She has tirelessly used her special position in the community to unify and encourage people of all ages, races and incomes.

Elizabeth's tenure as Mayor has been marked by many successes, including significant improvements to the city's education system, improvements to the Jim Barnett Park, the transformation of Old Town Winchester and the beautification of the gateways to the city. Additionally, when cities and states across the country are struggling to develop budgets, her stewardship has helped Winchester to win the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for four years in a row.

Elizabeth Minor served as Vice-Mayor of Winchester from 1994 to 2004, and has been a member of the City Council since 1980. Her nearly four decades of selfless service to her community will serve as a benchmark for the future leaders of this great city for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mayor Elizabeth Minor for her exemplary service and unwavering dedication to the people of Winchester, Virginia. It is an honor to represent her in the U.S. House of Representatives and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF BONNIE L. VALKMAN

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding life and legacy of Bonnie L. Valkman, age 62, who passed away on Monday, November 24, 2014. A respected leader in her community, Bonnie will be remembered for her enthusiastic community involvement.

Bonnie was born on December 22, 1951, in West Bend, Wisconsin, to the late Walter and Joan Michaels. She was a resident of Wauconda, Illinois, for 28 years. Bonnie was the beloved wife of Greg and loving Mother of Laura Baker. Bonnie was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Bonnie Valkman leaves behind a legacy of kindness, devotion, and faith. She was a loving and devoted wife and mother, a kind and thoughtful friend, and, above all, a woman of deep faith. She attended the Willow Creek Community Church. Bonnie's outlook on life touched the lives of many and made her community a better place. I am saddened by the loss of such a valuable member of the community and extend my heartfelt condolences to her family

CONGRATULATING KATHY LONG

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Kathy Long upon her retirement from outstanding and invaluable public service to the residents of the Third District on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. For well over two decades, her steadfast leadership and immeasurable contributions to our community have been held in the highest regard throughout the region.

Supervisor Long's commitment to the success of Ventura County is truly commendable. She has been relentless in her efforts to promote Ventura County's economic growth and vitality, protect and strengthen Naval Base Ventura County, prioritize public safety and support the social safety net, conserve our natural resources, preserve our agricultural sector, as well as address the needs of Ventura County's veterans. Moreover, she has ensured a better future for Ventura County and its residents through her remarkable advocacy and tenacity.

Supervisor Long's service to Ventura County extends well beyond her role on the Board of Supervisors. She has continually sought and worked to be an agent of change in her community through other undertakings including active participation on the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Collaborative-Ventura County, as Co-Chair of the Regional Defense Partnership for the 21st Century, as Chair of the County of Ventura Medical Oversight Committee, as Commissioner of the First 5 Commission, and through her establishment of the Ventura County Women's Economic Roundtable. In addition, Supervisor Long has served as the Ventura County Board of Supervisor's representative to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and served on the Executive Board as Chair of the Urban Counties Caucus. She has also served as Co-Chair of the Women's Leadership Forum, Poverty Working Group, and Coastal Counties Regional Association.

In recognition of her tremendous and impactful work, Supervisor Long was recognized as "Woman of the Year" in 2015 by the California State Legislature, "Legislator of the Year" in 2013 by the Chamber of Commerce Alliance of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, awarded the "Housing Hero Award" in 2011 by the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation, received the American Red Cross Clara Barton "Public Servant of the Year" award in 2005, and was acknowledged as the "Public Servant of the Year" for 2002-2003 by the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce.

I humbly applaud Supervisor Kathy Long for her demonstrative dedication and tireless efforts to our community, and Ventura County as a whole. It has been my great honor to work with Supervisor Long throughout the years. I have been fortunate to call her a colleague, an ally, and a friend.

Supervisor Long has established a wonderful legacy of hard work and good governance in the public sector, and she has shown that she has a huge heart for Ventura County. As

she retires from the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and enters a whole new chapter in her life, I am confident that this is not the end of her endeavors as an advocate on behalf of our community.

IN HONOR OF J. LAMAR REESE, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a respected civic leader, outstanding citizen, and friend of longstanding, the Honorable J. Lamar Reese, Jr. Sadly, Lamar passed away on Saturday, December 10, 2016. Funeral services to celebrate his life will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church in Albany, Georgia.

John Lamar Reese, Jr. was born on February 14, 1933 in Rome, Georgia. His family later moved to LaGrange, Georgia, where he graduated from LaGrange High School in 1951. He attended the Georgia Institute of Technology and graduated in 1955 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management. While at Georgia Tech, he was a member of the Chi Phi Fraternity and the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps.

After graduation, Lamar served our nation honorably as a lieutenant in the United States Navy for two years. In 1957, he moved to Albany, Georgia where he founded Reese Construction Company and was a founding partner of LRA Constructors.

Lamar Reese was widely known as a driving force in his community. He served on various boards and organizations including the Albany Board of Realtors; Albany Home Builders Association, and the Kiwanis Club. He was a board member of SunTrust Bank, Darton College, the Hospital Authority of Albany/Dougherty County, and the Albany Chamber of Commerce, where he was awarded the Chamber's first Lifetime Service Award.

Further demonstrating his enduring community commitment, Lamar dedicated his time and talents to serving the city of Albany, Dougherty County, and the State of Georgia. He served on the Dougherty County Board of Education for sixteen years, including thirteen years as Chairman. The Dougherty County Board of Education established the Lamar Reese School of the Arts in honor of Lamar's contributions to the education of young people in Dougherty County.

Lamar also served as Chairman of the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners for four years and was elected President of the Georgia School Boards Association. He was a longtime member and advocate for the Albany YMCA and the Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church, where he served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and on the Administrative Board. A devoted alumnus of Georgia Tech, he was a trustee of the Alumni Association, member of the Scheller School of Management Advisory Board, recipient of the

Dean Griffin Community Service Award, and President of the Albany Area Georgia Tech Club.

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies." Lamar Reese is one such great soul, who served humanity in a special way. He devoted many years of dedicated service to the people of Dougherty County through his meaningful contribution of energy, skill, and genuine passion. He was an honorable human being who loved deeply and, in return, was

deeply loved. His impression on this earth extends beyond himself to the very well-being of Dougherty County, and for it he will be remembered by the community for time to come.

On a personal note, Lamar was a friend of longstanding. I have truly been blessed by his friendship, counsel, and inspiration throughout the years.

Lamar is survived by his loving wife, Sandra, dedicated sons, John, Marvin, and Franklin, eight wonderful grandchildren, a great-granddaughter and a host of other family members and friends.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District salute J. Lamar Reese, Jr. for his dedicated service and exceptional impact on Dougherty County. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to the Reese family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

SENATE—Friday, December 16, 2016

The Senate met at 10 and 1 second a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BILL CASSIDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.



APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 16, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BILL CASSIDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASSIDY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.



ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2016, AT 9:30 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, December 20, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10 and 29 seconds a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 20, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, December 16, 2016

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 16, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE HOLDING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Monsignor Kevin Hart, St. Peter's Catholic Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

O Father of us all, You have woven Your divine providence into the very fabric of our Nation. Against all odds You were instrumental in bringing it to birth. In the face of our enemies, from without and from within, You have safeguarded the freedom for which so many of our brothers and sisters have given their lives. You have endowed our country with natural and human resources that make it a land flowing with milk and honey and a beacon of hope for those who yearn for the freedom that we enjoy.

With these blessings, O God, comes the responsibility to use them wisely. Inspire and guide the Members of this Chamber, so that through them You may bring to fruition the good work You have begun in us. God bless these United States of America.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 944, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. LOUDERMILK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Wednesday, December 14, 2016:

H.R. 710, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes;

H.R. 1150, to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes;

H.R. 2726, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon;

H.R. 3784, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and a Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3842, to improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes;

H.R. 4352, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program establishing a patient self-scheduling appointment system, and for other purposes;

H.R. 4939, to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes;

H.R. 5015, to restore amounts improperly withheld for tax purposes from severance payments to individuals who retired or separated from service in the Armed Forces for combat-related injuries, and for other purposes;

H.R. 5099, to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs;

H.R. 5612, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2886 Sandy Plains Road in Marietta, Georgia, as the "Marine

Lance Corporal Squire 'Skip' Wells Post Office Building";

H.R. 5790, to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

H.R. 5948, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 830 Kuhn Drive in Chula Vista, California, as the "Jonathan 'J.D.' De Guzman Post Office Building";

H.R. 6130, to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis;

H.R. 6138, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 560 East Pleasant Valley Road, Port Hueneme, California, as the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion "Seabees" Fallen Heroes Post Office Building;

H.R. 6282, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2024 Jerome Avenue, in Bronx, New York, as the "Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Post Office Building";

H.R. 6302, to provide an increase in premium pay for protective services during 2016, and for other purposes;

H.R. 6304, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 North Main Street in Florence, Arizona, as the "Adolfo 'Harpo' Celaya Post Office";

H.R. 6323, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system in Long Beach, California, the "Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center";

H.R. 6400, to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey;

H.R. 6431, to ensure United States jurisdiction over offenses committed by United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives;

H.R. 6477, to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title;

S. 8, to provide for the approval of the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by Speaker pro tempore Thornberry on Thursday, December 15, 2016:

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

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

H.R. 6014, to allow the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to enter into reimbursable agreements for certain airport projects.

AMERICAN INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 3084) to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "American Innovation and Competitiveness Act".

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—MAXIMIZING BASIC RESEARCH

- Sec. 101. Reaffirmation of merit-based peer review.
- Sec. 102. Transparency and accountability.
- Sec. 103. EPSCoR reaffirmation and update.
- Sec. 104. Cybersecurity research.
- Sec. 105. Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Update.
- Sec. 106. Physical sciences coordination.
- Sec. 107. Laboratory program improvements.
- Sec. 108. Standard Reference Data Act update.
- Sec. 109. NSF mid-scale project investments.
- Sec. 110. Oversight of NSF major multi-user research facility projects.
- Sec. 111. Personnel oversight.
- Sec. 112. Management of the U.S. Antarctic Program.
- Sec. 113. NIST campus security.
- Sec. 114. Coordination of sustainable chemistry research and development.
- Sec. 115. Misrepresentation of research results.
- Sec. 116. Research reproducibility and replication.
- Sec. 117. Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies Initiative.

TITLE II—ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY BURDEN REDUCTION

- Sec. 201. Interagency working group on research regulation.
- Sec. 202. Scientific and technical collaboration.
- Sec. 203. NIST grants and cooperative agreements update.
- Sec. 204. Repeal of certain obsolete reports.
- Sec. 205. Repeal of certain provisions.
- Sec. 206. Grant subrecipient transparency and oversight.
- Sec. 207. Micro-purchase threshold for procurement solicitations by research institutions.
- Sec. 208. Coordination of international science and technology partnerships.

TITLE III—SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH EDUCATION

- Sec. 301. Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program update.
- Sec. 302. Space grants.
- Sec. 303. STEM Education Advisory Panel.
- Sec. 304. Committee on STEM Education.
- Sec. 305. Programs to expand STEM opportunities.
- Sec. 306. NIST education and outreach.
- Sec. 307. Presidential awards for excellence in STEM mentoring.
- Sec. 308. Working group on inclusion in STEM fields.
- Sec. 309. Improving undergraduate STEM experiences.
- Sec. 310. Computer science education research.
- Sec. 311. Informal STEM education.
- Sec. 312. Developing STEM apprenticeships.
- Sec. 313. NSF report on broadening participation.
- Sec. 314. NOAA science education programs.
- Sec. 315. Hispanic-serving institutions undergraduate program update.

TITLE IV—LEVERAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- Sec. 401. Prize competition authority update.
- Sec. 402. Crowdsourcing and citizen science.
- Sec. 403. NIST other transaction authority update.
- Sec. 404. NIST director functions update.
- Sec. 405. NIST Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology update.

TITLE V—MANUFACTURING

- Sec. 501. Hollings manufacturing extension partnership improvements.

TITLE VI—INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

- Sec. 601. Innovation corps.
- Sec. 602. Translational research grants.
- Sec. 603. Optics and photonics technology innovations.
- Sec. 604. United States chief technology officer.
- Sec. 605. National research council study on technology for emergency notifications on campuses.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, unless expressly provided otherwise:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(2) FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY.—The term "Federal science agency" has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6623).

(3) FOUNDATION.—The term "Foundation" means the National Science Foundation.

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institution of higher education" has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(5) NIST.—The term "NIST" means the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(6) STEM.—The term "STEM" has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the American COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

(7) STEM EDUCATION.—The term "STEM education" has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the STEM Education Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

TITLE I—MAXIMIZING BASIC RESEARCH

SEC. 101. REAFFIRMATION OF MERIT-BASED PEER REVIEW.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) sustained, predictable Federal funding of basic research is essential to United States leadership in science and technology;

(2) the Foundation's intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria are appropriate for evaluating grant proposals, as concluded by the 2011 National Science Board Task Force on Merit Review;

(3) evaluating proposals on the basis of the Foundation's intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria should be used to assure that the Foundation's activities are in the national interest as these reviews can affirm that—

(A) the proposals funded by the Foundation are of high quality and advance scientific knowledge; and

(B) the Foundation's grants address societal needs through basic research findings or through related activities; and

(4) as evidenced by the Foundation's contributions to scientific advancement, economic growth, human health, and national security, its peer review and merit review processes have identified and funded scientifically and societally relevant basic research and should be preserved.

(b) MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA.—The Foundation shall maintain the intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria, among other specific criteria as appropriate, as the basis for evaluating grant proposals in the merit review process.

(c) UPDATES.—If after the date of enactment of this Act a change is made to the merit-review process, the Director shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress not later than 30 days after the date of the change.

SEC. 102. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—

(1) building the understanding of and confidence in investments in basic research is essential to public support for sustained, predictable Federal funding;

(2) the Foundation has improved transparency and accountability of the outcomes made through the merit review process, but additional transparency into individual grants is valuable in communicating and assuring the public value of federally funded research; and

(3) the Foundation should commit to transparency and accountability and to clear, consistent public communication regarding the national interest for each Foundation-awarded grant and cooperative agreement.

(b) GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation shall issue and periodically update, as appropriate, policy guidance for both Foundation staff and other Foundation merit review process participants on the importance of transparency and accountability to the outcomes made through the merit review process.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidance under paragraph (1) shall require that each public notice of a Foundation-funded research project justify the expenditure of Federal funds by—

(A) describing how the project—

(i) reflects the statutory mission of the Foundation, as established in the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.); and

(ii) addresses the Foundation's intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria; and

(B) clearly identifying the research goals of the project in a manner that can be easily

understood by both technical and non-technical audiences.

(c) **BROADER IMPACTS REVIEW CRITERION UPDATE.**—Section 526(a) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-14(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) **GOALS.**—The Foundation shall apply a broader impacts review criterion to identify and demonstrate project support of the following goals:

“(1) Increasing the economic competitiveness of the United States.

“(2) Advancing of the health and welfare of the American public.

“(5) Developing an American STEM workforce that is globally competitive through improved pre-kindergarten through grade 12 STEM education and teacher development, and improved undergraduate STEM education and instruction.

“(6) Improving public scientific literacy and engagement with science and technology in the United States.

“(4) Enhancing partnerships between academia and industry in the United States.

“(3) Supporting the national defense of the United States.

“(7) Expanding participation of women and individuals from underrepresented groups in STEM.”.

SEC. 103. EPSCoR REAFFIRMATION AND UPDATE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Section 517(a) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-9(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “The National” and inserting “the National”; and

(B) by striking “education,” and inserting “education”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “with 27 States” and all that follows through the semicolon at the end and inserting “with 28 States and jurisdictions, taken together, receiving only about 12 percent of all National Science Foundation research funding;”;

(3) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) each of the States described in paragraph (2) receives only a fraction of 1 percent of the Foundation’s research dollars each year;”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) first established at the National Science Foundation in 1979, the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (referred to in this section as ‘EPSCoR’) assists States and jurisdictions historically underserved by Federal research and development funding in strengthening their research and innovation capabilities;

“(5) the EPSCoR structure requires each participating State to develop a science and technology plan suited to State and local research, education, and economic interests and objectives;

“(6) EPSCoR has been credited with advancing the research competitiveness of participating States, improving awareness of science, promoting policies that link scientific investment and economic growth, and encouraging partnerships between government, industry, and academia;

“(7) EPSCoR proposals are evaluated through a rigorous and competitive merit-review process to ensure that awarded research and development efforts meet high scientific standards; and

“(8) according to the National Academy of Sciences, EPSCoR has strengthened the national research infrastructure and enhanced the educational opportunities needed to develop the science and engineering workforce.”.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) since maintaining the Nation’s scientific and economic leadership requires the participation of talented individuals nationwide, EPSCoR investments into State research and education capacities are in the Federal interest and should be sustained; and

(B) EPSCoR should maintain its experimental component by supporting innovative methods for improving research capacity and competitiveness.

(2) **DEFINITION OF EPSCoR.**—In this subsection, the term “EPSCoR” has the meaning given the term in section 502 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p note).

(c) **AWARD STRUCTURE UPDATES.**—Section 517 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-9) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **AWARD STRUCTURE UPDATES.**—In implementing the mandate to maximize the impact of Federal EPSCoR support on building competitive research infrastructure, and based on the inputs and recommendations of previous EPSCoR reviews, the head of each Federal agency administering an EPSCoR program shall—

“(1) consider modifications to EPSCoR proposal solicitation, award type, and project evaluation—

“(A) to more closely align with current agency priorities and initiatives;

“(B) to focus EPSCoR funding on achieving critical scientific, infrastructure, and educational needs of that agency;

“(C) to encourage collaboration between EPSCoR-eligible institutions and researchers, including with institutions and researchers in other States and jurisdictions;

“(D) to improve communication between State and Federal agency proposal reviewers; and

“(E) to continue to reduce administrative burdens associated with EPSCoR;

“(2) consider modifications to EPSCoR award structures—

“(A) to emphasize long-term investments in building research capacity, potentially through the use of larger, renewable funding opportunities; and

“(B) to allow the agency, States, and jurisdictions to experiment with new research and development funding models; and

“(3) consider modifications to the mechanisms used to monitor and evaluate EPSCoR awards—

“(A) to increase collaboration between EPSCoR-funded researchers and agency staff, including by providing opportunities for mentoring young researchers and for the use of Federal facilities;

“(B) to identify and disseminate best practices; and

“(C) to harmonize metrics across participating Federal agencies, as appropriate.”.

(d) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS.**—Section 517 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-9), as amended, is further amended—

(A) by striking subsection (c);

(B) by redesignating subsections (d) through (g) as subsections (c) through (f), respectively;

(C) in subsection (c), as redesignated—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “Experimental Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research” and inserting “EPSCoR”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraphs (A) and (E), by striking “EPSCoR and Federal EPSCoR-like programs” and inserting “each EPSCoR”;

(II) in subparagraph (D), by striking “EPSCoR and other Federal EPSCoR-like programs” and inserting “each EPSCoR”;

(III) in subparagraph (E), by striking “EPSCoR or Federal EPSCoR-like programs” and inserting “each EPSCoR”; and

(IV) in subparagraph (G), by striking “EPSCoR programs” and inserting “each EPSCoR”; and

(D) by amending subsection (d), as redesignated, to read as follows:

“(d) **FEDERAL AGENCY REPORTS.**—Each Federal agency that administers an EPSCoR shall submit to Congress, as part of its Federal budget submission—

“(1) a description of the program strategy and objectives;

“(2) a description of the awards made in the previous fiscal year, including—

“(A) the total amount made available, by State, under EPSCoR;

“(B) the total amount of agency funding made available to all institutions and entities within each EPSCoR State;

“(C) the efforts and accomplishments to more fully integrate the EPSCoR States in major agency activities and initiatives;

“(D) the percentage of EPSCoR reviewers from EPSCoR States; and

“(E) the number of programs or large collaborator awards involving a partnership of organizations and institutions from EPSCoR and non-EPSCoR States; and

“(3) an analysis of the gains in academic research quality and competitiveness, and in science and technology human resource development, achieved by the program over the last 5 fiscal years.”;

(E) in subsection (e)(1), as redesignated, by striking “Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research or a program similar to the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research” and inserting “EPSCoR”.

(2) **RESULTS OF AWARD STRUCTURE PLAN.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the EPSCoR Interagency Coordinating Committee shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the updates made to the award structure under 517(f) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-9(f)), as amended by this subsection.

(e) **DEFINITION OF EPSCoR.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 502 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p note) is amended by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) **EPSCoR.**—The term ‘EPSCoR’ means—

“(A) the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research established by the Foundation; or

“(B) a program similar to the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research at another Federal agency.”.

(2) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Section 113 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1862g) is amended—

(A) in the heading, by striking “**EXPERIMENTAL**” and inserting “**ESTABLISHED**”;

(B) in subsection (a), by striking “an Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research” and inserting “a program to stimulate competitive research (known as the ‘Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research’)”; and

(C) in subsection (b), by striking “the program” and inserting “the Program”.

SEC. 104. CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH.

(a) **FOUNDATION CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH.**—Section 4(a)(1) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 7403(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (O), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (P), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:
“(Q) security of election-dedicated voting system software and hardware; and

“(R) role of the human factor in cybersecurity and the interplay of computers and humans and the physical world.”.

(b) NIST CYBERSECURITY PRIORITIES.—

(1) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AWARENESS.—The Director of NIST shall continue to raise public awareness of the voluntary, industry-led cybersecurity standards and best practices for critical infrastructure developed under section 2(c)(15) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)(15)).

(2) QUANTUM COMPUTING.—Under section 2(b) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(b)) and section 20 of that Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-3), the Director of NIST shall—

(A) research information systems for future cybersecurity needs; and

(B) coordinate with relevant stakeholders to develop a process—

(i) to research and identify or, if necessary, develop cryptography standards and guidelines for future cybersecurity needs, including quantum-resistant cryptography standards; and

(ii) to provide recommendations to Congress, Federal agencies, and industry consistent with the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-113; 110 Stat. 775), for a secure and smooth transition to the standards under clause (i).

(3) FEDERAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Section 20(d)(3) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-3(d)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) conduct research and analysis—

“(A) to determine the nature and extent of information security vulnerabilities and techniques for providing cost-effective information security;

“(B) to review and determine prevalent information security challenges and deficiencies identified by agencies or the Institute, including any challenges or deficiencies described in any of the annual reports under section 3553 or 3554 of title 44, United States Code, and in any of the reports and the independent evaluations under section 3555 of that title, that may undermine the effectiveness of agency information security programs and practices; and

“(C) to evaluate the effectiveness and sufficiency of, and challenges to, Federal agencies’ implementation of standards and guidelines developed under this section and policies and standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40, United States Code;”.

(4) VOTING.—Section 2(c) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (16) through (23) as paragraphs (17) through (24), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (15) the following:

“(16) perform research to support the development of voluntary, consensus-based, industry-led standards and recommendations on the security of computers, computer networks, and computer data storage used in election systems to ensure voters can vote securely and privately.”.

SEC. 105. NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Modernization Act of 2016”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Section 2 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5501) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (2) and (5), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology, including high-performance computing;”; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology, including high-performance computing”;

(c) PURPOSES.—Section 3 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5502) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “expanding Federal support for research, development, and application of high-performance computing” and inserting “supporting Federal research, development, and application of networking and information technology”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “high-performance computing” both places it appears and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(C) by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D);

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) stimulate research on and promote more rapid development of high-end computing systems software and applications software;”;

(E) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) through (H) as subparagraphs (D) through (G), respectively;

(F) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated, by inserting “high-end” after “the development of”;

(G) in subparagraphs (E) and (F), as redesignated, by striking “high-performance computing” each place it appears and inserting “networking and information technology”; and

(H) in subparagraph (G), as redesignated, by striking “high-performance” and inserting “high-end”; and

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “high-performance computing and” and inserting “networking and information technology and”; and

(B) by striking “high-performance computing network” and inserting “networking and information technology”.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—Section 4 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5503) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (3) and (5);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (4), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (2), (3), (5), (8), and (9), respectively;

(3) by inserting before paragraph (2), as redesignated, the following:

“(1) ‘cyber-physical systems’ means physical or engineered systems whose networking and information technology functions and physical elements are deeply integrated and are actively connected to the physical world through sensors, actuators, or other means to enable safe and effective, real-time performance in safety-critical and other applications;”;

(4) in paragraph (3), as redesignated, by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(5) by inserting after paragraph (3), as redesignated, the following:

“(4) ‘high-end computing’ means the most advanced and capable computing systems, including their hardware, storage, networking and software, encompassing both massive computational capability and large-scale data analytics to solve computational problems of national importance that are beyond the capability of small- to medium-scale systems, including computing formerly known as high-performance computing;”;

(6) by inserting after paragraph (5), as redesignated, the following:

“(6) ‘networking and information technology’ means high-end computing, communications, and information technologies, high-capacity and high-speed networks, special purpose and experimental systems, high-end computing systems software and applications software, and the management of large data sets;

“(7) ‘participating agency’ means an agency described in section 101(a)(3)(C);”;

(7) in paragraph (8), as redesignated, by striking “National High-Performance Computing Program” and inserting “Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program”.

(e) TITLE I HEADING.—The heading of title I of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511 et seq.) is amended by striking “HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING” and inserting “NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY”.

(f) NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—Section 101 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “NATIONAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING PROGRAM” and inserting “NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “NATIONAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING PROGRAM” and inserting “NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “National High-Performance Computing Program” and inserting “Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “high-performance computing, including networking” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(iii) in subparagraphs (B) and (G), by striking “high-performance” each place it appears and inserting “high-end”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C), by striking “high-performance computing and networking” and inserting “high-end computing, distributed, and networking”;

(v) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) provide for efforts to increase software security and reliability;”;

(vi) in subparagraph (H)—

(I) by inserting “support and guidance” after “provide”; and

(II) by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(vii) in subparagraph (I)—

(I) by striking “improving the security” and inserting “improving the security, reliability, and resilience”; and

(II) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(viii) by adding at the end the following:

“(J) provide for increased understanding of the scientific principles of cyber-physical systems and improve the methods available for the design, development, and operation of cyber-physical systems that are characterized by high reliability, safety, and security;

“(K) provide for research and development on human-computer interactions, visualization, and big data;

“(L) provide for research and development on the enhancement of cybersecurity, including the human facets of cyber threats and secure cyber systems;

“(M) provide for the understanding of the science, engineering, policy, and privacy protection related to networking and information technology;

“(N) provide for the transition of high-end computing hardware, system software, development tools, and applications into development and operations; and

“(O) foster public-private collaboration among government, industry research laboratories, academia, and nonprofit organizations to maximize research and development efforts and the benefits of networking and information technology, including high-end computing.”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) establish the goals and priorities for Federal networking and information technology research, development, education, and other activities;”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) provide for interagency coordination of Federal networking and information technology research, development, education, and other activities undertaken pursuant to the Program—

“(i) among the participating agencies; and

“(ii) to the extent practicable, with other Federal agencies not described in paragraph (3)(C), other Federal and private research laboratories, industry, research entities, institutions of higher education, relevant nonprofit organizations, and international partners of the United States;”;

(iii) by amending subparagraph (E) to read as follows:

“(E) encourage and monitor the efforts of the agencies participating in the Program to allocate the level of resources and management attention necessary to ensure that the strategic plans under subsection (e) are developed and executed effectively and that the objectives of the Program are met;”;

(iv) in subparagraph (F), by striking “high-performance” and inserting “high-end”; and

(D) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (E) as subparagraphs (C), (D), (E), and (G), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) provide a detailed description of the nature and scope of research infrastructure designated as such under the Program;”;

(iii) in subparagraph (C), as redesignated—

(I) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

“(i) the Department of Justice;”;

(II) by redesignating clauses (vii) through (xi) as clauses (viii) through (xii), respectively;

(III) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:

“(vii) the Department of Homeland Security;”;

and

(IV) by amending clause (viii), as redesignated, to read as follows:

“(viii) the National Archives and Records Administration;”;

(iv) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated—

(I) by striking “is submitted,” and inserting “is submitted, the levels for the previous fiscal year;”;

(II) by striking “each Program Component Area;” and inserting “each Program Component Area and research area supported in accordance with section 102;”;

(v) by amending subparagraph (E), as redesignated, to read as follows:

“(E) describe the levels of Federal funding for each participating agency, and for each Program Component Area, for the fiscal year during which such report is submitted, the levels for the previous fiscal year, and the levels proposed for the fiscal year with respect to which the budget submission applies;”;

(vi) by inserting after subparagraph (E), as redesignated, the following:

“(F) include a description of how the objectives for each Program Component Area, and the objectives for activities that involve multiple Program Component Areas, relate to the objectives of the Program identified in the strategic plans required under subsection (e); and”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “high-performance computing” both places it appears and inserting “networking and information technology”; and

(ii) after the first sentence, by inserting the following: “Each chair of the advisory committee shall meet the qualifications of committee membership and may be a member of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.”;

(B) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking “high-performance computing, networking technology, and related software” and inserting “networking and information technology”; and

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the second sentence, by striking “2” and inserting “3”;

(ii) by striking “Committee on Science and Technology” and inserting “Committee on Science, Space, and Technology”; and

(iii) by striking “The first report shall be due within 1 year after the date of enactment of the America COMPETES Act.”;

(4) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) PERIODIC REVIEWS.—The heads of the participating agencies, working through the National Science and Technology Council and the Program, shall—

“(1) periodically assess and update, as appropriate, the structure of the Program, including the Program Component Areas and associated contents, scope, and funding levels, taking into consideration any relevant recommendations of the advisory committee established under subsection (b); and

“(2) ensure that such agency’s implementation of the Program includes foundational, large-scale, long-term, and interdisciplinary information technology research and development activities, including activities described in section 102.

“(e) STRATEGIC PLANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The heads of the participating agencies, working through the National Science and Technology Council and

the Program, shall develop and implement strategic plans to guide—

“(A) emerging activities of Federal networking and information technology research and development; and

“(B) the activities described in subsection (a)(1).

“(2) UPDATES.—The heads of the participating agencies shall update the strategic plans as appropriate.

“(3) CONTENTS.—Each strategic plan shall—

“(A) specify near-term and long-term objectives for the portions of the Program relevant to the strategic plan, the anticipated schedule for achieving the near-term and long-term objectives, and the metrics to be used for assessing progress toward the near-term and long-term objectives;

“(B) specify how the near-term and long-term objectives complement research and development areas in which academia and the private sector are actively engaged;

“(C) describe how the heads of the participating agencies will support mechanisms for foundational, large-scale, long-term, and interdisciplinary information technology research and development and for Grand Challenges, including through collaborations—

“(i) across Federal agencies;

“(ii) across Program Component Areas; and

“(iii) with industry, Federal and private research laboratories, research entities, institutions of higher education, relevant nonprofit organizations, and international partners of the United States;

“(D) describe how the heads of the participating agencies will foster the rapid transfer of research and development results into new technologies and applications in the national interest, including through cooperation and collaborations with networking and information technology research, development, and technology transition initiatives supported by the States; and

“(E) describe how the portions of the Program relevant to the strategic plan will address long-term challenges for which solutions require foundational, large-scale, long-term, and interdisciplinary information technology research and development.

“(4) PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORTS.—In developing, implementing, and updating strategic plans, the heads of the participating agencies, working through the National Science and Technology Council and the Program, shall coordinate with industry, academia, and other interested stakeholders to ensure, to the extent practicable, that the Federal networking and information technology research and development activities carried out under this section do not duplicate the efforts of the private sector.

“(5) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In developing and updating strategic plans, the heads of the participating agencies shall solicit recommendations and advice from—

“(A) the advisory committee under subsection (b);

“(B) the Committee on Science and relevant subcommittees of the National Science and Technology Council; and

“(C) a wide range of stakeholders, including industry, academia, National Laboratories, and other relevant organizations and institutions.

“(f) REPORTS.—The heads of the participating agencies, working through the National Science and Technology Council and the Program, shall submit to the advisory committee, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives—

“(1) the strategic plans developed under subsection (e)(1); and

“(2) each update under subsection (e)(2).”.

(g) NATIONAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORK.—Section 102 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5512) is repealed.

(h) NEXT GENERATION INTERNET.—Section 103 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5513) is repealed.

(i) GRAND CHALLENGES IN AREAS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.—Title I of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 102. GRAND CHALLENGES IN AREAS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall encourage the participating agencies to support foundational, large-scale, long-term, interdisciplinary, and interagency information technology research and development activities in networking and information technology directed toward agency mission areas that have the potential for significant contributions to national economic competitiveness and for other significant societal benefits. Such activities, ranging from basic research to the demonstration of technical solutions, shall be designed to advance the development of fundamental discoveries. The advisory committee established under section 101(b) shall make recommendations to the Program for candidate research and development areas for support under this section.

“(b) CHARACTERISTICS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Research and development activities under this section shall—

“(A) include projects selected on the basis of applications for support through a competitive, merit-based process;

“(B) to the extent practicable, involve collaborations among researchers in institutions of higher education and industry, and may involve nonprofit research institutions and Federal laboratories, as appropriate;

“(C) to the extent practicable, leverage Federal investments through collaboration with related State and private sector initiatives; and

“(D) include a plan for fostering the transfer of research discoveries and the results of technology demonstration activities, including from institutions of higher education and Federal laboratories, to industry for commercial development.

“(2) COST-SHARING.—In selecting applications for support, the agencies may give special consideration to projects that include cost sharing from non-Federal sources.”.

(j) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES.—Section 201 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5521) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “(a) GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “high-end” after “National Science Foundation shall provide”; and

(ii) by striking “high-performance computing” and all that follows through “networking;” and inserting “networking and information technology; and”;

(C) by striking paragraphs (2) through (4); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) the National Science Foundation shall use its existing programs, in collaboration with other agencies, as appropriate, to improve the teaching and learning of networking and information technology at all

levels of education and to increase participation in networking and information technology fields, including by individuals identified in sections 33 and 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a and 1885b).”; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

(k) NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES.—Section 202 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5522) is amended—

(1) by striking “(a) GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—”;

(2) by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”; and

(3) by striking subsection (b).

(l) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ACTIVITIES.—Section 203 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5523) is amended—

(1) by striking “(a) GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “high-performance computing and networking” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(3) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “high-performance” and inserting “high-end”; and

(4) by striking subsection (b).

(m) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ACTIVITIES.—Section 204 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5524) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “high-performance computing systems and networks” and inserting “networking and information technology systems and capabilities”;;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “interoperability of high-performance computing systems in networks and for common user interfaces to systems” and inserting “interoperability and usability of networking and information technology systems”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING AND NETWORK” and inserting “NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY”;

(B) by striking “Pursuant to the Computer Security Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-235; 101 Stat. 1724), the” and inserting “The”; and

(C) by striking “sensitive information in Federal computer systems” and inserting “Federal agency information and information systems”; and

(3) by striking subsections (c) and (d).

(n) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ACTIVITIES.—Section 205 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5525) is repealed.

(o) ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.—Section 206 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5526) is repealed.

(p) MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.—Section 207 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5527) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 2315(a) of title 10” and inserting “section 3552(b)(6)(A)(i) of title 44”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”.

(q) REPEAL.—Section 208 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5528) is repealed.

(r) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.—Section 4(b)(5)(K) of the Cyber Se-

curity Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(b)(5)(K)) is amended by striking “high-performance computing” and inserting “networking and information technology”.

(s) NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—Section 13202(b) of the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 17912(b)) is amended by striking “National High-Performance Computing Program” and inserting “Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program”.

(t) FEDERAL CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Section 201(a)(4) of the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014 (15 U.S.C. 7431(a)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking “clauses (i) through (x)” and inserting “clauses (i) through (xi)”;

(2) by striking “under clause (xi)” and inserting “under clause (xii)”.

(u) ADDITIONAL REPEAL.—Section 4 of the Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004 (15 U.S.C. 5543) is repealed.

SEC. 106. PHYSICAL SCIENCES COORDINATION.

(a) HIGH-ENERGY PHYSICS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Physical Science Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council (referred to in this section as “Subcommittee”) shall continue to coordinate Federal efforts related to high-energy physics research to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of United States investment in high-energy physics.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Subcommittee include—

(A) to advise and assist the Committee on Science and the National Science and Technology Council on United States policies, procedures, and plans in the physical sciences, including high-energy physics; and

(B) to identify emerging opportunities, stimulate international cooperation, and foster the development of the physical sciences in the United States, including—

(i) in high-energy physics research, including related underground science and engineering research;

(ii) in physical infrastructure and facilities;

(iii) in information and analysis; and

(iv) in coordination activities.

(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In regard to coordinating Federal efforts related to high-energy physics research, the Subcommittee shall, taking into account the findings and recommendations of relevant advisory committees—

(A) provide recommendations on planning for construction and stewardship of large facilities participating in high-energy physics;

(B) provide recommendations on research coordination and collaboration among the programs and activities of Federal agencies related to underground science, neutrino research, dark energy, and dark matter research;

(C) establish goals and priorities for high-energy physics, related underground science, and research and development that will strengthen United States competitiveness in high-energy physics;

(D) propose methods for engagement with international, Federal, and State agencies and Federal laboratories not represented on the National Science and Technology Council to identify and reduce regulatory, logistical, and fiscal barriers that inhibit United States leadership in high-energy physics and related underground science; and

(E) develop, and update as necessary, a strategic plan to guide Federal programs and

activities in support of high-energy physics research, including—

(i) the efforts taken in support of paragraph (2) since the last strategic plan;

(ii) an evaluation of the current research needs for maintaining United States leadership in high-energy physics; and

(iii) an identification of future priorities in the area of high-energy physics.

(b) RADIATION BIOLOGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Subcommittee shall continue to coordinate Federal efforts related to radiation biology research to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of United States investment in radiation biology.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RADIATION BIOLOGY.—In regard to coordinating Federal efforts related to radiation biology research, the Subcommittee shall—

(A) advise and assist the National Science and Technology Council on policies and initiatives in radiation biology, including enhancing scientific knowledge of the effects of low dose radiation on biological systems to improve radiation risk management methods;

(B) identify opportunities to stimulate international cooperation and leverage research and knowledge from sources outside of the United States;

(C) ensure coordination between the Department of Energy Office of Science, Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Institutes of Health, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Defense, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Department of Homeland Security;

(D) identify ongoing scientific challenges for understanding the long-term effects of ionizing radiation on biological systems; and

(E) formulate overall scientific goals for the future of low-dose radiation research in the United States.

(c) FUSION ENERGY SCIENCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Subcommittee shall continue to coordinate Federal efforts related to fusion energy research to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of United States investment in fusion energy sciences.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FUSION ENERGY SCIENCES.—In regard to coordinating Federal efforts related to fusion energy sciences, the Subcommittee shall—

(A) advise and assist the National Science and Technology Council on policies and initiatives in fusion energy sciences, including enhancing scientific knowledge of fusion energy science, plasma physics, and related materials sciences;

(B) identify opportunities to stimulate international cooperation and leverage research and knowledge from sources outside of the United States, including the ITER project;

(C) ensure coordination between the Department of Energy Office of Science, National Nuclear Security Administration, Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Foundation, and Department of Defense regarding fusion energy sciences and plasma physics; and

(D) formulate overall scientific goals for the future of fusion energy sciences and plasma physics.

SEC. 107. LABORATORY PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIST, acting through the Associate Director for Laboratory Programs, shall develop and implement a comprehensive strategic plan for laboratory programs that expands—

(1) interactions with academia, international researchers, and industry; and

(2) commercial and industrial applications.

(b) OPTIMIZING COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS.—In accordance with the purpose under section 1(b)(3) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271(b)(3)), the comprehensive strategic plan shall—

(1) include performance metrics for the dissemination of fundamental research results, measurements, and standards research results to industry, including manufacturing, and other interested parties;

(2) document any positive benefits of research on the competitiveness of the interested parties described in paragraph (1);

(3) clarify the current approach to the technology transfer activities of NIST; and

(4) consider recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences.

SEC. 108. STANDARD REFERENCE DATA ACT UPDATE.

Section 2 of the Standard Reference Data Act (15 U.S.C. 290a) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

“For the purposes of this Act:

“(1) STANDARD REFERENCE DATA.—The term ‘standard reference data’ means data that is—

“(A) either—

“(i) quantitative information related to a measurable physical, or chemical, or biological property of a substance or system of substances of known composition and structure;

“(ii) measurable characteristics of a physical artifact or artifacts;

“(iii) engineering properties or performance characteristics of a system; or

“(iv) 1 or more digital data objects that serve—

“(I) to calibrate or characterize the performance of a detection or measurement system; or

“(II) to interpolate or extrapolate, or both, data described in subparagraph (A) through (C); and

“(B) that is critically evaluated as to its reliability under section 3 of this Act.

“(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Commerce.”.

SEC. 109. NSF MID-SCALE PROJECT INVESTMENTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Foundation funds major research facilities, infrastructure, and instrumentation that provide unique capabilities at the frontiers of science and engineering.

(2) Modern and effective research facilities, infrastructure, and instrumentation are critical to maintaining United States leadership in science and engineering.

(3) The costs of some proposed research instrumentation, equipment, and upgrades to major research facilities fall between programs currently funded by the Foundation, creating a gap between the established parameters of the Major Research Instrumentation and Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction programs, including projects that have been identified as cost-effective additions of high priority to the advancement of scientific understanding.

(4) The 2010 Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal Survey recommended a mid-scale innovations program.

(b) MID-SCALE PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall evaluate the existing and future needs, across all disciplines supported by the Foundation, for mid-scale projects.

(2) STRATEGY.—The Director of the Foundation shall develop a strategy to address the needs identified in paragraph (1).

(3) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Foundation shall provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress on the evaluation under paragraph (1) and the strategy under paragraph (2).

(4) DEFINITION OF MID-SCALE PROJECTS.—In this subsection, the term “mid-scale projects” means research instrumentation, equipment, and upgrades to major research facilities or other research infrastructure investments that exceed the maximum award funded by the major research instrumentation program and are below the minimum award funded by the major research equipment and facilities construction program as described in section 507 of the AMERICA Competes Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-358; 124 Stat. 4008).

SEC. 110. OVERSIGHT OF NSF MAJOR MULTI-USER RESEARCH FACILITY PROJECTS.

(a) FACILITIES OVERSIGHT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation shall strengthen oversight and accountability over the full life-cycle of each major multi-user research facility project, including planning, development, procurement, construction, operations, and support, and shut-down of the facility, in order to maximize research investment.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Director shall—

(A) prioritize the scientific outcomes of a major multi-user research facility project and the internal management and financial oversight of the major multi-user research facility project;

(B) clarify the roles and responsibilities of all organizations, including offices, panels, committees, and directorates, involved in supporting a major multi-user research facility project, including the role of the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction Panel;

(C) establish policies and procedures for the planning, management, and oversight of a major multi-user research facility project at each phase of the life-cycle of the major multi-user research facility project;

(D) ensure that policies for estimating and managing costs and schedules are consistent with the best practices described in the Government Accountability Office Cost Estimating and Assessment Guide, the Government Accountability Office Schedule Assessment Guide, and the Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. Part 200);

(E) establish the appropriate project management and financial management expertise required for Foundation staff to oversee each major multi-user research facility project effectively, including by improving project management training and certification;

(F) coordinate the sharing of the best management practices and lessons learned from each major multi-user research facility project;

(G) continue to maintain a Large Facilities Office to support the research directorates in the development, implementation, and oversight of each major multi-user research facility project, including by—

(i) serving as the Foundation’s primary resource for all policy or process issues related to the development, implementation, and oversight of a major multi-user research facility project;

(ii) serving as a Foundation-wide resource on project management, including providing

expert assistance on nonscientific and non-technical aspects of project planning, budgeting, implementation, management, and oversight;

(iii) coordinating and collaborating with research directorates to share best management practices and lessons learned from prior major multi-user research facility projects; and

(iv) assessing each major multi-user research facility project for cost and schedule risk; and

(H) appoint a senior agency official whose responsibility is oversight of the development, construction, and operations of major multi-user research facilities across the Foundation.

(b) FACILITIES FULL LIFE-CYCLE COSTS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (c)(1), the Director of the Foundation shall require that any pre-award analysis of a major multi-user research facility project includes the development and consideration of the full life-cycle cost (as defined in section 2 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 1862k note)) in accordance with section 14 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-4).

(2) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Based on the pre-award analysis described in paragraph (1), the Director of the Foundation shall include projected operational costs within the Foundation's out-years as part of the President's annual budget submission to Congress under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) COST OVERSIGHT.—

(1) PRE-AWARD ANALYSIS.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Foundation and the National Science Board may not approve or execute any agreement to start construction on any proposed major multi-user research facility project unless—

(i) an external analysis of the proposed budget has been conducted to ensure the proposal is complete and reasonable;

(ii) the analysis under clause (i) follows the Government Accountability Office Cost Estimating and Assessment Guide;

(iii) except as provided under subparagraph (C), an analysis of the accounting systems has been conducted;

(iv) an independent cost estimate of the construction of the project has been conducted using the same detailed technical information as the project proposal estimate to determine whether the estimate is well-supported and realistic; and

(v) the Foundation and the National Science Board have considered the analyses under clauses (i) and (iii) and the independent cost estimate under clause (iv) and resolved any major issues identified therein.

(B) **AUDITS.**—An external analysis under subparagraph (A)(i) may include an audit.

(C) **EXCEPTION.**—The Director of the Foundation, at the Director's discretion, may waive the requirement under subparagraph (A)(iii) if a similar analysis of the accounting systems was conducted in the prior years.

(2) **CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT.**—The Director of the Foundation shall require for each major multi-user research facility project—

(A) periodic external reviews on project management and performance;

(B) adequate internal controls, policies, and procedures, and reliable accounting systems in preparation for the incurred cost audits under subparagraph (D);

(C) annual incurred cost submissions of financial expenditures; and

(D) an incurred cost audit of the major multi-user research facility project in ac-

cordance with Government Accountability Office Government Auditing Standards—

(i) at least once during construction at a time determined based on risk analysis and length of the award, except that the length of time between audits may not exceed 3 years; and

(ii) at the completion of the construction phase.

(3) **OPERATIONS COST ANALYSIS.**—The Director of the Foundation shall require an independent cost analysis of the operational proposal for each major multi-user research facility project.

(d) CONTINGENCY.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Foundation shall strengthen internal controls to improve oversight of contingency on a major multi-user research facility project.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Director of the Foundation shall—

(A) only include contingency amounts in an award in accordance with section 200.433 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to contingency provisions), or any successor regulation;

(B) retain control over funds budgeted for contingency, except that the Director may disburse budgeted contingency funds incrementally to the awardee to ensure project stability and continuity;

(C) track contingency use; and

(D) ensure that contingency amounts allocated to the performance baseline are reasonable and allowable.

(e) USE OF FEES.—

(1) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the use of taxpayer-funded award fees should be transparent and explicable; and

(B) the Foundation should implement an award fee policy that ensures more transparency and accountability in the funding of necessary and appropriate expenses directly related to the construction and operation of major multi-user research facilities.

(2) **REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING.**—The Director of the Foundation shall establish guidelines for awardees regarding inappropriate expenditures associated with all fee types used in cooperative agreements, including for alcoholic beverages, lobbying, meals or entertainment for non-business purposes, non-business travel, and any other purpose the Director determines is inappropriate.

(f) **OVERSIGHT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS.**—The Director of the Foundation shall—

(1) not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and periodically thereafter until the completion date, provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress on the response to or progress made toward implementation of—

(A) this section;

(B) all of the issues and recommendations identified in cooperative agreement audit reports and memoranda issued by the Inspector General of the Foundation in the last 5 years; and

(C) all of the issues and recommendations identified by a panel of the National Academy of Public Administration in the December 2015 report entitled "National Science Foundation: Use of Cooperative Agreements to Support Large Scale Investment in Research"; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, notify the appropriate committees of Congress when the Foundation has implemented the recommendations identified in a panel of the

National Academy of Public Administration report issued December 2015.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) **MAJOR MULTI-USER RESEARCH FACILITY PROJECT.**—The term "major multi-user research facility project" means a science and engineering facility project that—

(A) exceeds the lesser of—

(i) 10 percent of a Directorate's annual budget; or

(ii) \$100,000,000 in total project costs; or

(B) is funded by the major research equipment and facilities construction account, or any successor account.

SEC. 111. PERSONNEL OVERSIGHT.

(a) **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.**—The Director of the Foundation shall update the policy and procedure of the Foundation relating to conflicts of interest to improve documentation and management of any known conflict of interest of an individual on temporary assignment at the Foundation, including an individual on assignment under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.).

(b) **JUSTIFICATIONS.**—The Deputy Director of the Foundation shall submit annually to the appropriate committees of Congress written justification for each rotator employed under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.), or other rotator employed, by the Foundation that year that is paid at a rate that exceeds the maximum rate of pay for the Senior Executive Service, including, if applicable, the level of adjustment for the certified Senior Executive Service Performance Appraisal System.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Foundation shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the Foundation's efforts to control costs associated with employing rotators, including the results of and participation in the Foundation's cost-sharing pilot program and the Foundation's progress in responding to the findings and implementing the recommendations of the Office of Inspector General of the Foundation related to the employment of rotators.

SEC. 112. MANAGEMENT OF THE U.S. ANTARCTIC PROGRAM.

(a) REVIEW.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Foundation shall continue to review the efforts by the Foundation to sustain and strengthen scientific efforts in the face of logistical challenges for the United States Antarctic Program.

(2) **ISSUES TO BE EXAMINED.**—In conducting the review, the Director shall examine, at a minimum, the following:

(A) Implementation by the Foundation of issues and recommendations identified by—

(i) the Inspector General of the National Science Foundation in audit reports and memoranda on the United States Antarctic Program in the last 4 years;

(ii) the U.S. Antarctic Program Blue Ribbon Panel report, More and Better Science in Antarctica through Increased Logistical Effectiveness, issued July 23, 2012; and

(iii) the National Research Council report, Future Science Opportunities in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, issued September 2011.

(B) Efforts by the Foundation to track its progress in addressing the issues and recommendations under subparagraph (A).

(C) Efforts by the Foundation to address other opportunities and challenges, including efforts on scientific research, coordination with other Federal agencies and international partners, logistics and transportation, health and safety of participants, oversight and financial management of awardees and contractors, and resources and policy challenges.

(b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the ongoing review, including findings and any recommendations.

SEC. 113. NIST CAMPUS SECURITY.

(a) SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY.—The Department of Commerce Office of Security shall directly manage the law enforcement and site security programs of NIST through an assigned Director of Security for NIST without increasing the number of full-time equivalent employees of the Department of Commerce, including NIST.

(b) REPORTS.—The Director of Security for NIST shall provide an activities and security report on a quarterly basis for the first year after the date of enactment of this Act, and on an annual basis thereafter, to the Under Secretary for Standards and Technology and the appropriate committees of Congress.

SEC. 114. COORDINATION OF SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the science of chemistry is vital to improving the quality of human life and plays an important role in addressing critical global challenges, including water quality, energy, health care, and agriculture;

(2) sustainable chemistry can reduce risks to human health and the environment, reduce waste, improve pollution prevention, promote safe and efficient manufacturing, and promote efficient use of resources in developing new materials, processes, and technologies that support viable long-term solutions to a significant number of challenges;

(3) sustainable chemistry can stimulate innovation, encourage new and creative approaches to problems, create jobs, and save money; and

(4) a coordinated effort on sustainable chemistry will allow for a greater return on research investment in this area.

(b) SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY BASIC RESEARCH.—Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, the Director of the Foundation may continue to carry out the Sustainable Chemistry Basic Research program authorized under section 509 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-3).

SEC. 115. MISREPRESENTATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—The Director of the Foundation may revise the regulations under part 689 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to research misconduct) to ensure that the findings and conclusions of any article authored by a principal investigator, using the results of research conducted under a Foundation grant, that is published in a peer-reviewed publication, made publicly available, or incorporated in an application for a research grant or grant extension from the Foundation, does not contain any falsification, fabrication, or plagiarism.

(b) INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATION.—Upon a finding that research misconduct has oc-

curred, the Foundation shall, in addition to any possible final action under section 689.3 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, notify other Federal science agencies of the finding.

SEC. 116. RESEARCH REPRODUCIBILITY AND REPLICATION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the gold standard of good science is the ability of a researcher or research laboratory to reproduce a published research finding, including methods;

(2) there is growing concern that some published research findings cannot be reproduced or replicated, which can negatively affect the public's trust in science;

(3) there are a complex set of factors affecting reproducibility and replication; and

(4) the increasing interdisciplinary nature and complexity of scientific research may be a contributing factor to issues with research reproducibility and replication.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Foundation shall enter into an agreement with the National Research Council—

(A) to assess research and data reproducibility and replicability issues in interdisciplinary research;

(B) to make recommendations for improving rigor and transparency in scientific research; and

(C) to submit to the Director of the Foundation a report on the assessment, including its findings and recommendations, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date the Director of the Foundation receives the report under paragraph (1)(C), the Director shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress, including a response from the Director of the Foundation and the Chair of the National Science Board as to whether they agree with each of the findings and recommendations in the report.

SEC. 117. BRAIN RESEARCH THROUGH ADVANCING INNOVATIVE NEUROTECHNOLOGIES INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall support research activities related to the interagency Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies Initiative.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Foundation should work in conjunction with the Interagency Working Group on Neuroscience established by the National Science and Technology Council, Committee on Science to determine how to use the data infrastructure of the Foundation and other applicable Federal science agencies to help neuroscientists collect, standardize, manage, and analyze the large amounts of data that result from research attempting to understand how the brain functions.

TITLE II—ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY BURDEN REDUCTION

SEC. 201. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON RESEARCH REGULATION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Research and Development Efficiency Act”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Scientific and technological advancement have been the largest drivers of economic growth in the last 50 years, with the Federal Government being the largest investor in basic research.

(2) Substantial and increasing administrative burdens and costs in Federal research administration, particularly in the higher education sector where most federally funded research is performed, are eroding funds available to carry out basic scientific research.

(3) Federally funded grants are increasingly competitive, with the Foundation funding only approximately 1 in every 5 grant proposals.

(4) Progress has been made over the last decade in streamlining the pre-award grant application process through the Federal Government's Grants.gov website.

(5) Post-award administrative costs have increased as Federal research agencies have continued to impose agency-unique compliance and reporting requirements on researchers and research institutions.

(6) Researchers spend as much as 42 percent of their time complying with Federal regulations, including administrative tasks such as applying for grants or meeting reporting requirements.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) administrative burdens faced by researchers may be reducing the return on investment of federally funded research and development; and

(2) it is a matter of critical importance to United States competitiveness that administrative costs of federally funded research be streamlined so that a higher proportion of federal funding is applied to direct research activities.

(d) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall establish an interagency working group (referred to in this section as the “Working Group”) for the purpose of reducing administrative burdens on federally funded researchers while protecting the public interest through the transparency of and accountability for federally funded activities.

(e) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall—

(A) regularly review relevant, administration-related regulations imposed on federally funded researchers;

(B) recommend those regulations or processes that may be eliminated, streamlined, or otherwise improved for the purpose described in subsection (d);

(C) recommend ways to minimize the regulatory burden on United States institutions of higher education performing federally funded research while maintaining accountability for federal funding; and

(D) recommend ways to identify and update specific regulations to refocus on performance-based goals rather than on process while achieving the outcome described in subparagraph (C).

(2) GRANT REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall—

(i) conduct a comprehensive review of Federal science agency grant proposal documents; and

(ii) develop, to the extent practicable, a simplified, uniform grant format to be used by all Federal science agencies.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the uniform grant format, the Working Group shall consider whether to implement—

(i) procedures for preliminary project proposals in advance of peer-review selection;

(ii) increased use of “Just-In-Time” procedures for documentation that does not bear directly on the scientific merit of a proposal;

(iii) simplified initial budget proposals in advance of peer review selection; and

(iv) detailed budget proposals for applicants that peer review selection identifies as likely to be funded.

(3) **CENTRALIZED RESEARCHER PROFILE DATABASE.**—

(A) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Working Group shall establish, to the extent practicable, a secure, centralized database for investigator biosketches, curriculum vitae, licenses, lists of publications, and other documents considered relevant by the Working Group.

(B) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In establishing the centralized profile database under subparagraph (A), the Working Group shall consider incorporating existing investigator databases.

(C) **GRANT PROPOSALS.**—To the extent practicable, all grant proposals shall utilize the centralized investigator profile database established under subparagraph (A).

(D) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Each investigator shall—

(i) be responsible for ensuring the investigator's profile is current and accurate; and

(ii) be assigned a unique identifier linked to the database and accessible to all Federal funding agencies.

(4) **CENTRALIZED ASSURANCES REPOSITORY.**—The Working Group shall—

(A) establish a central repository for all of the assurances required for Federal research grants; and

(B) provide guidance to institutions of higher education and Federal science agencies on the use of the centralized assurances repository.

(5) **COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Working Group shall—

(i) conduct a comprehensive review of the mandated progress reports for federally funded research; and

(ii) develop a strategy to simplify investigator progress reports.

(B) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In developing the strategy, the Working Group shall consider limiting progress reports to performance outcomes.

(f) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out its responsibilities under subsection (e)(1), the Working Group shall consult with academic researchers outside the Federal Government, including—

- (1) federally funded researchers;
- (2) non-federally funded researchers;
- (3) institutions of higher education and their representative associations;
- (4) scientific and engineering disciplinary societies and associations;
- (5) nonprofit research institutions;
- (6) industry, including small businesses;
- (7) federally funded research and development centers; and

(8) members of the public with a stake in ensuring effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability in the performance of scientific research.

(g) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Working Group shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on its responsibilities under this section, including a discussion of the considerations described in paragraphs (2)(B), (3)(B), and (5)(B) of subsection (e) and recommendations made under subsection (e)(1).

SEC. 202. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COLLABORATION.

(a) **DEFINITION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL WORKSHOP.**—In this section, the term “scientific and technical workshop” means a

symposium, seminar, or any other organized, formal gathering where scientists or engineers working in STEM research and development fields assemble to coordinate, exchange and disseminate information or to explore or clarify a defined subject, problem or area of knowledge in the STEM fields.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should encourage broad dissemination of Federal research findings and engagement of Federal researchers with the scientific and technical community; and

(2) laboratory, test center, and field center directors and other similar heads of offices should approve scientific and technical workshop attendance if—

(A) that attendance would meet the mission of the laboratory or test center; and

(B) sufficient laboratory or test center funds are available for that purpose.

(c) **ATTENDANCE POLICIES.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the heads of the Federal science agencies shall each develop an action plan for the implementation of revisions and updates to their policies on attendance at scientific and technical workshops.

(d) **NIST WORKSHOPS.**—Section 2(c) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)), as amended by section 104 of this Act, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (19) through (24) as paragraphs (22) through (27), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (18) the following:

“(19) host, participate in, and support scientific and technical workshops (as defined in section 202 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act);

“(20) collect and retain any fees charged by the Secretary for hosting a scientific and technical workshop described in paragraph (19);

“(21) notwithstanding title 31 of the United States Code, use the fees described in paragraph (20) to pay for any related expenses, including subsistence expenses for participants;”.

SEC. 203. NIST GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS UPDATE.

Section 8(a) of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3706(a)) is amended by striking “The total amount of any such grant or cooperative agreement may not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the program.”.

SEC. 204. REPEAL OF CERTAIN OBSOLETE REPORTS.

(a) **REPEAL OF CERTAIN OBSOLETE REPORTS.**—

(1) **NIST REPORTS.**—

(A) **REPORT ON DONATION OF EDUCATIONALLY USEFUL FEDERAL EQUIPMENT TO SCHOOLS.**—Section 6(b) of the Technology Administration Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1) IN GENERAL.—” and indenting appropriately; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (2).

(B) **THREE-YEAR PROGRAMMATIC PLANNING DOCUMENT.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 23 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278i) is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d).

(ii) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 10(h)(1) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278(h)(1)) is amended by striking the last sentence.

(2) **MULTIAGENCY REPORT ON INNOVATION ACCELERATION RESEARCH.**—Section 1008 of the

America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 6603) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (c); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(3) **NSF REPORTS.**—

(A) **FUNDING FOR SUCCESSFUL STEM EDUCATION PROGRAMS; REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Section 7012 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o–4) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(B) **ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION; EVALUATION AND REPORT.**—Section 7031 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o–11) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(C) **MATH AND SCIENCE PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM COORDINATION REPORT.**—Section 9(c) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n(c)) is amended—

(i) by striking paragraph (4); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4).

(b) **NATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE REPORTS.**—The 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by amending section 2(c)(4) (15 U.S.C. 7501(c)(4)) to read as follows:

“(4) develop, not later than 5 years after the date of the release of the most-recent strategic plan, and update every 5 years thereafter, a strategic plan to guide the activities described under subsection (b) that describes—

“(A) the near-term and long-term objectives for the Program;

“(B) the anticipated schedule for achieving the near-term objectives; and

“(C) the metrics that will be used to assess progress toward the near-term and long-term objectives;

“(D) how the Program will move results out of the laboratory and into application for the benefit of society;

“(E) the Program’s support for long-term funding for interdisciplinary research and development in nanotechnology; and

“(F) the allocation of funding for inter-agency nanotechnology projects;”.

(2) by amending section 4(d) (15 U.S.C. 7503(d)) to read as follows:

“(d) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 4 years after the date of the most recent assessment under subsection (c), and quadrennially thereafter, the Advisory Panel shall submit to the President, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report its assessments under subsection (c) and its recommendations for ways to improve the Program.”; and

(3) in section 5 (15 U.S.C. 7504)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “**TRIENNIAL**” and inserting “**QUADRENNIAL**”; and

(B) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “**triennial**” and inserting “**quadrennial**”; and

(C) in subsection (b), by striking “**triennial**” and inserting “**quadrennial**”; and

(D) in subsection (c), by striking “**triennial**” and inserting “**quadrennial**”; and

(E) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) **REPORT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date the first evaluation under subsection (a) is received, and quadrennially thereafter, the Director of the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office shall report to the President its assessments under subsection (c) and its recommendations for ways to improve the Program.

“(2) CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date the President receives the report under paragraph (1), the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall transmit a copy of the report to Congress.”

(c) MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION.—Section 14 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-4) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) PRIORITIZATION OF PROPOSED MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORITIES.—The Director shall—

“(A) develop a list indicating by number the relative priority for funding under the major research equipment and facilities construction account that the Director assigns to each project the Board has approved for inclusion in a future budget request; and

“(B) submit the list described in subparagraph (A) to the Board for approval.

“(2) CRITERIA.—The Director shall include in the criteria for developing the list under paragraph (1) the readiness of plans for construction and operation, including confidence in the estimates of the full life-cycle cost (as defined in section 2 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 1862k note)) and the proposed schedule of completion.

“(3) UPDATES.—The Director shall update the list prepared under paragraph (1) each time the Board approves a new project that would receive funding under the major research equipment and facilities construction account and periodically submit any updated list to the Board for approval.”;

(2) by striking subsection (e);

(3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and

(4) by amending subsection (c), as redesignated, to read as follows:

“(c) BOARD APPROVAL OF MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES PROJECTS.—The Board shall explicitly approve any project to be funded out of the major research equipment and facilities construction account before any funds may be obligated from such account for such project.”.

SEC. 205. REPEAL OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

(a) TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 28 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) ADDITIONAL AWARD CRITERIA.—Section 4226(b) of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (15 U.S.C. 278n note) is repealed.

(B) MANAGEMENT COSTS.—Section 2(d) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(d)) is amended by striking “sections 25, 26, and 28” and inserting “sections 25 and 26”.

(C) ANNUAL AND OTHER REPORTS TO SECRETARY AND CONGRESS.—Section 10(h)(1) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278(h)(1)) is amended by striking “, including the Program established under section 28.”.

(b) TEACHERS FOR A COMPETITIVE TOMORROW.—Sections 6111 through 6116 of the America COMPETES Act (20 U.S.C. 9811, 9812, 9813, 9814, 9815, 9816) and the items relating to those sections in the table of contents under section 2 of that Act (Public Law 110-69; 121 Stat. 572) are repealed.

SEC. 206. GRANT SUBRECIPIENT TRANSPARENCY AND OVERSIGHT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the

Inspector General of the Foundation shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an audit of the Foundation’s policies and procedures governing the monitoring of pass-through entities with respect to subrecipients.

(b) CONTENTS.—The audit shall include the following:

(1) Information regarding the Foundation’s process to oversee—

(A) the compliance of pass-through entities under section 200.331 and subpart F of part 200 of chapter II of subtitle A of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, and the other requirements of that title for subrecipients;

(B) whether pass-through entities have processes and controls in place regarding financial compliance of subrecipients, where appropriate; and

(C) whether pass-through entities have processes and controls in place to maintain approved grant objectives for subrecipients, where appropriate.

(2) Recommendations, if necessary, to increase transparency and oversight while balancing administrative burdens.

SEC. 207. MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD FOR PROCUREMENT SOLICITATIONS BY RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS.

(a) MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD.—The micro-purchase threshold for procurement activities administered under sections 6303 through 6305 of title 31, United States Code, awarded by the Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Institute of Standards and Technology to institutions of higher education, or related or affiliated nonprofit entities, or to nonprofit research organizations or independent research institutes is—

(1) \$10,000 (as adjusted periodically to account for inflation); or

(2) such higher threshold as determined appropriate by the head of the relevant executive agency and consistent with audit findings under chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code, internal institutional risk assessment, or State law.

(b) UNIFORM GUIDANCE.—The Uniform Guidance shall be revised to conform with the requirements of this section. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term “Uniform Guidance” means the uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for Federal awards contained in part 200 of title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 208. COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2016”.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a body under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the United States science and technology enterprise, improve economic and national security, and support United States foreign policy goals.

(c) NSTC BODY LEADERSHIP.—The body established under subsection (b) shall be co-chaired by senior level officials from the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Department of State.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The body established under subsection (b) shall—

(1) plan and coordinate interagency international science and technology cooperative research and training activities and partnerships supported or managed by Federal agencies;

(2) work with other National Science and Technology Council committees to help plan and coordinate the international component of national science and technology priorities;

(3) establish Federal priorities and policies for aligning, as appropriate, international science and technology cooperative research and training activities and partnerships supported or managed by Federal agencies with the foreign policy goals of the United States;

(4) identify opportunities for new international science and technology cooperative research and training partnerships that advance both the science and technology and the foreign policy priorities of the United States;

(5) in carrying out paragraph (4), solicit input and recommendations from non-Federal science and technology stakeholders, including institutions of higher education, scientific and professional societies, industry, and other relevant organizations and institutions; and

(6) identify broad issues that influence the ability of United States scientists and engineers to collaborate with foreign counterparts, including barriers to collaboration and access to scientific information.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a biennial report on the requirements of this section.

(f) WEBSITE.—The Director shall make each report available to the public on the Office of Science and Technology Policy website.

(g) TERMINATION.—The body established under subsection (b) shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(h) ADDITIONAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall submit, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that lists and describes the details of all foreign travel by Office of Science and Technology Policy staff and detailees.

TITLE III—SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH EDUCATION

SEC. 301. ROBERT NOYCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE.

Section 10A of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-1a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(k) STEM TEACHER SERVICE AND RETENTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall develop and implement practices for increasing the proportion of individuals receiving fellowships under this section who—

“(A) fulfill the service obligation required under subsection (h); and

“(B) remain in the teaching profession in a high need local educational agency beyond the service obligation.

“(2) PRACTICES.—The practices described under paragraph (1) may include—

“(A) partnering with nonprofit or professional associations or with other government

entities to provide individuals receiving fellowships under this section with opportunities for professional development, including mentorship programs that pair those individuals with currently employed and recently retired science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or computer science professionals;

“(B) increasing recruitment from high need districts;

“(C) establishing a system to better collect, track, and respond to data on the career decisions of individuals receiving fellowships under this section;

“(D) conducting research to better understand factors relevant to teacher service and retention, including factors specifically impacting the retention of teachers who are individuals identified in sections 33 and 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b); and

“(E) conducting pilot programs to improve teacher service and retention.”

SEC. 302. SPACE GRANTS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program has been an important program by which the Federal Government has partnered with universities, colleges, industry, and other organizations to provide hands-on STEM experiences, fostering of multidisciplinary space research, and supporting graduate fellowships in space-related fields, among other purposes.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Section 40303 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION COSTS.—In carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the Administrator—

“(1) shall maximize appropriated funds for grants and contracts made under section 40304 in each fiscal year; and

“(2) in each fiscal year, the Administrator shall limit its program administration costs to no more than 5 percent of funds appropriated for this program for that fiscal year.

“(e) REPORTS.—For any fiscal year in which the Administrator cannot meet the administration cost target under subsection (d)(2), if the Administration is unable to limit program costs under subsection (b), the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report, including—

“(1) a description of why the Administrator did not meet the cost target under subsection (d); and

“(2) the measures the Administrator will take in the next fiscal year to meet the cost target under subsection (d) without drawing upon other Federal funding.”

SEC. 303. STEM EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment this Act, the Director of the Foundation, Secretary of Education, Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall jointly establish an advisory panel (referred to in this section as the “STEM Education Advisory Panel”) to advise the Committee on STEM Education of the National Science and Technology Council (referred to in this section as “CoSTEM”) on matters relating to STEM education.

(b) MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The STEM Education Advisory Panel shall be composed of not less than 11 members.

(2) APPOINTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Director of the Foundation, in con-

sultation with the Secretary of Education and the heads of the Federal science agencies, shall appoint the members of the STEM Education Advisory Panel.

(B) CONSIDERATION.—In selecting individuals to appoint under subparagraph (A), the Director of the Foundation shall seek and give consideration to recommendations from Congress, industry, the scientific community, including the National Academy of Sciences, scientific professional societies, academia, State and local governments, organizations representing individuals identified in section 33 or section 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b), and such other organizations as the Director considers appropriate.

(C) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members shall—

(i) primarily be individuals from academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, and industry, including in-school, out-of-school, and informal education practitioners; and

(ii) be individuals who are qualified to provide advice and information on STEM education research, development, training, implementation, interventions, professional development, or workforce needs or concerns.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The STEM Education Advisory Panel shall—

(A) advise CoSTEM;

(B) periodically assess CoSTEM’s progress in carrying out its responsibilities under section 101(b) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621(b)); and

(C) help identify any need or opportunity to update the strategic plan under section 101(b) of that Act.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In its advisory role, the STEM Education Advisory Panel shall consider—

(A) the management, coordination, and implementation of STEM education programs and activities across the Federal Government;

(B) the appropriateness of criteria used by Federal agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of Federal STEM education programs and activities;

(C) whether societal and workforce concerns are adequately addressed by current Federal STEM education programs and activities;

(D) how Federal agencies can incentivize institutions of higher education to improve retention of STEM students;

(E) ways to leverage private and nonprofit STEM investments and encourage public-private partnerships to strengthen STEM education and help build the STEM workforce pipeline;

(F) ways to incorporate workforce needs into Federal STEM education programs and activities, particularly for specific employment fields of national interest and employment fields experiencing high unemployment rates;

(G) ways to better vertically and horizontally integrate Federal STEM education programs and activities from pre-kindergarten through graduate study and the workforce, and from in-school to out-of-school in order to improve transitions for students moving through the STEM education and workforce pipelines;

(H) the extent to which Federal STEM education programs and activities are contributing to recruitment and retention of individuals identified in sections 33 and 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b) in the STEM education and workforce pipelines; and

(I) ways to encourage geographic diversity in the STEM education and the workforce pipelines.

(3) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The STEM Education Advisory Panel shall make recommendations to improve Federal STEM education programs and activities based on each assessment under paragraph (1)(B).

(d) FUNDING.—The Director of the Foundation, the Secretary of Education, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall jointly make funds available on an annual basis to support the activities of the STEM Education Advisory Panel.

(e) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and after each assessment under subsection (c)(1)(B), the STEM Education Advisory Panel shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and CoSTEM a report on its assessment under that subsection and its recommendations under that subsection (c)(3).

(f) TRAVEL EXPENSES OF NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Non-Federal members of the STEM Education Advisory Panel, while attending meetings of the panel or while otherwise serving at the request of a co-chairperson away from their homes or regular places of business, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for individuals in the Government serving without pay.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit members of the STEM Advisory Panel who are officers or employees of the United States from being allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with existing law.

(g) TERMINATION.—The STEM Education Advisory Panel established under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date that it is established.

SEC. 304. COMMITTEE ON STEM EDUCATION.

(a) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Section 101(b) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5)(D), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) collaborate with the STEM Education Advisory Panel established under section 303 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act and other outside stakeholders to ensure the engagement of the STEM education community;

“(8) review the measures used by a Federal agency to evaluate its STEM education activities and programs;

“(9) request and review feedback from States on how the States are utilizing Federal STEM education programs and activities; and

“(10) recommend the reform, termination, or consolidation of Federal STEM education activities and programs, taking into consideration the recommendations of the STEM Education Advisory Panel.”

(b) REPORTS.—Section 101 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621) is amended—

(1) by striking “(c) REPORT.—” and inserting “(d) REPORTS.—”;

(2) by striking “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF OSTP.—” and inserting “(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF OSTP.—”; and

(3) in subsection (d), as redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) a description of all consolidations and terminations of Federal STEM education programs and activities implemented in the previous fiscal year, including an explanation for the consolidations and terminations;

“(7) recommendations for reforms, consolidations, and terminations of STEM education programs or activities in the upcoming fiscal year; and

“(8) a description of any significant new STEM education public-private partnerships.”.

SEC. 305. PROGRAMS TO EXPAND STEM OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Economic projections by the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that by 2018, there could be 2,400,000 unfilled STEM jobs.

(2) Women represent slightly more than half the United States population, and projections indicate that 54 percent of the population will be a member of a racial or ethnic minority group by 2050.

(3) Despite representing half the population, women comprise only about 30 percent of STEM workers according to a 2015 report by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics.

(4) A 2014 National Center for Education Statistics study found that underrepresented populations leave the STEM fields at higher rates than their counterparts.

(5) The representation of women in STEM drops significantly at the faculty level. Overall, women hold only 25 percent of all tenured and tenure-track positions and 17 percent of full professor positions in STEM fields in our Nation’s universities and 4-year colleges.

(6) Black and Hispanic faculty together hold about 6.5 percent of all tenured and tenure-track positions and 5 percent of full professor positions.

(7) Many of the numbers in the American Indian or Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander categories for different faculty ranks were too small for the Foundation to report publicly without potentially compromising confidential information about the individuals being surveyed.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) it is critical to our Nation’s economic leadership and global competitiveness that the United States educate, train, and retain more scientists, engineers, and computer scientists;

(2) there is currently a disconnect between the availability of and growing demand for STEM-skilled workers;

(3) historically, underrepresented populations are the largest untapped STEM talent pools in the United States; and

(4) given the shifting demographic landscape, the United States should encourage full participation of individuals from underrepresented populations in STEM fields.

(c) **REAFFIRMATION.**—The Director of the Foundation shall continue to support programs designed to broaden participation of underrepresented populations in STEM fields.

(d) **GRANTS TO BROADEN PARTICIPATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Foundation shall award grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis, to eligible entities to increase the participation of underrepresented populations in STEM fields, including individuals identified in section 33 or section 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b).

(2) **CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Grants awarded under this subsection may include grants for the establishment of a Center of Excellence to collect, maintain, and disseminate information to increase participation of underrepresented populations in STEM fields.

(B) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of a Center of Excellence under this subsection is to promote diversity in STEM fields by building on the success of the INCLUDES programs, providing technical assistance, maintaining best practices, and providing related training at federally funded academic institutions.

(e) **ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISSEMINATION.**—

(1) **EVALUATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Foundation shall evaluate the grants provided under this section.

(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In conducting the evaluation under subparagraph (A), the Director shall—

(i) use a common set of benchmarks and assessment tools to identify best practices and materials developed or demonstrated by the research; and

(ii) to the extent practicable, combine the research resulting from the grant activity under subsection (e) with the current research on serving underrepresented students in grades kindergarten through 8.

(2) **REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.**—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director of the Foundation shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and make widely available to the public a report that includes—

(A) the results of the evaluation; and

(B) any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the program.

(f) **COORDINATION.**—In carrying out this section, the Director of the Foundation shall consult and cooperate with the programs and policies of other relevant Federal agencies to avoid duplication with and enhance the effectiveness of the program under this section.

SEC. 306. NIST EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.

(a) **REPEAL.**—The National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.) is amended by striking section 18 (15 U.S.C. 278g–1).

(b) **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.**—The National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.), as amended, is further amended by inserting after section 17, the following:

“SEC. 18. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director is authorized to expend funds appropriated for activities of the Institute in any fiscal year, to support, promote, and coordinate activities and efforts to enhance public awareness and understanding of measurement sciences, standards and technology at the national measurement laboratories and otherwise in fulfillment of the mission of the Institute. The Director may carry out activities under this subsection, including education and outreach activities to the general public, industry and academia in support of the Institute’s mission.

“(b) **HIRING.**—The Director, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, may revise the procedures the Director applies when making appointments to laboratory positions within the competitive service—

“(1) to ensure corporate memory of and expertise in the fundamental ongoing work, and on developing new capabilities in priority areas;

“(2) to maintain high overall technical competence;

“(3) to improve staff diversity;

“(4) to balance emphases on the noncore and core areas; or

“(5) to improve the ability of the Institute to compete in the marketplace for qualified personnel.

“(c) **VOLUNTEERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director may establish a program to use volunteers in carrying out the programs of the Institute.

“(2) **ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONNEL.**—The Director may accept, subject to regulations issued by the Office of Personnel Management, voluntary service for the Institute for such purpose if the service—

“(A) is to be without compensation; and

“(B) will not be used to displace any current employee or act as a substitute for any future full-time employee of the Institute.

“(3) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEE STATUS.**—Any individual who provides voluntary service under this subsection shall not be considered a Federal employee, except for purposes of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code (relating to compensation for injury), and sections 2671 through 2680 of title 28, United States Code (relating to tort claims).

“(d) **RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director may expend funds appropriated for activities of the Institute in any fiscal year, as the Director considers appropriate, for awards of research fellowships and other forms of financial and logistical assistance, including direct stipend awards to—

“(A) students at institutions of higher learning within the United States who show promise as present or future contributors to the mission of the Institute; and

“(B) United States citizens for research and technical activities of the Institute, including programs.

“(2) **SELECTION CRITERIA.**—The selection of persons to receive such fellowships and assistance shall be made on the basis of ability and of the relevance of the proposed work to the mission and programs of the Institute.

“(3) **FINANCIAL AND LOGISTICAL ASSISTANCE.**—Notwithstanding section 1345 of title 31, United States Code, or any other law to the contrary, the Director may include as a form of financial or logistical assistance under this subsection temporary housing and transportation to and from Institute facilities.

“(e) **EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.**—The Director may—

“(1) facilitate education programs for undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and academic and industry employees;

“(2) sponsor summer workshops for STEM kindergarten through grade 12 teachers as appropriate;

“(3) develop programs for graduate student internships and visiting faculty researchers;

“(4) document publications, presentations, and interactions with visiting researchers and sponsoring interns as performance metrics for improving and continuing interactions with those individuals; and

“(5) facilitate laboratory tours and provide presentations for educational, industry, and community groups.”.

(c) **POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**—Section 19 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–2) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 19. POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Institute and the National Academy of Sciences, jointly, shall

establish and conduct a post-doctoral fellowship program, subject to the availability of appropriations.

“(b) ORGANIZATION.—The post-doctoral fellowship program shall include not less than 20 new fellows per fiscal year.

“(c) EVALUATIONS.—In evaluating applications for post-doctoral fellowships under this section, the Director of the Institute and the President of the National Academy of Sciences shall give consideration to the goal of promoting the participation of individuals identified in sections 33 and 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b) in research areas supported by the Institute.”

(d) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—

(1) RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AT INSTITUTES OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The repeal made by subsection (a) of this section shall not affect any award of a research fellowship or other form of financial assistance made under section 18 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-1) before the date of enactment of this Act. Such award shall continue to be subject to the requirements to which such funds were subject under that section before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—The amendment made by subsection (c) of this section shall not affect any award of a post-doctoral fellowship or other form of financial assistance made under section 19 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-2) before the date of enactment of this Act. Such awards shall continue to be subject to the requirements to which such funds were subject under that section before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 307. PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN STEM MENTORING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation shall continue to administer awards on behalf of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to recognize outstanding mentoring in STEM fields.

(b) ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS.—The Director of the Foundation shall provide Congress with a list of award recipients, including the name, institution, and a brief synopsis of the impact of the mentoring efforts.

SEC. 308. WORKING GROUP ON INCLUSION IN STEM FIELDS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Office of Science and Technology Policy, in collaboration with Federal departments and agencies, shall establish an interagency working group to compile and summarize available research and best practices on how to promote diversity and inclusions in STEM fields and examine whether barriers exist to promoting diversity and inclusion within Federal agencies employing scientists and engineers.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The working group shall be responsible for reviewing and assessing research, best practices, and policies across Federal science agencies related to the inclusion of individuals identified in sections 33 and 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b) in the Federal STEM workforce, including available research and best practices on how to promote diversity and inclusion in STEM fields, including—

(1) policies providing flexibility for scientists and engineers that are also caregivers, particularly on the timing of research grants;

(2) policies to address the proper handling of claims of sexual harassment;

(3) policies to minimize the effects of implicit bias and other systemic factors in hir-

ing, promotion, evaluation and the workplace in general; and

(4) other evidence-based strategies that the working group considers effective for promoting diversity and inclusion in the STEM fields.

(c) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In carrying out the responsibilities under section (b), the working group shall solicit and consider input and recommendations from non-Federal stakeholders, including—

(1) the Council of Advisors on Science and Technology;

(2) federally funded and non-federally funded researchers, institutions of higher education, scientific disciplinary societies, and associations;

(3) nonprofit research institutions;

(4) industry, including small businesses;

(5) federally funded research and development centers;

(6) non-governmental organizations; and

(7) such other members of the public interested in promoting a diverse and inclusive Federal STEM workforce.

(d) PUBLIC REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and periodically thereafter, the working group shall publish a report on the review and assessment under subsection (b), including a summary of available research and best practices, any recommendations for Federal actions to promote a diverse and inclusive Federal STEM workforce, and updates on the implementation of previous recommendations for Federal actions.

(e) TERMINATION.—The interagency working group established under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date that it is established.

SEC. 309. IMPROVING UNDERGRADUATE STEM EXPERIENCES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that each Federal science agency should invest in and expand research opportunities for undergraduate students attending institutions of higher education during the undergraduate students' first 2 academic years of postsecondary education.

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each Federal agency shall submit to the President recommendations regarding how the agency could best fulfill the goals described in subsection (a).

SEC. 310. COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION RESEARCH.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that as the lead Federal agency for building the research knowledge base for computer science education, the Foundation is well positioned to make investments that will accelerate ongoing efforts to enable rigorous and engaging computer science throughout the Nation as an integral part of STEM education.

(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation shall award grants to eligible entities to research computer science education and computational thinking.

(2) RESEARCH.—The research described in paragraph (1) may include the development or adaptation, piloting or full implementation, and testing of—

(A) models of preservice preparation for teachers who will teach computer science and computational thinking;

(B) scalable and sustainable models of professional development and ongoing support for the teachers described in subparagraph (A);

(C) tools and models for teaching and learning aimed at supporting student success

and inclusion in computing within and across diverse populations, particularly poor, rural, and tribal populations and other populations that have been historically underrepresented in computer science and STEM fields; and

(D) high-quality learning opportunities for teaching computer science and, especially in poor, rural, or tribal schools at the elementary school and middle school levels, for integrating computational thinking into STEM teaching and learning.

(c) COLLABORATIONS.—In carrying out the grants established in subsection (b), eligible entities may collaborate and partner with local or remote schools to support the integration of computing and computational thinking within pre-kindergarten through grade 12 STEM curricula and instruction.

(d) METRICS.—The Director of the Foundation shall develop metrics to measure the success of the grant program funded under this section in achieving program goals.

(e) REPORT.—The Director of the Foundation shall report, in the annual budget submission to Congress, on the success of the program as measured by the metrics in subsection (d).

(f) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term “eligible entity” means an institution of higher education or a nonprofit research organization.

SEC. 311. INFORMAL STEM EDUCATION.

(a) NATIONAL STEM PARTNERSHIP GRANTS.—Section 3(a) of the STEM Education Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 1862q(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) a national partnership of institutions involved in informal STEM learning.”

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 3(b) of the STEM Education Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 1862q(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) fostering on-going partnerships between institutions involved in informal STEM learning, institutions of higher education, and education research centers; and

“(4) developing, and making available informal STEM education activities and educational materials.”

SEC. 312. DEVELOPING STEM APPRENTICESHIPS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The lack of data on the return on investment for United States employers using registered apprenticeships makes it difficult—

(A) to communicate the value of these programs to businesses; and

(B) to expand registered apprenticeships.

(2) The lack of data on the value and impact of employer-provided worker training, which is likely substantial, hinders the ability of the Federal Government to formulate policy related to workforce training.

(3) The Secretary of Commerce has initiated—

(A) the first study on the return on investment for United States employers using registered apprenticeships through case studies of firms in various sectors, occupations, and geographic locations to provide the business community with data on employer benefits and costs; and

(B) discussions with officials at relevant Federal agencies about the need to collect comprehensive data on—

(i) employer-provided worker training; and
(ii) existing tools that could be used to collect such data.

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF APPRENTICESHIP INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Commerce shall continue to research the value to businesses of utilizing apprenticeship programs, including—

(1) evidence of return on investment of apprenticeships, including estimates for the average time it takes a business to recover the costs associated with training apprentices; and

(2) data from the United States Census Bureau and other statistical surveys on employer-provided training, including apprenticeships and other on-the-job training and industry-recognized certification programs.

(c) DISSEMINATION OF APPRENTICESHIP INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Commerce shall disseminate findings from research on apprenticeships to businesses and other relevant stakeholders, including—

(1) institutions of higher education;

(2) State and local chambers of commerce; and

(3) workforce training organizations.

(d) NEW APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM STUDY.—The Secretary of Commerce may collaborate with the Secretary of Labor to study approaches for reducing the cost of creating new apprenticeship programs and hosting apprentices for businesses, particularly small businesses, including—

(1) training sharing agreements;

(2) group training models; and

(3) pooling resources and best practices.

(e) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION GRANTS.—The Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 28. STEM APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce may carry out a grant program to identify the need for skilled science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this section as ‘STEM’) workers and to expand STEM apprenticeship programs.

“(b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘eligible recipient’ means—

“(1) a State;

“(2) an Indian tribe;

“(3) a city or other political subdivision of a State;

“(4) an entity that—

“(A) is a nonprofit organization, an institution of higher education, a public-private partnership, a science or research park, a Federal laboratory, or an economic development organization or similar entity; and

“(B) has an application that is supported by a State, a political subdivision of a State, or a native organization; or

“(5) a consortium of any of the entities described in paragraphs (1) through (5).

“(c) NEEDS ASSESSMENT GRANTS.—The Secretary of Commerce may provide a grant to an eligible recipient to conduct a needs assessment to identify—

“(1) the unmet need of a region’s employer base for skilled STEM workers;

“(2) the potential of STEM apprenticeships to address the unmet need described in paragraph (1); and

“(3) any barriers to addressing the unmet need described in paragraph (1).

“(d) APPRENTICESHIP EXPANSION GRANTS.—The Secretary of Commerce may provide a grant to an eligible recipient that has con-

ducted a needs assessment as described in subsection (c)(1) to develop infrastructure to expand STEM apprenticeship programs.”.

SEC. 313. NSF REPORT ON BROADENING PARTICIPATION.

Section 204(e) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1885c(e)) is amended to read as follows:

“(e) BIENNIAL REPORT.—Every 2 years, the Committee shall prepare and submit to the Director a report on its activities during the previous 2 years and proposed activities for the next 2 years. The Director shall submit to Congress the report, unaltered, together with such comments as the Director considers appropriate, including—

“(1) review data on the participation in Foundation activities of institutions serving populations that are underrepresented in STEM disciplines, including poor, rural, and tribal populations; and

“(2) recommendations regarding how the Foundation could improve outreach and inclusion of these populations in Foundation activities.”.

SEC. 314. NOAA SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4002(a) of the America COMPETES Act (33 U.S.C. 893a(a)) is amended by striking “agency, with consideration given to the goal of promoting the participation of individuals from underrepresented groups” and inserting “the agency, with consideration given to the goal of promoting the participation of individuals identified in sections 33 and 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b)”.

(b) EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM GOALS.—Section 4002(b)(4) of the America COMPETES Act (33 U.S.C. 893a(b)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (C) and subparagraph (D);

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) are designed considering the unique needs of underrepresented groups, translating such materials and other resources;”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) are promoted widely, especially among individuals identified in sections 33 and 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b); and”.

(c) METRICS.—Section 4002 of the America COMPETES Act (33 U.S.C. 893a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(2) by adding after section (c) the following:

“(d) METRICS.—In executing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration science education plan under subsection (c), the Administrator shall maintain a comprehensive system for evaluating the Administration’s educational programs and activities. In so doing, the Administrator shall ensure that such education programs have measurable objectives and milestones as well as clear, documented metrics for evaluating programs. For each such education program or portfolio of similar programs, the Administrator shall—

“(1) encourage the collection of evidence as relevant to the measurable objectives and milestones; and

“(2) ensure that program or portfolio evaluations focus on educational outcomes and not just inputs, activities completed, or the number of participants.”.

SEC. 315. HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7033(a) of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 18620-12(a)) is amended as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall award grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to Hispanic-serving institutions (as defined in section 502 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a)) to enhance the quality of undergraduate STEM education at such institutions and to increase the retention and graduation rates of students pursuing associate’s or baccalaureate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.”.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) of this section shall not affect any award of a grant or other form of financial assistance made under section 7033 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 18620-12) before the date of enactment of this Act. Such awards shall continue to be subject to the requirements to which such funds were subject under that section before the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE IV—LEVERAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

SEC. 401. PRIZE COMPETITION AUTHORITY UPDATE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Science Prize Competition Act”.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Section 24 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “PRIZES” and by inserting “PRIZE COMPETITIONS”;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “prize may be one or more of the following” and inserting “prize competition may be 1 or more of the following types of activities”;

(C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “competition” after “prize”; and

(D) in paragraphs (3) and (4), by striking “prizes” and inserting “prize competitions”;

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “in the Federal Register” and inserting “on a publicly accessible Government website, such as www.challenge.gov.”;

(B) in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), by inserting “prize” before “competition”; and

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking “prize” and inserting “cash prize purse or non-cash prize award”;

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “prize” and inserting “cash prize purse”; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “prize” before “competition”;

(4) in subsection (h), by inserting “prize” before “competition” each place it appears;

(5) in subsection (i)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “prize” before “competition”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “prize” before “competition” each place it appears;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) WAIVERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An agency may waive the requirement under paragraph (2).

“(B) LIST.—The Director shall include a list of all of the waivers granted under this paragraph during the preceding fiscal year, including a detailed explanation of the reason for granting the waiver.”;

(6) in subsection (j)—
 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “prize” before “competition”; and
 (B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) LICENSES.—As appropriate and to further the goals of a prize competition, the Federal Government may negotiate a license for the use of intellectual property developed by a registered participant in a prize competition.”;

(7) in subsection (k)—
 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “each competition” and inserting “each prize competition” each place it appears;

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “prize” before “competition”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “prize” before “competitions” each place it appears;

(8) in subsection (l), by striking “an agreement with” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “a grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or other agreement with a private sector for-profit or nonprofit entity or State or local government agency to administer the prize competition, subject to the provisions of this section.”;

(9) in subsection (m)—
 (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Support for a prize competition under this section, including financial support for the design and administration of a prize competition or funds for a cash prize purse, may consist of Federal appropriated funds and funds provided by private sector for-profit and nonprofit entities. The head of an agency may request and accept funds from other Federal agencies, State, United States territory, local, or tribal government agencies, private sector for-profit entities, and nonprofit entities, to be available to the extent provided by appropriations Acts, to support such prize competitions. The head of an agency may not give any special consideration to any agency or entity in return for a donation.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “prize awards” and inserting “cash prize purses or non-cash prize awards”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—
 (i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) ANNOUNCEMENT.—No prize competition may be announced under subsection (f) until all the funds needed to pay out the announced amount of the cash prize purse have been appropriated or committed in writing by a private or State, United States territory, local, or tribal government source.”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “a prize” and inserting “a cash prize purse or non-cash prize award”;

(II) in clause (i), by inserting “competition” after “prize”; and

(III) in clause (ii), by inserting “or State, United States territory, local, or tribal government” after “private”; and

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “a prize” and inserting “a cash prize purse or a non-cash prize award”; and

(II) by striking “Science and Technology” and inserting “Science, Space, and Technology”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “cash prizes” and inserting “cash prize purses or non-cash prize awards”;

(10) in subsection (n)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “SERVICE” and inserting “SERVICES”;

(B) by striking “the date of the enactment of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010.” and inserting “the date of enactment of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act.”; and

(C) by inserting “for both for-profit and nonprofit entities and State, United States territory, local, and tribal government entities,” after “contract vehicle”;

(11) in subsection (o)(1), by striking “or providing a prize” and inserting “a prize competition or providing a cash prize purse or non-cash prize award”; and

(12) in subsection (p)—
 (A) in the heading, by striking “ANNUAL” and inserting “BIENNIAL”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “each year” and inserting “every other year”;

(ii) by striking “Science and Technology” and inserting “Science, Space, and Technology”; and

(iii) by striking “fiscal year” and inserting “2 fiscal years”; and

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “The report for a fiscal year” and inserting “A report”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the heading, by striking “PRIZES” and inserting “PRIZE PURSES OR NON-CASH PRIZE AWARDS”; and

(II) by striking “cash prizes” each place it appears and inserting “cash prize purses or non-cash prize awards”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) PLAN.—A description of crosscutting topical areas and agency-specific mission needs that may be the strongest opportunities for prize competitions during the upcoming 2 fiscal years.”.

SEC. 402. CROWDSOURCING AND CITIZEN SCIENCE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Act”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the authority granted to Federal agencies under the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-358; 124 Stat. 3982) to pursue the use of incentive prizes and challenges has yielded numerous benefits;

(2) crowdsourcing and citizen science projects have a number of additional unique benefits, including accelerating scientific research, increasing cost effectiveness to maximize the return on taxpayer dollars, addressing societal needs, providing hands-on learning in STEM, and connecting members of the public directly to Federal science agency missions and to each other; and

(3) granting Federal science agencies the direct, explicit authority to use crowdsourcing and citizen science will encourage its appropriate use to advance Federal science agency missions and stimulate and facilitate broader public participation in the innovation process, yielding numerous benefits to the Federal Government and citizens who participate in such projects.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CITIZEN SCIENCE.—The term “citizen science” means a form of open collaboration in which individuals or organizations participate voluntarily in the scientific process in various ways, including—

(A) enabling the formulation of research questions;

(B) creating and refining project design;

(C) conducting scientific experiments;

(D) collecting and analyzing data;

(E) interpreting the results of data;

(F) developing technologies and applications;

(G) making discoveries; and

(H) solving problems.

(2) CROWDSOURCING.—The term “crowdsourcing” means a method to obtain needed services, ideas, or content by soliciting voluntary contributions from a group of individuals or organizations, especially from an online community.

(3) PARTICIPANT.—The term “participant” means any individual or other entity that has volunteered in a crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section.

(d) CROWDSOURCING AND CITIZEN SCIENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each Federal science agency, or the heads of multiple Federal science agencies working cooperatively, may utilize crowdsourcing and citizen science to conduct projects designed to advance the mission of the respective Federal science agency or the joint mission of Federal science agencies, as applicable.

(2) VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the head of a Federal science agency may accept, subject to regulations issued by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, services from participants under this section if such services—

(A) are performed voluntarily as a part of a crowdsourcing or citizen science project authorized under paragraph (1);

(B) are not financially compensated for their time; and

(C) will not be used to displace any employee of the Federal Government.

(3) OUTREACH.—The head of each Federal science agency engaged in a crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section shall make public and promote such project to encourage broad participation.

(4) CONSENT, REGISTRATION, AND TERMS OF USE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal science agency shall determine the appropriate level of consent, registration, or acknowledgment of the terms of use that are required from participants in crowdsourcing or citizen science projects under this section on a per-project basis.

(B) DISCLOSURES.—In seeking consent, conducting registration, or developing terms of use for a project under this subsection, a Federal science agency shall disclose the privacy, intellectual property, data ownership, compensation, service, program, and other terms of use to the participant in a clear and reasonable manner.

(C) MODE OF CONSENT.—A Federal agency or Federal science agencies, as applicable, may obtain consent electronically or in written form from participants under this section.

(5) PROTECTIONS FOR HUMAN SUBJECTS.—Any crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section that involves research involving human subjects shall be subject to part 46 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(6) DATA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A Federal science agency shall, where appropriate and to the extent practicable, make data collected through a crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section available to the public, in a machine readable format, unless prohibited by law.

(B) NOTICE.—As part of the consent process, the Federal science agency shall notify all participants—

(i) of the expected uses of the data compiled through the project;

(ii) if the Federal science agency will retain ownership of such data;

(iii) if and how the data and results from the project would be made available for public or third party use; and

(iv) if participants are authorized to publish such data.

(7) **TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS.**—Federal science agencies shall endeavor to make technologies, applications, code, and derivations of such intellectual property developed through a crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section available to the public.

(8) **LIABILITY.**—Each participant in a crowdsourcing or citizen science project under this section shall agree—

(A) to assume any and all risks associated with such participation; and

(B) to waive all claims against the Federal Government and its related entities, except for claims based on willful misconduct, for any injury, death, damage, or loss of property, revenue, or profits (whether direct, indirect, or consequential) arising from participation in the project.

(9) **RESEARCH MISCONDUCT.**—Federal science agencies coordinating crowdsourcing or citizen science projects under this section shall make all practicable efforts to ensure that participants adhere to all relevant Federal research misconduct policies and other applicable ethics policies.

(10) **MULTI-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS.**—The head of each Federal science agency engaged in crowdsourcing or citizen science under this section, or the heads of multiple Federal science agencies working cooperatively, may enter into a contract or other agreement to share administrative duties for such projects with—

(A) a for profit or nonprofit private sector entity, including a private institution of higher education;

(B) a State, tribal, local, or foreign government agency, including a public institution of higher education; or

(C) a public-private partnership.

(11) **FUNDING.**—In carrying out crowdsourcing and citizen science projects under this section, the head of a Federal science agency, or the heads of multiple Federal science agencies working cooperatively—

(A) may use funds appropriated by Congress;

(B) may publicize projects and solicit and accept funds or in-kind support for such projects, to be available to the extent provided by appropriations Acts, from—

(i) other Federal agencies;

(ii) for profit or nonprofit private sector entities, including private institutions of higher education; or

(iii) State, tribal, local, or foreign government agencies, including public institutions of higher education; and

(C) may not give any special consideration to any entity described in subparagraph (B) in return for such funds or in-kind support.

(12) **FACILITATION.**—

(A) **GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE.**—The Administrator of the General Services Administration, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall, at no cost to Federal science agencies, identify and develop relevant products, training, and services to facilitate the use of crowdsourcing and citizen science projects under this section, including by specifying the appropriate contract vehicles and technology and organizational platforms to enhance the ability of Federal science agencies to carry out the projects under this section.

(B) **ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE.**—The head of each Federal science agency engaged in

crowdsourcing or citizen science under this section may—

(i) consult any guidance provided by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, including the Federal Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Toolkit;

(ii) designate a coordinator for that Federal science agency's crowdsourcing and citizen science projects; and

(iii) share best practices with other Federal agencies, including participation of staff in the Federal Community of Practice for Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science.

(e) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall include, as a component of an annual report required under section 24(p) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719(p)), a report on the projects and activities carried out under this section.

(2) **INFORMATION INCLUDED.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a summary of each crowdsourcing and citizen science project conducted by a Federal science agency during the most recently completed 2 fiscal years, including a description of the proposed goals of each crowdsourcing and citizen science project;

(B) an analysis of why the utilization of a crowdsourcing or citizen science project summarized in subparagraph (A) was the preferable method of achieving the goals described in subparagraph (A) as opposed to other authorities available to the Federal science agency, such as contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and prize competitions;

(C) the participation rates, submission levels, number of consents, and any other statistic that might be considered relevant in each crowdsourcing and citizen science project;

(D) a detailed description of—

(i) the resources, including personnel and funding, that were used in the execution of each crowdsourcing and citizen science project;

(ii) the project activities for which such resources were used; and

(iii) how the obligations and expenditures relating to the project's execution were allocated among the accounts of the Federal science agency, including a description of the amount and source of all funds, private, public, and in-kind, contributed to each crowdsourcing and citizen science project;

(E) a summary of the use of crowdsourcing and citizen science by all Federal science agencies, including interagency and multi-sector partnerships;

(F) a description of how each crowdsourcing and citizen science project advanced the mission of each participating Federal science agency;

(G) an identification of each crowdsourcing or citizen science project where data collected through such project was not made available to the public, including the reasons for such action; and

(H) any other information that the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy considers relevant.

(f) **SAVINGS PROVISION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed—

(1) to affect the authority to conduct crowdsourcing and citizen science authorized by any other provision of law; or

(2) to displace Federal Government resources allocated to the Federal science agencies that use crowdsourcing or citizen science authorized under this section to carry out a project.

SEC. 403. NIST DIRECTOR FUNCTIONS UPDATE.

Section 2(b) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(b)), as amended by section 403 of this Act, is further amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “authorized to take” and inserting “authorized to serve as the President's principal adviser on standards policy pertaining to the Nation's technological competitiveness and innovation ability and to take”;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “compare standards” and all that follows through “Federal Government” and inserting “facilitate standards-related information sharing and cooperation between Federal agencies”;

(3) in paragraph (13), by striking “Federal, State, and local” and all that follows through “private sector” and inserting “technical standards activities and conformity assessment activities of Federal, State, and local governments with private sector”.

SEC. 404. NIST VISITING COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY UPDATE.

Section 10 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking “15 members appointed by the Director, at least 10 of whom” and “not fewer than 9 members appointed by the Director, a majority of whom”; and

(B) in the third sentence, by striking “National Bureau of Standards” and inserting “National Institute of Standards and Technology”;

(2) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “, including the Program established under section 28,”.

TITLE V—MANUFACTURING

SEC. 501. HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Manufacturing Extension Partnership Improvement Act”.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 25. HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP.

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

“(2) **AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL.**—The term ‘area career and technical education school’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Vocational Education Act of 1963 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

“(3) **CENTER.**—The term ‘Center’ means a manufacturing extension center that—

“(A) is created under subsection (b); and

“(B) is affiliated with an eligible entity that applies for and is awarded financial support under subsection (e).

“(4) **COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**—The term ‘community college’ means an institution of higher education (as defined under section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))) at which the highest degree that is predominately awarded to students is an associate's degree.

“(5) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means a United States-based non-profit institution, or consortium thereof, an institution of higher education, or a State, United States territory, local, or tribal government.

“(6) HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP OR PROGRAM.—The term ‘Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership’ or ‘Program’ means the program established under subsection (b).

“(7) MEP ADVISORY BOARD.—The term ‘MEP Advisory Board’ means the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Advisory Board established under subsection (n).

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Secretary, acting through the Director and, if appropriate, through other Federal officials, shall establish a program to provide assistance for the creation and support of manufacturing extension centers for the transfer of manufacturing technology and best business practices.

“(c) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the Program shall be to enhance competitiveness, productivity, and technological performance in United States manufacturing through—

“(1) the transfer of manufacturing technology and techniques developed at the Institute to Centers and, through them, to manufacturing companies throughout the United States;

“(2) the participation of individuals from industry, institutions of higher education, State governments, other Federal agencies, and, when appropriate, the Institute in cooperative technology transfer activities;

“(3) efforts to make new manufacturing technology and processes usable by United States-based small and medium-sized companies;

“(4) the active dissemination of scientific, engineering, technical, and management information about manufacturing to industrial firms, including small and medium-sized manufacturing companies;

“(5) the utilization, when appropriate, of the expertise and capability that exists in Federal agencies, other than the Institute, and federally-sponsored laboratories;

“(6) the provision to community colleges and area career and technical education schools of information about the job skills needed in manufacturing companies, including small and medium-sized manufacturing businesses in the regions they serve;

“(7) the promotion and expansion of certification systems offered through industry, associations, and local colleges when appropriate, including efforts such as facilitating training, supporting new or existing apprenticeships, and providing access to information and experts, to address workforce needs and skills gaps in order to assist small- and medium-sized manufacturing businesses; and

“(8) the growth in employment and wages at United States-based small and medium-sized companies.

“(d) ACTIVITIES.—The activities of a Center shall include—

“(1) the establishment of automated manufacturing systems and other advanced production technologies, based on Institute-supported research, for the purpose of demonstrations and technology transfer;

“(2) the active transfer and dissemination of research findings and Center expertise to a wide range of companies and enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized manufacturers; and

“(3) the facilitation of collaborations and partnerships between small and medium-sized manufacturing companies, community colleges, and area career and technical edu-

cation schools, to help those entities better understand the specific needs of manufacturers and to help manufacturers better understand the skill sets that students learn in the programs offered by such colleges and schools.

“(e) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary may provide financial assistance for the creation and support of a Center through a cooperative agreement with an eligible entity.

“(2) COST SHARING.—The Secretary may not provide more than 50 percent of the capital and annual operating and maintenance funds required to establish and support a Center.

“(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of paragraph (2), any amount received by an eligible entity for a Center under a provision of law other than paragraph (1) shall not be considered an amount provided under paragraph (1).

“(4) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may revise or promulgate such regulations as necessary to carry out this subsection.

“(f) APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(2) PROGRAM DESCRIPTION.—The Secretary shall establish and update, as necessary—

“(A) a description of the Program;

“(B) the application procedures;

“(C) performance metrics;

“(D) criteria for determining qualified applicants; and

“(E) criteria for choosing recipients of financial assistance from among the qualified applicants.

“(F) procedures for determining allowable cost share contributions; and

“(G) such other program policy objectives and operational procedures as the Secretary considers necessary.

“(3) COST SHARING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—To be considered for financial assistance under this section, an applicant shall provide adequate assurances that the applicant and if applicable, the applicant’s partnering organizations, will obtain funding for not less than 50 percent of the capital and annual operating and maintenance funds required to establish and support the Center from sources other than the financial assistance provided under subsection (e).

“(B) AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—In meeting the cost-sharing requirement under subparagraph (A), an eligible entity may enter into an agreement with 1 or more other entities, such as a private industry, institutions of higher education, or a State, United States territory, local, or tribal government for the contribution by that other entity of funding if the Secretary determines the agreement—

“(i) is programmatically reasonable;

“(ii) will help accomplish programmatic objectives; and

“(iii) is allocable under Program procedures under subsection (f)(2).

“(4) LEGAL RIGHTS.—Each applicant shall include in the application a proposal for the allocation of the legal rights associated with any intellectual property which may result from the activities of the Center.

“(5) MERIT REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall subject each application to merit review.

“(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a decision whether to approve an application and

provide financial assistance under subsection (e), the Secretary shall consider, at a minimum—

“(i) the merits of the application, particularly those portions of the application regarding technology transfer, training and education, and adaptation of manufacturing technologies to the needs of particular industrial sectors;

“(ii) the quality of service to be provided;

“(iii) the geographical diversity and extent of the service area; and

“(iv) the type and percentage of funding and in-kind commitment from other sources under paragraph (3).

“(g) EVALUATIONS.—

“(1) THIRD AND EIGHTH YEAR EVALUATIONS BY PANEL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that each Center is evaluated during its third and eighth years of operation by an evaluation panel appointed by the Secretary.

“(B) COMPOSITION.—The Secretary shall ensure that each evaluation panel appointed under subparagraph (A) is composed of—

“(i) private experts, none of whom are connected with the Center evaluated by the panel; and

“(ii) Federal officials.

“(C) CHAIRPERSON.—For each evaluation panel appointed under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall appoint a chairperson who is an official of the Institute.

“(2) FIFTH YEAR EVALUATIONS BY SECRETARY.—In the fifth year of operation of a Center, the Secretary shall conduct a review of the Center.

“(3) PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT.—In evaluating a Center an evaluation panel or the Secretary, as applicable, shall measure the performance of the Center against—

“(A) the objective specified in subsection (c);

“(B) the performance metrics under subsection (f)(2)(C); and

“(C) such other criterion as considered appropriate by the Secretary.

“(4) POSITIVE EVALUATIONS.—If an evaluation of a Center is positive, the Secretary may continue to provide financial assistance for the Center—

“(A) in the case of an evaluation occurring in the third year of a Center, through the fifth year of the Center;

“(B) in the case of an evaluation occurring in the fifth year of a Center, through the eighth year of the Center; and

“(C) in the case of an evaluation occurring in the eighth year of a Center, through the tenth year of the Center.

“(5) OTHER THAN POSITIVE EVALUATIONS.—

“(A) PROBATION.—If an evaluation of a Center is other than positive, the Secretary shall put the Center on probation during the period beginning on the date that the Center receives notice under subparagraph (B)(i) and ending on the date that the reevaluation is complete under subparagraph (B)(iii).

“(B) NOTICE AND REEVALUATION.—If a Center receives an evaluation that is other than positive, the evaluation panel or Secretary, as applicable, shall—

“(i) notify the Center of the reason, including any deficiencies in the performance of the Center identified during the evaluation;

“(ii) assist the Center in remedying the deficiencies by providing the Center, not less frequently than once every 3 months, an analysis of the Center, if considered appropriate by the panel or Secretary, as applicable; and

“(iii) reevaluate the Center not later than 1 year after the date of the notice under clause (i).

“(C) CONTINUED SUPPORT DURING PERIOD OF PROBATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may continue to provide financial assistance under subsection (e) for a Center during the probation period.

“(ii) POST PROBATION.—After the period of probation, the Secretary shall not provide any financial assistance unless the Center has received a positive evaluation under subparagraph (B)(iii).

“(6) FAILURE TO REMEDY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a Center fails to remedy a deficiency or to show significant improvement in performance before the end of the probation period under paragraph (5), the Secretary shall conduct a competition to select an operator for the Center under subsection (h).

“(B) TREATMENT OF CENTERS SUBJECT TO NEW COMPETITION.—Upon the selection of an operator for a Center under subsection (h), the Center shall be considered a new Center and the calculation of the years of operation of that Center for purposes of paragraphs (1) through (5) of this subsection and subsection (h)(1) shall start anew.

“(h) REAPPLICATION COMPETITION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AFTER 10 YEARS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible entity has operated a Center under this section for a period of 10 consecutive years, the Secretary shall conduct a competition to select an eligible entity to operate the Center in accordance with the process plan under subsection (i).

“(2) INCUMBENT ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An eligible entity that has received financial assistance under this section for a period of 10 consecutive years and that the Secretary determines is in good standing shall be eligible to compete in the competition under paragraph (1).

“(3) TREATMENT OF CENTERS SUBJECT TO REAPPLICATION COMPETITION.—Upon the selection of an operator for a Center under paragraph (1), the Center shall be considered a new Center and the calculation of the years of operation of that Center for purposes of paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (g) shall start anew.

“(i) PROCESS PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act, the Secretary shall implement and submit to Congress a plan for how the Institute will conduct an evaluation, competition, and reapplication competition under this section.

“(j) OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION OF CENTER CLIENTS.—The following information, if obtained by the Federal Government in connection with an activity of a Center or the Program, shall be exempt from public disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code:

“(A) Information on the business operation of any participant in the Program or of a client of a Center.

“(B) Trade secrets of any client of a Center.

“(k) OVERSIGHT BOARDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on receipt of financial assistance for a Center under subsection (e), an eligible entity shall establish a board to oversee the operations of the Center.

“(2) STANDARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish appropriate standards for each board described under paragraph (1).

“(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the standards, the Director shall take into ac-

count the type and organizational structure of an eligible entity.

“(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The standards shall address—

“(i) membership;

“(ii) composition;

“(iii) term limits;

“(iv) conflicts of interest; and

“(v) such other requirements as the Director considers necessary.

“(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each board established under paragraph (1) shall be composed of members as follows:

“(i) The membership of each board shall be representative of stakeholders in the region in which the Center is located.

“(ii) A majority of the members of the board shall be selected from among individuals who own or are employed by small or medium-sized manufacturers.

“(B) LIMITATION.—A member of a board established under paragraph (1) may not serve on more than 1 board established under that paragraph.

“(4) BYLAWS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each board established under paragraph (1) shall adopt and submit to the Director bylaws to govern the operation of the board.

“(B) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—Bylaws adopted under subparagraph (A) shall include policies to minimize conflicts of interest, including such policies relating to disclosure of relationships and recusal as may be necessary to minimize conflicts of interest.

“(1) ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS.—In addition to such sums as may be appropriated to the Secretary and Director to operate the Program, the Secretary and Director may also accept funds from other Federal departments and agencies and from the private sector under section 2(c)(7) of this Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)(7)), to be available to the extent provided by appropriations Acts, for the purpose of strengthening United States manufacturing.

“(m) MEP ADVISORY BOARD.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Institute a Manufacturing Extension Partnership Advisory Board.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(A) COMPOSITION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The MEP Advisory Board shall consist of not fewer than 10 members appointed by the Director and broadly representative of stakeholders.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—Of the members appointed under clause (i)—

“(I) at least 2 members shall be employed by or on an advisory board for a Center;

“(II) at least 5 members shall be from United States small businesses in the manufacturing sector; and

“(III) at least 1 member shall represent a community college.

“(iii) LIMITATION.—No member of the MEP Advisory Board shall be an employee of the Federal Government.

“(B) TERM.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the term of office of each member of the MEP Advisory Board shall be 3 years.

“(C) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such term.

“(D) SERVING CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—Any person who has completed 2 consecutive full terms of service on the MEP Advisory Board shall thereafter be ineligible for appointment during the 1-year period following the expiration of the second such term.

“(3) MEETINGS.—The MEP Advisory Board shall—

“(A) meet not less than biannually; and

“(B) provide to the Director—

“(i) advice on the activities, plans, and policies of the Program;

“(ii) assessments of the soundness of the plans and strategies of the Program; and

“(iii) assessments of current performance against the plans of the Program.

“(4) FACCA APPLICABILITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In discharging its duties under this subsection, the MEP Advisory Board shall function solely in an advisory capacity, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to the MEP Advisory Board.

“(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—At a minimum, the MEP Advisory Board shall transmit an annual report to the Secretary for transmittal to Congress not later than 30 days after the submission to Congress of the President's annual budget under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

“(B) CONTENTS.—The report shall address the status of the Program and describe the relevant sections of the programmatic planning document and updates thereto transmitted to Congress by the Director under subsections (c) and (d) of section 23 (15 U.S.C. 278i).

“(n) SMALL MANUFACTURERS.—

“(1) EVALUATION OF OBSTACLES.—As part of the Program, the Director shall—

“(A) identify obstacles that prevent small manufacturers from effectively competing in the global market;

“(B) implement a comprehensive plan to train the Centers to address the obstacles identified in paragraph (2); and

“(C) facilitate improved communication between the Centers to assist such manufacturers in implementing appropriate, targeted solutions to the obstacles identified in paragraph (2).

“(2) DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN ACCESS RESOURCES.—As part of the Program, the Secretary shall develop open access resources that address best practices related to inventory sourcing, supply chain management, manufacturing techniques, available Federal resources, and other topics to further the competitiveness and profitability of small manufacturers.”.

(c) COMPETITIVE AWARDS PROGRAM.—The National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 25 the following:

“SEC. 25A. COMPETITIVE AWARDS PROGRAM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish within the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership under section 25 (15 U.S.C. 278k) and section 26 (15 U.S.C. 278i) a program of competitive awards among participants described in subsection (b) of this section for the purposes described in subsection (c).

“(b) PARTICIPANTS.—Participants receiving awards under this section shall be Centers, or a consortium of Centers.

“(c) PURPOSE, THEMES, AND REIMBURSEMENT.—

“(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program established under subsection (a) is to add capabilities to the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, including the development of projects to solve new or emerging manufacturing problems as determined by the Director, in consultation with the Director of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the MEP Advisory Board, other Federal agencies, and small and medium-sized manufacturers.

“(2) THEMES.—The Director may identify 1 or more themes for a competition carried out under this section, which may vary from year to year, as the Director considers appropriate after assessing the needs of manufacturers and the success of previous competitions.

“(3) REIMBURSEMENT.—Centers may be reimbursed for costs incurred by the Centers under this section.

“(d) APPLICATIONS.—Applications for awards under this section shall be submitted in such manner, at such time, and containing such information as the Director shall require in consultation with the MEP Advisory Board.

“(e) SELECTION.—

“(1) PEER REVIEW AND COMPETITIVELY AWARDED.—The Director shall ensure that awards under this section are peer reviewed and competitively awarded.

“(2) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The Director shall endeavor to have broad geographic diversity among selected proposals.

“(3) CRITERIA.—The Director shall select applications to receive awards that the Director determines will achieve 1 or more of the following:

“(A) Improve the competitiveness of industries in the region in which the Center or Centers are located.

“(B) Create jobs or train newly hired employees.

“(C) Promote the transfer and commercialization of research and technology from institutions of higher education, national laboratories or other federally funded research programs, and nonprofit research institutes.

“(D) Recruit a diverse manufacturing workforce, including through outreach to underrepresented populations, including individuals identified in section 33 or section 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a, 1885b).

“(E) Such other result as the Director determines will advance the objective set forth in section 25(c) (15 U.S.C. 278k) or in section 26 (15 U.S.C. 278l).

“(f) PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION.—Recipients of awards under this section shall not be required to provide a matching contribution.

“(g) GLOBAL MARKETPLACE PROJECTS.—In making an award under this section, the Director, in consultation with the MEP Advisory Board and the Secretary, may take into consideration whether an application has significant potential for enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized United States manufacturers in the global marketplace.

“(h) DURATION.—The duration of an award under this section shall be for not more than 3 years.

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—The terms used in this section have the meanings given the terms in section 25 (15 U.S.C. 278k).”

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States, in consultation with the MEP Advisory Board (as defined in section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k)), shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report analyzing—

(A) the effectiveness of the changes in the cost share to Centers under section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k);

(B) the engagement in services and the characteristics of services provided by 2 types of Centers, including volume and type of service; and

(C) whether the cost-sharing ratio has any effect on the services provided by either type of Center.

(2) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of submission of the report under paragraph (1), the Director of NIST shall contract with an independent organization to perform an assessment of the implementation of the reapplication competition process.

(B) CONSULTATION.—The independent organization performing the assessment under subparagraph (A) may consult with the MEP Advisory Board (as defined in section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k)).

(3) COMPARISON OF CENTERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report providing information on the first and second years of operations for Centers (as defined in section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k)) operating from new competitions or recompetition as compared to longstanding Centers.

(B) CONTENTS.—The report shall provide detail on the engagement in services provided by Centers and the characteristics of services provided, including volume and type of services, so that the appropriate committees of Congress can evaluate whether the cost-sharing ratio has an effect on the services provided at Centers.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2199(3) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “regional center” and inserting “manufacturing extension center”;

(B) by inserting “and best business practices” before “referred”; and

(C) by striking “25(a)” and inserting “25(b)”.

(2) ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION INITIATIVE.—Section 3(a) of the Enterprise Integration Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 278g-5(a)) is amended by inserting “Hollings” before “Manufacturing Extension Partnership”.

(3) ASSISTANCE TO STATE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—Section 26(a) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278l(a)) is amended by striking “Centers program created” and inserting “Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership”.

(f) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—Notwithstanding the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the Secretary of Commerce may carry out section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) as that section was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, with respect to existing grants, agreements, cooperative agreements, or contracts, and with respect to applications for such items that are received by the Secretary prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) PATENT RIGHTS.—The provisions of chapter 18 of title 35, United States Code, shall apply, to the extent not inconsistent with section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) and section 25 of that Act, to the promotion of technology from research by Centers under those sections, except for contracts for such specific technology extension or transfer services as may be specified by the Director of NIST or under other law.

TITLE VI—INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

SEC. 601. INNOVATION CORPS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The National Science Foundation Innovation Corps (referred to in this section as the “I-Corps”) was established to foster a national innovation ecosystem by encouraging institutions, scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs to identify and explore the innovation and commercial potential of National Science Foundation-funded research well beyond the laboratory.

(2) Through I-Corps, the Foundation invests in entrepreneurship and commercialization education, training, and mentoring that can ultimately lead to the practical deployment of technologies, products, processes, and services that improve the Nation’s competitiveness, promote economic growth, and benefit society.

(3) By building networks of entrepreneurs, educators, mentors, institutions, and collaborations, and supporting specialized education and training, I-Corps is at the leading edge of a strong, lasting foundation for an American innovation ecosystem.

(4) By translating federally funded research to a commercial stage more quickly and efficiently, programs like the I-Corps create new jobs and companies, help solve societal problems, and provide taxpayers with a greater return on their investment in research.

(5) The I-Corps program model has a strong record of success that should be replicated at all Federal science agencies.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) commercialization of federally funded research can improve the Nation’s competitiveness, grow the economy, and benefit society;

(2) I-Corps is a useful tool in promoting the commercialization of federally funded research by training researchers funded by the Foundation in entrepreneurship and commercialization;

(3) I-Corps should continue to build a network of entrepreneurs, educators, mentors, and institutions and support specialized education and training;

(4) researchers other than those funded by the Foundation may also benefit from the education and training described in paragraph (3); and

(5) I-Corps should continue to promote a strong innovation system by investing in and supporting female entrepreneurs through mentorship, education, and training because they are historically underrepresented in entrepreneurial fields.

(c) I-CORPS PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to promote a strong, lasting foundation for the national innovation ecosystem and increase the positive economic and social impact of federally funded research, the Director of the Foundation shall set forth eligibility requirements and carry out a program to award grants for entrepreneurship and commercialization education, training, and mentoring.

(2) EXPANSION OF I-CORPS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director—

(i) shall encourage the development and expansion of I-Corps and other training programs that focus on professional development, including education in entrepreneurship and commercialization; and

(ii) may establish an agreement with another Federal science agency—

(I) to make researchers, students, and institutions funded by that agency eligible to participate in the I-Corps program; or

(II) to assist that agency with the design and implementation of its own program that is similar to the I-Corps program.

(B) PARTNERSHIP FUNDING.—In negotiating an agreement with another Federal science agency under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Director shall require that Federal science agency to provide funding for—

(i) the training for researchers, students, and institutions selected for the I-Corps program; and

(ii) the locations that Federal science agency designates as regional and national infrastructure for science and engineering entrepreneurship.

(3) FOLLOW-ON GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Director, in consultation with the Director of the Small Business Innovation Research Program, shall make funds available for competitive grants, including to I-Corps participants, to help support—

(i) prototype or proof-of-concept development; and

(ii) such activities as the Director considers necessary to build local, regional, and national infrastructure for science and engineering entrepreneurship.

(B) LIMITATION.—Grants under subparagraph (A) shall be limited to participants with innovations that because of the early stage of development are not eligible to participate in a Small Business Innovation Research Program or a Small Business Technology Transfer Program.

(4) STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS.—The Director may engage in partnerships with State and local governments, economic development organizations, and nonprofit organizations to provide access to the I-Corps program to support entrepreneurship education and training for researchers, students, and institutions under this subsection.

(5) REPORTS.—The Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a biennial report on I-Corps program efficacy, including metrics on the effectiveness of the program. Each Federal science agency participating in the I-Corps program or that implements a similar program under paragraph (2)(A) shall contribute to the report.

(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms “Small Business Innovation Research Program” and “Small Business Technology Transfer Program” have the meanings given those terms in section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638).

SEC. 602. TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) commercialization of federally funded research may benefit society and the economy; and

(2) not-for-profit organizations support the commercialization of federally funded research by providing useful business and technical expertise to researchers.

(b) COMMERCIALIZATION PROMOTION.—The Director of the Foundation shall continue to award grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to eligible entities to promote the commercialization of federally funded research results.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Activities supported by grants under this section may include—

(1) identifying Foundation-sponsored research and technologies that have the potential for accelerated commercialization;

(2) supporting prior or current Foundation-sponsored investigators, institutions of higher education, and non-profit organizations that partner with an institution of higher education in undertaking proof-of-concept work, including development of prototypes

of technologies that are derived from Foundation-sponsored research and have potential market value;

(3) promoting sustainable partnerships between Foundation-funded institutions, industry, and other organizations within academia and the private sector with the purpose of accelerating the transfer of technology;

(4) developing multi-disciplinary innovation ecosystems which involve and are responsive to specific needs of academia and industry; and

(5) providing professional development, mentoring, and advice in entrepreneurship, project management, and technology and business development to innovators.

(d) ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The following organizations may be eligible for grants under this section:

(A) Institutions of higher education.

(B) Public or nonprofit technology transfer organizations.

(C) A nonprofit organization that partners with an institution of higher education.

(D) A consortia of 2 or more of the organizations described under subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(2) LEAD ORGANIZATIONS.—Any eligible organization under paragraph (1) may apply as a lead organization.

(e) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity seeking a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

SEC. 603. OPTICS AND PHOTONICS TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The 1998 National Research Council Report, “Harnessing Light” presented a comprehensive overview on the importance of optics and photonics to various sectors of the United States economy.

(2) In 2012, in response to increased coordination and investment by other nations, the National Research Council released a follow up study recommending a national photonics initiative to increase collaboration and coordination among United States industry, Federal and State government, and academia to identify and further advance areas of photonics critical to regaining United States competitiveness and maintaining national security.

(3) Publicly-traded companies focused on optics and photonics in the United States enable more than \$3 trillion in revenue annually.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) optics and photonics research and technologies promote United States global competitiveness in industry sectors, including telecommunications and information technology, energy, healthcare and medicine, manufacturing, and defense;

(2) Federal science agencies, industry, and academia should seek partnerships with each other to develop basic research in optics and photonics into more mature technologies and capabilities; and

(3) each Federal science agency, as appropriate, should—

(A) survey and identify optics and photonics-related programs within that Federal science agency and share results with other Federal science agencies for the purpose of generating multiple applications and uses;

(B) partner with the private sector and academia to leverage knowledge and re-

sources to maximize opportunities for innovation in optics and photonics;

(C) explore research and development opportunities, including Federal and private sector-sponsored internships, to ensure a highly trained optics and photonics workforce in the United States;

(D) encourage partnerships between academia and industry to promote improvement in the education of optics and photonics technicians at the secondary school level, undergraduate level, and 2-year college level, including through the Foundation’s Advanced Technological Education program; and

(E) assess existing programs and explore alternatives to modernize photonics laboratory equipment in undergraduate institutions in the United States to facilitate critical hands-on learning.

SEC. 604. UNITED STATES CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “United States Chief Technology Officer Act”.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Section 203 the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6612) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(b) ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS.—” before “The President is authorized” and indenting appropriately;

(2) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before “There shall be” and indenting appropriately; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER.—Subject to subsection (b), the President is authorized to designate 1 of the Associate Directors under that subsection as a United States Chief Technology Officer.”.

SEC. 605. NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL STUDY ON TECHNOLOGY FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS ON CAMPUSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall enter into an arrangement with the National Research Council to conduct and complete a study to identify and review technologies employed at institutions of higher education to provide notifications to students, faculty, and other personnel during emergency situations in accordance with law.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study shall address—

(1) the timeliness of notifications provided by the technologies during emergency situations;

(2) the durability of the technologies in delivering the notifications to students, faculty, and other personnel; and

(3) the limitations exhibited by the technologies to successfully deliver the notifications not more than 30 seconds after the institution of higher education transmits the notifications.

(c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date that the National Research Council enters into the arrangement under subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall submit to Congress a report on the study, including recommendations for addressing any limitations identified under subsection (b)(3).

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

DECEMBER 16, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN, Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, I am pleased to appoint the following individual to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission to fill the existing vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Jeffrey Fiedler, to serve for the remainder of the term. This appointment would be effective January 1, 2017.

Mr. Michael R. Wessel of Falls Church, Virginia

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

DECEMBER 16, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN, Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, I am pleased to appoint the following individual to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission to succeed Mr. Michael R. Wessel, whose term is expiring. This appointment would be effective January 21, 2017.

Mr. Jonathan N. Stivers of Washington, D.C.

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

REVISIONS TO THE AGGREGATE LEVELS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET RESOLUTION RELATED TO LEGISLATION REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, Washington, DC, December 16, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit for printing in the Congressional Record a revision to the budget aggregate levels of the Fiscal Year 2016 Concurrent Resolution on the Budget, S. Con. Res. 11. The revision makes technical corrections to a previous adjustment to aggregate levels for S. Con. Res. 11 issued on January 6, 2016. The revised aggregate levels are to be considered as the aggregates included in the budget resolution, pursuant to S. Con. Res. 11, as adjusted. A corresponding table is attached.

Sincerely,

TOM PRICE, M.D.,

Chairman, Committee on the Budget.

TABLE 1—BUDGET AGGREGATES

(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

Table with columns for Fiscal Year (2016, 2016-2025) and rows for Current Aggregates, Technical corrections, and Revised Aggregates.

1 Not applicable because annual appropriations acts for fiscal years 2017–2025 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FY 2016 AND THE 10-YEAR PERIOD FY 2016 THROUGH FY 2025

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, Washington, DC, December 16, 2016.

Hon. PAUL RYAN, Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: To facilitate application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am transmitting an updated status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 2016, and for the 10-year period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. This status report is current through the end of fiscal year 2016. The term "current level" refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature.

Table 1 in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues to the overall limits, as adjusted, contained in the conference report on S. Con. Res. 11, as agreed to on May 5, 2015, for fiscal year 2016, and for the 10-year period of fiscal

years 2016 through 2025. This comparison is needed to implement section 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 2016 because appropriations for those years have not yet been completed.

Table 2 compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for legislative action completed by each authorizing committee with the limits contained in the conference report on S. Con. Res. 11, as agreed to on May 5, 2015, for fiscal year 2016 and for the 10-year period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025. For fiscal year 2016 and the 10-year period of fiscal years 2016 through 2025, "legislative action" refers to legislation enacted after the adoption of the levels set forth in the conference agreement on S. Con. Res. 11. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

Table 3 compares the current status of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2016 with the "section 302(b)" suballocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) sub-allocation. The table also provides supplementary information on spending in excess of the base discretionary spending caps allowed under section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act.

Table 4 compares the levels of changes in mandatory programs (CHIMPs) contained in appropriations acts with the permissible limits on CHIMPs as specified in sections 3103 and 3104 of S. Con. Res. 11. The comparison is needed to enforce a point of order established in S. Con. Res. 11 against fiscal year 2016 appropriations measures containing CHIMPs that would breach the permissible limits for fiscal year 2016.

Table 5 displays the current level of advance appropriations for fiscal year 2017 of accounts identified for advance appropriations under section 3304 of S. Con. Res. 11. These tables are needed to enforce a point of order against appropriations bills containing

advance appropriations that are: (i) not identified in the statement of managers and (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the budget resolution.

In addition, letters from the Congressional Budget Office are attached that summarize and compare the budget impact of enacted legislation that occurred after adoption of the budget resolution against the budget resolution aggregates in force.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Herz or Jim Bates at (202) 226-7270.

Sincerely,
TOM PRICE, M.D.,
Chairman.

TABLE I—REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2016, AND 2016–2025 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET, REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

[On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal Year 2016 ¹	Fiscal Years 2016–2025
Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	3,144,530	n.a.
Outlays	3,164,532	n.a.
Revenues	2,698,366	32,325,542
Current Level:		
Budget Authority	3,278,293	n.a.
Outlays	3,263,830	n.a.
Revenues	2,542,403	31,808,897
Current Level over (+) / under (–)		
Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	+133,763	n.a.
Outlays	+99,298	n.a.
Revenues	–155,963	–516,645

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2017 through 2025 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

¹ The FY2016 Concurrent Resolution on the Budget was agreed to in S. Con. Res. 11 and the accompanying report, H. Rept. 114–96. The current level for this report is measured relative to the on-budget levels filed in H. Rept. 114–96.

TABLE 2—DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION, COMPARISON OF AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE ACTION WITH 302(A) ALLOCATIONS FOR BUDGET CHANGES, REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

[Fiscal Years, in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2016		2016–2025	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Agriculture:				
302(a) Allocation	–1,645	–347	–298,629	–296,982
Legislative Action	+4	+77	+77	+77
Difference	+1,649	+351	+296,706	+297,059
Armed Services:				
302(a) Allocation	0	0	0	0
Legislative Action	–97	–81	–1,903	–1,885
Difference	–97	–81	–1,903	–1,385
Education and the Workforce:				
302(a) Allocation	–10,633	–5,017	–249,574	–229,658
Legislative Action	+269	+269	–13	–8,138
Difference	+10,902	+5,286	+249,561	+221,520
Energy and Commerce:				
302(a) Allocation	–54,654	–49,173	–1,385,904	–1,375,688
Legislative Action	+6,057	+5,316	–29,091	–29,833
Difference	+60,711	+54,489	+1,356,813	+1,345,855
Financial Services:				
302(a) Allocation	–7,334	–6,712	–62,254	–62,056
Legislative Action	0	0	–9	–9
Difference	+7,334	+6,712	+62,245	+62,047
Foreign Affairs:				
302(a) Allocation	0	0	0	0
Legislative Action	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security:				
302(a) Allocation	–180	–180	–19,470	–19,470
Legislative Action	0	0	–2,160	–2,160
Difference	+180	+180	+17,310	+17,310
House Administration:				
302(a) Allocation	–31	–2	–298	–53
Legislative Action	0	0	0	0
Difference	+31	+2	+298	+53
Judiciary:				
302(a) Allocation	–14,419	–868	–24,949	–23,055
Legislative Action	–2,143	+1,315	+4,841	+3,827
Difference	+12,276	+2,183	+29,790	+26,882
Natural Resources:				
302(a) Allocation	–285	–2	–32,403	–32,208
Legislative Action	+284	+259	–796	–796
Difference	+569	+261	+31,607	+31,412
Oversight and Government Reform:				
302(a) Allocation	–9,188	–9,026	–193,961	–193,896
Legislative Action	0	0	–226	–226
Difference	+9,188	+9,026	+193,735	+193,670
Science, Space and Technology:				
302(a) Allocation	0	0	0	0
Legislative Action	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Small Business:				
302(a) Allocation	0	0	0	0
Legislative Action	0	+1	0	+2
Difference	0	+1	0	+2
Transportation and Infrastructure:				
302(a) Allocation	+60,489	70,000	–109,928	+70,000
Legislative Action	+72,733	+70,000	+89,106	+70,029
Difference	+12,244	0	+199,034	+29
Veterans' Affairs:				
302(a) Allocation	–31	–31	–1,925	–1,925
Legislative Action	–2	+388	+38	+659
Difference	+29	+419	+1,963	+2,584
Ways and Means:				
302(a) Allocation	–59,546	–59,516	–1,603,168	–1,602,668
Legislative Action	–3,018	+512	+133,294	+139,621
Difference	+56,528	+60,028	+1,736,462	+1,742,289

TABLE 3—DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016—COMPARISON OF CURRENT STATUS WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUB ALLOCATIONS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

[Figures in millions]¹

Table with columns for 302(b) Allocations (BA, OT), 302(b) for GWOT (BA, OT), Current Status General Purpose (BA, OT), Current Status GWOT (BA, OT), General Purpose less 302(b) (BA, OT), and GWOT less 302(b) (BA, OT). Rows include Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA; Commerce, Justice, Science; Defense; Energy and Water Development; Financial Services and General Government; Homeland Security; Interior, Environment; Labor Health and Human Services, Education; Legislative Branch; Military Construction and Veterans Affairs; State, Foreign Operations; Transportation, Housing & Urban Development; Full Committee Allowance; Total. Includes a comparison of total appropriations and 302(a) allocation.

¹ Spending designated as emergency is not included in the current status of appropriations shown in this table.

TABLE 4—CURRENT LEVEL OF FY 2016 CHIMPS SUBJECT TO S. CON. RES. 11, SECTION 3103 LIMITS (IN MILLIONS) AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Table with columns: Appropriations Bill, Budget Authority. Rows include Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA; Commerce, Justice, Science; Defense; Energy and Water Development; Financial Services and General Government; Homeland Security; Interior, Environment; Labor, Health and Human Services, Education; Legislative Branch; Military Construction and Veterans Affairs; State, Foreign Operations; Transportation, Housing & Urban Development; Total CHIMP's Subject to Limit; S. Con. Res. 11, Section 3103 Limit for FY 2016; Total CHIMP's vs. Limit.

CURRENT LEVEL OF FY 2016 CRIME VICTIMS FUND CHIMP SUBJECT TO S. CON. RES. 11, SECTION 3104 LIMIT (IN MILLIONS) AS OF NOVEMBER 15, 2015

Table with columns: Budget Authority. Rows include Crime Victims Fund CHIMP; S. Con. Res. 11, Section 3104 Limit for FY 2016; Total CHIMP's vs. Limit.

TABLE 5—2017 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS AS AUTHORIZED BY S. CON. RES. 11 AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Table with columns: [Budget Authority, millions], 2017. Rows include Section 3304(c)(2) Limits; Appropriate Level; Enacted Advances; Accounts Identified for Advances; Department of Veterans Affairs; Medical Services; Medical Support and Compliance; Medical Facilities; Subtotal, enacted advances¹; Enacted Advances vs. Section 601(d)(1) Limit; Section 3304(c)(1) Limits; Appropriate Level; Enacted Advances; Accounts Identified for Advances; Employment and Training Administration; Education for the Disadvantaged; School Improvement Programs; Special Education; Career, Technical and Adult Education; Tenant-based Rental Assistance; Project-based Rental Assistance; Subtotal, enacted advances¹; Enacted Advances vs. Section 601(d)(2) Limit; Previously Enacted Advance Appropriations; Corporation for Public Broadcasting²; Total, enacted advances¹.

¹ Line items may not add to total due to rounding. ² Funds were appropriated in Public Law 113-235.

U.S. CONGRESS, CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE, Washington, DC, December 16, 2016.

Hon. TOM PRICE, M.D., Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2016 budget and is current through September 30, 2016. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

Since our last letter dated June 6, 2016, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017 and Zika Response and Preparedness Act (Public Law 114-223). That act had significant effects on budget authority in fiscal year 2016.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL, Director.

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2016 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

[In millions of dollars]

Table with columns: Budget authority, Outlays, Revenues. Rows include Previously Enacted: a; Revenues; Permanent and other spending legislation; Appropriation legislation.

FISCAL YEAR 2016 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016—Continued

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Offsetting receipts	- 784,820	- 784,879	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	1,187,392	1,621,469	2,676,733
Enacted Legislation: ^b			
An act to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, to authorize transfers of amounts to carry out the replacement of such medical center, and for other purposes (P.L. 114-25)	0	20	0
Defending Public Safety Employees' Retirement Act and the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-26)	0	0	5
Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-27)	445	175	- 766
Steve Gleason Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-40)	5	5	0
Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-41) ^b	0	0	99
Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-55)	130	0	0
Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-58)	- 2	368	0
Protecting Affordable Coverage for Employees Act (P.L. 114-60)	0	0	40
Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-74)	3,424	4,870	269
Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-88)	0	1	0
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (P.L. 114-92)	- 66	- 50	0
Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (P.L. 114-94)	72,880	70,252	22,137
Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-105)	269	269	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114-113) ^b	2,007,155	1,562,597	- 156,107
Patient Access and Medicare Protection Act (P.L. 114-115)	32	32	0
Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-125)	20	20	- 7
Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act (P.L. 114-223) ^c	332	0	0
Total, Enacted Legislation	2,084,624	1,638,559	- 134,330
Entitlements and Mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	6,277	3,802	0
Total Current Level ^d	3,278,293	3,263,830	2,542,403
Total House Resolution ^e	3,144,530	3,164,532	2,698,366
Current Level Over House Resolution	133,763	99,298	n.a.
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	155,963
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2016-2025:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	31,808,897
House Resolution ^f	n.a.	n.a.	32,325,542
Current Level Over House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under House Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	516,645

Source: Congressional Budget Office.
 Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.
^a Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session, but before the adoption of S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016: the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014 (P.L. 114-1); the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (P.L. 114-4) and the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-10).
^b Pursuant to section 314(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, amounts designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not count for purposes of Title III and Title IV of the Congressional Budget Act. The amounts so designated for 2016, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015	0	917	0
Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2016	700	775	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016	- 2	236	0
Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act (P.L. 114-223) ^c	876	0	0
Total, amounts designated as emergency requirements	1,574	1,928	0

^c Certain provisions included in Divisions B, C, and D of P.L. 114-223 provided supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2016 which, on net, provided an additional \$1,208 million in budget authority in fiscal year 2016. CBO estimated that:
 Division B would result in an additional \$1,108 million in budget authority in fiscal year 2016 for emergency requirements;
 Section 145 of Division C would result in an additional \$500 million in budget authority in fiscal year 2016 for disaster relief; and
 Division D would result in decreases in budget authority in fiscal year 2016 of \$232 million for emergency requirements, and of \$168 million for amounts not designated pursuant to section 251(b)(2) of the Deficit Control Act.
^d For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the resolution, as approved by the House of Representatives, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include these items.
^e Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the totals in S. Con. Res. 11, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution.

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original House Resolution	3,039,215	3,091,442	2,676,733
Revisions:			
Adjustment for Program Integrity Spending	1,083	924	0
Adjustment for Senate Amendment to H.R. 1295, the Trade Preferences Extension Act, 2015	445	175	- 766
Adjustment for H.R. 22, the FAST Act	72,880	70,252	22,137
Adjustment for H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015	20	20	- 7
Adjustment to achieve consistency with the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015	38,012	2,286	269
Technical correction to capture the budgetary effects of H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015	- 7,125	- 567	0
Revised House Resolution	3,144,530	3,164,532	2,698,366

^f Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the 2016-2025 revenue totals in S. Con. Res. 11, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker on Wednesday, December 14, 2016:

H.R. 710. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1150. An act to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to

advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2726. To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

H.R. 3784. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and a Small Business Capital Forma-

tion Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3842. An act to improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4352. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program establishing a patient self-scheduling appointment system, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4939. An act to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and

civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5015. An act to restore amounts improperly withheld for tax purposes from severance payments to individuals who retired or separated from service in the Armed Forces for combat-related injuries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5099. An act to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 5612. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2886 Sandy Plains Road in Marietta, Georgia, as the “Marine Lance Corporal Squire ‘Skip’ Wells Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5790. An act to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

H.R. 5948. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 830 Kuhn Drive in Chula Vista, California, as the “Jonathan ‘J.D.’ De Guzman Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6130. An act to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.

H.R. 6138. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 560 East Pleasant Valley Road, Port Hueneme, California, as the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion “Seabees” Fallen Heroes Post Office Building.

H.R. 6282. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2024 Jerome Avenue, in Bronx, New York, as the “Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Post Office Building.”

H.R. 6302. An ACT to provide an increase in premium pay for protective services during 2016, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6304. An ACT to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 North Main Street in Florence, Arizona, as the “Adolfo ‘Harpo’ Celaya Post Office”.

H.R. 6323. An ACT to name the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system in Long Beach, California, the “Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center”.

H.R. 6400. An ACT to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey.

H.R. 6431. An ACT to ensure United States jurisdiction over offenses committed by United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives.

H.R. 6477. An ACT to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. THORNBERRY, on Thursday, December 15, 2016:

H.R. 6014. An act to allow the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to enter into reimbursable agreements for certain airport projects.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 8. An act to provide for the approval of the Agreement for Cooperation Between the

Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on December 14, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 6451. To improve the Government-wide management of Federal property.

H.R. 6452. To implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6450. To amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5889. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Chalan Kanoa VLG in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as the “Segundo T. Sablan and CNMI Fallen Military Heroes Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6416. To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5798. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Davis Street in Evanston, Illinois, as the “Abner J. Mikva Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5877. To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 to promote cooperative homeland security research and antiterrorism programs relating to cybersecurity, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5356. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14231 TX-150 in Coldspring, Texas, as the “E. Marie Youngblood Post Office”.

H.R. 5591. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 810 N US Highway 83 in Zapata, Texas, as the “Zapata Veterans Post Office”.

H.R. 5065. To direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to notify air carriers and security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration of such Administration’s guidelines regarding permitting baby formula, breast milk, purified deionized water, and juice on airplanes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5150. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3031 Veterans Road West in Staten Island, New York, as the “Leonard Montalto Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5309. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 McElroy Drive in Oxford, Mississippi, as the “Army First Lieutenant Donald C. Carwile Post Office Building”.

H.R. 4680. To prepare the National Park Service for its Centennial in 2016 and for a second century of promoting and protecting the natural, historic, and cultural resources of our National Parks for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 875. To provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4465. To decrease the deficit by consolidating and selling Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5676. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6300 N. Northwest Highway in Chicago, Illinois, as the “Officer Joseph P. Cali Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5687. To eliminate or modify certain mandates of the Government Accountability Office.

H.R. 4887. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23323 Shelby Road in Shelby, Indiana, as the “Richard Allen Cable Post Office”.

H.R. 3218. Designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1221 State Street, Suite 12, Santa Barbara, California, as the “Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Louis ‘Lou’ J. Langlais Post Office Building”.

H.R. 4618. To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 121 Spring Street SE in Gainesville, Georgia, as the “Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse”.

H.R. 960. Designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Newark, Ohio, as the Daniel L. Kinnard VA Clinic.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported that on December 15, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 6014. To allow the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to enter into reimbursable agreements for certain airport projects.

H.R. 6431. To ensure United States jurisdiction over offenses committed by United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives.

H.R. 6477. To amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title.

H.R. 6304. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 North Main Street in Florence, Arizona, as the “Adolfo ‘Harpo’ Celaya Post Office”.

H.R. 6323. To name the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare system in Long Beach, California, the “Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center”.

H.R. 6400. To revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey.

H.R. 6282. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2024 Jerome Avenue, in Bronx, New York, as the “Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6302. To provide an increase in premium pay for protective services during 2016, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6138. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 560 East Pleasant Valley Road, Port Hueneme, California, as the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion “Seabees” Fallen Heroes Post Office Building.

H.R. 6130. To provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.

H.R. 5790. To provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

H.R. 5948. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 830 Kuhn Drive in Chula Vista, California, as the

“Jonathan ‘J.D.’ De Guzman Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5015. To restore amounts improperly withheld for tax purposes from severance payments to individuals who retired or separated from service in the Armed Forces for combat-related injuries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5099. To establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 5612. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2886 Sandy Plains Road in Marietta, Georgia, as the “Marine Lance Corporal Squire ‘Skip’ Wells Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3842. To improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4352. To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program establishing a patient self-scheduling appointment system, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4939. To increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2726. To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

H.R. 3784. To amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and a Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

H.R. 710. To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1150. To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(b) of House Resolution 944, the House stands adjourned until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, December 20, 2016.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, December 20, 2016, at 4 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7872. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule —

Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown in California and Imported Raisins; Removal of Language [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0065; SC16-989-2 FR] received December 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7873. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Modification of the Handling Regulation for Area No. 2 [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0042; SC16-948-1 FR] received December 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7874. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule — Olives Grown in California; Suspension and Revision of Incoming Size-Grade Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0031; SC16-932-1 FIR] received December 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7875. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Changes to HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program Commitment Requirement [Docket No.: FR 5792-I-01] (RIN: 2501-AD69) received December 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7876. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; Certification (RIN: 1505-AC53) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7877. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act — Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority [Docket ID.: ED-2016-OESE-0047] received December 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7878. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Title I—Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged—Academic Assessments [Docket ID: ED-2016-OESE-0053] (RIN: 1810-AB32) received December 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7879. A letter from the Director, Civil Rights Center, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's correction — Implementation of the Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (RIN: 1291-AA36) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7880. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Determination of Attainment of the 2012 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Standard; Pennsylvania; Delaware County Nonattainment Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2016-0455; FRL-9956-41-Region 3] received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7881. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality Designation for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard-Supplement to Round 2 for Four Areas in Texas: Freestone and Anderson Counties, Milam County, Rusk and Panola Counties, and Titus County [EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0464; FRL-9956-10-OAR] received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7882. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Dicamba; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0496, EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0841; FRL-9954-37] received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7883. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonable Further Progress Plan and Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets for the Dallas/Fort Worth 2008 Ozone Nonattainment Area [EPA-R06-OAR-2015-0495; FRL-9955-52-Region 6] received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7884. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Removal of Stage II Gasoline Vapor Recovery Requirements for Gasoline Dispensing Facilities [EPA-R03-OAR-2016-0308; FRL-9956-26-Region 3] received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7885. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Oklahoma; Infrastructure for the Lead, Ozone, Nitrogen Dioxide and Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R06-OAR-2012-0812; FRL-9955-28-Region 6] received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7886. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval/Disapproval; MS; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2013 PM_{2.5}. National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R04-OAR-2012-0424; FRL-9956-35-Region 4] received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7887. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Regulations Implementing FAST Act Section 61003 — Critical Electric Infrastructure Security and Amending Critical Energy Infrastructure Information; Availability of Certain North American Electric Reliability Corporation Databases to the Commission [Docket Nos.: RM16-15-000 and RM15-25-001; Order No.: 833] received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7888. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the delivery of defense articles and services to France, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2318(b)(2); Public Law 87-195, Sec. 506(b)(2) (as amended by Public Law 96-92, Sec. 5(b)); (93 Stat. 702); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7889. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Department has completed delivery of defense articles and services to France, the African Union, Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Chad, Cameroon, Gabon, Uganda, Rwanda and other countries that contribute forces to the African Union led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2318(b)(2); Public Law 87-195, Sec. 506(b)(2) (as amended by Public Law 96-92, Sec. 5(b)); (93 Stat. 702); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7890. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the final report on the national emergency with Cote d'Ivoire that was declared in Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7891. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7892. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a notice of Proposed Lease Pursuant to Section 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No. 10-16; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7893. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report certifying that the export of the listed item to the People's Republic of China is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2778 note; Public Law 105-261, Sec. 1512 (as amended by Public Law 105-277, Sec. 146); (112 Stat. 2174); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7894. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the Export Administration Regulations: Removal of Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation from the List of Validated End-Users in the People's Republic of China [Docket No.: 161005927-6927-01] (RIN: 0694-AH16) received December 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7895. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the Export Administration Regulations: Removal of Special Iraq Reconstruction License [Docket No.: 160303182-6999-02] (RIN: 0694-AG89) received December 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7896. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Philippines Transmittal No. 16-71, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7897. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-102, pursuant to Sections 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7898. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a detailed report justifying the reasons for the extension of locality-based comparability payments to non-General Schedule categories of positions that are in more than one executive agency, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5304(h)(2)(C); Public Law 89-554, Sec. 5304(h) (as added by Public Law 102-378, Sec. 2(26)(E)(ii)); (106 Stat. 1349); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7899. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Financial Stability Oversight Council, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Council's interim final rule — Revision of Freedom of Information Act Regulations received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7900. A letter from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's Office of the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1, 2016, through September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) Sec. 5(b); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 5(b); (92 Stat. 1103); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7901. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting the Endowment's Office of the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to the Congress and the Chairman's Semiannual Report on Final Action Resulting from Audit Reports, Inspection Reports, and Evaluation Reports for the period of April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) Sec. 5(b); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 5(b); (92 Stat. 1103); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7902. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting the Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2016, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7903. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Board's 2016 Annual Performance and Accountability Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7904. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of Certain Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas (RIN: 3206-AN38) received December 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7905. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's proposed rule — Employment in the Excepted Service (RIN: 3206-AN30) received December 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7906. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's notice of proposed rule — Removal of Eligible Family Members from Existing Self and Family Enrollments (RIN: 3206-AN43) received December 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7907. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Recruitment, Selection, and Placement (General) And Suitability (RIN: 3206-AN25) received December 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7908. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's interim final rule — Federal Employees Health Benefits And Federal Employees Dental And Vision Insurance Programs; Coverage Exception For Children Of Same-Sex Domestic Partners (RIN: 3206-AN34) received December 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7909. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the New York, NY, and Philadelphia, PA, Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas (RIN: 3206-AN29) received December 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7910. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's proposed rule — Federal Employees Health Benefits Program: Removal of Ineligible Individuals from Existing Enrollments (RIN: 3206-AN09) received December 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7911. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting a report titled "Adverse Actions: A Compilation of Articles", pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7912. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting thirteen legislative recommendations approved unanimously by the Commission, pursuant to 52 U.S.C. 30111(a)(9); Public Law 92-225, Sec. 311(a)(9) (as amended by Public Law 107-252, Sec. 801(b)); (116 Stat. 1726); to the Committee on House Administration.

7913. A letter from the Deputy Director, Operations, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the detailed boundaries, classification descriptions, and maps for the Snake River Headwaters, in Wyoming, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1274(b); Public Law 90-542, Sec. 3(b) (as amended by Public Law 100-534, Sec. 501); (102 Stat. 2708); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7914. A letter from the Division Chief, Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Resource Management Planning [Docket ID: BLM-2016-0002; LLWO210000.17X.L16100000.PN0 00] (RIN: 1004-AE39) received December 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7915. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfers [Docket No.: 151130999-6225-01] (RIN: 0648-XF049) received December 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7916. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, *United States v. Beecroft*, 825 F.3d 991 (9th Cir. 2016), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 530D(a)(1); Public Law 107-273, Sec. 202(a); (116 Stat. 1771); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7917. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Visas: Classification of Immediate Family Members as A, C-3, G, and NATO Non-immigrants [Public Notice: 9638] (RIN: 1400-AD96) received December 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7918. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; Adjustment to Civil Penalty Amount Under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7919. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31105; Amdt. No.: 3721] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7920. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category — Implementation Date Extension [EPA-HQ-OW-2014-0598; FRL-9956-05-OW] (RIN: 2040-AF68) received December 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7921. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Regulation and Policy Management, Office of the Secretary (OOREG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Extension of Pharmacy Copayments for Medications (RIN: 2900-AP87) received December 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

7922. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2015 Annual Report to the Congress on the Child Support Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 652(a)(10); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title IV, Sec. 452 (as amended by Public Law 93-647, Sec. 101(a)); (88 Stat. 2352); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7923. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — 2016 Guidance with Respect to the Tax Credit for Employee Health Insurance Expenses of Certain Small Employers [Notice 2016-75] received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7924. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — December 2016 Supplement to Rev. Proc. 2014-64, Implementation of Nonresident Alien Deposit Interest Regulations (Rev. Proc. 2016-56) received December 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7925. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Reports to Congress for Fiscal Years 2011-2014 for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program", pursuant to Sec. 2610(a) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, as amended; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and the Workforce.

7926. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting documents concerning the implementation of commitments in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action by the P5+1 (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, Russia, and Germany) and Iran, pursuant to the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012, the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, and the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2012; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, Ways and Means, Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2045. A bill to provide that certain bad faith communications in connection with the assertion of a United States patent are unfair or deceptive acts or practices, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-877). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3857. A bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Financial Stability Oversight Council to carry out certain requirements under the Financial Stability Act of 2010 before making any new determination under section 113 of such Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-878). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Report of the Activities of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives during the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress (Rept. 114-879). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4783 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. BARLETTA):

H.R. 6530. A bill to amend title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit the provision of funds under such title to institutions of higher education that violate the immigration laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 6530.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clauses 4 and 18.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1095: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 1427: Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 2405: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 2889: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3166: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 3713: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 5207: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 5358: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 5593: Mr. HIMES, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 5689: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 5896: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 5902: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 6100: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 6340: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 6382: Mr. HIMES, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 6397: Mr. JONES.

H.J. Res. 47: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H. Con. Res. 169: Mr. UPTON and Ms. SINEMA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLOTTE
MCGALLICHER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the tremendous work of my constituent Ms. Charlotte McGallicher of Round Hill, Virginia. Ms. McGallicher is a graduate and Student Ambassador of Monroe Technology Center where she received a certification in residential and commercial air conditioning, refrigeration and heating equipment repair. This fall she will attend the University of South Alabama to study nursing. Whether assisting local businesses with her HVAC certification or helping Loudoun County parents and students as a Student Ambassador, she always makes a positive contribution to her community.

In her most recent undertaking, Ms. McGallicher helped a local business owner, June Bush of Lothar's Gourmet Sausages in Purcellville, save her malfunctioning freezer whose manufacturer had gone out of business. Without a warranty, June was ready to throw away the freezer and buy a new one. But Ms. McGallicher—with the help of her HVAC teacher, Marty Park, and her fellow classmates—identified the freezer's problem and fixed it. Putting her skills to work, Ms. McGallicher was able to lend a helping hand to a neighbor in need.

Today, science, technology, engineering and math are critical to the future of our nation. It is young STEM leaders, like Ms. McGallicher, who will help the United States maintain its vital lead in the global economy for the next generation. I strongly encourage Ms. McGallicher, and all of my constituents, to continue exploring and developing their talents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Ms. Charlotte McGallicher for her dedication to serving her community and helping others. I wish her all the best in all her future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF CATERPILLAR INC. CEO
DOUGLAS OBERHELMAN

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize Douglas Oberhelman of Peoria, Illinois for his notable tenure as Chief Executive Officer of Caterpillar Inc.

In 1975, Douglas began his career with Caterpillar in the treasury department. Since then,

he has established himself as a leader and has participated in various businesses across the company. His talent and drive led to him being selected as Caterpillar's Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in 1995. Sixteen years later, Oberhelman was named Chairman of the Board of Directors and Caterpillar's Chief Executive Officer.

Despite being named CEO in the midst of an economic crisis, Douglas led Caterpillar to the highest sales and revenue peak in company history. In addition to record high sales, Douglas focused on improving customer service and safety standards within the company and across the world.

Throughout his career, Oberhelman has had the distinguished honor of serving on the Board of Directors of the Exxon Mobil Corporation, the Business Council, and being named Chairman of the Business Roundtable. Additionally, his remarkable leadership in the industry was further recognized when he was named Chair of the National Association of Manufacturers. Further, Douglas and his wife, Diane, have been generous supporters of our local community with longstanding donations of time and resources to the Easter Seals Foundation of Central Illinois, Millikin University, the Boy Scouts of America, and a multitude of conservation organizations and efforts.

Douglas is known throughout Central Illinois for not only his outstanding business acumen, but also his innovative and visionary leadership of Caterpillar. Our community has been fortunate to benefit from the hard work and leadership of Douglas Oberhelman, I extend my sincerest congratulations to him on a successful career and I look forward to seeing his legacy continue in Central Illinois.

ELECTORS MUST BE BRIEFED BY
INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ON
ACTIVITIES OF ENTITIES ALLIED
WITH GOVERNMENT OF RUSSIA
UNDERTAKEN TO INFLUENCE
THE OUTCOME OF 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committee on the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committee; ranking member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I rise today in support of the request of several Presidential Electors to be briefed by the Intelligence Communities regarding the activities of the Government of Russia to influence the outcome of the 2016 presidential election.

Further, since this information bears directly on the decision to be made by the Electors, it

must be provided to them before they are required to assemble in the several state capitals to cast their votes.

Mr. Speaker, the linchpin of representative democracies such as the United States is public confidence in the political system, regime, and community.

That confidence in turn rests upon the extent to which the public has faith that the system employed to select its leaders accurately reflects its preferences.

At bottom, this means that all citizens casting a vote have a fundamental right and reasonable expectation that the votes cast count and are counted.

This means that the American people must be able to freely elect their leaders without interference, covert or overt, from foreign governments or entities allied with foreign powers.

As Alexander Hamilton explained in Federalist Paper No. 68, "On the Mode of Electing the President," the Constitution reposes in each person chosen to serve as an Elector the sacred trust of disregarding the 'talents for low intrigue, and the little arts of popularity,' and instead selecting as President the person who is in the most 'eminent degree endowed with the requisite qualifications.'

The facts related to the activities of the Government of Russia to influence the outcome of the 2016 presidential election bear directly on the decision to be made by the Electors and thus should be made known to them before they are required to assemble in the several state capitals to cast their votes.

In Federalist Paper No. 68, Alexander Hamilton warned that one of the "most deadly adversaries of republican government arises 'chiefly from the desire in foreign powers to gain an improper ascendant in our councils' and points out that there is no better way to achieve this objective than 'than by raising a creature of their own to [be President], the chief magistracy of the Union.'

To guard against foreign machinations of this sort, the Constitution entrusted the selection of the President to Electors, 'persons, selected by their fellow-citizens from the general mass, most likely to possess the information and discernment requisite to such complicated investigations' as choice of President.

Given the gravity and consequences of the decision they are to make, it is essential that information they deem material to their deliberations should and must be provided to them.

In this instance, that means being briefed by the Intelligence Community prior to December 19, 2016 regarding the activities of entities allied with the Government of Russia undertaken to influence the outcome of the 2016 presidential election.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

MICHAEL PELLEGRINO BEING NAMED A FINALIST FOR THE WASHINGTON POST'S 2016 PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Michael Pellegrino for being named a finalist for the Washington Post's 2016 Principal of the Year Award. Mr. Pellegrino is the principal of Evergreen Mill Elementary School in Leesburg, Virginia.

Mr. Pellegrino has led Evergreen Mill Elementary with distinction for the last five years. He has been lauded for embracing out-of-the-box techniques to ensure that his students have everything they need to succeed in the classroom. He was one of the first principals to institute the Backpack Buddies and Study Buddies programs. These programs send weekend meals home for hundreds of students and offer a mentor and tutoring program respectively. For these actions and many others, Mr. Pellegrino received the Washington Post Distinguished Educator Leader Award this year.

Coming from a family of educators, I appreciate the invaluable role that educators play in inspiring our students and communities. The work Mr. Pellegrino has done, and continues to do at Evergreen Mill will inspire and shape the lives of countless young men and women for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Michael Pellegrino for being named a finalist for the Washington Post's 2016 Principal of the Year Award. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him on this honor, and I wish him nothing but success in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING MOORE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Moore Catholic High School varsity football team for winning the Catholic High School Football League Class A division championship.

After a championship drought lasting 13 years, the Mavericks defeated Cardinal Spellman High School 32–22 last month to capture the Class A title. With only three seniors on the team, these young athletes proved that hard work, dedication, and perseverance are the keys to victory. After this resounding victory, I can certainly see why Moore Catholic has asked the Catholic High School Athletic Association to allow them to join the AA division. The Mavericks never backed down from tough competition this past season, and they definitely won't back down next season.

Led by Head Coach Nick Giannatasio, the Mavericks plowed through their opponents in the regular season to finish with an 8–2

record. This young team also showed its dominance in the stats. Wide Receiver Zach Hampton finished the season third overall in receiving yards in their division; Quarterback Vincenzo Scarola second in passing yards; and Running Back Justin Lacks first in rushing yards and touchdowns. But as each of them knows, you always put your team before any personal glory. The Mavericks exemplified teamwork and cooperation, so their championship should come as no surprise to their classmates, teachers, or parents.

Mr. Speaker, this team gave their time, effort, and sweat to be where they are today. Their championship was well deserved and I wish them nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING SOUTHERN RESEARCH FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVING OUR NATION THROUGH SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to recognize Southern Research, a crown jewel of scientific and engineering research and innovation headquartered in the 7th District of Alabama, on its 75th Anniversary.

Throughout its 75-year history, Southern Research's scientists and researchers have been extraordinary stewards of the federal and private funds they have earned to solve our nation's most pressing challenges, including finding cancer cures, fighting infectious diseases, supporting our nation's defense, protecting our environment, and creating clean energy technologies, among many others.

Since 1941, the researchers and scientists at Southern Research have performed work on behalf of countless private and government organizations, including the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Energy, NASA, and others in the healthcare, aerospace, and utility industries, in seeking to resolve the world's greatest challenges.

Southern Research is headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama and today, hires nearly 500 scientists and engineers working in laboratories and offices in Wilsonville and Huntsville, Alabama; Frederick, Maryland; Durham, North Carolina; Houston, Texas; and Cartersville, Georgia.

Southern Research's drug development record, particularly for FDA-approved anticancer drugs, rivals any other nonprofit research organization in the United States. Today, Southern Research is developing 18 drugs to combat various forms of cancer, ALS, Alzheimer's, diabetes, kidney disease, Parkinson's and tuberculosis, among others. The drug development division also has an outstanding and notable record of achievement in infectious diseases and vaccine development, particularly work in HIV/AIDS, and mosquito borne viruses, such as Zika.

Southern Research has evaluated roughly half of the 200 FDA-approved cancer drugs on

the market today and has successfully discovered seven of them. One of these drugs is Clofarabine, which was given FDA approval in 2004 and is used in the treatment of pediatric leukemia. It is currently being used to treat children not only at Children's Hospital of Alabama in Birmingham but at hospitals around the world.

In addition to drug discovery and development, Southern Research has a long history of technology development in engineering, including work on Prompt Global Strike and an aerial engineering system used by NASA to capture full motion high definition video of rocket launches.

The scientists in the Energy and Environment division at Southern Research are at the forefront of work to produce cleaner energy and water, develop new sources of energy, and drive innovation that addresses climate change and coincides with the Clean Tech Revolution nationally.

It is clear the investments our federal government has made in Southern Research are dwarfed by the returns our nation and world have received from the achievements this prestigious research organization has made in its four divisions: Drug Discovery, Drug Development, Engineering, and Energy and Environment.

The people of Southern Research, from its current president and CEO, Art Tipton, to all of the visionaries who have worked tirelessly in its labs and offices over the past 75 years, are to be commended on this tremendous occasion. The feats they have achieved, through the legacy of Southern Research's founder, Tom Martin, have benefitted not only the South, but the entire nation and world.

It is a privilege and honor to represent Southern Research in Congress. I extend not only my congratulations on 75 years of groundbreaking accomplishments, but my sincere gratitude to the remarkable people of Southern Research for the work they have done to improve the lives of countless people across the world through research and innovation over the past 75 years.

ON MARK MILLER RECEIVING THE VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S TRUSTEE LIBRARY AWARD

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mark Miller on receiving the Virginia Library Association's Trustee Library Award. Mr. Miller has diligently served the Loudoun community for many years and is more than deserving of this honor.

Loudoun County's public libraries are an enormously important resource for our community, as they serve as centers of knowledge and learning. His efforts to expand and improve LCPL have resulted in a number of great developments such as the future Brambleton Public Library. I cannot stress enough how important it is to have leaders like Mark, who understand the needs and character of our community.

His dedication to improving both our district and the country as a whole is evident through his work on Loudoun County Public Library's Board of Trustees. I am proud to call Mark a friend as I have had the privilege of working with him and his wife Elyn through the Smashing Walnuts Foundation. I look forward to continuing to work with him to better our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mark Miller for receiving the Virginia Library Association's Trustee Library Award. It is a privilege to represent him and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

S. 3084 AMERICAN INNOVATION
AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support S. 3084, the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act.

This bill represents a bicameral, bipartisan agreement between legislation that recently passed the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and nine House Science Committee bills that passed the full House over the last two years, including H.R. 1806, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015.

This bill maximizes the nation's investment in basic research. It improves accountability and transparency, reduces administrative burden on researchers, enhances agency oversight, which improves research coordination, and reforms federal science agency programs to increase the impact of taxpayer-funded research.

The investment in basic research helps boost U.S. competitiveness, creates jobs and spurs new business and industries.

First and foremost, the bill helps ensure that research grants funded by the National Science Foundation are in the "national interest."

The House and Senate worked together to find common ground on language that ensures each NSF grant award has scientific merit and is required to serve the national interest through a broader impacts criterion, which supports one of seven goals.

These goals are:

Increasing the economic competitiveness in the United States.

Advancing the health and welfare of the American public.

Supporting the national defense of the United States.

Enhancing partnerships between academia and industry in the United States.

Developing an American STEM workforce that is globally competitive through improved prekindergarten through grade 12 STEM education and teacher development, and improved ungraduated STEM education and instruction.

Improving public scientific literacy and public engagement with science and technology in the United States.

Expanding participation of women and individuals from underrepresented groups in STEM.

Each public NSF award announcement must make clear, in non-technical language, how at least one of these goals is met, affirming that the project is worthy of taxpayer support, based on scientific merit and national interest.

The American Innovation and Competitiveness Act preserves the intent of H.R. 3293, the Scientific Research in the National Interest Act, a bill I authored that passed the House earlier this year.

I believe this provision will go a long way towards ensuring the grant-making process at NSF is transparent and accountable to the American public. It also makes permanent and enhances some of the reforms NSF already has underway.

Title I of the bill includes key provisions from House-passed H.R. 5049, the NSF Major Facility Research Reform Act, introduced by Science Committee Oversight Chairman BARRY LOUDERMILK.

It also requires NSF to address concerns about waste and abuse. It improves oversight of large facility construction, increases oversight on the use of rotator personnel, and updates conflict of interest policies.

S. 3084 incorporates a number of provisions to improve research coordination across the federal government in computing, neuroscience, cybersecurity and the physical sciences, specifically radiation biology, fusion energy, and high energy physics.

Most notably, Title I of the bill contains House-passed H.R. 5312, the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) Act, authored by Science Committee Member DARIN LAHOOD.

The bill updates and improves the inter-agency NITRD program, which coordinates the Federal R&D investment portfolio in unclassified networking, computing, software and cybersecurity.

Additionally, S. 3084 includes other enhancements to federal cybersecurity research and standards.

The bill directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to study the effectiveness of federal agency information security programs and practices, and the challenges to federal agencies' implementation of NIST standards and guidelines.

Other provisions also are included from H.R. 6066, the Cybersecurity Responsibility and Accountability Act of 2016, introduced by Representative RALPH ABRAHAM, which passed the Science Committee in September.

Title II includes H.R. 1119, the Research and Development Efficiency Act. This House-passed bill sponsored by the Research & Technology Subcommittee Chair BARBARA COMSTOCK helps reduce the regulatory burdens on federally funded researchers, so more time can be spent on research, not redtape.

Title III of the bill improves coordination of STEM education activities across the Federal Government. A well-educated and trained high-tech workforce ensures our future economic prosperity.

This means motivating more American students to study science, math, and engineering so they will want to pursue these careers. The

bill authorizes a STEM education advisory panel of outside experts to help guide federal STEM education program decision making and help ensure the best results for the taxpayer investment.

The title also continues the commitment of the STEM Education Act, a law I authored, which makes computer science part of STEM Education. That bill authorizes grants for computer science education research as an integral part of STEM education programs.

Finally, title IV and title V include a number of provisions to improve manufacturing innovation and leveraging the private sector in improved public-private partnerships.

It includes updates to NIST's Manufacturing Extension Program to improve participation and oversight. It promotes entrepreneurship education by expanding NSF's successful Innovation Corps program. And it expands opportunities for science prize competitions by reducing barriers and providing participants with IP protections.

America's future economic strength and national security depends on innovation. Public and private investments in research and development fuel the economy, create jobs and lead to new technologies that benefit Americans' daily lives.

I urge adoption of this pro-science bill that will help America remain the global leader in basic research discovery and technological innovation.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT AND
CAREER OF DOUG PETERSON,
PRESIDENT OF THE MINNESOTA
FARMERS UNION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the career of Doug Peterson, who will retire from his position as President of the Minnesota Farmers Union on December 31, 2016. For more than two decades, Doug has served Minnesotans as an elected official and as leader of the state's largest nonprofit representing farmers and their families.

As a member of the Minnesota State Legislature from 1990 to 2002, Representative Peterson protected the economic interests and quality of life of family farmers and rural communities. As a fellow legislator, it was an honor to serve with him for eight years and work closely with him on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and later on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee. I witnessed firsthand the level of expertise and commitment he brought to his work. It is a privilege to continue to call him a friend and an ally on issues important to Minnesota's families.

Beginning in 2002, Peterson became president of the Minnesota Farmers Union. Few people have had more of a positive and lasting impact on Minnesota agriculture policy. A fierce advocate for Minnesota's family farmers, he has worked tirelessly to shape and promote policies that protect their financial interests. His hard work on behalf of the farming

community was most recently acknowledged when he was awarded with the 2016 Distinguished Friend of Extension by the University of Minnesota. His leadership as the head of the Minnesota Farmers Union and work with Extension has advanced family farming and helped ensure that farmers are provided with the tools they need on and off the farm to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the distinguished career of Doug Peterson and his tremendous work on behalf of Minnesotans.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD
T. GILLESPIE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to use this time in recognition of Mr. Richard T. Gillespie, an extraordinarily gifted leader and educator from Loudoun County in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia. Mr. Gillespie is retiring from his position as Executive Director at the Mosby Heritage Area Association after over ten years of protecting historic landmarks throughout our great Commonwealth.

Prior to joining the Mosby Heritage Area Association, Mr. Gillespie served the Loudoun community for 30 years as a distinguished educator at Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville, Virginia. During his time with Loudoun Valley High School he was able to shape the lives of countless young men and women.

Coming from a family of educators, I appreciate the invaluable role that educators play in inspiring our students and communities. The work Mr. Gillespie has done both at Loudoun Valley High School and in the wider community to preserve the history of our area will be felt for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Mr. Richard T. Gillespie for his unbelievable work teaching and preserving history over the decades, and his unwavering dedication to the people of Loudoun County. It is an honor to represent Mr. Gillespie, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING CHRISTIAN "CHRIS" J.
SCHOPPMAYER

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Christian "Chris" J. Schoppmeyer, whose selflessness, generosity, and love for his family improved the lives of those fortunate enough to know him or benefit from his work as a custodian of the public interest.

Born in Queens, New York on January 28, 1957 to Frederick Freyer and Helen Grace (Eisinger) Schoppmeyer, he was raised by his mother Helen and stepfather William Schoppmeyer. A graduate of Unity College in

Maine and Daniel Webster College in New Hampshire, Mr. Schoppmeyer began his law enforcement career in 1977 with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. In 1980, he built on his investigations experience by moving to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where he enforced laws that protected wildlife and the land that sustains it.

Mr. Schoppmeyer spent the last 21 years of his career as a Special Agent at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration enforcing federal marine laws and treaties beginning in 1987. He strengthened his growing reputation as a passionate, principled leader and mentor. Former colleagues tell detailed stories about how he inspired them through his actions to follow in his line of work, and how we went out of his way for those who sought his counsel.

Mr. Schoppmeyer gave back to his profession by being more than just a mentor. The leadership positions he held within the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association are many; Agency President for the NOAA Fisheries Service, Office for Law Enforcement, Founder and President of the New Hampshire chapter, Vice President for Agency Affairs, and Vice President of Program and Development.

For many years, Chris organized fundraiser events for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and the FLEOA Foundation (NLEOMF) by organizing law enforcement appreciation events with the Boston Red Sox organization. Through his efforts, Chris raised thousands of dollars for both organizations. Last July, while he was battling terminal cancer, he organized and planned the Canine Law Enforcement Appreciation night at Fenway Park. This was a major undertaking with many moving parts, but Chris saw it through flawlessly.

Mr. Schoppmeyer gave back to his community by sharing his passion and talents for the outdoors with children. The Newmarket Fishing Derby (cofounder), Newmarket School to Career program (volunteer), and Newmarket Conservation Commission (Chairman) are all marks of his legacy.

The accomplishments and accolades tell a story of excellence across his endeavors. Strafford Rivers Conservationist of the Year; Chevron National Conservation Award, Citizen Volunteer Category; NH Governor Conservationist of the Year; Conservation Law Enforcement Chief's Special Agent of The Year; NOAA/NMFS Bronze Award; Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association Investigative Excellence Award; U.S. Attorney's Office, Connecticut, Certificate of Recognition; Coastal Conservation Association, Conservationist of The Year; New Hampshire Congressional Law Enforcement Award; and NOAA/NMFS Silver Award.

The theme of selflessness that permeated all aspects of his life was on display when he last testified before Congress on July 28, 2015. He endured the stress of being the sole witness for the minority with grace, candor, respect, and clarity without breathing a word of his recent stage 4 pancreatic cancer diagnosis and ongoing treatment. He preferred that the focus be on providing the best defense of his profession and the natural world that he and his colleagues sought to protect every day.

With characteristic humility, he described his work and that of his peers in the hearing; "We protect natural resources. We also protect the public that visits these parks."

Nothing was more important to Mr. Schoppmeyer than his family. He loved his wife of 34 years, Terri, deeply. He spoke with beaming pride of his son, Travis, daughter, Erin, and his grandkids, Jakoby and Violet. He was irrevocably dedicated to his mother Helen Schoppmeyer, his Daughter-in-law Carolyn, brother Steven Schoppmeyer and his wife Mary, his sister Susan Gray and her husband Dennis, and his nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Please join me in celebrating Chris Schoppmeyer whose selflessness, devotion to family, and passion for the outdoors left the word a better place when he left it than when he arrived.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 159 OF THE McHENRY COUNTY COUNCIL

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Boy Scout Troop 159 of the McHenry County Council in Illinois as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary this year. Thanks to First United Methodist Church of Woodstock, Troop 159 is one of the oldest continuously chartered troops in the country with thousands of Scouts having belonged to the Troop through the years.

For more than a century, young men in the McHenry County area have had the opportunity to grow in character, physical fitness and civic duty through their time in Scouting. Although our world has changed dramatically since the inception of Troop 159, the skills and virtues needed to live honorably have not. Courage, empathy, resourcefulness and responsibility are timeless. Troop 159 has nurtured these qualities through Scouting and has been a constant source of positive influence on the surrounding communities. We look forward to the Troop's next 100 years of fruitful service.

I salute Troop 159 for their service to our community and to the state of Illinois. To the Scouts, their family and friends that support them, we say thank you and congratulations on your 100th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIM
NORTHUP'S RETIREMENT FROM
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this time to recognize Jim Northup, who has served our nation for 36 years as an extraordinary leader within the

National Park Service and will be hanging up his ranger hat and retiring on January 2, 2017.

My constituents in the Northern Shenandoah Valley and I owe Jim Northup a special debt of gratitude for going beyond the call of duty concerning the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, a small but historically important partnership park that is primarily located in my Congressional District. After its superintendent retired, the park was left without sufficient leadership and there was great concern that it would not get the attention from the NPS that it needed. Jim, who was already the Superintendent of one of the busiest parks in the nation at Shenandoah National Park, took on the additional role of Superintendent of the smaller historical park. He generously gave of his time and energy in working with site managers Amy Bracewell and Karen Beck-Herzog to achieve a number of significant improvements in park planning, operations, community relations, and to accomplish an ambitious celebration of the National Park Service Centennial at the park.

Always ready for a challenge, Northup began his work with the National Park Service in Shenandoah National Park as a seasonal ranger. Over the course of his remarkable career, Jim has worked as an interpretive and protection ranger, a natural resources specialist, a wildland fire and aviation specialist, a chief law enforcement ranger, and for the past 12 years, as a superintendent. His assignments have included work at Big Bend, Grand Canyon, Great Smoky Mountains, Grand Teton, Guadalupe Mountains and Shenandoah national parks, and Cape Hatteras and Fire Island national seashores, the Buffalo National River, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, and Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park. He has also done international conservation work in Mexico, Canada, the Republic of Georgia and China.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to conclude my remarks by asking my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Parks Superintendent Jim Northup, an extraordinary public servant and patriot who has gone significantly beyond what would be expected of any individual, to learn about the magnificent beauty of our natural resources, our fascinating national history, and to do all that he could to protect, preserve and share what he had learned with his fellow citizens and with visitors from around the world.

RECOGNIZING COACH TIM
THORNTON

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Tim Thornton, Head Coach of Peoria High School football, for his outstanding season and recognition as Coach of the Year.

Recently, Coach Thornton's football team won the Class 5A Illinois High School Association State Football Championship. In addition to this incredible accomplishment, Coach Thornton was honored with the title of Illinois Coach of the Year by Friday Night Football Magazine, and received Athletico's Coach of the Year Award.

Since Coach Thornton began his tenure as head football coach of Peoria High School, the team has made remarkable strides. This season, Coach Thornton achieved a record of 13-1, the best in the school's history. However, their success did not stop there as the team also went on to win the Big 12 Conference Championship and the Illinois State Championship, another best for the school's football program.

Coach Thornton has worked tirelessly with his players not only on the field, but also off, helping them to become valuable members of our community. As an extraordinary coach and mentor, Coach Thornton exemplifies what can be achieved through hard work and dedication. He is an invaluable member of our community and the 18th District, and I am honored to share the same hometown and values.

Coach Thornton is an extraordinary role model for the youth in our community, and I look forward to the great accomplishments that he will achieve in the future. I congratulate him on not only a fantastic season, but also a most deserved recognition as Coach of the Year.

IN MEMORY OF LAWRENCE K.
DODGE

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Lawrence K. Dodge, who passed away on December 1, 2016.

A third-generation Californian and San Bernardino County native, Mr. Dodge grew up on a citrus farm in Redlands. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps after high school and served as an aviator with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. In 1969, at the age of twenty-seven, Mr. Dodge became the youngest CEO of a national insurance group. Dodge went on to found the American Sterling Corporation in 1977.

Through the years, Mr. Dodge was a generous philanthropist who gave back significantly to his community, including a gift to his high school, Redlands High School, which enabled the construction of Dodge Stadium. Dodge was also instrumental in the development of the Lawrence and Kristin Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, through what was, at the time, the largest single gift in Chapman's history. Dodge supported a wide range of organizations and projects serving families and children.

Many future generations will continue to enjoy the benefits of Mr. Dodge's perpetual kindness. Always the optimist, Mr. Dodge will be remembered for his interminable service to his country and his community.

JOHN TUCK BEING NAMED THE
RECIPIENT OF THE WASHINGTON
POST'S 2016 AGNES MEYER
AWARD

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize John Tuck for being named the recipient for the Washington Post's 2016 Agnes Meyer Award. Mr. Tuck is the fifth grade math and science teacher at Rolling Ridge Elementary School in Sterling, Virginia.

Mr. Tuck has served at Rolling Ridge Elementary with distinction for the last five years. He has been lauded for embracing out-of-the-box techniques to ensure that his students have everything they need to succeed in the classroom. Instead of desks, Mr. Tuck opts for four stations in order to involve every student, from the highest skill level to the lowest. He uses real life math situations in order to engage his students while creating a base for solid math concepts that his students will need throughout life. For these actions and many others, Mr. Tuck received the Washington Post Agnes Meyer Award this year.

Coming from a family of educators, I appreciate the invaluable role that educators play in inspiring our students and communities. The work Mr. Tuck has done, and continues to do at Rolling Ridge will inspire and shape the lives of countless young men and women for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize John Tuck for being named a finalist for the Washington Post's 2016 Agnes Meyer Award. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him on this honor, and I wish him nothing but success in his future endeavors.

OPINION PIECE BY BERNARD
ARONSON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to include in the RECORD an excellent opinion piece by Bernard Aronson, the United States Special Envoy to the Colombian Peace Process, which was published in the New York Times on December 14, 2016. Mr. Aronson has played a crucial role in supporting Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos in bringing an end to his country's 52 year war with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). I very much appreciate Mr. Aronson's service to our country.

Moving forward, I believe we must support Colombia in peace just as we have supported the country through years of war. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the next Congress in doing just that.

COLOMBIA NEEDS HELP TO MAKE PEACE LAST

(By Bernard Aronson, Dec. 13, 2016)

OSLO.—On Nov. 29, a 6-year-old Colombian girl, Yisely Isarama, was killed by a land mine in Choco Province. The same day, the

Colombian Senate voted 75 to 0 to ratify peace accords to end the 52-year war between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as the FARC.

In microcosm, the two events encapsulate Colombia's past and its potential future.

In his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech here on Saturday, the president of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, the architect of the peace settlement, called the war "a half-century nightmare." It claimed 220,000 Colombian lives, most of them civilians', and drove six million from their homes. In United States population terms, that would translate into 1.3 million dead and 36 million displaced Americans. Colombians year after year are killed or injured by land mines at rates higher than in any country except Afghanistan.

Under the agreement, FARC combatants will disarm and demobilize over 180 days under United Nations supervision. For most Colombians, it will be their first day living in a nation at peace. But the peace settlement, hammered out in Havana after four and a half years of negotiations, and revised following the loss of a plebiscite, aims to do far more than silence the guns, as welcome as the end of the conflict is.

The peace accord sets out to bridge the great historic divide between what President Santos calls "the two Colombias": the Colombia of developed, modern urban centers and the Colombia of the vast, impoverished interior, where historically there has been little or no government presence and, as a result, little security, justice, rule of law or access to roads, health care and education. That is where the war was fought.

To close this gap, the government has committed itself to a far-reaching program of rural development for the largely peasant population that includes provision of land, titles, credit, roads, and crop substitution programs. To allow arable land to be cultivated safely, land mines must be removed.

The Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, which is monitoring the enforcement of the agreement, reports that half of all negotiated peace settlements fail and the conflict resumes. Those that succeed address not just security, but also the social and economic roots of the war. The institute says Colombia's agreement addresses root causes more comprehensively than any other negotiated settlement has.

Every weekday, get thought-provoking commentary from Op-Ed columnists, the Times editorial board and contributing writers from around the world.

That is no accident. More than in any previous conflict negotiation, Colombia put victims at the center of the process. Victims' issues were not only on the table; victims themselves were at the table, regularly and often, asserting their rights and concerns. As a result, the agreement stipulates that the worst perpetrators of wartime atrocities—whether guerrillas, paramilitaries, or state actors—must confess their crimes, make reparations and accept sentences that include up to eight years of "restorative justice," such as removing land mines, that are deemed acceptable to their victims and "effective restrictions on liberty." Displaced persons must be compensated or returned to their homes and the remains of the disappeared, where possible, identified and returned to loved ones.

To fulfill these and other commitments, the government must create far-reaching programs and policies that will cost billions

of dollars and take years to carry out. It must establish a system of transitional justice, a truth commission and investigative and protective units to safeguard the lives of demobilized former combatants and human rights activists.

Colombia will bear the largest burden, but the international community, led by the United States, must continue to help.

The United States has no closer strategic partner in Latin America than Colombia, and our interests in the region are intertwined. Colombian trainers and troops are working today with their American counterparts to help Mexico and Central America's Northern Triangle countries—El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras—combat the drug cartel violence that is fueling refugee flows, largely of unaccompanied minors. If, in turn, Colombia with American assistance can reverse its recent upturn in coca leaf production, it will take pressure off the Northern Triangle's embattled governments and institutions.

Two decades ago, Colombia was nearly overrun by guerrilla armies, paramilitaries and drug cartels. Colombians, at great sacrifice, fought back, strengthened their democratic institutions, and created today's opportunity for peace. Colombian leaders and citizens deserve the greatest share of the credit. But steady, sustained bipartisan American support and assistance for 16 years under Plan Colombia made a crucial difference.

If the peace agreement succeeds, Colombia will emerge as the strongest democracy in Latin America, a political and economic model for the region. As in the past, the United States should help Colombia reach that goal with continuing bipartisan support. Passage of President Obama's request for \$450 million in fiscal 2017 for an economic assistance program called Paz (Peace) Colombia would send the hemisphere, where support for Colombia's peace process is universal, an encouraging signal about American staying power.

In September, at the United Nations General Assembly, Secretary of State John Kerry and his Norwegian counterpart, Borge Brende, secured commitments of \$106 million from a coalition of 25 countries to help Colombia clear its land mines by 2021. President Santos showed the group a pamphlet that teaches Colombian children how to avoid land mines on the way to school.

Mr. Santos said he dreamed of the day when such pamphlets would teach Colombian students only science, art, mathematics or poetry, because Colombia would be landmine free. Helping turn that dream into a reality would be a fitting memorial to Yisely Isarama.

HONORING LORI HARJU

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge and express my deep appreciation to Lori Harju for 25 years of government service the last five dedicated to serving me and the people of Texas' 8th Congressional District.

Lori began her career working for her local Congressman, Guy Vander Jagt of Michigan. She grew up not far from the shores of Lake

Michigan, in the town of Kaleva, and misses it to this day. I can't tell you how many times I've seen pictures of Lake Michigan, and of her many nieces and nephews as they have always been displayed in her office and on her screen saver. She brought with her to Washington the upper Midwest values of hard work, common sense, and humility—perfect attributes for working for a Member of Congress.

From Representative Vander Jagt's office, Lori moved on to work for some of this body's most prestigious Members. She worked for Congressman Dave Camp of Michigan, who served as Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee, and for Congressman Phil Crane, another one of the Ways & Means Committee's most powerful and storied Members. Lori then moved to a senior political position in the Administration of George W. Bush, serving as the head of congressional affairs at the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration.

I was fortunate to be able to hire Lori at the end of President Bush's second term. Few people know Congressional procedures or how to get things done in Congress like she does. She originally served as my Legislative Director, and later became my Chief of Staff When I became Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee a little over a year ago, I asked her to help on the Committee as my Senior Advisor, because of her vast experience working with Ways and Means Committee members. Indeed, Lori has now worked for three senior Members of the Ways & Means Committee, a record few congressional staffers can match.

I have always relied upon Lori's counsel and appreciate her forthrightness and her integrity. Lori has always served with humility and grace. I hope Lori will now have a little more time to spend with her family near the shores of Lake Michigan, but I also hope, as she leaves government service and begins the next phase of her career, that she won't move far and will continue to offer her valuable counsel. I and the rest of this House will miss her.

H.R. 4680, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE CENTENNIAL ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Park Service Centennial Act. This year, our nation is celebrating the first one hundred years of what filmmaker Ken Burns so accurately labelled "America's best idea". With this legislation, we are helping to strengthen the National Park Service for its second century of serving visitors and conserving our national treasures.

America's National Parks are the best example of our commitment to preserve and celebrate the natural wonder and cultural heritage of the United States. It is our responsibility to ensure that future generations can have the same chance our families do to experience our national landscapes and history.

The Centennial Act will support that goal by building upon the public-private partnerships

created by the extremely successful National Park Service's Centennial Challenge. Federal investments of \$25 million over the past two years have been more than doubled by private investments. These public-private collaborations provide an opportunity to reinvest in our parks and to re-engage with the hundreds of millions of visitors who come to our parks every year. In Minnesota's 4th District, the Centennial Challenge supported a vibrant new visitor center in the heart of St. Paul to connect families to an urban National Park: the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

In addition, the Centennial Act establishes an endowment for the National Park Service. The gifts and donations that go into the endowment will form a base of funding to address future park projects and needs. This endowment fund will protect ancient landscapes and tell the ever evolving story of the American people and our nation. It will help to preserve the unique ecosystem within our oldest parks, like Yellowstone and Yosemite. It will demonstrate the diversity of the American dream at the newly created Stonewall and Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monuments.

For a century, the National Park Service has conserved our natural treasures, preserved our cultural heritage, offered unparalleled opportunities for recreation, and taught young and old alike about the history of our land and our people. This is an impressive legacy, and it is one we must build upon to keep our national parks a part of our national fabric for generations to come.

The National Park Service Centennial Act is an important step forward to protecting that

legacy, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

IN HONOR OF WESTFIELD HIGH
SCHOOL FOOTBALL STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a school in my District which was recently crowned as state champion in football. The Westfield High School Bulldogs Football team, led by Athletic Director Terri Towle, Head Coach Kyle Simmons and Assistant Coaches Dan Keating, Jon Shields, Mike Giancola, Pete Bendorf, Jose Ardon, Alex Callas, Mike King, Chris Coyer, and Curtis Knight, was one of several teams who won state titles in a variety of sports from Virginia's 10th Congressional District. I am proud of their hard work in achieving this goal. They practiced long hours as a team, and this extraordinary achievement shows how far dedication, hard work, and commitment to teamwork can take a group as they played against some of the best competition in the nation.

This year's state championship was a rematch of the 2015 state championship, where Westfield defeated Oscar Smith High School in quadruple overtime. Oscar Smith jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the first quarter; but Westfield took the lead in the second with touchdowns by Nolan Cockrill and Sean Eckert. They extended their lead to 21-7 in the third

after Nathaniel Chung punched in a third touchdown. However, Oscar Smith stormed back in the fourth quarter, scoring two touchdowns and executing a two point conversion with seven seconds left on the clock to send the game to overtime. Oscar Smith struck first with a touchdown pass on the first play. With the game on the line, Westfield answered with a touchdown pass of its own, tying the game at 28 and forcing a second overtime. Westfield had capitalized on having the first possession, with Rehman Johnson throwing his fourth touchdown of the night to Ivory Frimpong. Westfield's defense then rose up, and stopped Oscar Smith's high powered offense on the three yard line and in doing so, secured the Bulldogs second state championship in as many years.

Westfield High School's Football team has made Virginia's 10th Congressional District proud and they have represented us well. Winning a state championship attests to their impressive athletic ability, unselfish mentality, and determination to succeed. I commend them for their tireless dedication to both their school and their teammates, without neither of which this could have been possible. It takes a delicate combination of superior skill and many hours of practice to win a state title. Westfield Football has certainly earned this honor and the lessons learned over the years will valuably serve them as they continue on in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Westfield Bulldogs for winning the Virginia 6A Football State Championship and representing Virginia's 10th Congressional District with such distinction. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

SENATE—Tuesday, December 20, 2016

The Senate met at 9:30 and 6 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHUCK GRASSLEY, a Senator from the State of Iowa.

**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 20, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the standing rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHUCK GRASSLEY, a Senator from the State of Iowa, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. GRASSLEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 23, 2016, AT 11:30 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 11:30 a.m. on Friday, December 23, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:30 and 35 seconds a.m., adjourned until Friday, December 23, 2016, at 11:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, December 20, 2016

The House met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROONEY of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 20, 2016.

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

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Charles Sikorsky, LC, Divine Mercy University, Arlington, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the many blessings You have bestowed on our Nation, and we ask You for Your continued providential care. May our citizens enjoy the blessings of freedom, peace, security, and brotherhood. We pray for Your guidance and wisdom as we seek to build a more just and flourishing society and world founded on solidarity, subsidiarity, and the common good.

We ask You to bless this session and all of the important work that it entails. Help our legislators to proceed with concern for the dignity of every human person and respect for the responsibilities and obligations that come with the freedoms and the blessings that You have given us. May their work be motivated by the quest for justice and truth.

Finally, we pray for our citizens who are in distress and for the protection of the noble men and women of our military spread throughout the world.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 944, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker pro tempore, Mr. MESSER, announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 3084. An act to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(b) of House Resolution 944, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Friday, December 23, 2016.

Thereupon (at 4 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, December 23, 2016, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7927. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: New Qualifying Country-Estonia (DFARS Case 2017-D001) [Docket No.: DARS-2016-0048] (RIN: 0750-AJ18) received December 15, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7928. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contract Financing (DFARS Case 2015-D026) [Docket No.: DARS-2016-0009] (RIN: 0750-AI90) received December 15, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7929. A letter from the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's report to Congress on college credit card agreements, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1637(r)(3); Public Law 90-321, Sec. 127 (as amended by Public Law 111-24, Sec. 305(a)); (123 Stat. 1750); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7930. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's 2015 Merger Decisions Report, pursuant to Sec. 18(c)(9) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7931. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmit-

ting the Agency's final rule — Federal Home Loan Bank New Business Activities (RIN: 2590-AA84) received December 15, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7932. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Enterprise Duty to Serve Underserved Markets (RIN: 2590-AA27) received December 15, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7933. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule — Acquired Member Assets (RIN: 2590-AA69) received December 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7934. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Instituting Smoke-Free Public Housing [Docket No.: FR 5597-F-03] (RIN: 2577-AC97) received December 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7935. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities; Preschool Grants for Children with Disabilities [Docket ID: ED-2015-OSERS-0132] (RIN: 1820-AB73) received December 15, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7936. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Program Integrity and Improvement [Docket ID: ED-2016-OPE-0050] (RIN: 1840-AD20) received December 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7937. A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Report on Notifications of Thefts, Losses, or Releases of Select Agents and Toxins for Calendar Year 2015, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 8401(k); Pub. L. 107-188, Sec. 212(k); (116 Stat. 656); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7938. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — World Trade Center Health Program; Amendments to Definitions, Appeals, and Other Requirements [Docket No.: CDC-2016-0072; NIOSH-291] (RIN: 0920-AA56, 0920-AA44, 0920-AA48, 0920-AA50) received December 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A);

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

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

Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7939. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Uninterruptible Power Supplies [Docket No.: EERE-2016-BT-TP-0018] (RIN: 1904-AD68) received December 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7940. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2018; Amendments to Special Enrollment Periods and the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan Program [CMS-9934-F] [CMS-9933-F] (RIN: 0938-AS95, 0938-AS87) received December 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7941. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — World Trade Center Health Program; Amendments to Definitions, Appeals, and Other Requirements [Docket No.: CDC-2016-0072; NIOSH-291] (RIN: 0920-AA48, 0920-AA56, 0920-AA44, 0920-AA50) received December 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7942. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Agency, transmitting the Agency's final interim staff guidance — Assessing the Technical Adequacy of the Advanced Light-Water Reactor Probabilistic Risk Assessment for the Design Certification Application and Combined License Application [Design Certification/Combined License DC/COL-ISG-028] received December 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7943. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Commercial Packaged Boilers [Docket No.: EERE-2014-BT-TP-0006] (RIN: 1904-AD16) received December 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7944. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Dishwashers [Docket No.: EERE-2014-BT-STD-0021] (RIN: 1904-AD24) received December 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7945. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Certification Related to Condition 7(C)(i) of Senate Executive Resolution 75 (1997) Concerning Advice and Consent to the Ratification of the Chemical Weapons

Convention, and Statement of Justification for Certification Concerning the Continued Effectiveness of the Australia Group, consistent with Executive Order 13346 of July 8, 2004, and Delegation of Authority 304-1 of October 28, 2011; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7946. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Division of Grants, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Health and Human Services Grants Regulation (RIN: 0991-AC06) received December 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7947. A letter from the Chair, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's Office of the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1, 2016, through September 30, 2016, 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) Sec. 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7948. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Agency Financial Report for FY 2016, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7949. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the 2015 Information Collection Budget of the United States Government and the 2016 Information Collection Budget of the United States Government as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, subchapter 1; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7950. A letter from the Librarian of Congress, Library of Congress, transmitting the Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for Fiscal Year 2015, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 139; to the Committee on House Administration.

7951. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Various Aircraft Equipped with BRP-Powertrain GmbH and Co KG 912 A Series Engine [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9000; Directorate Identifier 2016-CE-027-AD; Amendment 39-18713; AD 2016-23-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7952. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-7527; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-094-AD; Amendment 39-18686; AD 2016-21-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7953. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-3701; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-015-AD; Amendment 39-18689; AD 2016-21-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7954. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9396; Directorate Identifier 2016-SW-034-AD; Amendment 39-18712; AD 2016-23-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7955. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6895; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-068-AD; Amendment 39-18673; AD 2016-20-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7956. A letter from the FMCSA Regulatory Ombudsman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Minimum Training Requirements for Entry-Level Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators [FMCSA-2007-27748] (RIN: 2126-AB66) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7957. A letter from the Chief, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse [Docket No.: FMCSA-2011-0031] (RIN: 2126-AB18) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7958. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5596; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-121-AD; Amendment 39-18677; AD 2016-20-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7959. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5044; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-166-AD; Amendment 39-18718; AD 2016-24-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7960. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9281; Directorate Identifier 2016-SW-033-AD; Amendment 39-18717; AD 2016-23-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7961. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-5809; Directorate Identifier

2015-NM-055-AD; Amendment 39-18709; AD 2016-23-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7962. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5597; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-009-AD; Amendment 39-18715; AD 2016-23-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7963. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-7427; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-041-AD; Amendment 39-18714; AD 2016-23-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7964. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6672; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-022-AD; Amendment 39-18706; AD 2016-22-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7965. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Savannah, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9101; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ASO-14] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7966. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (RIN: 0970-AC47) received December 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7967. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Issue Price Definition for Tax-Exempt Bonds [TD 9801] (RIN: 1545-BM46) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7968. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's temporary regulations — Disclosures of Return Information Reflected on Returns to Officers and Employees of the Department of Commerce for Certain Statistical Purposes and Related Activities [TD 9802] (RIN: 1545-BN64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7969. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administra-

tion, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Ensuring Program Uniformity at the Hearing and Appeals Council Levels of the Administrative Review Process [Docket No.: SSA-2014-0052] (RIN: 0960-AH71) received December 15, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7970. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major interim final rule — Medicare Program; Conditions for Coverage for End-Stage Renal Disease Facilities—Third Party Payment [CMS-3337-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AT11) received December 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CHABOT: Committee on Small Business. Report on the Activities of the Committee on Small Business 114th Congress (Rept. 114-880). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NUNES: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Report on the Activity of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the 114th Congress (Rept. 114-881). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 5406. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to improve access to tribal health care by providing for systemic Indian Health Service workforce and funding allocation reforms, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-882, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5983. A bill to create hope and opportunity for consumers, investors, and entrepreneurs by ending bailouts and Too Big to Fail, holding Washington and Wall Street accountable, eliminating red tape to increase access to capital and credit, and repealing the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act that make America less prosperous, less stable, and less free, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-883 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Agriculture, Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, Transportation and Infrastructure, Rules, the Budget, and Education and the Workforce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5983 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:
H.R. 6531. A bill to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Ms. LEE, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 6532. A bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain nationals of Liberia to that of lawful permanent residents; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. BASS, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. BERA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MENG, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6533. A bill to expose and deter unlawful and subversive foreign interference in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 6534. A bill to require the creation and maintenance of a MadeInAmerica.gov website; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia:

H.J. Res. 107. A joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of the Interior known as the Stream Protection Rule; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MESSER:

H.J. Res. 108. A joint resolution disapproving a rule submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to "Compliance with Title X Requirements by Project Recipients in Selecting Subrecipients"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H. Res. 956. A resolution honoring the Life and Legacy of Phil Smith; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

311. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of New Jersey, relative to Senate Resolution No. 64, urging the US Air Force and Congress to place new KC-46A tanker planes at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst; to the Committee on Armed Services.

312. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of New Jersey, relative to Senate Resolution No. 66, urging the President to establish a Presidential Youth Council; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

313. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of New Jersey, relative to Senate Resolution No. 36, urging Congress to use reward money offered for capture of Osama bin Laden to establish a fund for the benefit of returning veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Veterans' Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 6531.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 6532.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have the power to "establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization."

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 6533.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 6534.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia:

H.J. Res. 107.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MESSER:

H.J. Res. 108.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Tenth Amendment of the Constitution: "Powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 3892: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 5067: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 5689: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 6474: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 6504: Mr. JONES.

H. Con. Res. 177: Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 424: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H. Res. 948: Ms. PELOSI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING CURTIS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Curtis High School football team for winning the Public Schools Athletic League city championship.

After steamrolling their opponents throughout the regular season and playoffs, the Warriors defeated Erasmus Hall High School 24–21 at Yankee Stadium to capture the championship title and finish the season ranked first overall in New York City. Closing out their season with an undefeated 12–0 record, these young athletes proved that hard work, dedication, and perseverance are the keys to victory. The Warriors never backed down from tough competition this past season, and they definitely won't back down next season.

Led by head coach Peter “Gambo” Gambardella, the Warriors demonstrated nothing but pure excellence on the field. Moreover, this team showed its dominance in the stats. Wide receiver Amad Anderson, Jr. finished the regular season tied first overall in touchdown receptions in the league; running back Ty'Son Lawton finished second in rushing yards and tied for first in rushing touchdowns; and quarterback Quincy Barnes finished second in passing yards and first in passing touchdowns. But as each of them knows, you always put your team before any personal glory. The Warriors exemplified teamwork and cooperation, so their championship should come as no surprise to their classmates, teachers, or parents.

Mr. Speaker, this team gave their time, effort, and sweat to be where they are today. Their championship was well-deserved and I wish them nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARLO SCISSURA CEO & PRESIDENT, BROOKLYN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Carlo Scissura, who is receiving Greenpoint YMCA's Spirit of Service Award, given in recognition of Mr. Scissura's efforts to better the community in which he lives and works. Mr. Scissura has worked to expand and strengthen the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, making it the largest and fastest-growing Chamber of Commerce in New York State.

In 2012, Mr. Scissura became President and CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is one of New York's premiere business advocacy and leadership organizations. Under Mr. Scissura's leadership, membership in the Chamber has grown by more than 200 percent. Mr. Scissura has launched a series of highly successful and innovative programs, including Explore Brooklyn, Brooklyn-Made and Chamber on the Go, leading to a historic period of growth and development in the Chamber. The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce has become a national model for business development, outreach and technical assistance, and regional branding.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Mr. Scissura served as both Chief of Staff and General Counsel to former Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz. In this role, Mr. Scissura focused on advancing the Borough's economic development agenda. Mr. Scissura worked alongside the Mayor's Office, Council, and Economic Development Corporation (EDC), and served on the boards of EDC, the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation and Brooklyn Public Library.

In addition to his professional success, Mr. Scissura has a long history of service to his community. This began nearly twenty years ago, when he was elected to Community School Board 20 in 1999. During his time on the Board, Mr. Scissura reinvigorated various Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Committees. In recognition of his outstanding dedication, Mr. Scissura was appointed to the Community Education Council in 2004, where he served as President and Chairman of the Legislative Committee. In this position, Mr. Scissura continued his advocacy for increased community and parental involvement. Today, Mr. Scissura serves as Vice President of the Federation of Italian-American Organizations, where he has led the construction of the new Italian Cultural and Community Center. Mr. Scissura has received numerous honors and awards for these contributions to his community.

Mr. Scissura was born and raised in Bensonhurst, and currently resides in Dyker Heights. As a lifetime Brooklyn resident, Mr. Scissura has been an advocate for Brooklyn throughout his career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Carlo Scissura for his continuous commitment to improving his community and his incredible leadership of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

HIGHLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONER TOM HORST

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Highland County Commissioner Tom Horst on a distinguished career serving the residents of Highland County and Southern Ohio.

Tom has served our community for 40 years in a multitude of ways.

Tom has served in the Lynchburg and Hillsboro Police Departments and as Highland County Sheriff; he worked for the Ohio Attorney General in the Bureau of Criminal Investigations, and he has served as Highland County Commissioner.

In all aspects of his service, Tom has left an incredibly positive impact in our community. Highland County is truly a better place because of Tom Horst and his dedication and commitment to making it a better and safer place to live.

We are extremely fortunate to have had Tom's commitment and service in our community, and I wish him a very happy retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PAHOKEE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM WINNING ITS 7TH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pahokee Senior High School football team of Pahokee, Florida. On December 8, 2016, the Pahokee Blue Devils won their 7th state championship. They finished their season 14–0, defeating all of Florida's top rated teams in Class 1A. Along the way, the Blue Devils won the Muck Bowl, which annually pits them against the Raiders of Glades Central High School in Belle Glade, Florida, one of Florida's most well-known rivalries, for the first time in eight years.

First year coach Mr. Orson Walkes, who won four state titles with the team as an assistant, guided his very talented players to the peak of perfection. With their winning effort in 2016, they have shown the potential for future championships. While the seniors will be adding their skills to the football teams of some of America's finest colleges and universities next season, returning players will be joined by other talented players in what will surely be another exciting season for the Blue Devils.

Mr. Speaker, The Blue Devils of Pahokee, Florida are the only football team from Palm

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

Beach County to win a state championship this year. I am delighted that such a fine coach and extremely talented group of players represent my Congressional district.

IN RECOGNITION OF BROOKLYN
DEPUTY BOROUGH PRESIDENT
DIANA REYNA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Deputy Borough President Diana Reyna, who is receiving Greenpoint YMCA's Spirit of Service Award, given in recognition of her efforts to better the community in which she lives and serves. Deputy Borough President Reyna has been a dynamic and effective leader who has worked for real change.

Deputy Borough President Reyna made history as the first Dominican-American woman elected to public office in New York State when she won her seat in the New York City Council in 2001. As a Councilwoman, she garnered praise as an advocate for affordable housing and economic development, and she pushed for funding for family literacy and youth programs. Additionally, she has been a tireless supporter of women and minority owned small businesses, supported high-tech innovation, and encouraged entrepreneurs and start-up companies. She also sought to fight crime in her district. She authored a bill that increased fines for illegal conversions from industrial to residential uses, which passed the Council in 2007 and was signed into law by Mayor Bloomberg.

Ms. Reyna became Deputy Brooklyn Borough President in 2014. As Deputy Borough President, Ms. Reyna has been a champion for the BQ Green Project, which would create a park that connects communities separated by the Brooklyn Queens Expressway, allowing for new open spaces, bolstering local businesses, and improving quality of life for thousands of residents in the community. She has also fought for zoning laws that would allow for affordable industrial spaces to remain in Brooklyn in an effort to keep industry and jobs in the borough.

In every position she has held, Deputy Borough President Reyna has demonstrated dedication to families and businesses in our great city. She is a tenacious and effective public servant who has instituted great changes to the borough of Brooklyn and New York City at large.

Deputy Borough President Reyna has lived in New York her whole life, growing up in Brooklyn. She attended Pace University in Pleasantville, New York. From there, she went on to work as Chief of Staff for a New York State Assembly member. Deputy Borough President Reyna is a proud resident of Brooklyn, NY, a place she believes "holds our future, our children, our neighbors, our artists, our entrepreneurs, our schools, and our businesses."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Brooklyn Deputy Borough Presi-

dent Diana Reyna for her continuous commitment to improving her community, city, and country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF THE HONORABLE W.J. "BILL"
USERY

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Honorable W.J. "Bill" Usery Jr., a man who left a legacy of service to our Nation and the Tenth Congressional District of Georgia, which I have the honor of representing. Mr. Usery was a native of Baldwin County where he attended Georgia Military College. Shortly after, he proudly served in the United States Navy repairing warships as an underwater welder in the Pacific Fleet. In 1952, he started his career in labor activism when he joined the International Association of Machinists.

Following years of being the chief mediator in major labor-management disputes, President Gerald Ford appointed Mr. Usery as the United States Secretary of Labor, a post where he defined the modern era of labor-management and helped our Nation maintain its forward momentum and status as a global leader. During his tenure, our Nation witnessed better working conditions, better wages, better relations between labor and management, and an overall better way of life.

Mr. Speaker, his advice and counsel were valued by the Commander-in-Chiefs whom he served, including Presidents Gerald Ford, Richard Nixon, John F. Kennedy, and Bill Clinton. The Honorable Mr. Usery was born, raised, and spent the last years of his life in Milledgeville, Georgia, where he continued to serve, making generous donations to his alma mater.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege to meet this remarkable Georgian this spring during a ceremony that I held in my district to recognize our WWII veterans, and it is with pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of the Honorable W.J. "Bill" Usery.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN
CATSIMATIDIS JR.

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. John Catsimatidis Jr. who is receiving Greenpoint YMCA's Spirit of Service Award, given in recognition of Mr. Catsimatidis's efforts to better the city of New York. Mr. Catsimatidis is a driven and hard-working New Yorker who has shown dedication both to his business endeavors and philanthropic causes.

Mr. Catsimatidis serves as an executive of the Red Apple Group, where he is involved in all areas of the business, but focuses mainly

on the energy resources, investment divisions, and job creation. In August, 2016, Mr. Catsimatidis was also appointed to the board of the Gold Coast Bank in Brooklyn, NY.

Mr. Catsimatidis has always been involved in various philanthropic activities. Mr. Catsimatidis supports the Catsimatidis Family Foundation, which makes generous donations to organizations including the Police Athletic League and the Alzheimer's Association. Mr. Catsimatidis also serves on the Emerging Leaders Council for the Federal Enforcement Homeland Security Foundation, which provides financial aid, scholarships, grants, and critical support to Federal Law Enforcement officers and their families in times of need. Mr. Catsimatidis's steadfast support of these families throughout New York City exemplifies his dedication to our community.

Mr. Catsimatidis graduated from New York University's Leonard Stern School of Business in 2015. While at NYU, Mr. Catsimatidis served as President of the NYU College Republicans, a premier political organization on campus. This position gave Mr. Catsimatidis the opportunity to hold debates, host speakers, and cultivate informational political dialogues for the student body. Additionally, Mr. Catsimatidis was elected Chairman of the New York State Federation of College Republicans. In both of these positions, Mr. Catsimatidis sought not only to contribute to politically active student groups on campus, but more importantly to foster healthy, respectful, and bilateral political discussion. For his contributions to the NYU community, Mr. Catsimatidis was named one of NYU's Ten Most Influential Students of 2015, and received the Presidential Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. John Catsimatidis Jr. for his contributions to New York's vibrant business community and dedication to local philanthropic causes.

CONGRATULATING THE KOREAN
LANGUAGE NEWS SERVICE,
WEEKLY FOCUS ON ITS 10TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Korean Language news service, Weekly Focus, on its 10th Anniversary, and by extension President Hyun Joo Kim, and her entire staff. I am proud to represent the largest Korean community in Colorado in my Congressional District. Throughout the ten years that Weekly Focus has been running, the service has worked tirelessly to not only represent their community, but to also connect Coloradoans by offering a way to communicate and learn from each other.

Since its founding in 2006, Weekly Focus has grown to be the biggest and most influential Korean language newspaper in Colorado. Thanks to this tremendous news service, Korean-Americans and Coloradoans have a dependable source of news that features a weekly publication of 128 pages.

Hyun Joo Kim's passion and diligence, as well as that of her staff, has allowed Weekly Focus to develop and become an important part of our community. By creating a reliable newspaper with quality articles, Weekly Focus has undoubtedly improved Korean-American representation within the media of Colorado as well as residents living in the 6th Congressional District.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the Weekly Focus newspaper and its entire staff for their hard work and dedication these past 10 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN FOR ITS SUPPORT OF INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY BLEEDING DISORDERS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan for its efforts to provide services and support to individuals affected by bleeding disorders. HFM has played a key role in improving care and helping drive advancements in care for these diseases.

The Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan was founded in 1956 to promote awareness and improve the welfare of individuals afflicted with bleeding disorders. The organization has expanded substantially from the original group of volunteers and now features a full-time staff that handles federal funding for treatment centers in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. HFM also offers a multitude of support services to help improve the quality of life of those suffering from bleeding disorders. HFM hosts camping programs and retreats for children and adults that educate individuals about their bleeding conditions and help provide a support network for individuals in need. The organization also provides subsidized dental insurance and financial assistance to help patients afford treatment for their diseases.

The Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan plays a key role in bringing together researchers, patients and providers to facilitate effective and affordable care for those affected by bleeding disorders. This integrated care can have significant effects in improving quality of life and providing support that allows patients to better cope with these diseases. The commitment of the staff and volunteers for HFM has helped build a world-class organization that continues to effectively serve the Midwest and ensure that individuals with bleeding diseases receive the support they need. I am inspired by the activism and dedication of HFM to advocate on behalf of individuals with these diseases. Their work has impacted countless lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan for its outstanding work on behalf of the people of Michigan. It has been key to providing care and support services to individuals with bleeding disorders.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT SANCHO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Robert Sancho, an experienced Urban Affairs Specialist and cultural activist who has dedicated his career to serving his community.

For the past forty-five years, Mr. Sancho has fought to improve the quality of education in New York City's public schools, and to make healthcare services more accessible in New York City neighborhoods. Today, Mr. Sancho continues his fight as a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Center of Educational Innovation, Icahn Charter Schools, and the Multicultural Committee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Mr. Sancho was born and raised in the South Bronx. After completing his primary and secondary education in the New York City public schools, Mr. Sancho went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts degree in Education and Political Science at the Inter-American University in San German, Puerto Rico, where he was also offered a teaching fellowship. Later, Mr. Sancho was granted a scholarship to the reputable Graduate School of Urban Affairs at Hunter College, where he earned his Master of Science Degree.

Mr. Sancho was appointed to serve as Deputy Superintendent of Schools in Community School District 4 in East Harlem, which is responsible for roughly 24,000 students. During his time in office, the district rose from 32nd place in reading and math achievements among New York City public school districts, the lowest ranking at the time, to 13th place. This unprecedented rise is considered one of the most successful educational turnarounds in our nation. Thanks to Mr. Sancho's bold success, Community School District 4 was awarded national competitive grants under his leadership.

Mr. Sancho became a community activist in the late 1960s, when then-New York City Mayor John Lindsay tried to shut down the Metropolitan Hospital Center, a public hospital which provided low cost vital health services to the community in East Harlem. Mr. Sancho helped organize the East Harlem community to reject the proposed closure. After a two-year struggle, the city decided to keep the hospital open.

In 1981, Mr. Sancho was appointed Vice President of Development and External Affairs at the Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center, which is located in the poorest Congressional District in the nation. As Vice President, Mr. Sancho helped the hospital secure over \$240 million in funding, which helped to finance three new hospital buildings and repair existing buildings. Additionally, Mr. Sancho's department helped raise almost \$15 million in the past few years for various hospital programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary work of Robert Sancho has done for the great city of New York.

ROSS COUNTY COMMISSIONER JIM CALDWELL

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Ross County Commissioner Jim Caldwell on a distinguished career serving the residents of Ross County and southern Ohio.

Jim has served as Ross County Commissioner since 1977, making him the longest serving County Commissioner in the State of Ohio. During his 39 year tenure of serving our community, he has made an incredibly positive impact, serving in nearly every capacity imaginable.

From teaching our youth, to guiding our communities' finances, to leading the efforts of redevelopment and revitalization, Ross County is a better place because of Jim Caldwell.

We are certainly lucky to have had Jim's commitment and service in our community, and I wish him a very happy retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ANDREA P. THAU

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Dr. Andrea P. Thau, President-Elect of the American Optometric Association (AOA), who will be installed as its 95th President during the 119th Congress of the AOA's House of Delegates.

Dr. Thau, a native of the 12th Congressional District in New York, was first elected to the American Optometric Association Board of Trustees in 2007, and has served as its vice president, Speaker of the House Pro Tem, and Chair of the AOA Investment Committee. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, a Fellow of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development, a Distinguished Practitioner on the National Academies of Practice, and a Diplomate of the American Board of Optometry. Dr. Thau is also a faculty member, associate clinical professor, and former chair of the Admissions Committee at SUNY College of Optometry, where she received her doctorate.

Prior to her election to the AOA Board, Dr. Thau broke new ground as the first woman president of the New York State Optometric Association, the New York Academy of Optometry, and the Optometric Society of the City of New York. She has continually used her expertise and success in her field to serve the public, especially children. She is a founding member of the New York Children's Vision Coalition as well as the AOA's InfantSEE committee, a national program that provides vision assessments to babies at no cost. She has advocated for children's vision at both the state and national level. Dr. Thau is also the owner of a private practice in Manhattan, Dr. Andrea P. Thau and Associates, which serves as a full-scope primary care practice with a

special emphasis on children's vision and vision therapy.

Dr. Thau has been lauded by her peers for her excellence in optometry and has received numerous awards for her outstanding work, including the 2005 New York State Optometrist of the Year and SUNY Optometry Alumna of the Year. She has also been recognized twice as Vision Monday's 20 Most Influential Women in Optical.

Dr. Thau has long stood out as an example of extraordinary dedication and brilliance in her field. She was a stellar student at the Bronx High School of Science and completed her undergraduate studies at SUNY Albany before attending the SUNY College of Optometry. Since then, Dr. Thau has practiced optometry for nearly three decades, consistently providing first-rate eye care to her clients.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Andrea P. Thau for her outstanding work in the field of optometry and her tireless efforts to provide accessible eye care and eye health education to her community and the general public.

HONORING NANCY VORHEES

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a good friend and community advocate, Nancy Vorhees, on her retirement as Chief Administrative Office (CAO) of Inland Northwest Health Services (INHS).

Nancy first started with Inland nearly two decades ago as Chief Operating Officer of Northwest Health Partners (NHP), which includes Northwest MedStar, Northwest Telehealth, Community Wellness, Health Training, INHS Foundation, and Children's Miracle Network Hospital. All of the divisions under Nancy's direction worked diligently to integrate the delivery of health care services throughout the Inland Northwest. Her work also focused on regional economic development, removal of barriers to health care, quality care, and customer satisfaction.

As a champion of rural medicine, Nancy provided leadership that connected our rural, and often times most vulnerable patients, to health care resources in urban settings. Nancy served on many regional and national boards including the American Telehealth Association, Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center, Mid-Valley Hospital, and Greater Spokane Incorporated's Health Industry Development Group. Nancy became Inland's CAO and a member of the Providence Health Care Senior Leadership Team in 2015.

In addition to her role at Inland, Nancy has served as interim Executive Director of the Spokane Teaching Health Clinic, a collaboration with Empire Health Foundation, Providence Health Care, and Washington State University. The goal of this partnership is to improve regional access to health care by increasing the number of medical residencies in the area. I am pleased that she will continue in this role after her retirement from Inland.

Mr. Speaker, Nancy is a tremendous asset to the Spokane community, Eastern Wash-

ington, and Inland Northwest. Her years of dedication and work have touched the lives of countless people in many positive ways. I look forward to her continued friendship and leadership to expand access to health care through her role at the Spokane Teaching Health Clinic.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MITTERSILL PROJECT RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cannon Mountain Ski Area for the completion of the Mittersill Improvement Project.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony marks the conclusion of a four-year project that has completely upgraded an integral part of New Hampshire's vibrant snow-sports economy into a world-class resort for both recreation and professional training. Included in the upgrades was a widening of the Taft trail, which is now the widest ski trail in New Hampshire, and facilities upgrades that culminated in Mittersill being named a U.S. Ski Team training venue. The project also increased snowmaking capacity, improved public access, and made the resort a safer place to ski.

The project has been made possible by a collaboration of partners including, Cannon Mountain, the Holderness School, the Franconia Ski Club, and the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association, in addition to generous contributions by many members of the ski and snowboard community.

As co-chairwoman of the Congressional Ski and Snowboard Caucus, I am an advocate on behalf of the winter recreation industry, including the many professionals whose hard work develops and supports the beautiful resorts we have in New Hampshire. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support, develop, and promote this industry.

I am pleased to congratulate all who worked on this project for their valuable contribution to the Granite State.

IN RECOGNITION OF GINA ARGENTO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Gina Argento, who was honored for her achievements as part of Women's History Month. Ms. Argento is President of Broadway Stages, one of New York's largest film, television, and music production facilities which is located in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

Ms. Argento and her brother, Tony, opened Broadway Stages in 1983, turning a rundown movie theatre into a sound stage. Over the

past 32 years, Broadway Stages has expanded both its physical size and capabilities. Broadway Stages now has over half a million square feet of space with 38 state-of-the-art stages and support facilities. Offering full service film, television, photography and music production facilities, Broadway Stages has served an extensive list of hit movies and television shows including "The Good Wife," "Blue Bloods," "Mr. Robot," "Madam Secretary," "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," "Limitless," "Broad City," "Unforgettable," and "Master of None," in addition to commercials, print and music videos. Broadway Stages has facilities in Brooklyn and Queens and is currently in the process of building a 69 acre facility in Staten Island.

Under Ms. Argento's leadership, Broadway Stages has exhibited an unparalleled commitment towards the local community in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. In addition to creating hundreds of local jobs, Broadway Stages helps neighboring residents, small businesses, and community-based organizations. Broadway Stages has donated food, equipment, and additional resources to local soup kitchens, partnered with the McGolrick Park Neighborhood Alliance to clean up the beloved park located in the center of Greenpoint and hosted family-friendly neighborhood block parties during the summer. Most recently, Broadway Stages joined the television show "Blue Bloods" and CBS to give \$25,000 to the families of NYPD officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu who were brutally murdered in Brooklyn.

Ms. Argento is also committed to supporting young people. Broadway Stages provided new audio equipment to St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Academy, sponsored a 5 Boro Basketball team for teens, created a "Green Science Week" at PS110, and partnered with community organizations to hold a local "Schoolfest" fair for students and their families. Broadway Stages also funded the SYSTEM Teen Summer Program, which provides high school students the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities focused on green technology, engineering, gardening, and community service.

Broadway Stages is an incredible community partner that is committed to building a strong and environmentally sustainable future. Under Ms. Argento's leadership, Broadway Stages has become a model of the way private industry can champion energy sustainability and environmentally-sound community development. By installing 50,000 square feet of solar photovoltaic systems on the roofs of 7 of its sound stages, Broadway Stages created the world's first solar powered sound stage and the largest private solar power installation in New York State. The solar roofs have offset 30 percent of Broadway Stage's annual electricity consumption. Broadway Stages also created an organic vegetable farm called "Eagle Street Rooftop," located on top of a warehouse in Greenpoint. The 6,000 square foot rooftop farm features a variety of educational and volunteer programs and a farmer's market during the growing season. Broadway Stages is also involved in cleaning up a Brownfield site at 359 Kingsland Avenue.

Ms. Argento has worked with YMCA Greenpoint, Boy Scouts of America, Kings

County Democratic Club, Greenpoint Chamber of Commerce, Solar One, and EWVIDCO, an advocacy organization for industrial businesses in Greenpoint. Ms. Argento is a loving mother to her three sons, John, Anthony, and Paul. She and her husband, John Ciafone, make an incredible team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable work of Gina Argento, a successful businesswoman, environmentalist, and fantastic neighbor.

ST. XAVIER GOLF TEAM

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cincinnati St. Xavier High School golf team on their state championship win this fall 2016 season.

With skill and precision, the Bombers' golf team won its second consecutive state championship, totaling 5 wins in team history.

While mostly considered an individual sport, the golf team exemplified St. X teamwork and brotherhood to win a high pressure, one-round championship game on the Ohio State University Golf Course.

I would like to congratulate the players and Coach Alex Kopley on another win for the St. X Bombers and for representing St. X and our community well during their season.

It has been quite a season for Cincinnati sports, and St. Xavier has made its mark. Go Bombers.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANA RODRIGUEZ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Ana Rodriguez, Director of Community Relations and Volunteer Services at Mount Sinai Queens, who was honored for her achievements as part of Women's History Month. Ms. Rodriguez is a dedicated, compassionate, and beloved representative for the hospital. She attends countless community meetings and is always cheerful and well-informed.

In her role at Mount Sinai Queens, Ms. Rodriguez works with community organizations and community leaders to ensure that the hospital best serves its community. In addition, she coordinates educational health programs and events to promote awareness about health issues in the community. Ms. Rodriguez also works with people of all ages and all walks of life who are interested in volunteering, in order to ensure that the hospital's patients are served in the most meaningful way possible.

Ms. Rodriguez has also been an important advocate for children. From 1993 through 1999, she worked with Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America. In her role

as Associate Director, Ms. Rodriguez served youth in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx through the Urban Emphasis and Scoutreach Program. She collaborated with school principals, religious institutions, and community organizations to establish new scouting programs.

For six years, Ms. Rodriguez served adolescents, as well as adults, as a senior clinical social worker at the New York Presbyterian Hospital. Here, she provided mental health services, and worked with young men and women to empower them to reach their full potential.

Ms. Rodriguez has been celebrated by the community for her achievements. For example, Centro de Desarrollo de la Mujer (Center for Women Development) has presented her with a Woman of the Year Award for her community service. Her work has also been recognized by the Office of the Borough President of Manhattan, and she has received the Peter Vallone, Jr. Award from the 114th Precinct Civilian Observation Patrol for her dedication to the people of Astoria and Long Island City.

Ms. Rodriguez has a Bachelor of Science from Hunter College and a Master's degree in social work from Columbia University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful work of Ms. Rodriguez and her tireless service to her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF SABRA BRIERE AND HER YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ann Arbor City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Sabra Briere for her record of service on behalf of the Ann Arbor community. For over 40 years, Mrs. Briere has served Ann Arbor with distinction in a variety of elected positions as well as through her involvement with local advocacy groups.

Mrs. Briere moved to Ann Arbor in 1973 and has been active in civic life over the years. She has been involved with the Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County Democratic parties, filling numerous positions from secretary to chairwoman of the Ann Arbor Democratic Party in the 1990s. In addition, Mrs. Briere has served as President of the American Civil Liberties Union's Washtenaw County chapter and volunteered with the Huron River Watershed Council. In 2007, she was elected to the Ann Arbor City Council and has been an effective advocate for Ann Arbor's residents in this capacity. Throughout her public service career, Mrs. Briere has promoted responsible city planning by spearheading measures to encourage better design and zoning in new building development. Additionally, she has supported strong environmental protections and public transportation initiatives that have contributed to the health and well-being of the community.

Mrs. Briere's service and dedication on behalf of the City of Ann Arbor and the surrounding community has resulted in a more livable city and better quality of life for its residents. She has been a constant presence at City Council hearings and community events, and her extensive knowledge of the issues facing Ann Arbor has made her an invaluable member of local government. Mrs. Briere has championed common sense reforms that have made a real difference in the lives of Ann Arbor residents. Her knowledge and dedication to the community will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sabra Briere and her years of service to the Ann Arbor community as a member of the Ann Arbor City Council. Her work on behalf of Ann Arbor has been instrumental in its growth and development.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND ANN KANSFIELD

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Rev. Ann Kansfield, FDNY Chaplain and Pastor at the Greenpoint Reformed Church in Brooklyn, who is being honored for her achievements as part of Women's History Month. The Church holds a special place as part of the Greenpoint Historic District. Under Rev. Kansfield's leadership, the Church offers space for worship, is used by community groups like Alcoholics Anonymous and Nar-Anon, and has been featured in several film productions. It is also known for its 12-step recovery groups, children's music classes, and a hunger program that feeds over 300 people per week.

Rev. Kansfield has loved and served the people of North Brooklyn ever since the Greenpoint Reformed Church called her to be their pastor in 2003. Prior to her arrival, demographic shifts over the previous century had caused the once large Dutch Reformed congregation to dwindle to less than a dozen people. The remaining congregants believed that the church had a bright future in the community, and invited Rev. Kansfield to help revitalize their ministry. With energy and hopefulness, she has succeeded beyond anyone's fondest dreams, bringing new parishioners and their families to the church. Rev. Kansfield's work at the church includes worship, evangelism, theology, improving the church building, fundraising, as well as public and community relations.

Much of Rev. Kansfield's time is spent feeding the hungry. When an increasing number of people began coming to the church asking for food, the congregation began a soup kitchen and food pantry under Rev. Kansfield's guidance in October 2007. Rev. Kansfield works with caring volunteers, colleagues, and donors to ensure that the soup kitchen and food pantry are able to keep up with an unprecedented demand for emergency food. Today the soup kitchen regularly serves 90 people a day and hundreds more get food from the food pantry.

Rev. Kansfield holds degrees from Columbia University (BA, with honors) and New

Brunswick Theological Seminary (M.Div., summa cum laude). Before her ordination, she built car batteries on an assembly line for AC Delco and punched in stock trades for TD Waterhouse. Nevertheless, Rev. Kansfield believes that a four-week long bartending course that she attended in college gave her the most useful skills in preparing to be a pastor.

Rev. Kansfield is married to Rev. Jennifer Aull, who also officiates at Greenpoint Reformed Church. They have a son, John, and a daughter, Grace. She is ordained in the United Church of Christ. In the spring of 2015, Rev. Kansfield was sworn in as an FDNY chaplain by Commissioner Daniel Nigro, fulfilling her lifelong dream. Rev. Kansfield is the first female and openly gay chaplain of the FDNY, and was voted the New York Times "New Yorker of the Year" in 2015.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary work of Rev. Ann Kansfield and her unwavering dedication to her community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF PHIL SMITH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Phil Smith, a dear friend and philanthropist in South Florida, who touched the lives of countless people. Phil tragically passed away on December 14, 2016, after an 18 month battle with ALS.

Phil was born in New Jersey and moved to South Florida at the age of three. He attended Chaminade High School in Fort Lauderdale and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from Florida Atlantic University's (FAU) College of Business in 1969. During college, Phil began to work at a Ford dealership in Pompano Beach. He was so successful he stayed after graduation, was given the opportunity to open a dealership, and never looked back.

Phil went on to found Phil Smith Management, Inc., serving as President and CEO. He operated eleven automobile dealership locations representing 25 franchises in Florida and North Carolina. His company employs 780 people. He never forgot where he came from or the people who worked for him, and started an annual college scholarship program for the children of his employees.

Phil also served as the Co-Chair of the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee and sat on the Boards of the Orange Bowl Committee and the Broward Workshop, a non-profit organization that represents the interests of 100 Broward businesses and professions. Because of his community involvement, Phil was awarded with the Florida Sun Sentinel Company's 2013 Excalibur Award for Business Leader of the Year in Broward County.

He always gave back and was well-known for his civic, charitable, and philanthropic involvement throughout South Florida. He was involved with a number of advocacy groups serving the public, including the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Humane Society of

Broward County, the American Cancer Society, and the Make a Wish Foundation. His most recent donation was to Holy Cross Hospital—a gift of \$7 million to fund state-of-the-art neurological care.

Phil and his wife Susan also gave to his alma mater, and gifted Florida Atlantic University \$5 million to establish the Phil Smith Center for Free Enterprise. Supporting the strategic plan of the College of Business, the Center will add chaired professorships, support research and educational programs for faculty members and students, and support distinguished visiting faculty along with a lecture series and other educational programs focused on the principles of free enterprise.

After his diagnosis with ALS, Phil became more involved in efforts to fight this terrible disease. He worked with Holy Cross Hospital in South Florida to establish the Phil Smith ALS and Movement Disorders Clinic, which provides access to leading edge clinical trials and research through an expanded relationship with Massachusetts General Hospital.

After an 18 month battle with ALS, Phil tragically passed away at the age of 70 last week. He is survived by his wife of 30 years Susan, his sister Judy, his daughter Shawn, son-in-law Charlie, and three grandchildren James, Kaelin, and Cali.

Mr. Speaker, Phil was a dear friend and kind soul. He touched the lives of so many, and his philanthropic efforts in Florida will go on to touch the lives of many more. It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor his life and accomplishments, but most of all, to honor our friendship. He will be so dearly missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALICJA
WINNICKI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Alicja Winnicki, Superintendent of the Community School District 14 in Brooklyn, who was honored for her achievements as part of Women's History Month.

Ms. Winnicki has been District 14's Superintendent for four years. Before that, she served as Principal at Oliver H. Perry Elementary PS 34 in Greenpoint. During her tenure in 2012, the school received the National Blue Ribbon Award for Academic Excellence. As a 2010 Cahn Fellow at Teachers College, Columbia University, Ms. Winnicki completed "action research" in collaboration with the teachers and staff at PS 34, on fostering academic rigor in instruction.

Ms. Winnicki began her career in education as an English as a Second Language teacher to both children and adults. Later, she became an ESL and bilingual staff developer for District 14 and conducted many workshops and training sessions for teachers, paraprofessionals, and parents. Working with bilingual student populations, Ms. Winnicki coordinated and supervised Saturday academies for children of recent Polish and Spanish speaking

immigrants, organized and led conferences for educators focusing on the needs of Polish speaking students, and co-wrote a district bilingual/ESL curriculum.

Ms. Winnicki holds a Master's Degree in the Polish Language and Literature from Wroclaw University, a Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from Adelphi University, and a Master of Science in Administration and Supervision from Baruch University, School of Public Affairs. She writes about instruction for the CAN-Tainer, Teachers College, Columbia University.

Ms. Winnicki has been celebrated by the community for her achievements. For example, she has been named a Williamsburg and Greenpoint Rising Star by St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation, received a City Council Citation for Outstanding Citizens from Councilwoman Diana Reyna, was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for community service by State Senator Martin Malavé Dilan, and was named Seneca Club's 2007 Principal of the Year.

Twenty years of experience in New York City's education system have allowed Ms. Winnicki to forge strong relationships with students, teachers, parents, and community leaders. She sets and achieves goals for high student performance, provides leadership and feedback to parents, teachers and principals, encourages and cultivates mentor educators for future leadership positions, and creates countless programs and opportunities for community and parent involvement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Winnicki's tireless work for the children of Brooklyn and our entire community.

ST. XAVIER WATER POLO

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cincinnati St. Xavier High School water polo team on their state championship win this fall 2016 season.

With hard work and dedication, the Bombers' water polo team won their second consecutive state championship, totaling three total state championship wins.

But what makes this win truly meaningful is what the water polo team did with its win. This state championship was dedicated to a hero who cannot be with us here today.

The St. X water polo team dedicated its hard earned win to Charles Keating IV, a Navy SEAL who died in May in Iraq while fighting ISIS and protecting all of us here at home. Mr. Keating's father and grandfather were both outstanding swimmers and graduates of St. Xavier High School.

St. Xavier's dedication of its win in memory of Charles Keating exemplifies the spirit and strength of the St. X community and what it stands for.

On behalf of all St. X alumni and friends, I congratulate the St. Xavier Water Polo team on incredibly hard work and dedication. You have certainly embodied what it means to be a part of the Long Blue Line.
Go Bombers.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDDIE
PALMIERI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Eddie Palmieri, a New Yorker, famed pianist and composer who has won nine Grammy Awards throughout his career. Mr. Palmieri has revolutionized Latin music, influenced many other musicians, and thrilled audiences with his unique sound. He is one of America's best jazz musicians and an icon in the music industry.

Mr. Palmieri was born in Harlem, New York to Puerto Rican immigrants on December 15, 1936. He was raised in the Bronx and learned to play the piano at an early age. Through his education in the city's public school system, he was exposed to jazz.

Mr. Palmieri was inspired to practice and perform publicly from watching his older brother, Charlie Palmieri, play with talented musicians. At the age of 11, Eddie Palmieri auditioned to perform classical piano at Carnegie Hall, and made his debut there in 1947.

Mr. Palmieri's professional career as a pianist took off as he played with various bands in the early 1950s including Eddie Forrester, Johnny Segui, and the popular Tito Rodriguez Orchestra. By late 1961, Eddie Palmieri started his own band, Conjunto La Perfecta, which featured a unique instrumentation of trombones and flutes instead of trumpets. Mr. Palmieri also experimented with the fusion of jazz and Latin-style music, adding a bassist as well as a vocalist. The unusual mixture became Palmieri's signature sound.

After La Perfecta disbanded, Eddie began a new group with his brother Charlie, as well as musicians Victor Venegas, Andy Gonzales, Bernard "Pretty" Purdie, and Ronnie Cuber. Developing a new style together, this group further blended traditional Latin music with Afro-Cuban influences.

In 1974, Mr. Palmieri reached a career milestone with his release of *The Sun of Latin Music*. That year, he won his first Grammy Award, marking the first time that Latin music was recognized by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS). He won

again the following year for *Unfinished Masterpiece* (1974).

Returning to Puerto Rico, Palmieri formed a band called the Eddie Palmieri Orchestra and recorded several Grammy-winning albums including *Palo Pa' Rumba* (1984), *Solito* (1985), and *La Verdad* (1987). In 1988, the Smithsonian Institution recorded two of Palmieri's performances for its catalog at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

In 1993, Mr. Palmieri was appointed to the board of governors at the New York chapter of the National Association of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS). In 1995, he helped institute the Latin/African-Caribbean Jazz category for the Grammys.

Mr. Palmieri has received many awards throughout his career including the Alice Tully African Heritage Award from City College, the Harlem Renaissance Award, Yale University's Chubb Fellowship, and the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Latin Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. In 2013, Eddie Palmieri was awarded the coveted Jazz Master award by the National Endowment of the Arts, the highest honor an American Jazz artist can receive.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary career of the exceptionally talented musician, Eddie Palmieri.

SENATE—Friday, December 23, 2016

The Senate met at 11:30 and 20 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROY BLUNT, a Senator from the State of Missouri.



APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 23, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROY BLUNT, a Senator from the State of Missouri, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUNT thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.



ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2016, AT 4:30 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 27, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:30 and 51 seconds a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 27, 2016.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, December 23, 2016

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 23, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF DENHAM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Alisa Lasater Walloo, Capitol Hill United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, thank You for this day.

This week, Your children will celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, or Kwanzaa. No matter if we light the me-

norah, the Christ candle, or the kinara, open us to see new truths about You and Your love.

As we work today, reveal to us the beauty and gifts inside each person we encounter and represent.

Enlighten us to the greatest needs in our world and where You want us to focus.

Enlighten us to the biases and bigotries within us that hinder healing in our Nation.

Enlighten us to real dangers and save us from false fears.

Bless each Member, their tireless staffers, and all House employees. Grant them safe travels and a week of rest, restoration, and revelation.

I pray in the name of the baby Jesus, born without shelter, forced by Herod to flee to Egypt as a refugee who, not in spite of but through his circumstances, became the light of salvation.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 944, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(b) of House Resolution 944, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 27, 2016.

Thereupon (at 10 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, December 27, 2016, at 2 p.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third quarter of 2016 pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JEFFREY DRESSLER, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 28 AND NOV. 4, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Jeffrey Dressler	10/29	10/30	Bahrain		122.00		* 14,462.00				14,584.00
	10/30	11/2	UAE		564.00						564.00
	11/2	11/4	Oman		544.00						544.00
Committee total					1,230.00		14,462.00				15,692.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

* Transportation all included.

JEFFREY DRESSLER, Nov. 20, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO TURKEY, EXPENDED BETWEEN NOV. 17 AND NOV. 22, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Mike Turner	11/18	11/22	Turkey		1,412.00		8,996.00				10,408.00
Hon. Gerry Connolly	11/18	11/22	Turkey		1,412.00		6,919.00				8,331.00
Hon. Rob Bishop	11/18	11/22	Turkey		1,412.00		8,996.00				10,408.00
Hon. Jim Sensenbrenner	11/18	11/22	Turkey		1,412.00		11,622.00				13,034.00
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart	11/19	11/22	Turkey		1,059.00		8,364.00				9,423.00
Jessica Calio	11/17	11/22	Turkey		1,765.00		8,276.00				10,041.00
Janice Robinson	11/17	11/22	Turkey		1,765.00		8,276.00				10,041.00
Ed Rice	11/17	11/22	Turkey		1,765.00		8,276.00				10,041.00
Committee total					12,002.00		69,725.00				81,727.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER, Dec. 15, 2016.

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7971. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Changes to Reporting and Notification Requirements and Other Clarifying Changes for Imported Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0083; SC16-944/980/999-1 IR] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7972. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pesticides; Certification of Pesticide Applicators [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0183; FRL-9956-70] (RIN: 2070-AJ20) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7973. A letter from the PRAO Branch Chief, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Photo Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Card Implementation Requirements [FNS-2016-0003] (RIN: 0584-AE45) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7974. A letter from the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's Semi-Annual Report to Congress, pursuant to Sec. 1016 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7975. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Major final rule — Recordkeeping for Timely Deposit Insurance Determination (RIN: 3064-AE33) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7976. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Runaway and Homeless Youth (RIN: 0970-AC43) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7977. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Report to Congress On Coordination of Federal HIV Programs for FYs 2014-2015, pursuant to title XXXVI of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 300ff-11 et seq.; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7978. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4) for Public Water Systems and Announcement of Public Meeting [EPA-HQ-OW-2015-0218; FRL-9956-71-OW] (RIN: 2040-AF49) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7979. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Reclassification of the Sheboygan, Wisconsin Area to Moderate Non-attainment for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R05-OAR-2016-0277; FRL-9956-95-Region 5] received December 14, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7980. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Non-attainment and Reclassification of the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria 2008 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area; Texas [EPA-R06-OAR-2016-0275; FRL-9956-08-Region 6] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7981. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Bifenthrin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0236; FRL-9954-47] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7982. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Limited Approval and Limited Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Source Permits; Correcting Amendment [EPA-R09-OAR-2016-0240; FRL-9956-65-Region 9] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7983. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; TN; Revisions to the Knox County Portion of the TN SIP [EPA-R04-OAR-2016-0359; FRL-9956-63-Region 4] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7984. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Tennessee; Regional Haze Progress Report [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0799; FRL-9956-90-Region 4] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7985. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Redesignation of the Ohio portion of the Cincinnati, Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Area to Attainment of the 2008 Ozone Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2016-0269; FRL-9956-60-Region 5] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7986. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Redesignation of the Columbus, Ohio Area to Attainment of the 2008 Ozone Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2016-0372; FRL-9956-59-Region 5] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public

Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7987. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Part 9 Miscellaneous Rules [EPA-R05-OAR-2015-0845; FRL-9956-62-Region 5] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7988. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances; Technical Correction [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-0207; FRL-9956-13] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received December 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7989. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Visibility: Amendments to Requirements for State Plans [EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0531; FRL-9957-05-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS55) received December 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7990. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Flumioxazin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0658; FRL-9955-45] received December 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7991. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Determination of Attainment of the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Mariposa County, California [EPA-R04-OAR-2016-0669; FRL-9956-66-Region 9] received December 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7992. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Attainment of the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Eastern San Luis Obispo, California [EPA-R09-OAR-2016-0543; FRL-9956-98-Region 9] received December 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7993. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Louisiana; Redesignation of Baton Rouge 2008 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment [EPA-R06-OAR-2016-0293; FRL-9956-92-Region 6] received December 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7994. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Control of Volatile Organic Compounds Emissions from Fiberglass Boat Manufacturing Materials [EPA-R03-OAR-2016-0304;

FRL-9957-20-Region 3] received December 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7995. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Limited Approval and Limited Disapproval of California State Implementation Plan Revisions; Butte County Air Quality Management District; Stationary Source Permits [EPA-R09-OAR-2016-0322; FRL-9955-16-Region 9] received December 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7996. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Mississippi; Interstate Transport (Prongs 1 and 2) for the 2010 1-hour NO₂ Standard [EPA-R04-OAR-2016-0421; FRL-9957-09-Region 4] received December 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7997. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; MA; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements [EPA-R01-OAR-2014-0720; A-1-FRL-9952-94-Region 1] received December 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7998. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Addition of a Subsurface Intrusion Component to the Hazard Ranking System [EPA-HQ-SFUND-2010-1086; FRL-9956-58-OLEM] (RIN: 2050-AG67) received December 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7999. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Requirements for Foreign and Domestic Establishment Registration and Listing for Human Drugs, Including Drugs That Are Regulated Under a Biologics License Application, and Animal Drugs; Correction [Docket No.: FDA-2005-N-0464 (formerly Docket No. 2005N-0403)] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8000. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-57, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8001. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Temporary Exports to Mexico under License Exception TMP [160519443-6999-02] (RIN: 0694-AG97) received December 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8002. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2016 of the Department of Commerce's Bureau of In-

dustry and Security, pursuant to Sec. 14 of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8003. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's FY 2016 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8004. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8005. A letter from the Director, National Gallery of Art, transmitting the National Gallery of Art's Inspector General Act of 1978 report for FY 2016 in narrative format; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8006. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Business Operations, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Colorado (RIN: 0596-AD26) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8007. A letter from the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico, transmitting a report titled "Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico: Report to the House and Senate", pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 2196(g); Public Law 114-187, Sec. 409(g); (130 Stat. 593); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8008. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Compliance with Title X Requirements by Project Recipients in Selecting Subrecipients (RIN: 937-AA04) received December 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8009. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the report of the Attorney General to the Congress of the United States on the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended for the six-months ending December 31, 2016, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 621; June 8, 1938, ch. 327, Sec. 11 (as amended by Public Law 104-65, Sec. 19); (109 Stat. 704); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8010. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Report of the Attorney General to Congress Pursuant to the Death in Custody Reporting Act, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 13727(f)(2); Public Law 113-242, Sec. 2(f)(2); (128 Stat. 2861); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8011. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rules — Implementation of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 [Docket No.: SSA-2016-0011] (RIN: 0960-AH95) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8012. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Major interim final rule — Classification for Victims of Severe Forms of Trafficking in Persons; Eligibility for "T" Non-immigrant Status [CIS No.: 2507-11; DHS Docket No.: USCIS-2011-0010] (RIN: 1615-AA59) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8013. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to Class E Airspace for the following Ohio Towns; Marion, OH; Portsmouth, OH; Van Wert, OH; and Versailles, OH [Docket No.: FAA-2016-8840; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AGL-20] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8014. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace for the following Texas Towns; Levelland, TX; Vernon, TX; and Winters, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2016-8828; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ASW-13] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8015. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace for the following Illinois Towns; Carmi, IL; De Kalb, IL; Harrisburg, IL; Kewanee, IL; Litchfield, IL; Paris, IL; and Taylorville, IL [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6985; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AGL-16] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8016. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace for the following Arkansas Towns; Blytheville, AR; Brinkley, AR; Clarksville, AR; and DeQueen, AR [Docket No.: FAA-2016-4172; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ASW-7] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8017. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Murray, KY [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6775; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ASO-9] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8018. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Camden, AL [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1308; Airspace Docket No.: 12-ASO-44] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8019. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of and Modification to Restricted Areas; Fort Sill, OK [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3680; Airspace Docket No.: 13-ASW-15] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8020. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment and Establishment of Restricted Areas; Chincoteague Inlet, VA [Docket No.: FAA-2015-2776; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AEA-5] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8021. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Update of Overflight Fee Rates [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3597; Amdt. No.: 187-36] (RIN: 2120-AK53) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8022. A letter from the Trial Attorney, FRA Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Railroad Police Officers [Docket No.: FRA-2016-0107; Notice No.: 1] (RIN: 2130-AC62) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8023. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-7421; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-145-AD; Amendment 39-18705; AD 2016-22-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8024. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-4223; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-108-AD; Amendment 39-18693; AD 2016-22-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8025. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6669; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-191-AD; Amendment 39-18698; AD 2016-22-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8026. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9306; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-169-AD; Amendment 39-18707; AD

2016-22-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8027. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 31103; Amdt. No.: 3719] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8028. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the report titled "2015 Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges, and Transit: Conditions and Performance", pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 503(b)(8) and 49 U.S.C. 308(e); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8029. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Promulgation of Certain Federal Water Quality Standards Applicable to Maine [EPA-HQ-OW-2015-0804; FRL-9952-99-OW] (RIN: 2040-AF59) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8030. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's interim final rule — Credit Assistance for Water Infrastructure Projects [EPA-HQ-OW-2016-0569; FRL-9953-24-OW] (RIN: 2040-AF63) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8031. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the Secretary (OOREG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Tiered Pharmacy Copayments for Medications (RIN: 2900-AP35) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

8032. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs [CMS-2343-F] (RIN: 0938-AR92) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8033. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a corrected version of the "2012 and 2014 Regional Partnership Grants to Increase the Well-Being of and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for Children Affected by Substance Abuse: Third Annual Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8034. A letter from the Acting Chief Privacy Officer, Privacy Office, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Privacy Office 2016 Annual Report to Congress, pursuant to 6 U.S.C. 142(a)(6); Public Law 107-296, Sec. 222(a)(6) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 8305); (118 Stat. 3868); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

8035. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report titled "Evaluation of the Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program", pursuant to Public Law 111-148, Sec. 3001(a)(5)(B); (124 Stat. 362); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

8036. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Business Operations, Forest Service Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Forest System Land Management Planning (RIN: 0596-AD28) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Submitted on December 21, 2016]

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Report of Activities of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for the 114th Congress (Rept. 114-884). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted on December 22, 2016]

Mr. THORNBERRY: Committee on Armed Services. Report on the Activities of the Committee on Armed Services for the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress (Rept. 114-885). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. Report on the Activities of the Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives for the 114th Congress (Rept. 114-886). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. Report on the Legislative and Oversight Activities of the Committee on Ways and Means during the 114th Congress (Rept. 114-887). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted on December 23, 2016]

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 3713. A bill to reform sentencing laws, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 114-888, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4002. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to make various improvements in Federal criminal law, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-889). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 68. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the use of Juvenile Accountability Block Grants for programs to prevent and address occurrences of bullying and to reauthorize the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants program; with amendments (Rept. 114-890). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NUNES: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Review of the Unauthorized Disclosures of Former National Security Agency Contractor Edward Snowden (Rept.

114-891). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5283. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reform certain forfeiture procedures, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-892, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 320. A bill to establish a system for integration of Rapid DNA instruments for use by law enforcement to reduce violent crime and reduce the current DNA analysis backlog; with an amendment (Rept. 114-893). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 759. A bill to enhance public safety by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal prison system with offender risk and needs assessment, individual risk reduction incentives and rewards, and risk and recidivism reduction; with amendments (Rept. 114-894). Referred to the Com-

mittee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. Activity Report of the Committee on the Judiciary of the United States House of Representatives for the Period January 6, 2015 through December 16, 2016 (Rept. 114-895). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3713 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, Committees on Financial Services and Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5283 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 5735: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 6195: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 6501: Mr. CUMMINGS.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

96. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Niagara County Legislature, NY, relative to Resolution No. IL-082-16, urging Congress to pass legislation, H.R. 6397, "Protection of Military Airfields from Wind Turbine Encroachment Act" and President-Elect Donald J. Trump to enact the same; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF KIMBERLY N.
MULLARKEY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Kimberly N. Mullarkey, who is being honored with Taminent Regular Democratic Club's Gloria D'Amico Trailblazer Award at the Club's 85th Annual Dinner Dance. Kimberly Mullarkey is not only a third generation Astorian, but also a third generation member of the Taminent Regular Democratic Club. Ms. Mullarkey is a firm believer in the importance of giving back to her community, a value that was instilled in her by her family and drives much of the work she does today.

Ms. Mullarkey graduated from Dominican College in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science in Social Science and a minor in Politics as well as a concentration in History and Psychology. During her time at Dominican College, Ms. Mullarkey found her love of the performing arts, acting in lead roles in Grease, Nunsense and The 50 Years of Aquin Players. After graduating, Ms. Mullarkey began her consulting career at The Dryfoos Group and later worked at Constantinople & Vallone.

Ms. Mullarkey joined the Taminent Regular Democratic Club as a young adult. She later became Corresponding Secretary for the Club and is currently serving as Women's Club President.

Taminent Regular Democratic Club was founded in 1933, making it one of the oldest clubs in New York City. The Club addresses all things that affect the community of Astoria. Also, the Club plays a large role in local elections by backing politicians that they feel fit the community's best interest.

In addition to her work at the Club, Kimberly Mullarkey also served four terms on The Board of Alumni Directors at Dominican College and she has worked on numerous political races throughout her life. Ms. Mullarkey considers her most rewarding work, however, to be her role as her father's caregiver and advocate.

Ms. Mullarkey has demonstrated tireless dedication to her community throughout her entire adult life. Kimberly Mullarkey consistently devotes her time and effort to improving the lives of those around her, with great success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Kimberly N. Mullarkey, a New York woman who makes an extraordinary difference in her community of Astoria, Queens.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PAYNE
CHAPEL AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S 124TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor Payne Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church on the occasion of its 124th anniversary. This fine church, originally named Bethel, was founded on the island of Palm Beach in January 1893. Following its move to West Palm Beach in 1894, the name of the church was changed to Payne Chapel in honor of Bishop Daniel A. Payne.

Payne Chapel, located on one of the highest hills in West Palm Beach, has always been recognized and appreciated for its heritage and the many services and contributions it has provided for its members and the citizens in surrounding communities. I want to congratulate the Reverend Henry E. Green III, pastor of Payne Chapel, and all the church's members and friends on this momentous occasion. I am very proud to have such a fine institution of worship in my Congressional district.

IN HONOR OF KAVITA
KRISHNAMURTHY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Kavita Krishnamurthy for her lifelong contributions to film and music. Throughout her decades-long career, Ms. Krishnamurthy has performed all over the world and collaborated with renowned musicians from a wide array of genres.

Ms. Krishnamurthy showed promise at a young age, winning a gold medal in the Inter-Ministry Classical Competition in New Delhi as an eight year old. A year later, she recorded her first song with famed Indian singer Lata Mangeshkar under the direction of composer Hemant Kumar.

By the 1990s Ms. Krishnamurthy was known as one of Bollywood's leading female playback singers. She won critical acclaim for her performance in 1942: A Love Story and established herself as a lead singer. She worked with several renowned directors including Bappi Lahiri, A.R. Rahman, and Anu Malik.

Ms. Krishnamurthy began expanding her artistic range. She was the featured soloist in a global fusion album in which she worked with musicians from five continents. Ms. Krishnamurthy began to explore fusion music,

which brought her around the world to some of music's most famous concert halls, such as the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Lincoln Center in New York City, and the Zhongshan Music Hall in Beijing.

In 2007, Ms. Krishnamurthy co-founded the Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts, which serves as a home for global music in India. The Academy exposes its students to music from all over the world and trains them to love and respect the art they create.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Ms. Kavita Krishnamurthy for the lifelong contributions she has made to music, film, and education. Ms. Krishnamurthy is an inspiration and role model to musicians around the world.

CELEBRATING EDWARD BRAVER'S
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Edward Braver, a World War II veteran who is celebrating his 100th birthday on Christmas Day this year.

Edward has served his country throughout his life. In World War II Edward fought in the historic Battle of the Bulge campaign in Europe. When he returned home he worked for the United States Postal Service, working as a Postal Service Worker and Supervisor up until his retirement.

It is my honor to recognize Edward today, and to join with his family and friends in celebrating this momentous birthday. I wish him good health and continued success in the coming year.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SPENCE
SCHOOL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize The Spence School of New York on the occasion of its 125th anniversary. The Spence School has advanced the education of young women tremendously since its founding.

The Spence School was established in 1892 by Clara Spence with the mission of providing young girls a solid educational foundation, which was a revolutionary idea for that time. Since then, thousands of young female students have been given a rigorous education that not only builds knowledge, but also character and spirit, and puts young women on a path to a college education.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

Clara Spence was a social rights activist in the late 19th and early 20th century who aimed to solve class and social problems. Her ideals are embodied in The Spence School's motto, which reads: "Non scholae sed vitae discimus," or "Not for school but for life we learn." Clara Spence preached virtue and care to her students and children around her to inspire them to grow up and affect change. Her care and careful planning still live in the actions of the school to this day. That is why the school's mission statement aims for a "lifelong transformation of self and the world with purpose, passion and perspective."

During its 125 years, The Spence School developed a reputation for excellence in education. It has shown a commitment to helping all women by continually educating those of diverse backgrounds. The school's commitment to helping women of all backgrounds can be seen in both the 5 million dollar tuition assistance it annually gives, which allows for 20% of the student body to receive aid, as well as its many partnerships with non-profit organizations to recruit girls from all over New York City.

Over the years, The Spence School has become an intrinsic part of the Upper East Side community in New York City. Many local parents, including me, have had their daughters educated at this top institution. We have seen amazing success from the students of Spence, including frequent admission to top universities such as the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown University, Northwestern University, the University of Chicago and many more.

As a former educator, I understand just how far a strong education can go to help young women succeed and grow. The National Center for Education Statistics reports that women made up 57% of college students in 2013. This is thanks to the work of passionate educators and schools such as The Spence School, which are working to give women the equal chance in life that Clara Spence sought after for her first class of girls more than a century ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the amazing contributions to academic and civil life that The Spence School provides to the young girls of the Greater New York City area on its 125th anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF REGINALD "JAKE" GUTIERREZ

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of Officer Reginald "Jake" Gutierrez of the Tacoma Police Department, who was killed in the line of duty on Wednesday, November 30, 2016. My heart goes out to Jake's fiancée, children, and grandchild, who lost him in service to his community and his country. This is a tragedy.

Officer Gutierrez lost his life in a senseless act of violence. Those who witnessed the shooting of Officer Gutierrez stated that his

sacrifice saved the lives of those around him. His last action was to shout a warning to those in and around the house—his partner, the suspect's family, and their landlord—to leave the house to safety. His final moments are a testament to his selflessness, his bravery, and his commitment to helping others.

Mr. Speaker, Jake was a well-respected member of the Tacoma Police Department. A resident of Kitsap County, he had served on the Tacoma force for 17 years. Officer Gutierrez was a 45-year-old father of three, a grandfather of one, and was engaged to be married. These dreams have been cut short by his death, and remind us that life is precious and uncertain.

Fellow officers and residents of Tacoma remember him for his quick wit and his easy-going manner. They point to the fact that he always had a smile on his face, and cared about the community he served. Leaders in the neighborhood in which he was killed have remarked on the stand-up character of Officer Gutierrez. He was truly a hero.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Jake Gutierrez was a person who, like so many in the law enforcement community, put service above self.

I join with those who gather in remembrance of this fine man. Jake gave the ultimate sacrifice as a public servant and protector of our community's safety. I am honored and humbled to recognize him today in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF THE YORK THEATRE
COMPANY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the York Theatre Company as they celebrate the inauguration of their new theatre seats. Founded by Janet Hayes Walker in 1969, the York Theatre Company produces nearly 200 musical theatre performances each year, reaching over 37,000 patrons. The York Theatre is an incredible company that makes musical theatre accessible to New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds.

The unique mission of the York Theatre Company is two-fold as it aspires to produce new musical works, as well as rediscover musicals of the past. The York Theatre hosts several programs and activities that encourage musical theatre students to engage in Off-Broadway productions, greatly impacting the Off-Broadway scene. With programs such as the Mainstage Series, Musicals in Mufti Series, Developmental Reading Series, internship offerings, and a volunteer program, the York Theatre has made its mark on New York City's vibrant theatre community.

Since 2015, the York Theatre Company has offered its Musical Theatre Training Program that brings together working professionals and dedicated theatre students. This program offers training in singing, acting, and movements, as well as master classes with New York's top theatre artists. The York Theatre's intensive sessions are offered to students from

middle school to college. Many of these intensives offer students an opportunity to perform on the York Theatre's Off-Broadway stage at the conclusion of the program.

In the fall of 2014, the York Theatre celebrated its 100th Musical in Mufti with the production of Stephen Sondheim's Saturday Night. The York Theatre's Musical in Mufti ensures that lesser known musicals of the past are performed and brought into new light for the enjoyment of modern audiences.

The York Theatre was able to expand its seating capacity thanks to more than 100 generous supporters, as well as the \$112,000 grant issued by Sei Young Kim of New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs. Because of this expanded seating section, the theatre will be better able to reach its goal of providing free and low-cost performances to its audiences. With the ribbon cutting celebrating the company's new theatre seats, the York Theatre's patronage will expand to even broader audiences of New York theatregoers.

Off-Broadway theatre has played a pivotal role in making New York City the theatre capital of the world. In its 47th year of productions, the York Theatre Company has had a substantial impact on this great city's history.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise in recognition of the York Theatre Company, a principal in shaping New York City's theatre culture, as they celebrate the inauguration of their new theatre seats.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OF LINDA COLON

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the public service of Linda Colon, National President of the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary, and her upcoming visit to the organization's chapter in my home state of Florida.

Linda has spent her career dedicated to improving the lives of our nation's hospitalized veterans. She served at the VA Hospital and the Naval Hospital at Camp Pendleton, and where she boosted morale among patients and their families. For her admirable efforts, she has been the recipient of numerous awards from U.S. presidents, admirals, and naval hospital commanders.

In honor of her service with one of the oldest veterans' organizations in the country, I am pleased to recognize Linda Colon and welcome her to Florida.

HONORING SENATOR BARBARA
BOXER ON THE OCCASION OF
HER RETIREMENT

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Senator BARBARA BOXER on her

retirement after 34 years in Congress. Her dedication to her constituents and her legislative achievements are an inspiration. The lives of her constituents are better because of her hard work and public service on their behalf. I am honored to call her my friend, mentor, and constituent. She is a fearless trailblazer, and I want to recognize her lifelong advocacy for Californians and all Americans.

Senator BOXER's time in public office began in 1976, when she was elected to the Marin County Board of Supervisors, where she later became the Board's first woman president. After serving for six years, she was elected to the United States House of Representatives to serve California's 6th Congressional District. Her first campaign slogan, "Barbara Boxer Gives a Damn," would exemplify the passion with which she has fought through these years.

In 1992, known as "The Year of the Woman", she was elected to the United States Senate to fight for the people of California. As a forceful fighter for equality and social justice, and an astounding protector of the environment, Senator BOXER demonstrated time after time her ferocity, effectiveness, and willingness to go to bat for the people and the principles she believed in.

Her legislative achievements are too many to list. As the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Senator BOXER has led bipartisan efforts to protect the environment and address climate change. She has spent her life defending women's rights, including the importance of gender equality and the protection of a woman's right to choose. Throughout her career, she has identified matters of concern and has reached across the aisle to find solutions.

Senator BOXER's tireless work has influenced the lives of millions of Americans. I have often taken her counsel, and I am proud of the work we have done together to protect the Salton Sea. Her distinguished career in Congress is an example of what can be accomplished through hard work, dedication, and service.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize and honor Senator BARBARA BOXER. I will certainly miss our inspiring conversations on the flights to DC together, but I know this is the beginning of her many more successful battles for the common good. On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I offer my sincerest thanks and congratulate her for her exceptional commitment to public service. I wish her and her husband Stu all the best on her well-deserved retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE SENECA FALLS
DIALOGUES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Seneca Falls Dialogues, a conference that fosters a dialogue regarding women and gender studies issues, and the Women's Initiative for Leadership and Learning, Inc. (WILL) for sup-

porting such an important event. Once every two years, dedicated students, faculty and activists come together in Seneca Falls, New York, which has been associated with women's rights since the Declaration of Sentiments was signed in Seneca Falls in 1848 at the first women's rights convention. The Seneca Falls Dialogues aim to encourage discussion and research concerning equal rights for women.

In October of 2008, the Seneca Falls Heritage Group, the Friends of the Women's Rights National Historical Park, the National Women's Hall of Fame, and the Greater Rochester Branch of the American Association of University Women, in collaboration with an alliance of western New York colleges and universities, came together to create the First Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues. This initial conference was held on October 11–12, 2008 in celebration of the 160th anniversary of the first women's rights convention and the 60th anniversary of Eleanor Roosevelt's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Today, the Seneca Falls Dialogues are sponsored by WILL, in collaboration with the College Alliance, the town of Seneca Falls, the Seneca Falls Heritage Group, the Friends of the Women's Rights National Historical Park, the National Women's Hall of Fame, and the Greater Rochester Branch of the American Association of University Women. Works presented at the Dialogues are archived and serve as an important cache of materials used by a network of university Womens and Gender Studies programs and enable scholars to do further research.

Additionally, I would like to recognize the President of Friends of Women's Rights National Historical Park, Marilyn Tedeschi, who is also the key organizer of the Seneca Falls Dialogues.

Ms. Tedeschi has served in a number of roles, including urban educator, youth advocate, business entrepreneur and social activist. Her passions lie primarily in economic development of the working poor and their communities. She is a member of several boards that reflect this dedication, and is a cofounder of the Community Microenterprise Center, a not-for-profit that helps small businesses and serves as a Progressive Neighborhood Federal Credit Union for Rochester's lowest income families.

An advocate for women and girls, Ms. Tedeschi is the President of the Greater Rochester Area Branch of the American Association of University Women and Vice President of the Women's Institute for Leadership and Learning, both of which sponsor the Seneca Falls Dialogues.

This year's WILL award recipient is Brenda Ann Keneally. Ms. Keneally is an interdisciplinary artist who captures intrinsic aspects of human nature in her photographs. A highly honored photographer, Ms. Keneally has pushed the boundaries of art and social documentation by immersing herself in the lives and situations of her subjects, and incorporated the Internet as a documentation tool. Ms. Keneally also cofounded The Raw File, a digital theatre which focuses on expanding recognition for socially provocative media.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Seneca Falls Dialogues, Marilyn Tedeschi, and Brenda Ann Keneally

for their dedication to fostering civil discourse regarding women's rights, and their perseverance and advocacy in the fight to ensure equality for women.

IN HONOR OF MAJOR CHUCK
KILBRIDE AND THE UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS TOYS
FOR TOTS PROGRAM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Chuck Kilbride for his work with the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. Major Kilbride, through his work with the Toys for Tots Program, has provided hope and joy to children in need during the holiday season for well over two decades.

Started in 1947 by Major Bill Hendricks, Toys for Tots collects toys to provide to less fortunate youth, bringing local communities together around spreading holiday cheer. Toys for Tots was a quick success, collecting and distributing 5,000 toys in its first year alone. It has only improved throughout the years, providing over 512 million toys to over 237 million children nationwide to date.

The Toys for Tots Program is not only about making children's wishes come true, it is about creating an environment of inclusion for all youth, regardless of their background or economic situation. The program recognizes that children are our most valuable asset because they are our future; investing in them is contributing to our future.

The Toys for Tots Program has a special place in my heart. Each year, it has provided toys to public housing residents throughout my district in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. I fondly remember distributing toys with Major Kilbride at the Seward Park Community Center and the Vladeck Houses on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in December, 2009. That year, Major Kilbride named my late husband, Clifton Maloney, honorary vice chairman of the Toys for Tots program in New York City. I am grateful for all the amazing work Major Kilbride and his Marines have done for children throughout the New York metropolitan area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Major Chuck Kilbride, Gunnery Sergeant Brian Gomez, Staff Sergeant J.D. Quinton, and Sergeant Eliezer Gomez for their work for the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. These gentlemen and the Marine Corps have worked tirelessly to spread happiness and faith to less fortunate youth during the holiday season.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. PRAKASH
M. SWAMY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr.

Prakash Swamy for his tremendous dedication to improving United States and India relations.

Dr. Swamy holds a doctorate degree in Media Studies from Amstead University and has worked as a journalist for over 35 years. Starting as an intern with the Gainesville Sun, he has written and served as editor for numerous newspapers both in the United States and India.

Dr. Swamy is an experienced public speaker. He was a speaker at the 2009 convention of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas sponsored by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, which celebrates the contributions of the overseas Indian community to India.

Dr. Swamy currently is a Diplomatic Correspondent to the United Nations and has spent the last 10 years writing about the UN General Assembly Session. In this role, he has reported on prominent international leaders including heads of state, foreign ministers and ambassadors. Dr. Swamy is dedicated to improving India-U.S. relations and has worked with officials in the Clinton, Bush and Obama administrations to achieve this goal.

Dr. Swamy is the president of America Tamil Sangam, an organization that promotes Tamil language and heritage throughout the United States. America Tamil Sangam provides a platform for Tamil scholars, writers and artists to share a rich culture and history with the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Dr. Prakash Swamy for his accomplishments in the U.S. and abroad, and for his continued dedication to improving India-U.S. relations.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DIWALI
AT TIMES SQUARE CELEBRATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Diwali At Times Square celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights. I particularly want to recognize Neeta Bhasin, President and CEO of Event Guru and ASB Communications, for her extraordinary effort in organizing this event. The largest Asian-Indian event in the United States, it has successfully united Hindus, Sikhs and other Diwali celebrators from all over the world in the heart of New York to share the joyous occasion.

Diwali At Times Square started in 2013 and has since grown into an eight-hour event featuring delicious food, fashion, arts and crafts, and Bollywood performances. It displays Asian-Indian culture to the world and engages people of all ages and backgrounds in the val-

ues of Diwali: light over dark, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil.

This year, I had the pleasure of attending Diwali At Times Square. The energy and joy at the celebration is contagious. Times Square, one of the brightest places on earth, is the perfect location to honor the Festival of Lights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Neeta Bhasin and Diwali At Times Square for helping everyone in the New York Metropolitan region celebrate this beautiful holiday.

IN HONOR OF DR. LAKSHMI-
NARAYANA SUBRAMANIAM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Lakshminarayana Subramaniam for his contributions to classical music. Dr. Subramaniam's achievements have reshaped and added a new dimension to a genre of music which so many people enjoy.

Dr. Subramaniam has earned degrees in Western Classical composition, distinctions in western violin studies, classical Carnatic music, and medicine. This unique combination of classical western and South Indian music led Dr. Subramaniam to develop not only a new style of orchestral writing, but a new genre altogether.

As one of India's most prolific composers, Dr. Subramaniam has collaborated, conducted, and performed with world class orchestras and musicians from all over the globe at some of music's most famous venues. To date, Dr. Subramaniam has worked with over 50 orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Swiss Romande, and the Royal Oman Symphony. His recorded collaborations with musicians include Yehudi Menuhin, Stephane Grappelli, Joe Sample, and George Harrison. The sounds of Dr. Subramaniam's compositions have graced the halls of venues like the Lincoln Center, the Tchaikovsky Hall, Zhongshan Music Hall, and the Gewandhaus. Dr. Subramaniam is one of only a handful of living composers with over 150 live performances of his various orchestral works.

In 1992, Dr. Subramaniam co-founded the Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival, which showcases various genres from a multitude of different artists. The event has been held in 55 cities in 22 countries, drawing audiences of up to 200,000 people. In 2007, Dr. Subramaniam co-founded the Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts, a global music institute lo-

cated in Bangalore which exposes its young students to music from all over the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Dr. Subramaniam for his contributions to the musical world. Dr. Subramaniam's achievements in composition, conduction, and orchestral performance are truly unparalleled.

IN HONOR OF THE FORTUNATO
BROTHERS CAFE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Fortunato Brothers Cafe, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary as a neighborhood institution in Brooklyn's Williamsburg. What started as an idea by three brothers from Italy to make and sell authentic Italian desserts has become a landmark and a point of pride for New York's vibrant Italian community.

Opened in October 1976 by Salvatore, Michael, and Mario Fortunato in Williamsburg, the Fortunato Brothers Cafe is known for its famous pastries with displays full of cannoli, marzipan, tarts, gelato, and cakes of all shapes and sizes. Using the same original recipes since its opening, Fortunato Brothers Cafe's sweets are just as delicious now as they were in 1976.

The bakery's continued success serves as a model of excellence for other small businesses and speaks to the strength of New York's Italian community. In a city crowded with Italian restaurants and eateries, Fortunato Brothers Cafe continues to shine due to the high standard its owners have set for it.

The Fortunato Brothers Cafe is a symbol of the resilience and liveliness of Italian heritage. Although Williamsburg has changed a lot over the years, the bakery's recipes and atmosphere are timeless. Fortunato Brothers Cafe's widespread popularity reflects the profound positive impact Italian culture has had on New York.

Fortunato Brothers Cafe continues to be a welcoming and familiar place for neighbors to come together over a cup of coffee or a pastry. Still owned by Salvatore, Michael, and Mario, the bakery remains dedicated to serving the community with delicious baked goods and a welcoming environment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary achievements of the Fortunato Brothers Cafe as it celebrates 40 years of serving tasty delicacies in North Brooklyn.

SENATE—Tuesday, December 27, 2016

The Senate met at 4:30 and 2 seconds p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN SASSE, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 27, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN SASSE, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SASSE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2016, AT 10 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Friday, December 30, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:30 and 32 seconds p.m., adjourned until Friday, December 30, 2016, at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Tuesday, December 27, 2016*

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 27, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE HOLDING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Gene Hemrick, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Lord, as we begin a new year, please bless our Congress with the holy gift of selfless service that generates goodness, beauty, unity, and the pursuit of truth You desire for all humankind.

May the work of Congress be blessed with God's inspiration, strength, and zeal in dealing with the challenges of 2017.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 944, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(b) of House Resolution 944, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Friday, December 30, 2016.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, December 30, 2016, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8037. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (RIN: 0985-AA08) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

8038. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Claims Procedure for Plans Providing Disability Benefits (RIN: 1210-AB39) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

8039. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Savings Arrangements Established by Qualified State Political Subdivisions for Non-Governmental Employees (RIN: 1210-AB76) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

8040. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Apprenticeship Programs; Equal Employment Opportunity (RIN: 1205-AB59) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

8041. A letter from the Director, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Clarification of Employer's Continuing Obligation To Make and Maintain an Accurate Record of Each Recordable Injury and Illness [Docket No.: OSHA-2015-0006] (RIN: 1218-AC84) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

8042. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Georgia: Procedures for Testing and Monitoring Sources of Air Pollutants [EPA-R04-OAR-2016-0468; FRL-9957-52-Region 4] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8043. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Illinois: Volatile Organic Compounds Defini-

tion [EPA-R05-OAR-2016-0502; FRL-9955-89-Region 5] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8044. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; KY; RACM Determination for the KY Portion of the Louisville Area 1997 Annual PM2.5 [EPA-R04-OAR-2016-0526; FRL-9957-39-Region 4] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8045. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS [EPA-R05-OAR-2015-0529; FRL-9957-16-Region 5] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8046. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York Prevention of Significant Deterioration of Air Quality and Nonattainment New Source Review; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements [EPA-R02-OAR-2016-0478; FRL-9957-08-Region 2] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8047. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2016-0393; FRL-9955-62-Region 9] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8048. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, South Coast Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2016-0444; FRL-9955-94-Region 9] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8049. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extension of Deadline for Action on the November 2016 Section 126 Petition From Delaware [EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0691; FRL-9957-28-OAR] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8050. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extension of Deadline for Action on the November 2016 Section 126 Petition From Maryland [EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-

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

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

0690; FRL-9957-29-OAR] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8051. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — State of Kentucky Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class II Program; Primacy Approval [EPA-HQ-OW-2015-0372; FRL-9957-48-OW] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8052. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — State of Kentucky Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class II Program; Withdrawal of Primacy Approval [EPA-HQ-OW-2015-0372; FRL-9957-47-OW] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8053. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Steam Protection Rule [Docket ID: OSM-2010-0018; S1D1S SS08011000 SX064A000 178S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX064A000 17X501520] (RIN: 1029-AC63) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8054. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Albany, OR [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3992; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ANM-14] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8055. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Depart-

ment's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9369; Directorate Identifier 2016-CE-034-AD; Amendment 39-18710; AD 2016-23-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8056. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Eugene, OR, and Corvallis, OR [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3991; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ANM-13] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8057. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-0462; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-144-AD; Amendment 39-18703; AD 2016-22-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8058. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule — Clean Water Act Methods Update Rule for the Analysis of Effluent [EPA-HQ-OW-2014-0797; FRL-9957-24-OW] (RIN: 2040-AF48) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk

for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CONAWAY: Committee on Agriculture. Report on Activities During the 114th Congress (January 3, 2015 to December 27, 2016) (Rept. 114-896). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII,

Mr. GRAYSON introduced a bill (H.R. 6535) to require the President to obtain written approval from the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State prior to the use of nuclear weapons by the United States, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6535.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF ROCCO
SACRAMONE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 27, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Rocco Sacramone, Chef and owner and of Trattoria L'Incontro and restaurateur, for his achievements and outstanding devotion to the betterment of the Queens community.

Since its opening in 1999, Trattoria L'Incontro has been a staple of the Astoria community. Under the direction of Chef Sacramone and Jack Brucculeri, Trattoria L'Incontro quickly became a "must place" to dine. In 2005 the restaurant was rated as one of the top two Italian restaurants in New York by Zagat, providing the highest level of quality and service in a unique setting that reflects Mr. Sacramone's hometown in Italy.

Despite his tremendous successes, Mr. Sacramone came from humble beginnings. Born in Orsonga, a small town in Abruzzo, Italy, Mr. Sacramone came to the United States with his family in 1970. At the age of 14, Mr. Sacramone began his work in restaurants as a dishwasher in a popular Italian restaurant in Queens. Working long hours in the kitchen, he rose through the ranks and quickly became manager at Nino's Restaurant in Greenwich Village, where he learned the front of house aspect of the restaurant business.

Throughout his career, Mr. Sacramone has received numerous accolades from the New York Times, Newsday and Timeout. Mr. Sacramone attributes much of his success to his team and loving family, especially his mother Tina who worked alongside him in the kitchen and taught him his respect and love for the art of cooking.

Mr. Sacramone continues to be a pillar of his community by devoting his time and support to many local organizations, including Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens, United Civic Community Association, SHAREing and CAREing and L.I.C./Astoria Kiwanis Club. Mr. Sacramone also plans to travel to Italy to help the victims of the recent earthquake. Additionally, his generous, unending support and charity to the Holy Name Society of St. Francis of Assisi Church makes the "Taste of Italy" Scholarship fundraiser a tremendous success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Sacramone for his tremendous achievements and continued generosity, dedication and support to his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF JONATHAN
DARCHE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 27, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Jonathan Darche for his undying devotion to improving the lives of New Yorkers through public service. Because of the dedication that Mr. Darche has shown to his community in Astoria, he is being honored at Taminent Regular Democratic Club's 85th Annual Dinner Dance with the Taminent Political Activism Award.

Mr. Darche, a life-long resident of Queens, graduated from Empire State College and received his law degree from the City University of New York School of Law. Mr. Darche began his career in public service working for Senator CHARLES E. SCHUMER. After graduating from law school, he continued his commitment to the people of Queens as an Assistant District Attorney at the Queens County District Attorney's Office, where he met his wife, Samantha Darche, Chief of Staff for Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas.

Mr. Darche's contributions to his community have by no means gone unnoticed. He has received numerous rewards for his dedicated public service, including the Narcotics Investigation Bureau Commendation and the New York State Bar Association Citation for Achievement in Public Service.

In November 2014, Mr. Darche was promoted to Chief Prosecutor of the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board after his time spent serving as the Deputy Chief Prosecutor and the Acting Chief of Investigations at the agency.

Mr. Darche's dedication to service extends past his career. He is incredibly active in his Astoria community. Mr. Darche's many roles include Corresponding Secretary for the Queens County Brandeis Association, member of the Taminent Regular Democratic Club, member of the Astoria Center of Israel and member of the United Community Civic Association. Mr. Darche lives in Astoria with his wife and their two-year-old son, Moses.

Mr. Darche has demonstrated tireless dedication to his community throughout his entire career. As both a hardworking attorney and community servant, Jonathan Darche consistently devotes his time and effort to improving the lives of those around him, with much success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible accomplishments and contributions of Jonathan Darche, a man who has undeniably made his community a better place.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL
SERAO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 27, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Michael Serao, an experienced philanthropist and cultural activist who has dedicated many years to serving his community in Queens, New York. Mr. Serao is being honored at Taminent Regular Democratic Club's 85th Annual Dinner Dance with the Ralph DeMarco Award.

After serving for six years at Commerce Bank in Astoria and three years as Vice President of JP Morgan Chase Bank in Astoria, Mr. Serao is now the Regional Manager and Vice President of Quontic Bank.

As grandson of Edward Serao from Bogan and Sons Furniture, a Steinway Street store that was a fixture in Astoria for decades, Mr. Serao is following in his grandfather's footsteps in giving back to his community. Michael Serao, a third-generation Italian-American, truly defines the meaning of community service.

Mr. Serao is the Board Director for the Astoria LIC Kiwanis, Chairman of the Advisory Board of SHAREing and CAREing, former Advisory Board member to Immaculate Conception school, past President of the Ditmars Merchants Association, Chair for the Astoria Park Relay for Life, Charter member and President of the Lions Club, Treasurer of the William Jefferson Clinton Democratic Club, a former Board Director for the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens, Board Director of QSAC and an active former Board member of Community Board 1. He is also the Vice President of the Astoria Civic Association which is led by former City Council Speaker Peter F. Vallone.

Mr. Serao's philanthropy work includes working with children with autism and senior citizens with disabilities. He has also worked actively in the LGBT community as a former member of OUT Astoria and former President of the Western Queens LGBT Democratic Club.

Some of Mr. Serao's past honors include HX Magazine Businessman of the Year, Business Leadership Award from the Powhattan Democratic Club, Man of the Year from the LIC KOC, Business Leadership Award from the Borough President and numerous City Council and state recognitions. He currently resides in Hewlett Harbor with his partner, Dr. Fidel Abreu.

Community involvement is the foundation of a successful city, and Mr. Serao exemplifies commitment to his community through his years of active service to local groups, organizations and elected officials. It is a privilege for me to represent a district with dedicated

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

citizens, like Michael Serao, who work constantly to improve our city. Michael Serao consistently devotes his time and effort to improving the lives of those around him, with great success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary work that Michael Serao has done for the great city of New York.

IN RECOGNITION OF EARTHA T.
WASHINGTON

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 27, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Eartha T. Washington, who has a long history of service to her community. Ms. Washington is being honored at Taminent Regular Democratic Club's 85th Annual Dinner Dance with the Taminent Community Service Award. Her commitment, enthusiasm, and generosity have helped countless members of her community.

Ms. Washington was born in South Carolina and grew up in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn as the oldest of four children. She was married to the late James Washington Jr. and is the proud mother of three sons and three granddaughters. Ms. Washington has lived in Astoria, Queens for over 50 years.

After graduating from Borough of Manhattan College and Baruch College, Ms. Washington served as a Contract Administrator with the New York City Department of Parks for 31 years.

Ms. Washington has dedicated most of her spare time to community service. Her many roles include: Chairperson of the Advisory Board at Elmhurst Hospital; New York State Licensed Chaplain; New York City Department

of the Aging Advisory Board Member; Director of Astoria Civic Association; Astoria-LIC Kiwanis; Vice President of SHAREing/CAREing and Director of Taminent Women's Regular Democratic Club.

In recognition of her commitment to serving her community, Ms. Washington has received many awards and honors from New York City Council, State of New York, Congress of the United States, New York State Assembly and the Coleman Foundation, among others.

Additionally, Ms. Washington has traveled extensively and has visited five continents. A considerable amount of this travel has been service oriented; including the several trips Ms. Washington has taken to volunteer abroad in Dominica, Kenya and South Africa.

Ms. Washington's dedication to aiding others is epitomized by her motto—"If I can help someone as I pass this way, I must do it now, for I may not pass this way again." She has demonstrated tireless dedication to her community throughout her entire adult life. Eartha Washington consistently devotes her time and effort to improving the lives of those around her, with great success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary work of Eartha T. Washington, a New York woman who makes a difference in her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN FORD

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 27, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. John Ford, the current President and Business Manager of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United

States, Its Territories and Canada (IATSE). Mr. Ford is being honored at Taminent Regular Democratic Club's 85th Annual Dinner Dance with the Man of the Year Award.

The IATSE was founded in 1893 when representatives of stagehands working in eleven cities met in New York and pledged to support each others' efforts to establish fair wages and working conditions for their members. The union has since evolved to embrace the development of new entertainment mediums, craft expansion, technological innovation and geographic growth. Today, the over 130,000 members work in all forms of live theater, motion picture and television production, trade shows and exhibitions, television broadcasting, and concerts as well as the equipment and construction shops that support all these areas of the entertainment industry.

John Ford is a third generation member of IATSE Local 52 Motion Picture Studio Mechanics, and he has been a member since 1978. He served on the Executive Board as the Property Department Representative from 1992 to 1998. Mr. Ford also served as Secretary and Treasurer from 1999 to April 2004.

In addition to serving as the President and Business Manager since April 2004, John Ford serves as a Trustee on the Motion Picture Industry Pension and Health Plans. Mr. Ford presently serves as a Trustee on the Local 52 401k Plan. He also currently serves as the International Vice President of the Executive Board of IATSE, a position to which he was elected in July of 2006.

The entertainment industry has played a strong role in our great city by providing good paying jobs to thousands of workers. IATSE ensures that stagehands receive fair pay and good benefits for their essential work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary work that John Ford has done for the IATSE and his larger impact on the great city of New York.

SENATE—Friday, December 30, 2016

The Senate met at 10 and 4 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY,
JANUARY 3, 2017, AT 11:55 A.M.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands

adjourned until 11:55 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10 and 13 seconds a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, January 3, 2017, at 11:55 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, December 30, 2016

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 30, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LUKE MESSER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Michael D. Wilker, Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under Heaven.

You have made each of us and gathered us together for this moment.

Jesus Christ promised at the end of time that the nations will be judged by how they feed the hungry, refresh the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned.

Thank You for guiding and encouraging us to answer Your call to justice and mercy in this past year. Forgive us for the ways we mistreated others and failed to care for Your creation.

In the new year, astonish and disrupt us so that we may meet You when we serve those who are at the lowest rungs and the farthest margins of our society. When we are vulnerable or suffering, surprise us with Your amazing grace, steadfast love, and everlasting joy.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 944, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HOUSE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates, he had approved and signed bills of the following titles:

October 7, 2016:

H.R. 1475. An Act to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

H.R. 2494. An Act to support global anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, designate major wildlife trafficking countries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2733. An Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3004. An Act to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

H.R. 3937. An Act to designate the building utilized as a United States courthouse located at 150 Reade Circle in Greenville, North Carolina, as the "Randy D. Doub United States Courthouse".

H.R. 5147. An Act to amend title 40, United States Code, to require restrooms in public buildings to be equipped with baby changing facilities.

H.R. 5578. An Act to establish certain rights for sexual assault survivors, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5883. An Act to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to clarify the duties relating to services furnished in connection with the buying or selling of livestock in commerce through online, video, or other electronic methods, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5944. An Act to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to certain grant assurances, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5946. An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any prizes or awards won in competition in the Olympic Games or the Paralympic Games.

November 28, 2016:

H.R. 845. An Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish in the Federal Register a strategy to significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in National Forest System trail maintenance, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4511. An Act to amend the Veterans' Oral History Project Act to allow the collection of video and audio recordings of biographical histories by immediate family members of members of the Armed Forces who died as a result of their service during a period of war.

H.R. 5392. An Act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the Veterans Crisis Line.

H.R. 6007. An Act to amend title 49, United States Code, to include consideration of cer-

tain impacts on commercial space launch and reentry activities in a navigable airspace analysis, and for other purposes.

December 8, 2016:

H.R. 4665. An Act to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the outdoor recreation economy of the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4902. An Act to amend title 5, United States Code, to expand law enforcement availability pay to employees of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Air and Marine Operations.

H.R. 5785. An Act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for an annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers.

H.R. 5873. An Act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 511 East San Antonio Avenue in El Paso, Texas, as the "R.E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

December 10, 2016:

H.R. 2028. An Act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

December 13, 2016:

H.R. 34. An Act to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes.

December 14, 2016:

H.R. 3471. An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the provision of automobiles and adaptive equipment by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 4419. An Act to update the financial disclosure requirements for judges of the District of Columbia courts and to make other improvements to the District of Columbia courts.

H.R. 5111. An Act to prohibit the use of certain clauses in form contracts that restrict the ability of a consumer to communicate regarding the goods or services offered in interstate commerce that were the subject of the contract, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5509. An Act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs temporary lodging facility in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the "Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House".

H.R. 5995. An Act to strike the sunset on certain provisions relating to the authorized protest of a task or delivery order under section 4106 of title 41, United States Code.

December 16, 2016:

H.R. 710. An Act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 875. An Act to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes.

H.R. 960. An Act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Newark, Ohio, as the Daniel L. Kinnard VA Clinic.

H.R. 1150. An Act to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and

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

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

through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2726. An Act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the moon.

H.R. 3218. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1221 State Street, Suite 12, Santa Barbara, California, as the "Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Louis 'Lou' J. Langlais Post Office Building".

H.R. 3784. An Act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and a Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3842. An Act to improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4352. An Act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program establishing a patient self-scheduling appointment system, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4465. An Act to decrease the deficit by consolidating and selling Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4618. An Act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 121 Spring Street SE in Gainesville, Georgia, as the "Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

H.R. 4680. An Act to prepare the National Park Service for its Centennial in 2016 and for a second century of promoting and protecting the natural, historic, and cultural resources of our National Parks for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4887. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23232 Shelby Road in Shelby, Indiana, as the "Richard Allen Cable Post Office".

H.R. 4939. An Act to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5015. An Act to restore amounts improperly withheld for tax purposes from severance payments to individuals who retired or separated from service in the Armed Forces for combat-related injuries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5065. An Act to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to notify air carriers and security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration of such Administration's guidelines regarding permitting baby formula, breast milk, purified deionized water, and juice on airplanes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5099. An Act to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 5150. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3031 Veterans Road West in Staten Island, New York, as the "Leonard Montalto Post Office Building".

H.R. 5309. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 McElroy Drive in Oxford, Mississippi,

as the "Army First Lieutenant Donald C. Carville Post Office Building".

H.R. 5356. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14231 TX-150 in Coldspring, Texas, as the "E. Marie Youngblood Post Office".

H.R. 5591. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 810 N US Highway 83 in Zapata, Texas, as the "Zapata Veterans Post Office".

H.R. 5612. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2886 Sandy Plains Road in Marietta, Georgia, as the "Marine Lance Corporal Squire 'Skip' Wells Post Office Building".

H.R. 5676. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6300 N. Northwest Highway in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Officer Joseph P. Cali Post Office Building".

H.R. 5687. An Act to eliminate or modify certain mandates of the Government Accountability Office.

H.R. 5790. An Act to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

H.R. 5798. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Davis Street in Evanston, Illinois, as the "Abner J. Mikva Post Office Building".

H.R. 5877. An Act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 to promote cooperative homeland security research and antiterrorism programs relating to cybersecurity, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5889. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Chalan Kanoa VLG in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as the "Segundo T. Sablan and CNMI Fallen Military Heroes Post Office Building".

H.R. 5948. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 830 Kuhn Drive in Chula Vista, California, as the "Jonathan 'J.D.' De Guzman Post Office Building".

H.R. 6014. An Act to allow the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to enter into reimbursable agreements for certain airport projects.

H.R. 6130. An Act to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.

H.R. 6138. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 560 East Pleasant Valley Road, Port Hueme, California, as the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion "Seabees" Fallen Heroes Post Office Building.

H.R. 6282. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2024 Jerome Avenue, in Bronx, New York, as the "Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 6302. An Act to provide an increase in premium pay for protective services during 2016, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6304. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 North Main Street in Florence, Arizona, as the "Adolfo 'Harpo' Celaya Post Office".

H.R. 6323. An Act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system in Long Beach, California, the "Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center".

H.R. 6400. An Act to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in New Jersey.

H.R. 6416. An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6431. An Act to ensure United States jurisdiction over offenses committed by United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives.

H.R. 6450. An Act to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6451. An Act to improve the Government-wide management of Federal property.

H.R. 6452. An Act to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6477. An Act to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title.

SENATE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates, he had approved and signed bills of the Senate of the following titles:

October 7, 2016:

S. 1004. An Act to amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day.

S. 1698. An Act to exclude payments from State eugenics compensation programs from consideration in determining eligibility for, or the amount of Federal public benefits.

S. 2683. An Act to include disabled veteran leave in the personnel management system of the Federal Aviation Administration.

S. 3283. An Act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "PFC James Dunn VA Clinic".

October 14, 2016:

S. 246. An Act to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

December 8, 2016:

S. 2754. An Act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Fannin Street in Shreveport, Louisiana, as the "Tom Staggs United States Court House".

December 14, 2016:

S. 795. An Act to enhance whistleblower protection for contractor and grantee employees.

S. 817. An Act to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon.

S. 818. An Act to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

S. 1550. An Act to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish entities tasked with improving program and project management in certain Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1555. An Act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1632. An Act to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram.

S. 1808. An Act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a Northern Border threat analysis, and for other purposes.

S. 1915. An Act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

S. 2234. An Act to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

S. 2873. An Act to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

S. 2974. An Act to ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and for other purposes.

S. 3028. An Act to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

S. 3076. An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish caskets and urns for burial in cemeteries of States and tribal organizations of veterans without next of kin or sufficient resources to provide for caskets or urns, and for other purposes.

S. 3183. An Act to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event, and for other purposes.

S. 3395. An Act to require limitations on prescribed burns.

S. 3492. An Act to designate the Traverse City VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Traverse City, Michigan, as the "Colonel Demas T. Craw VA Clinic".

December 16, 2016:

S. 8. An Act to provide for the approval of the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

S. 546. An Act to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes.

S. 612. An Act to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

S. 1635. An Act to authorize the Department of State for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2577. An Act to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner offices, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 2854. An Act to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007.

S. 2971. An Act to authorize the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

944, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

Thereupon (at 10 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, January 3, 2017, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8059. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Aggregation of Positions (RIN: 3038-AD82) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8060. A letter from the PRAO Branch Chief, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Enhancing Retailer Standards in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) [FNS-2016-0018] (RIN: 0584-AE27) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8061. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children [Docket ID: DOD-2015-OS-0020] (RIN: 0790-AJ33) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8062. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule — Liquidity Coverage Ratio: Public Disclosure Requirements; Extension of Compliance Period for Certain Companies to Meet the Liquidity Coverage Ratio Requirements [Docket No.: R-1525] (RIN: 7100 AE-39) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8063. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Home Mortgage Disclosure (Regulation C) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold received December 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8064. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold received December 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8065. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Amendments to the 2013 Mortgage Rules Under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (Regulation X) and the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) [Docket No.: CFPB-2014-0033] (RIN: 3170-AA49) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8066. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's official interpretations — Safe Harbors From Liability Under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act for Certain Actions Taken in Compliance With Mortgage Servicing Rules Under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (Regulation X) and the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) [Docket No.: CFPB-2014-0033] (RIN: 3170-AA49) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8067. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Walton County, GA, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2016-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8457] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8068. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (McKean County, PA, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2016-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8459] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8069. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Housing Counseling: New Certification Requirements [Docket No.: FR 5339-F-03] (RIN: 2502-AI94) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8070. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rules — Consumer Lending (Regulation M) [Docket No.: R-1545] (RIN: 7100 AE-56) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8071. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rules — Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold [Docket No.: R-1443] (RIN: 7100-AD90) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8072. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rules — Truth in Lending (Regulation Z) [Docket No.: R-1546] (RIN: 7100 AE-57) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8073. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRA, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's joint final rules — Expanded Examination Cycle for Certain Small Insured Depository Institutions and U.S. Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banks [Docket ID: OCC-2016-0001] (RIN:

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(b) of House Resolution

1557-AE01) received December 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8074. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's interpretive bulletin — Relating to the Exercise of Shareholder Rights and Written Statements of Investment Policy, Including Proxy Voting Policies or Guidelines (RIN: 1210-AB78) received December 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

8075. A letter from the Executive Director, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, transmitting the Council's final rule — Privacy Act Regulations (RIN: 3219-AA00) received December 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8076. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Loan Programs Office, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Loan Guarantees for Projects that Employ Innovative Technologies (RIN: 1901-AB38) received December 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8077. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers [Docket No.: EERE-2016-BT-TP-0030] (RIN: 1904-AD72) received December 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8078. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Enterprise Assessment, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedural Rules for DOE Nuclear Activities [Docket No.: EA-RM-16-PRDNA] (RIN: 1992-AA52) received December 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8079. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — General Hospital and Personal Use Devices: Renaming of Pediatric Hospital Bed Classification and Designation of Special Controls for Pediatric Medical Crib; Classification of Medical Bassinet [Docket No.: FDA-2015-N-0701] received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8080. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Food Labeling: Health Claims: Dietary Saturated Fat and Cholesterol and Risk of Coronary Heart Disease [Docket No.: FDA-2013-P-0047] (RIN: 0910-AH43) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8081. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA,

Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Banned Devices; Powdered Surgeon's Gloves, Powdered Patient Examination Gloves, and Absorbable Powder for Lubricating a Surgeon's Glove [Docket No.: FDA-2015-N-5017] (RIN: 0910-AH02) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8082. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final NUREG — Fitness for Duty — Operational Program (NUREG-0800, Chapter 13) Section 13.7.1 received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8083. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Changes to Aging Management Guidance for Various Steam Generator Components; License Renewal Interim Staff Guidance [LR-ISG-2016-01] received December 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8084. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Cooking Products [Docket No.: EERE-2012-BT-TP-0013] (RIN: 1904-AC71) received December 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8085. A letter from the President of The United States, transmitting Additional Steps to Address the National Emergency with Respect to Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities as declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(b); Public Law 95-223 Sec. 204(b); (91 Stat. 1627) (H. Doc. No. 114—190); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

8086. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(d)(1); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(d)(1) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(c)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8087. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, FIOA Program, Office of Public Information, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of the Department of Energy's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Regulations (RIN: 1901-AB41) received December 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8088. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's small entity compliance guide — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-93 [Docket No.: FAR 2016-0051; Sequence No.: 7] received December 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8089. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Paid Sick Leave for Federal Contractors [FAC 2005-93; FAR Case 2017-001, Item I; Docket No.: 2017-0001; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN27) received December 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8090. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's Major final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces; Injunction [FAC 2005-93; FAR Case 2014-025; Item II; Docket No.: 2014-0025; Sequence No.: 2] (RIN: 9000-AN30) received December 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8091. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces; Injunction [FAC 2005-93; FAR Case 2014-025; Item II; Docket No.: 2014-0025; Sequence No.: 2] (RIN: 9000-AN30) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8092. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's summary presentation of interim and final rules — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-93; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR 2016-0051, Sequence No.: 7] received December 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8093. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a (H. Doc. No. 114—191); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

8094. A letter from the Division Chief, Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Competitive Processes, Terms, and Conditions for Leasing Public Lands for Solar and Wind Energy Development and Technical Changes and Corrections [LLWO301000.L13400000] (RIN: 1004-AE24) received December 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8095. A letter from the Eagle Program Manager, Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Eagle Permits; Revisions to Regulations for Eagle Incidental Take and Take of Eagle Nests [Docket No.: FWS-R9-MB-2011-0094; FF09M20300-167-FXMB123109EAGLE] (RIN: 1018-AY30) received December 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8096. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final

rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; 2016-2018 Atlantic Bluefish Specifications [Docket No.: 151130999-6594-02] (RIN: 0648-XE336) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8097. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revisions to Framework Adjustment 55 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and Sector Annual Catch Entitlements; Updated Annual Catch Limits for Sectors and the Common Pool for Fishing Year 2016 [Docket No.: 160516426-6426-01] (RIN: 0648-XE632) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8098. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications [Docket No.: 160617540-6702-02] (RIN: 0648-XE695) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8099. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Blueline Tilefish Fishery; Secretarial Interim Action [Docket No.: 160609505-6505-01] (RIN: 0648-BG07) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8100. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications [Docket No.: 160411325-6535-02] (RIN: 0648-XE568) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8101. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 151130999-6225-01] (RIN: 0648-XF035) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8102. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Regulations; Areas of the National Park System, Cape Hatteras National Seashore — Off-Road Vehicle Management [NPS-SER-CAHA-22533; PPSECAHASO, PPMPSPD1Z.YM0000] (RIN: 1024-AE633) received December 16, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8103. A letter from the Chief, Border Security Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Definition of Form I-94 to Include Electronic Format [Docket No.: USCBP-2013-0011] [CBP Dec. No.: 16-27] (RIN: 1651-AA96) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8104. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9356; Directorate Identifier 2016-CE-033-AD; Amendment 39-18701; AD 2016-22-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8105. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3985; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-182-AD; Amendment 39-18708; AD 2016-23-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8106. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aeronautics (Formerly Known as Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-6544; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-198-AD; Amendment 39-18704; AD 2016-22-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8107. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5593; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-184-AD; Amendment 39-18687; AD 2016-21-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8108. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5041; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-102-AD; Amendment 39-18719; AD 2016-24-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8109. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5034; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-172-AD; Amendment 39-18702; AD 2016-22-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8110. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Various Restricted Category Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3820; Directorate Identifier 2014-SW-024-AD; Amendment 39-18716; AD 2016-23-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8111. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BRP-Powertrain GmbH and Co KG Reciprocating Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9103; Directorate Identifier 2016-NE-18-AD; Amendment 39-18711; AD 2016-23-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8112. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Amendment of Class D and E Airspace for the following Texas Towns; Georgetown, TX; Corpus Christi, TX; Dallas/Fort Worth, TX; Gainesville, TX; Graford, TX; Hebronville, TX; and Jasper, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2016-8827; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ASW-12] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8113. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace, Silver Springs, NV [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6413; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AWP-11] received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8114. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9436; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-197-AD; Amendment 39-18726; AD 2016-24-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8115. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9515; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-181-AD; Amendment 39-18749; AD 2016-25-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8116. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2016-7099; Directorate Identifier 2016-NE-15-AD; Amendment 39-18737; AD 2016-25-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8117. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines

[Docket No.: FAA-2016-6744; Directorate Identifier 2016-NE-12-AD; Amendment 39-18736; AD 2016-25-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8118. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9503; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-179-AD; Amendment 39-18744; AD 2016-25-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8119. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9509; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-177-AD; Amendment 39-18750; AD 2016-25-24] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8120. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-4228; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-107-AD; Amendment 39-18734; AD 2016-25-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8121. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-7418; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-163-AD; Amendment 39-18675; AD 2016-20-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8122. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6692; Directorate Identifier 2016-NE-13-AD; Amendment 39-18725; AD 2016-24-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8123. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-7267; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-015-AD; Amendment 39-18723; AD 2016-24-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8124. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-8178; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-197-AD; Amendment 39-18721; AD

2016-24-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8125. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5598; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-001-AD; Amendment 39-18735; AD 2016-25-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8126. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-7530; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-257-AD; Amendment 39-18730; AD 2016-25-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8127. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; M7 Aerospace LLC [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9120; Directorate Identifier 2016-CE-024-AD; Amendment 39-18738; AD 2016-25-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8128. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-4224; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-170-AD; Amendment 39-18720; AD 2016-24-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8129. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5466; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-183-AD; Amendment 39-18724; AD 2016-24-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8130. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-7271; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-099-AD; Amendment 39-18722; AD 2016-24-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8131. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0215; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-132-AD; Amendment 39-18665; AD 2016-19-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received Decem-

ber 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8132. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to Operational Requirements for the Use of Enhanced Flight Vision Systems (EFVS) and to Pilot Component View Requirements for Vision Systems [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0485; Amdt. Nos.: 1-70, 23-63, 25-144, 27-48, 29-56, 61-139, 91-345, 121-376, 125-66, and 135-135] (RIN: 2120-AJ94) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8133. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Qualification, Service, and Use of Crewmembers and Aircraft Dispatchers; Related Aircraft Amendment [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9526; Amdt. No.: 121-397] (RIN: 2120-AK95) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8134. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31111; Amdt. No.: 530] received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8135. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D Airspace for St. Petersburg, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9375; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ASO-16] received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8136. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-235 and V-293 in the Vicinity of Cedar City, Utah [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9265; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ANM-11] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8137. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class C Airspace; El Paso International Airport, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2016-7417; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AWA-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8138. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3142; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-003-AD; Amendment 39-18725; AD 2016-25-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8139. A letter from the Acting Deputy CFO, National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Schedule of Fees for Access to NOAA Environmental Data, Information, and Related Products and Services [Docket No.: 161107999-6999-01] (RIN: 0648-BG39) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

8140. A letter from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the Secretary (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (RIN: 2900-AP44) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

8141. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Toxic Substance Control Act Chemical Substance Import Certification Process Revisions [USCBP-2016-0056] [CBP Dec. No.: 16-28] (RIN: 1515-AE13) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8142. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importations of Certain Vehicles and Engines Subject to Federal Antipollution Emission Standards [USCBP-2016-0011] [CBP Dec. No.: 16-29] (RIN: 1515-AE11) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8143. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Regulatory Implementation of the Centers of Excellence and Expertise [USCBP-2016-0075] [CBP Dec. No.: 16-26] (RIN: 1651-AB02) received December 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8144. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Treatment of Certain Domestic Entities Disregarded as Separate from Their Owners as Corporations for Purposes of Section 6038A [TD 9796] (RIN: 1545-BM94) received December 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8145. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Services IRB only rule — 2016 Required Amendments List for Qualified Retirement Plans (Notice 2016-80) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8146. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — 2017 Standard Mileage Rates (Notice 2016-79) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8147. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Total Loss-Absorbing Capacity Instruments (Rev. Proc. 2017-12) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8148. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Beginning of Construction for Sections 45 and 48 (Notice 2017-04) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8149. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Applicable Federal Rates — January 2017 (Rev. Rul. 2017-2) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8150. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Eligibility for Exemption from User Fee Requirement for Employee Plans Determination Letter Applications Filed on or After January 1, 2017 (Notice 2017-1) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8151. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Revenue Ruling: 2016 Base Period T-Bill Rate (Rev. Rul. 2017-01) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8152. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Extension of Eligibility Rule Waivers for Certain Automatic Changes Made To Comply with the Final Tangible Property Regulations (Notice 2017-6) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8153. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Premium Tax Credit Regulation VI [TD 9804] (RIN: 1545-BN50) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8154. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's temporary regulations — Guidance Under Section 355(e) Regarding Predecessors, Successors, and Limitation on Gain Recognition; Guidance Under Section 355(f) [TD 9805] (RIN: 1545-BN18) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8155. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Treatment of Certain Transfers of Property to Foreign Corporations [TD 9803] (RIN: 1545-BL87) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia: Committee on the Budget. Activities and Summary Report of the Committee on the Budget (Rept. 114-897). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROYCE: Committee on Foreign Affairs. Legislative Review and Oversight Activities of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Rept. 114-898). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Summary of the Activities of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the 114th Congress (Rept. 114-899). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1472. A bill to establish a modernized national Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-900). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan: Committee on House Administration. The Report on the Activities of the Committee on House Administration During the 114th Congress (Rept. 114-901). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. S. 1576 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 6536. A bill to prohibit the employment of school bus drivers with serious moving violations; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ROSS (for himself, Mr.

PITTENGER, Mr. GOHMERT, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. STEWART, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MESSER, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. BRAT):

H. Res. 957. A resolution disapproving of President Obama and his administration's refusal to veto the anti-Israel resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council on December 23, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers

granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 6536.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 953: Ms. MENG.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

97. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Mike Folmer, Chair, State Government Committee, Senate of Pennsylvania, relative to notifying the Congress of Resolution 236 from the 1976 Session of the General Assembly, which calls for a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMARKS ON THE 114TH
CONGRESS

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 30, 2016

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the 114th Congress. To be honest, I feel we failed the American people at times. When calls were made for sensible gun reform after the Pulse nightclub tragedy, the majority in this body refused to listen. When the American people clamored for policy solutions that would mitigate the effects of climate change during the warmest year on record, the majority refused to listen. When workers demanded increased wages, seniors called for the protection of retirement security programs, and the poor simply asked to be treated with a bit more dignity in the face of assistance cuts, the majority failed to listen.

Despite these disappointments, however, there were opportunities for good that were seized. We recently passed the "21st Century Cures Act", we shepherded through multi-year water resource development and surface transportation reauthorizations, we began to address the opioid epidemic, and we finally replaced "No Child Left Behind". In each of these instances, there were opportunities for Members to improve these pieces of legislation, and I feel fortunate to have had several opportunities to do so successfully on behalf of my constituents. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to read into the RECORD some of the legislative achievements that were signed into law this Congress on behalf of the people of the Sixth Congressional District of New York:

(1) H.R. 4238, "To amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities", which struck the outdated and offensive term "Oriental" from the U.S. Code in each place it appeared referring to a person.

(2) Section 111 of H.R. 3700, the "Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016", which requires the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to publish model guidelines for minimum heating requirements for public housing units. This effort originated in response to reports of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents receiving inadequate unit heating when outside temperatures were well below freezing.

(3) Section 5511 of H.R. 22, the "Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act", which requires a national review of existing federal and state rules covering the transportation of elementary and secondary school children on school buses, and mandates the creation of best practices for ensuring safe and reliable school bus transportation.

(4) Section 6025 of H.R. 22, the "Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act", which

requires the U.S. Government and Accountability Office to publish a report detailing the organizational readiness of the U.S. Department of Transportation to address autonomous vehicle technology challenges, including consumer privacy protections. This provision mirrors H.R. 3876, the "Autonomous Vehicle Privacy Protection Act of 2015", which was the first federal legislation ever introduced dealing solely with autonomous (driverless) vehicle concerns.

(5) Section 24407 of H.R. 22, the "Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act", which requires improved data collection and reporting of child car seat performance during vehicle crashes, and a national study to be published on the topic within three years.

(6) Section 565 of S. 2943, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017", which reauthorized the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, an expiring suicide prevention and resilience program for members of the National Guard, Reserves, and their families.

(7) Section 1291(a) of S. 2943, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017", which authorizes the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to enter into water resource agreements with foreign governments. Pursuant to this provision, the United States will be permitted to partner with nations such as Israel to research and develop initiatives that will ensure access to water for U.S. troops stationed in regions of the world that experience water scarcity, such as the Middle East.

(8) Section 5301(a) [Sec. 856. Art. 56. (b)(2)(F)] of S. 2943, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017", which makes conspiracy to commit rape or sexual assault an offense that requires dismissal or dishonorable discharge under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

(9) Section 1814(a) of S. 2943, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017", which requires the Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide annual training to the Defense Acquisition University, the Federal Acquisition Institute, and other federal entities regarding regulations altered by the SBA during the prior year that affect federal acquisition procedures. This provision of law mirrors H.R. 4337, the "Education for Contracting Personnel Improvement Act of 2016".

(10) Section 1150 of S. 612, the "Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act", which authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to pursue projects and technologies that prevent and mitigate flood damage associated with ice jams.

(11) Section 704(a) of S. 1635, the "Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017", which strengthens the Department of State's Rewards for Justice Program by authorizing the Secretary of State to pay rewards to individuals who provide information about

persons aiding or abetting war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and other criminal acts.

(12) Page 43 of House Report 114-497—"Female providers." (Incorporated by reference into the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying H.R. 5325, the "Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act"). This provision urges the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs "to seek to hire more female health care professionals in order to provide female veterans greater opportunities to choose the gender of their healthcare provider."

(13) Page 46 of House Report 114-497—"Medical opinions from non-VA health care providers." (Incorporated by reference into the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying H.R. 5325, the "Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act"). This provision encourages the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) "to accept medical opinions from non-VA health care providers when the evidence is sufficient for rating purposes" in order to "conserve VA's resources, enable faster rating decisions, and reduce the number of appeals."

(14) Page 54 of House Report 114-497—"Placement of emblems of belief on headstones of unclaimed, deceased veterans." (Incorporated by reference into the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying H.R. 5325, the "Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act"). This provision encourages the VA "to permit the placement of emblems of belief on headstones of unclaimed, deceased veterans if reliable . . . documentation of the veteran's beliefs can be produced (such as through dog tags or other military identification documents)." This provision will make it possible for the Queens County American Legion to bury veterans who die without any living family in a manner consistent with the burial of other veterans.

(15) Page 56 of House Report 114-497—"Asian American representation on the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans." (Incorporated by reference into the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying H.R. 5325, the "Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act"). This provision encourages the VA "to consider appointing, in keeping with the demographic make-up of America's veteran community, an additional Asian American to the Advisory Committee [on Minority Veterans] in the coming year." This provision led to the appointment of Flushing, New York resident Fang Wong to the Advisory

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

Committee on Minority Veterans in August of 2016.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I would also like for my constituents to know that the following legislative items were passed through the U.S. House of Representatives in their name, and that I am committed to ensuring each of these items are signed into law during the 115th Congress:

(1) H.R. 2669, the "Anti-Spoofing Act of 2016", which would make it illegal for scam artists to purposefully disguise telephone numbers displayed on caller ID, or over texts, in order to lure unsuspecting victims into answering the phone. This bill would significantly deter the rise in fraud being perpetrated by individuals claiming to represent a government agency, bank, hospital, or credit card company who then demand unwarranted payments over the phone.

(2) H.R. 4570, the "100 Years of Women in Congress Act", which seeks to rename the Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture the "Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program" in honor of the 100 year anniversary of the election of the first woman to Congress—Jeannette Rankin.

(3) Section 2(5) of H.R. 6303, "To designate facilities of the United States Postal Service, to establish new Zip Codes, and for other purposes," which would designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Glendale, New York. This section stems from H.R. 657, "To direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Glendale, New York", an effort whose origins begin with

former-Representative, and Vice Presidential candidate, Geraldine Ferraro almost 40 years ago.

(4) Amendment No. 63 to H.R. 5293, the "Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2017", which would increase funding for the Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) by \$8 million. These additional funds would be used to combat bladder, brain, colorectal, liver, pancreatic and stomach cancers, as well as lymphoma, melanoma and other skin cancers, mesothelioma, and cancer in children, adolescents and young adults. Unfortunately, the federal government will instead be funded pursuant to a continuing resolution through the New Year.

(5) Amendment No. 117 to H.R. 5538, the "Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017", which would increase funding for the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center (APAC) by \$300,000, tripling APAC's federal funding. Unfortunately, again, the federal government will instead be funded pursuant to a continuing resolution through the New Year.

(6) Amendment No. 66 to H.R. 5485, the "Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2017", which would increase funding for Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) by \$5 million for a total funding amount of \$130 million, an amount sufficient to place a new SBDC assistance center in New York's Sixth Congressional District. Again, unfortunately, the federal government will instead be funded pursuant to a continuing resolution through the New Year.

(7) Section 1259R of H.R. 4909, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal

Year 2017", which would renew for three years an expiring Iranian sanction that requires monitoring and tracking of certain ships and airlines traveling to and from Iran.

(8) Section 568 of H.R. 4909, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017", which would require an independent U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the admissions practices and gender composition of each U.S. service academy in order to ensure adequate female and minority representation (which would ten directly translate into a more diverse officer corps in the U.S. military).

(9) Amendment No. 6 to H.R. 2406, the "Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act", which would permit U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Officers to be placed in U.S. diplomatic and consular posts in African nations in order to assist local wildlife rangers in the protection of elephants.

(10) Section 597 of H.R. 1735, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016", which would require directors of underperforming VA regional offices to explain why their regional office did not meet minimum national standards for claims processing and accuracy in a given year, describe what additional resources would be needed to meet such standards in the following year, and describe what new actions they will implement in response to their poor performance.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with you on behalf of the American people in the coming Congress.

SENATE—Tuesday, January 3, 2017

The Senate met at 11:55 and 4 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PATRICK J. TOOMEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 3, 2017.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PATRICK J. TOOMEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TOOMEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate stands adjourned sine die.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:55 and 36 seconds a.m., adjourned sine die.

NOMINATIONS RETURNED TO THE PRESIDENT

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

The following nominations transmitted by the President of the United States to the Senate during the second session of the 114th Congress, and upon which no action was had at the time of the sine die adjournment of the Senate, failed of confirmation under the provisions of rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

MATTHEW LEE WIENER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

MARCIA DENISE OCCOMY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SETH HARRIS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

JEFFREY R. MORELAND, OF TEXAS, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

RICHARD STENGL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2017.

RICHARD STENGL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SHIRLEY WOODWARD, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

RACHEL A. MEIDL, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

CHRISTOPHER JAMES BRUMMER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 19, 2016.

CHRISTOPHER JAMES BRUMMER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 19, 2021.

BRIAN D. QUINTENZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2020.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

HEIDI NEEL BIGGS, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2017.

WESTLEY WATENDE OMARI MOORE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2016.

WESTLEY WATENDE OMARI MOORE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2021.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

JANNETTE LAKE DATES, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2022.

DAVID J. ARROYO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2022.

BRENT FRANKLIN NELSEN, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2022.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

GAIL H. MARCUS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2018.

JOSEPH BRUCE HAMILTON, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2021.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ELISSA SLOTKIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

THOMAS ATKIN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

DANIEL P. FEEHAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

GLENN FINE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

ROBERT P. STORCH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MATTHEW LEHRICH, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

AMY MCINTOSH, OF NEW YORK, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, EVALUATION, AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

ANTONIA WHALEN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

VICTORIA MARIE BAECHER WASSMER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF ENERGY.

JOHN FRANCIS KOTEK, OF IDAHO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (NUCLEAR ENERGY).

DIMITRI FRANK KUSNEZOV, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR DEFENSE PROGRAMS, NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

SUSAN FAYE BEARD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MARIA CANCIAN, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FAMILY SUPPORT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

KAREN BOLLINGER DESALVO, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

ANDREW MILLER SLAVITT, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES.

MARY KATHERINE WAKEFIELD, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHANNING D. PHILLIPS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

RANDOLPH J. SEILER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

J. PATRICIA WILSON SMOOT, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JENNIFER ANN HAVERKAMP, OF INDIANA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS.

MARI CARMEN APONTE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

AMOS J. HOCHSTEIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (ENERGY RESOURCES).

TINA S. K Aidanow, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS).

JUSTIN H. SIBERELL, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE COORDINATOR FOR COUNTERTERRORISM, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR AT LARGE.

TULINABO SALAMA MUSHINGI, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU.

JEFFREY DELAURENTIS, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

KRISTEN JOAN SARRI, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

MARY L. KENDALL, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

RICHARD T. JULIUS, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 14, 2019.

AMIAS MOORE GERETY, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

LINDA STRUYK MILLSAPS, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 14, 2018.

ADAM J. SZUBIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TERRORISM AND FINANCIAL CRIMES.

MATTHEW RHETT JEPSON, OF FLORIDA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

ALAN J. KRECZKO, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 14, 2019.

JAMES R. WHITE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 14, 2020.

ROBERT M. TOBIAS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 14, 2020.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

CHRISTOPHER E. O'CONNOR, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS).

THOMAS J. MURPHY, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR BENEFITS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

KATHLEEN MARIE MARSHALL, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 12, 2019.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

ALBERT STANLEY MEIBURG, OF GEORGIA, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

ANN ELIZABETH DUNKIN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

JANE TOSHIKO NISHIDA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

THOMAS A. BURKE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

JANET GARVIN MCCABE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

CONSTANCE SMITH BARKER, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2021.

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

CATHERINE ANN NOVELLI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE GOVERNOR OF THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MARISA LAGO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

JOHN MARK MCWATTERS, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2019.

KIMBERLY J. WALKER, OF IOWA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, EXPORT-IMPORT BANK.

CLAUDIA SLACIK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2019.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

JESSICA ROSENWORCEL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2015.

FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

CHARLES P. BLAHOUS, III, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

ROBERT D. REISCHAUER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY

CAROL WALLER POPE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JULY 1, 2019.

PATRICK PIZZELLA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JULY 1, 2020.

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

PATRICK K. NAKAMURA, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2022.

FEDERAL OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND

CHARLES P. BLAHOUS, III, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND AND THE FEDERAL DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

ROBERT D. REISCHAUER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND AND THE FEDERAL DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

ALLAN R. LONDON, OF UTAH, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2002.

ALLAN R. LONDON, OF UTAH, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR THE TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2016.

KATHRYN M. DOMINGUEZ, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2004.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

CHARLES P. BLAHOUS, III, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

ROBERT D. REISCHAUER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

EDITH RAMIREZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2015.

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

EDUARDO CASTELL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2019.

STEVEN H. COHEN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2019.

VICKI MILES-LAGRANGE, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2015.

VICKI MILES-LAGRANGE, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2021.

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

MILEYDI GUILARTE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

JANET L. YELLEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE GOVERNOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

MARK SOBEL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

REBECCA EMILY RAPP, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2019.

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

ANDREW J. READ, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 13, 2016.

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

MARK PHILIP COHEN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2021.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

RICHARD A. KENNEDY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 30, 2022.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS

RAYMOND G. FARMER, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR.

THOMAS MCLEARY, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

MICHAEL J. ROTHMAN, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

HEATHER ANN STEINMILLER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

SUSAN LOUISE CASTANEDA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR.

ANGELA L. KOKOSKO RIPLEY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

MARGUERITE SALAZAR, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

JOHN M. HUFF, OF MISSOURI, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR.

ROBERT P. SUGLIA, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR.

LORI K. WING-HEIER, OF ALASKA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

JOHN A. HERRERA, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 10, 2021.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

WALTER HOOD, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2020.

DEBORAH WILLIS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

EDWARD L. AYERS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

AKHIL REED AMAR, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

ROBERT P. ZIMMERMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2018.

JOHN MAEDA, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2016.

MICHAEL F. SUAREZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

CHARLOTTE P. KESSLER, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2018.

ESPERANZA EMILY SPALDING, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2020.

DAIN BORGES, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

THAVOLIA GLYMPH, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

DEBORAH WONG, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

ANNETTE ADELE EVANS SMITH, OF ALASKA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2020.

LESLIE GREENE BOWMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

GEORGE SANCHEZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

YSAYE M. BARNWELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022.

VALERIE MARTINEZ, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022.

DEBRA SATZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

BENJAMIN OSORIO, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022.

GAIL O'CONNOR MELLOW, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

DANA A. WILLIAMS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

NATHAN BRUCE DUTHU, OF VERMONT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

JANE MARIE DOGGETT, OF MONTANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

DIANE SUZETTE HARRIS, OF UTAH, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

VIRGINIA JOHNSON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2020.

SYLVIA OROZCO, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

KENT YOSHIHO HIROZAWA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 27, 2021.

NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD

LINDA A. PUCHALA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2018.

HARRY R. HOGLANDER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2017.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

RICHARD OTTO BUCKIUS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

JESSIE HILL ROBERSON, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2020.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

BETH F. COBERT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

ELIZABETH A. FIELD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

CAROLYN N. LERNER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE SPECIAL COUNSEL, OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL, FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

NELSON REYNERI, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 17, 2018.

ROBERTO R. HERENCIA, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 17, 2018.

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD

JAMES XAVIER DEMPSEY, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 29, 2022.

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

WALTER A. BARROWS, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 28, 2019.

THOMAS G. KOTARAC, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 28, 2017.

SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ANTHONY G. COLLINS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

LISA M. FAIRFAX, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2020.

HESTER MARIA PEIRCE, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2016.

HESTER MARIA PEIRCE, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2021.

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION

JOHN E. MENDEZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2015.

JOHN E. MENDEZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018.

LESLIE E. BAINS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2015.

LESLIE E. BAINS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018.

BONNIE A. BARSAMIAN DUNN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2017.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

ANDREW LAMONT EANES, OF KANSAS, TO BE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2019.

MICHAEL P. LEARY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

DAVID V. BREWER, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2016.

GAYLE A. NACHTIGAL, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2018.

DANIEL J. BECKER, OF UTAH, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2016.

MARY ELLEN BARBERA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2018.

JOHN D. MINTON, JR., OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2016.

DAVID V. BREWER, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2019.

CHASE ROGERS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2018.

WILFREDO MARTINEZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2019.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

MERRICK B. GARLAND, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

C. PETER MAHURIN, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2021.

MICHAEL MCWHERTER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2021.

JOE H. RITCH, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2021.

THE JUDICIARY

JEANNE E. DAVIDSON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

ARMANDO OMAR BONILLA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

NANCY B. FIRESTONE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

THOMAS L. HALKOWSKI, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

PATRICIA M. MCCARTHY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

JERI KAYLENE SOMERS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

MARY BARZER FLORES, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

JULIEN XAVIER NEALS, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY.

TODD SUNHWAEE KIM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

EDWARD L. STANTON III, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE.

MARK A. YOUNG, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

SUSAN PARADISE BAXTER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

INGA S. BERNSTEIN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS.

GARY RICHARD BROWN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

ROBERT JOHN COLVILLE, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

ELIZABETH J. DRAKE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

MARILYN JEAN HORAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

DAX ERIC LOPEZ, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA.

JOHN MILTON YOUNGE, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

CLARE E. CONNORS, OF HAWAII, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII.

STEPHANIE A. GALLAGHER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.

MARY S. MCELROY, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND.

PAUL LEWIS ABRAMS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

SUZANNE MITCHELL, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA.

SCOTT L. PALK, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA.

RONALD G. RUSSELL, OF UTAH, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH.

DONALD KARL SCHOTT, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT.

MYRA C. SELBY, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT.

WINFIELD D. ONG, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA.

JENNIFER KLEMETS'RUUD PUELH, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT.

TERRENCE J. CAMPBELL, OF KANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS.

STEPHANIE A. FINLEY, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.

CLAUDE J. KELLY III, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.

ABDUL K. KALLON, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT.

DONALD W. BEATTY, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

DONALD C. COGGINS, JR., OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

LUCY HAERAN KOH, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.

WALTER DAVID COUNTS, III, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

E. SCOTT FROST, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

REBECCA ROSS HAYWOOD, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT.

JAMES WESLEY HENDRIX, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

KAREN GREN SCHOLER, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

KATHLEEN MARIE SWEET, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

LISABETH TABOR HUGHES, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT.

DAVID C. NYE, OF IDAHO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO.

BETH M. ANDRUS, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON.

J. MICHAEL DIAZ, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON.

KATHLEEN M. O'SULLIVAN, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON.

PATRICIA D. BARKSDALE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

TODD E. EDELMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

WILLIAM F. JUNG, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

PHILIP R. LAMMENS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

FLORENCE Y. PAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

REGINA M. RODRIGUEZ, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO.

PATRICIA ANN TIMMONS-GOODSON, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA.

ANNE RACHEL TRAUM, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA.

FRANCES MARIE TYDINGCO-GATEWOOD, OF GUAM, TO BE JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM FOR THE TERM OF TEN YEARS.

JASON D. TULLY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

ABID RIAZ QURESHI, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

DIANE GUJARATI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

JULIE REBECCA BRESLOW, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

DEBORAH J. ISRAEL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

CARMEN GUERRICAGOITIA MCLEAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

RAINEY RANSOM BRANDT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

UNITED NATIONS

VALERIE BIDEN OWENS, OF DELAWARE, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

CYNTHIA RYAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON
PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

DOUGLAS BARRY WILSON, OF DELAWARE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2017.

MARKOS KOUNALAKIS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2017.

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

GRANT T. HARRIS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

ALMO J. CARTER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS.

LARRY T. GLENN, OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

DAVID S. SHAPIRA, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2019.

DAVID MICHAEL BENNETT, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2018.

MICKEY D. BARNETT, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2020.

STEPHEN CRAWFORD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2015.

STEPHEN CRAWFORD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2022.

JAMES C. MILLER, III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2017.

JEFFREY A. ROSEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2021.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

CHARLES R. BREYER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2021.

RICHARD FRANKLIN BOULWARE, II, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2019.

DANNY C. REEVES, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2019.

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

ELIZABETH ANN COPELAND, OF TEXAS, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

VIK EDWIN STOLL, OF MISSOURI, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF COL. MICHAEL J. FEELEY, TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF COL. DENNIS HUNSICKER, TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF COLONEL ROBERT A. MEYER, JR., TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF COL. CLIFFORD N. JAMES, TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF COL. SCOTT M. LOCKWOOD, TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF BRIG. GEN. PAUL D. NELSON, TO BE MAJOR GENERAL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF BRIG. GEN. MARK H. BERRY, TO BE MAJOR GENERAL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF COL. BRIAN E. HASTINGS, TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF COL. KATHLEEN M. FLARITY, TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH COL. JEFFERY D. AEBISCHER AND ENDING WITH COL. DANIEL S. YENCHESKY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 6, 2016.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF COL. FRANK D. EMANUEL, TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF COL. ROBERT A. CRISOSTOMO, TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH COL. MARIO A. R. DIAZ AND ENDING WITH COL. MICHAEL R. PENZEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2016.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. HILTY, TO BE MAJOR GENERAL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF CAPT. PAUL A. STADER, TO BE REAR ADMIRAL (LOWER HALF).

NAVY NOMINATION OF REAR ADM. (LH) BRET C. BATCHELDER, TO BE REAR ADMIRAL.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ENRIQUE J. GWIN, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES V. CRAWFORD AND ENDING WITH COLIN A. MEGHOO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 13, 2015.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RONALD D. SCHOW, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RODNEY E. GARFIELD, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF FRANCIS J. RACIOPPI, JR., TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBERT H. MCCARTHY III, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL F. COERPER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF VEDNER BELLOT, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ALEXANDER M. WILLARD, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PRESTON H. LEONARD, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANJELIQUA S. MCNAIR, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER K. BERTHOLD, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SETH C. LYDEM, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES ROBINSON, JR., TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER C. OSTBY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CALVIN E. FISH, TO BE COLONEL.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID J. BARTH AND ENDING WITH R. DOUGLASS ARBUCKLE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 13, 2015.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF DANIEL MENDO HIRSCH.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF DAVID ELLIOTT HORTON III.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFRIES BLUNT DE GRAFFENRIED, JR. AND ENDING WITH DEBBIE PATRICE JACKSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 10, 2015.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL ASHKOURI AND ENDING WITH ETHAN N. TAKAHASHI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 13, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF EDWARD PEAY.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF LESLIE L. JOHNSON.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID CHARLES MILLER AND ENDING WITH SCOTT S. SINDELAR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF ALEXANDER DICKIE IV.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEANNE F. BAILEY AND ENDING WITH ROBERT HENRY HANSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JIM NELSON BARNHART, JR. AND ENDING WITH ANNE N. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF KURT J. BRUBAKER, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF JONATHAN L. SCHMITZ, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL A. POLITO, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM A. SCHULTZ, TO BE CAPTAIN.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, January 3, 2017

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOLD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 3, 2017.

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

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the Members of the people's House return to the Capitol in anticipation of a new Congress, we gather in this last hour of the 114th to ask Your continued blessing on our Nation.

May the work of the 114th Congress issue forth to the benefit of our Nation and its citizens, and where the efforts of this Congress have fallen short, we ask Your forgiveness and the forgiveness of all Americans.

Bless as well those who labor in these Halls and offices even while Congress is in adjournment or recess. Without their steady and faithful service, the work of Congress would not be possible.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 944, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair an-

nounces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER), the whole number of the House is 433.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 11:55 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1155

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOLD) at 11 o'clock and 55 minutes a.m.

SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the 20th amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the Chair declares the 114th Congress adjourned sine die.

Thereupon (at 11 o'clock and 56 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8156. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter reporting multiple violations of the Antideficiency Act, Army case number 15-03, involving FY 2004 through 2005 Operations and Maintenance, and Other Procurement funds, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; Public Law 97-258; (96 Stat. 926); to the Committee on Appropriations.

8157. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's semiannual report titled, "Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects, and activities; Defense Cooperation Account", for the period ending September 30, 2016, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608(e); Public Law 101-403, Sec. 202(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 112-81, Sec. 1064(7)); (125 Stat. 1587); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8158. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report on discretionary appropriations legislation within seven calendar days of enactment for Division B of Public Law 114-254 Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 901(a)(7)(B); Public Law 99-177, Sec. 251(a)(7)(B) (as amended by Public Law 114-113, Sec. 1003); (129 Stat. 3035); to the Committee on the Budget.

8159. A letter from the Director, Directorate of Whistleblower Protection Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Procedures for Handling Retaliation Complaints Under Section 31307 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) [Docket No.: OSHA-2015-0021] (RIN: 1218-AC88) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

8160. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to Accreditation of Third-Party Certification Bodies to Conduct Food Safety Audits and to Issue Certifications to Provide for the User Fee Program [Docket No.: FDA-2011-N-0146] (RIN: 0910-AH23) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8161. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Redesignation of the Cleveland, Ohio Area to Attainment of the 2008 Ozone Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2016-0396; FRL-9957-80-Region 5] received December 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8162. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; State Boards [EPA-R06-OAR-2014-0513; FRL-9956-45-Region 6] received December 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8163. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Rhode Island; Clean Air Act Infrastructure State and Federal Implementation Plans [EPA-R01-OAR-2015-0402; FRL-9957-27-Region 1] received December 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8164. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval of Arizona Air Plan Revisions; Ajo and Morenci, Arizona; Second 10-Year Sulfur Dioxide Maintenance Plans and Technical Correction [EPA-R09-OAR-2016-0287; FRL-9957-64-Region 9] received December 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8165. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

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

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

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders, and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits; Procedures for Decisionmaking [FRL-9956-53-OARM] received December 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8166. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Isobutyl acetate and isobutyric acid; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0007 and EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0008; FRL-9950-40] received December 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8167. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Methyl Isobutyrate and Isobutyl Isobutyrate Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0776 and EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0831; FRL-9955-82] received December 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8168. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Attainment Plan for the Idaho Portion of the Logan, Utah/Idaho PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area [EPA-R10-OAR-2015-0067; FRL-9957-71-Region 10] received December 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8169. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revision to the Near-road NO₂ Minimum Monitoring Requirements [EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0486; FRL-9957-78-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS71) received December 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8170. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to National Emission Standards for Radon Emissions from Operating Mill Tailings [EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0218; FRL-9957-54-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AP26) received December 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8171. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List [Docket No.: 161110999-6999-01] (RIN: 0694-AH21) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8172. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period of August 1, 2016 — September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8173. A letter from the Information Act Officer, Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Freedom of Information Act Regulations [No.: DOI-2016-0006; 17XD4523WS DS10200000 DWSN00000.000000 WBS DP10202] (RIN: 1093-AA21) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8174. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's report to Congress on FY 2016 competitive sourcing efforts, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 108-199, Sec. 647(b); (118 Stat. 361); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8175. A letter from the Vice President (Acting), Congressional and Public Affairs, Millennium Challenge Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Agency Financial Report for FY 2016, including annual audited financial statements, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8176. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Personnel Management in Agencies (RIN: 3206-AL98) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8177. A letter from the Labor Member and Management Member, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2016, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8178. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 150916863-6211-02] (RIN: 0648-XF064) received December 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8179. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Office of Policy Strategy, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's correction — changing the designation interim final rule — Classification for Victims of Severe Forms of Trafficking in Persons; Eligibility for "T" Nonimmigrant Status [CIS No.: 2507-11; DHS Docket No.: USCIS-2011-0010] (RIN: 1615-AA59) received December 20, 2016, from Major to non-Major, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8180. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standards and Procedures for the Enforcement of the Immigration and Nationality Act [CRT Docket No.: 130; AG Order No.: 3791-2016] (RIN: 1190-AA71) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8181. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Recognition of Organizations and Accreditation of Non-Attorney Representatives [EOIR Docket No.: 176; A.G. Order No.: 3783-2016] (RIN: 1125-AA72) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8182. A letter from the Supervisory Attorney Advisor, Office on Violence Against Women, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Conforming STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Regulations to Statutory Change; Definitions and Confidentiality Requirements Applicable to All OVW Grant Programs [OVW Docket No.: 120] (RIN: 1105-AB46) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8183. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting the Conference's report on the continuing need for authorized bankruptcy judgeships, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 152(b)(3); Public Law 98-353, Sec. 104(a) (as amended by Public Law 102-361, Sec. 4); (106 Stat. 966); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8184. A letter from the Paralegal, FTA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform [Docket No.: FHWA-2016-0016] (RIN: 2132-AB28) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8185. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, FHWA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform [Docket No.: FHWA-2016-0016] (RIN: 2125-AF68) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8186. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Pipeline Safety: Safety of Underground Natural Gas Storage Facilities [Docket No.: PHMSA-2016-0016; Amdt. Nos.: 191-24; 192-122] (RIN: 2137-AF22) received December 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8187. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Propiconazole; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0682; FRL-9956-54 OCSPP] received December 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Agriculture.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Submitted on January 2, 2017]

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky: Committee on Appropriations. Committee on Appropriations House of Representatives Report of Committee Activities 114th Congress January 6, 2015 through January 2, 2017 (Rept. 114-902). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. Report on the Activity of the Committee on Financial Services of the United States House of Representatives for the 114th Congress (Rept. 114-903). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. KLINE: Committee on Education and the Workforce. Report on the Activities of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for the 114th Congress (Rept. 114-904). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. Survey of Activities of the House Committee on Rules for the 114th Congress (Rept. 114-905).

Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted on January 3, 2017]

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. Activity Report of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives for the 114th Congress (Rept. 114-906). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. Report on Legislative and Oversight Activities of the House Committee on Homeland Security 114th Congress (Rept. 114-907). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1770. A bill to require certain entities who collect and maintain personal information of individuals to secure such information and to provide notice to such individuals in the case of a breach of security involving such information, and for

other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-908). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Activities of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 114th Congress (Rept. 114-909). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. DENT: Committee on Ethics. Summary of Activities 114th Congress (Rept. 114-910). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H. Res. 957: Mr. SMITH of Texas and Mr. MEADOWS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I missed three votes on December 8. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

Thursday, December 8, 2016:

Rollcall No. 617: On Ordering the Previous Question, "yea."

Rollcall No. 618: On Passage of H. Res. 949, "yea."

Rollcall No. 619: On Passage of H.R. 4919, "nay."

STAFF FAREWELL

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, for the last time, to express my gratitude for the honor of serving in the United States House of Representatives. To the people of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional district, I am indebted for the confidence, trust and support you've shown me throughout my tenure as your representative. Six years ago, I pledged to uphold a self-imposed term limit. And today, Mr. Speaker, my time serving in this distinguished body is drawing to a close. Careers in Congress end in various ways, but I decided to follow the road less travelled—retirement—and will take leave of this chamber with a sense of service and accomplishment and pride in this esteemed body.

I want to thank those who have shared in this moment with me: my family and friends,

my dedicated staff and colleagues. In particular, I would like to thank my wife and children for their support, appreciation and understanding of public service.

I have been blessed with a hardworking and committed staff, both past and present, in my personal office and on the Financial Services Committee. I am truly grateful for their faithful service, good work, and perseverance.

My staff in Washington represented the best of Bucks and Montgomery counties. They served as ambassadors to our nation's capital. They aided me in crafting legislation, driven by the issues affecting our constituents. They led the effort in Congress on medical device reform and advocated daily for thousands of women throughout the county who have been harmed by certain dangerous medical devices. They worked on legislation designed to combat the illicit financing of terrorist and criminal groups, and promoted international peace and liberty as proponents of a free Ukraine.

And I would not have been returned to office to continue serving were it not for the exemplary constituent service and outreach provided by my Bucks County district staff. Constituents often thanked me for the attention and assistance they received from my staff. Whether it's solving a Social Security or Medicare issue, or serving one of the 50,000 veterans in our district, or responding to every constituent who contacted their congressman, my staff was there. They embraced a shared commitment to servant leadership, ensuring that our citizens' concerns were relayed to the appropriate federal agency and followed.

I know a congressional representative cannot do outstanding work on behalf of his constituents without a great staff. And my staff was knowledgeable and hard-working, often working nights and weekends to help me be a better representative. Whether attending an Eagle Scout Court of Honor, visiting a small business, or meeting with constituents in far-flung areas of our district, my staff was there.

Mr. Speaker, I want to include each and every one of their names, so that the names of these servant leaders can be enshrined in the history of the United States House of Representatives.

My sincere thanks go to:

Those who have served as my Chief of Staff: Patrick Lyden, Athan Koutsouroumbas, Kyle Whatley and Paul Ritacco. Their skill and insight have been invaluable to me and to the collective benefit of my constituents.

My two Deputy Chiefs: Justin Rusk for his steady leadership over legislative matters and initiatives in Washington, D.C., as well as for his service in our nation's armed forces; and Stacey Mulholland for her dedication to Pennsylvania and my District and her insight as a passionate municipal supervisor.

My dedicated Director of Constituent Services, Kelly McGinty, for her careful attention and assistance to those constituents seeking redress from the federal government and her extraordinary management of the constituent advocates working for the benefit of our citizens. Special thanks to our advocates: Jennifer Miller nee Nawalinski, Gina Seiler, Jim Pomeroy, Al Sigafos, Eric Eklund, Jennifer McClure, and Mallory Menta.

My outreach and communications team for their proactive engagement with the diverse communities of our district, ensuring that every voice is heard. Many thanks for the faithful service of Joseph Hogan IV, Sam Bolstein, Patricia Wandling, Aaron Clark, Patrick Long, Matthew LaPalombara, and Mike Dillion.

My legislative staff for their meticulous attention to detail on the bills before the House and for crafting legislation to improve the lives of all in our nation. I am thankful for the reliable efforts of Chris Matarangas, Anna Marie DiMascia, Anthony Nisivoccia, Mark McDonald, Katie Brown, Casey Verrichia, and Alex Petrucci.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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